



Mycotoxin Predictor

What is this technology?

A computer software program that predicts mycotoxin fungal occurrence at silk and mycotoxin levels about 30 days after silk so that insect / disease control or early harvest can be implemented.

What problem does it address?

Mycotoxins are health concerns for humans and animals. Their occurrence in crops causes billion dollar losses in the US each year; their reduction will improve food safety and save money. Management of pre-harvest mycotoxin problems is dependent on the ability to detect conditions or factors that contribute to the problem. Use of this software can allow pre-harvest management of mycotoxins and reduce losses.

Who could use this technology?

Predictive software would benefit anyone at risk of devalued or rejected crops due to the presence of mycotoxins, from the US Corn Belt to potential world-wide markets. This includes:

- Farmers
- Grain elevator operators
- Users (millers, refiners, etc)
- Exporters and importers
- Crop insurance companies

How is this technology unique?

The current method of mycotoxin prediction is based on guess-work. For example, “it is hot and dry so mycotoxins will probably be present”.

Using weather, soil type and insect data inputs, the algorithms embedded in this software provide an analysis of the likelihood of unacceptable levels of mycotoxin presence in a specific field.

While there are other predictive programs reported to be in development, there are none known to be at this advanced stage of development and validation.

Market Development Opportunity

This technology needs a partner to market this software.

Stage of Development

The algorithms are based on nearly 5 years of data and validated with an additional 5 years of field data (oriented to the Midwestern U.S.) Limited distribution of a beta version of the software generated positive response.

IP Status

Beta version of the software is copyright protected

Contact Information

Dr. Patrick F. Dowd • Phone: 309.681.6242 • Email: dowdpf@ncaur.usda.gov