

# Post flood feed quality & mycotoxins

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**Flooding due to cyclone Debbie has flattened many crops intended for silage. Some crops have been salvaged with yields lower than expected due to flood damage. Since some crops were affected by flood waters for a period of time and silage contractors put on hold until the ground was dry enough for machinery to get on and harvest, the quality of the silage might be on the poor side. Contamination of the crop with dirt/silt and debris from the flood waters may also pose a risk to the quality of the fodder. Weather/flood damaged crops may also have a higher incidence of mycotoxin contamination, which when fed can lead to health implications within the herd.**

It would be advised that weather/flood damaged crops that have been ensiled to feed beef or dairy cattle are tested for both the nutritive composition of the feed as well as for mycotoxin contamination of the feed. These tests should be performed before feed out and the results interpreted by your nutritionist or service provider.

Dairy producers are advised to take a representative sample of the silage to be sent through to either Feed Central in Toowoomba or Cumberland Valley Analytical Services in Bendigo in order to obtain a nutrient composition report on the feed and once the report has been received get your nutritionist or service provider to go through the results with you as changes to the dairy diets may be necessary for optimal health and production benefits.

Dairy producers are also urged to get in contact with companies that offer mycotoxin testing for their flood affected silages. Both Alltech and Biomin provide mycotoxin testing and one of their representatives should be able to take a sample of flood affected silage to be sent for mycotoxin screening. The results can be interpreted by the company reps or your nutritionist. These companies also provide in-feed mycotoxin binding and/or deactivation solutions that will help to minimise the negative impact mycotoxins have on herd health and production. ■■

## Feed Testing

### Feed Central

10775 Warrego Hwy,  
Charlton QLD 4350  
P (07) 4630 4899

### Cumberland Valley Analytical

3 Gildea Ln  
East Bendigo VIC 3550  
P (03) 5443 9665

## Mycotoxin Testing

### Alltech

Toby Doak 0408 304 914  
Suzanne Roth 0400 617 671

### Biomin

Nathan Lister 0499 171 010

