

“Accessing Innovation”

Nitrate Levels in Corn Rising with Dry Conditions: Ethan Noll

With the dry weather stress that we're under, we could be seeing some high nitrates in our corn plants. Without water, nitrogen tends to stay in the bottom third of the plant (especially the bottom 6 to 12 inches) and can cause nitrate toxicity in livestock, particularly cattle.

Ensiling corn properly can reduce nitrate levels 30 to 50%. To ensure low nitrates in your silage, raise the cutter at least 6 inches off the ground, inoculate properly, pack the silage, and seal with plastic to make sure to create a good anaerobic environment. Then wait 30 days before feeding it.

When you're grazing stalks, don't turn cattle out on an empty stomach or overgraze them. Since nitrates are soluble, an inch of rain can help reduce the amount in the stalks. However, it's still best to send in some samples to make sure. Because nitrate reduces uptake of iodine, you may want to add iodized salt blocks where they're grazing. If you're looking to bale stalks to make up for lack of hay, make sure to mow at least 6 inches high. Baling stalks won't reduce nitrate levels within the stalks, so you may want to take some samples and send them in for nitrate testing. Here are some recommendations from Midwest Laboratories based off research at Penn State.

% of Nitrate (NO3) in Feed Sample (Dry Matter Basis)	Comments on Safety
.0 - .44	Considered safe to feed under all conditions.
.44 - .66	Safe for non-pregnant animals under all conditions. Limit for pregnant animals to 50 percent of the total dry matter in the ration.
.66 - .88	Limit to 50% of the total dry matter in the ration.
.88 - 1.54	Limit to 35 - 40% of the total dry matter in the ration.
1.54 - 1.76	Do not use on pregnant animals. Limit to 25% of the total dry matter in the ration.
1.76 and up	Do not feed. This amount is toxic.

If you begin to notice any of the following symptoms in livestock, nitrate poisoning could be the cause. An animal may have difficulty breathing, show a rapid and weak heartbeat, below normal body temperature, muscular weakness, loss of muscular coordination, blue coloration of mucous membranes, or dilation of pupils. Death can occur within 3 to 4 hours of these symptoms. If you are unsure about what you can or cannot feed, consult your local feed nutritionist.

Grain Market Update: Lincoln Hillyer

Grains experienced a positive week as weather and trade news headlined the news. The spring wheat tour was held this week and the results came in lower than anticipated. This allowed all wheat markets to rally and corn followed. The United States and the European Union struck a deal Wednesday that was friendly to soybeans. Although the Thursday night rally did not sustain, it does show demand is still really good for soybeans throughout the world.

AGP is introducing the new Driver App. Taking advantage of this service will allow for faster check-ins at the plant and deliver a better experience. If you are interested, please call the St. Joseph office at 1 (816) 238-1700 and ask for a merchandiser. Have a good weekend!

[Click here to view Grain Bids!](#)

New AGP Driver App



Streamline your Check-in Process

- **SKIP** customer/FSMA information exchange at plant
- **SKIP** signature pads
- **BE CONFIDENT** prior load is compliant
- **REDUCE** wait times
- **EASILY** capture wash certificate image
- **SIMPLE** to operate

DOWNLOAD at the AppStore or Google PlayStore ...it only takes minutes

Your driver will contact a merchandiser at AGP St Joseph to receive a unique **username** and **password**.

Phone: 816-238-1700

Phone requirements

- Android 5.0+ (Latest version is 8.1)
- iOS 10+ (Latest version is 11.3.1)

Go to www.agp.com/terms for terms and conditions

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