

## **FEED CONTAMINANTS AND GUARANTEED ANALYSIS**

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### **Abstract**

In the past few years, the number of animal feed and pet food/pet treat recalls due to harmful contaminants in these products has increased significantly, indicating that improved methods for assuring the safety of animal feeds are needed. Feed contaminants can result from contact of feeds and feed ingredients with environmental, agricultural, industrial, or other sources of contamination, at any stage of the feed continuum—from pre-harvest activities, through feed manufacturing, storage and transportation, to on-farm feeding practices. There are potentially a large number of chemical, biological and physical contaminants that could be introduced into animal feed at various stages of feed production, storage and distribution. The FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine is developing an expanded animal feed safety system that is risk-based, preventive, and aimed at protecting human and animal health from contaminants in animal feed. One aspect of the animal feed safety system is the development of a risk ranking method whereby each feed contaminant will be evaluated to determine the risk it poses to animal and human health, and that risk compared to those posed by other feed contaminants (i.e., relative risk ranking). This risk model for feed contaminants will be used by the agency to improve the safety of animal feeds in the future.