March 12, 2026

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chair, Subcommittee on Agriculture
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Agriculture
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Andy Harris
Chair, Subcommittee on Agriculture
House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Agriculture
House Committee on Appropriations

Chairman Hoeven, Chairman Harris, Ranking Member Shaheen, and Ranking Member Bishop:

We write to express our unified support for federal appropriation for aflatoxin and vomitoxin mitigation research. We appreciate the federal investment made in aflatoxin mitigation and vomitoxin mitigation research thus far and ask the House and Senate to increase funding to reach $2.5 million for each respective line item.

Aflatoxins and vomitoxins are two of the most prevalent mycotoxins that affect corn production. Mycotoxins are deadly toxins produced by molds that can grow in a variety of crops and cost U.S. agriculture approximately $1 billion each year.[1] Due to the corn industry's tremendous role in the U.S. economy, the spread of aflatoxin and vomitoxin should be a paramount concern.

Recognizing the significant threat of aflatoxin and vomitoxin, corn growers across the nation have invested millions of dollars into the National Corn Growers Association's Mycotoxin Mitigation Center of Excellence (MMCOE) (formerly the Aflatoxin Mitigation Center of Excellence) to fund notable research on early detection and mitigation of these mycotoxins. Since 2012, corn growers have pooled more than $6 million into the center, complemented by $1.75 million in federal appropriations for aflatoxin mitigation research and $250,000 in federal appropriations for vomitoxin mitigation research in partnership with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

NCGA, its state affiliates, corn grower leaders, and industry partners are all committed to building a larger, more effective center for aflatoxin and vomitoxin research to keep up with the growing need for early detection and mitigation of aflatoxin and vomitoxin. Contamination is a human and animal health hazard as well as a hit to corn producers' profitability. Future market development for corn – America's Crop – is full of potential, and

[1] USDA-ARS, 2024

it is critical that corn growers can continue to produce the highest quality, most abundant corn crop on Earth. That begins with deflecting threats of aflatoxin and vomitoxin contamination across the supply chain.

We respectfully seek your support of these requests during the FY27 appropriations process. This research is well-aligned with ARS's mission to deliver "scientific solutions to national and global agricultural challenges," and it delivers on Secretary Brooke Rollins' priority to focus on research that "increases the profitability of farmers and ranchers."

We are proud of the success of this public-private partnership and are confident that this work will lead to meaningful aflatoxin and vomitoxin mitigation and detection techniques for farmers. If our organizations can be of any assistance or provide additional information on these requests, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

National Corn Growers Association
Texas Corn Producers Association
Georgia Corn Growers Association
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association
Michigan Corn Growers Association
North American Millers' Association
American Seed Trade Association
POET
Bayer
Growth Energy
Mycologics, Inc
Pet Food Institute
ClearPath Action
Ohio Farm Bureau
Ohio AgriBusinsss Association
Ohio Cattlemen's Association
Ohio Poultry Association
Ohio Dairy Producers Association
Ohio Sheep Improvement Association
Ohio Pork Council
Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Ohio State University
Ohio Soybean Association

RESOURCES: https://www.ars.usda.gov/midwest-area/peoria-il/national-center-for-agricultural-utilization-research/mycotoxin-prevention-and-applied-microbiology-research/docs/what-are-mycotoxins/