



OTSC Quarterly Newsletter



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Crop Insurance Results Issued at OSS Locations

In September 2017, representatives from the Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC) attended stakeholder meetings in the Texas High Plains to discuss implementation of the One Sample Strategy (OSS) mycotoxin risk management program for fumonisin. In conjunction with the meetings, OTSC collaborated with the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) to recognize OSS participating locations as approved laboratories for mycotoxin testing (aflatoxin, fumonisin and DON) for crop insurance purposes, as stated in RMA Manager's Bulletin MGR-17-015 (October 6, 2017). As a result, 7 approved testing locations (5 grain elevators and 2 commercial laboratories) in the Texas High Plains were approved to issue official fumonisin test results up to 100 parts per million (ppm) using a rapid test kit that was verified by the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) and validated by the OTSC's Agricultural Analytical Service (AAS) in 2016. To validate the test kit, AAS utilized naturally

contaminated fumonisin reference material produced under International Standards Organization (ISO) standards. All firms issuing official fumonisin results analyze reference material to evaluate the reliability of their testing systems (i.e., control samples) before testing official samples. OTSC field staff regularly monitor each lab's performance and oversee corrective actions based on these control sample results.

In 2017, the 7 labs in the Texas High Plains ran a total of 249 fumonisin control samples (Table 1). Of those, only 5 results fell outside the expected duplication limit. Based on this information, OTSC is confident that both the kit and the analysts can produce accurate and defensible official results.

A similar level of accuracy was characterized by a comparison of the official fumonisin results reported by OSS labs using rapid test kits and verification results analyzed by AAS using Ultra-high Performance Liquid Chromatography with a Tandem Mass Spectrometry Detector (LC/MS/MS).

Table 1. 2017 OSS fumonisin control sample results

Testing Location	# out of duplication limits	% out of duplication limits
A	1/50	2%
B	1/30	3.3%
C	1/36	2.8%
D	0/39	0%
E	0/31	0%
F	2/32	6.3%
G	0/31	0%

All OSS participants are invited to include fumonisin and/or aflatoxin in their 2018 OSS Sampling & Testing Plan. For more information about the One Sample Strategy Mycotoxin Risk Management program as well as current and historical mycotoxin levels in Texas, please visit:

otscweb.tamu.edu/risk/OneSample

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Protects consumers & enhances Agri-Business through its Feed & Fertilizer Regulatory Compliance Program, surveillance & monitoring of Animal-Human health & environmental hazards, & preparedness planning.

Review of Draft Feed Industry Memorandum No. 3-19

At the Fall 2017 Advisory Committee Meeting, members were asked to review and offer feedback on the draft OTSC Policy on “Acrylamide-Acrylic Acid Resins Used in Commercial Animal Feeds”. A workgroup led by Associate Director Ben Jones reviewed the current memorandum and did not find any objections. The criteria outlined in the memo mirrors the criteria laid out in CFR Title 21, Chapter I, Part 573, section 573.120. Acrylamide-acrylic acid resin (hydrolyzed polyacrylamide) is approved for use in commercial animal feeds through an approved food additive petition, only for the purposes described below, and may be safely used in accordance with the following prescribed conditions. The prescribed conditions outlined in the policy include:

a. The additive is produced by polymerization of acrylamide with partial hydrolysis, or by copolymerization of acrylamide and acrylic

acid with the greater part of the polymer being composed of acrylamide units.

- b. The additive meets the following specifications:
1. A minimum molecular weight of 3 million.
 2. Viscosity range: 3,000 to 6,000 centipoises at 77 °F in a 1% aqueous solution as determined by LVF Brookfield Viscometer or equivalent using a number 6 spindle at 20 r.p.m.
 3. Residual acrylamide: Not more than 0.05 percent.
- c. It is used as a thickener and suspending agent in non-medicated aqueous suspensions intended for addition to animal feeds.

The policy can be viewed on the OTSC website. (otscweb.tamu.edu/Laws/Policy)

OTSC Outreach Program Expands Global Reach

Education and outreach programs offered by the Office of the Texas State Chemist serve Texans as well as the global food safety community. To date, participants from 61 countries, including the U.S., have participated in one or more courses or programs (Table 2).

Table 2. Outreach Program Participation Statistics Overview

Program	Number of Participants
Regulatory Science Grad Students	211 (150 Unique)
HACCP Participants- (Online and In person)	524
Laboratory Quality Systems	144
Regulatory Science Graduate Certificates	11
Proficiency Testing Labs	237

Through these programs and participation in the Animal Food Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS), OTSC aims to:

- Build a global learning community of government regulators, food and feed industry personnel, laboratory personnel, and industry stakeholders
- Facilitate an open dialogue among regulatory scientists from the global community, and
- Manage economic and food safety risk on a global level.