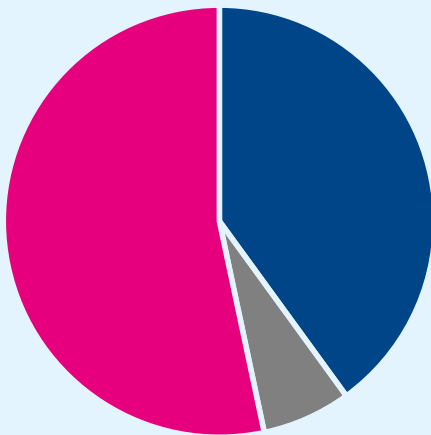


**FEBRUARY 2021 MYCOTOXIN OUTLOOK**

**COMBAT THE CHALLENGE  
USING ULTRASORB<sup>R</sup>**



MYCOTOXIN RISK IN FORAGES



■ Low Risk ■ Medium Risk ■ High Risk

**Figure 1:** Mycotoxin risk across 15 forage samples (grass, maize, wholecrop) collected from UK farms between Sept 2020 – Jan 2021. Analysed using Micron Bio-systems Mycocheck service.

**Winter feeding is well underway with producers seeing the production results from the efforts of making last summer's forage. As always, there is variety in quality across farms with some being lucky and managing to attain high energy forages whilst others have struggled with elevated lignin content. However, what is particularly noteworthy this winter, is the effect that mycotoxins are having on animal performance.**

Our mycocheck results (figure 1) show the effect of last year's variable and challenging growing season, especially in cereal crops. Much of the contamination seen, is predicted to have been caused by an increase in mycotoxin proliferation pre-harvest, due to the stress of harsh weather conditions. However, mycotoxins can also develop post-harvest due to poor clamp management (e.g insufficient consolidation) and producers must be vigilant to spot the signs before production is negatively affected.

At this point in the winter-feeding period, it is difficult to limit the mycotoxin risk that the forage presents. However, there are still several things that producers can do to reduce the production loss from mycotoxins:

**CLAMP MANAGEMENT: TIPS FOR REDUCING THE MYCOTOXIN RISK!**

1	Removing any visible mould from the clamp and do not feed to any animals.	The presence of mould indicates a mycotoxin risk, especially if pigmented. If mould is mixed in the TMR it could cause mycotoxins to proliferate and increase the risk level. Problem areas tend to be down the sides and along the top of the clamp.
2	Only remove sheeting at the point of feeding and maintain an even clamp face.	Limiting the amount of time exposed to oxygen, reduces the chance of mycotoxin development. Farmers should aim to move across the clamp face in no more than 3 days, keeping it as clean as possible by using shear grabs or block cutters.
3	Look out for symptoms of mycotoxins.	Key symptoms: loss of production (milk or DLWG), swollen hocks, lameness, rough coat, mucus tags, poor fertility.
4	Send a forage sample away for mycotoxin analysis.	Ask a member of the AB Vista team about our MycoCheck service (provided by Micron Bio-Systems).
5	Remediate with UltraSorb-R.	Feed UltraSorb-R for 10 days and monitor the animal health and production changes, if a response is seen, provide UltraSorb-R for the remainder of the forage feeding period.



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**MycoCheck risk assessment update!**

Our mycotoxin analysis service through Micron Bio-Systems has recently been updated to increase our service when assigning risk levels to feed samples. Previously, the feed samples risk level was determined by the additive amount of all tested mycotoxins present and did not consider the differing toxicities of each individual mycotoxin.

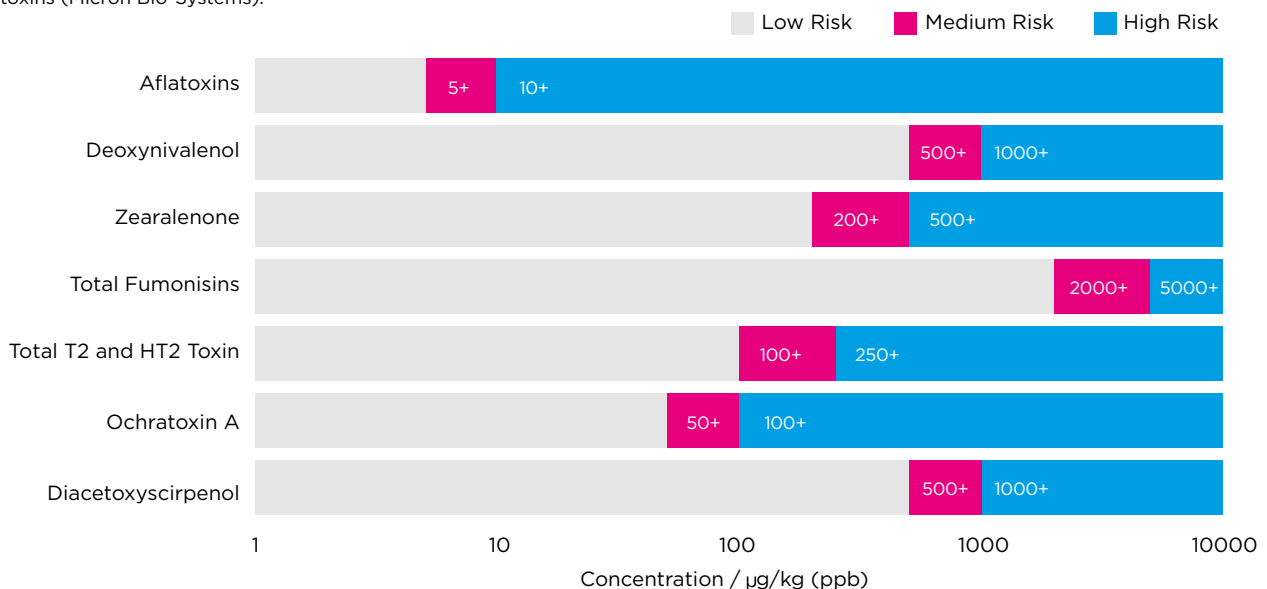
This meant that a feed sample containing 100ppb AFB1 and 100ppb DON would both report as low risk, this did not take into consideration that anything over 10ppb is considered high risk for AFB1. Recognising the issues that this could cause for animal health we have now improved our reporting system to ensure that the individual mycotoxin risk levels are accounted for.

In the new system, if a sample contains more than one toxin, each one will be assessed for risk individually (figure 2). The highest risk of all the detected mycotoxins will be used to assess the samples risk level, returning low, medium, or high risk. These risk levels have been categorised based on both international legalisation and industry experience.

We hope these improvements to our mycotoxin testing service will add even further value to you and your customers, giving you much greater confidence when advising on mycotoxin remediation on farm!

Please get in touch with an AB Vista representative if you are interested in having some forage samples tested for mycotoxins.

**Figure 2:** MycoCheck categorisation of low, medium, and high risk of mycotoxins (Micron Bio-Systems).



**Ultrasorb<sup>®</sup> benefits**

- ↑ Higher feed intakes
- ↑ Increased milk production and growth rates
- ↑ Improved fertility
- ↑ Supports natural defences against mycotoxins