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Be on Lookout for Aflatoxins in Corn

(KLZA) Farmers, crop inspectors and grain elevators in Nebraska, Iowa and other corn-producing states are keeping an eye out for corn contaminated by a poison-producing fungus.

They're watching for signs of aflatoxins. Experts say aflatoxins are a group of chemicals produced by certain mold fungi and at high levels are poisonous to humans and animals. They tend to show up during hot, dry summers.

Mark Fulmer of the Lincoln Inspection Service told the Lincoln Journal Star that during the drought year of 2002, there was a high amount of aflatoxin in the state's corn.

Fulmer says of the corn samples his company has tested this summer, most show little or no contamination. But he says some of the corn has tested out at more than four times the federal threshold.

Associated Press