

Feed Toxins

Mycotoxins

They are compounds produced by molds that when consumed by animals will cause toxicity. Not all molds produce mycotoxins and molds that do produce mycotoxins may only produce them under certain conditions.

Vomitoxin is one that affects feed efficiency. The hog will likely refuse feed and you'll see decreased growth. It's the greatest detriment in performance in young growing pigs. It can affect major body organs such as the liver and brain. It's also reported to cause reproductive problems in sows by fertility, and aborted litters.

Zearalenone mimics the hormone estrogen. Most of the affects are confined to the reproductive tract of swine. Gilts and sows may exhibit vulvar reddening and swelling. Vaginal and rectal prolapses can be a frequent result of consuming Zearalenone. Females may exhibit irregular cycles and if bred, litter size may be drastically reduced. Boars may exhibit a feminizing effect with atrophy of the testes and enlargement of the mammary glands.

If you suspect Mycotoxins in your feed, discontinue use immediately and have the feed tested at your local county extension agency or thru your college agriculture department.

Mycotoxins and the effects are not rare but they also do not occur frequently. Educate yourself on the appearance of your hogs and their individual behaviors so you are able to recognize and head off any trouble more quickly and easily.

