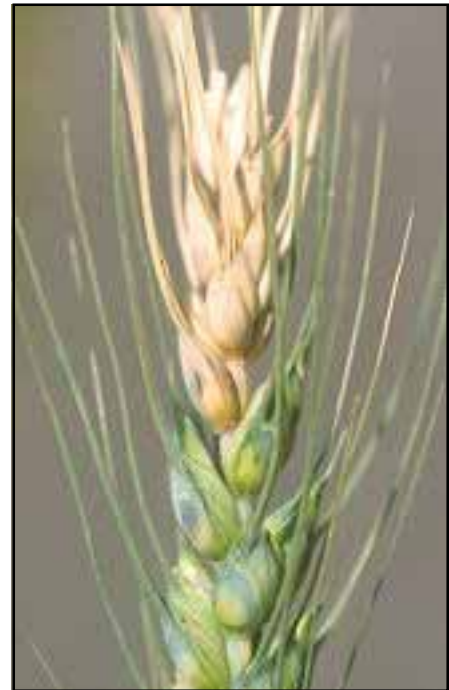


MEETING THE THREAT OF FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM

Fusarium graminearum is a declared pest and serious disease that may be imported into Alberta via feed grain, seed, grass hay or straw. This fungus causes Fusarium Head Blight or tombstone disease in cereal grains which contribute to devastating yield and quality losses as well as feed problems. Alberta is free from Fusarium Head Blight outbreaks and we need to prevent the introduction or establishment of this disease.

High-risk scenarios include:

- **Planting Infected Seed**
There is a zero-tolerance for *Fusarium graminearum* infected seed in Alberta. Ensure that any cereal seed you plant this year has been tested and certified as Fusarium Free. It is also recommended that you treat the seed with a fungicide registered for Fusarium control. Grass forage seed may also be infected, therefore, you should request the same standard from your supplier.
- **Importing Feed Grain, Grass Hay, or Straw from infested areas (Manitoba/East Saskatchewan)**
The only way to really know what you are dealing with here is to have a laboratory test done to determine if the material is infested, and also to what degree. If it is not, then you have nothing to worry about, however, if it is positive for *Fusarium* you will need to manage these materials under Alberta's Best Management Practices policy. This includes containing bedding packs to areas where they can be burned, or composted before being spread onto the land. Infested feeds (grain or grass hay) should be handled to prevent any spillage from contacting the soil. Spilled material should be collected and composted to a temperature of 60-70 degrees C for a two (2) week period. All transport vehicles should be thoroughly cleaned off of any residues or materials before leaving the unloading site. Minimize the number of feeding sites to contain the influence of infected material and feed bunks are recommended to ground feeding.



Under Alberta's Agricultural Pest Act and Regulations, infested fields will be required to have residue incorporated into the soil after harvest. No host crops (cereal grains, grasses) are permitted to be grown for 3 years. Non host crops allowed include canola, peas, alfalfa or clovers.

PROTECTION FROM FUSARIUM THROUGH PREVENTION

Laboratories conducting *Fusarium graminearum* testing on seed, hay or straw includes:
BioVision, 9954 - 67 Ave, Edmonton, AB T6E 0P5 1-800-952-5407 Fax: 780-437-6875
20/20 Seed Labs Inc., Suite 201, 509-11 Ave, Nisku, AB T9E 7N5 1-877-420-2099 Fax: 780-955-3428

Parkland Laboratories, 5410 Gaetz Ave, Red Deer, AB T4N 4B7 403-342-0404 Fax: 403-358-3836

FOR MORE INFORMATION

AAFRD CONTACTS: Pest Risk Management Unit

James Calpas, Provincial IPM Specialist, 780-422-4911 james.calpas@gov.ab.ca

Shaffeeq Ali, Unit Head, 780-427-4909 shaffeeq.ali@gov.ab.ca

BRAZEAU COUNTY Agricultural Services Department:

Conny Kappler, Director of Agriculture 780-542-7777 ckappler@brazeau.ab.ca

On the topic feeds a few additional notes to pay attention to:

Watch for weeds brought in with bought hay/straw that may introduce new weeds to your farm and our County, especially in the storage yard, feeding/bedding sites, and manured acres. They may not be evident until late season or next year, so keep these locations in mind to follow up on.

It is estimated that 80% of calving season health problems are management and nutrition related. Trevor Yurchak, AAFRD Beef Specialist, advises to test and balance your rations and with this year's feeds pay attention to minerals such as Potassium in cereal silage or greenfeed, and Sulfur in any canola feeds. Imbalance in either one of these causes other minerals to be affected and trigger numerous nutrition-related conditions in cows or calves. Always consult your feed nutritionist or your Veterinarian. For more information contact Trevor Yurchak 780-675-8219 or the AgInfo Centre 1-866-882-7677.