

Monitoring of ergot alkaloids in animal feed

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Commission Recommendation (EU) [2026/1243](#) on monitoring the presence of ergot alkaloids in feed

What is changing and why?

The European Commission has issued a Recommendation to EU Member States and feed business operators to sample and analyse feed for the presence of ergot alkaloids. This is due to concerns raised by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) about the risks of infected grains and grasses for animal health. This Recommendation does not introduce maximum levels for ergot alkaloids in feed. The aim is to strengthen data collection to support future risk assessments and possible future regulations.

Member States, with the active involvement of feed business operators, are recommended to monitor at least the following ergot alkaloids:

- ergocristine/ergocristinine
- ergotamine/ergotaminine
- ergocryptine/ergocryptinine (α - and β -isomers)
- ergometrine/ergometrinine
- ergosine/ergosinine
- ergocornine/ergocorninine.

The analysis of ergovaline/ergovalinine, agroclavine, dihydro-ergosine, and lolitrem B is also recommended.

Member States are recommended to take samples of:

- cereals and derived products
- grasses and derived products, including forage
- compound feed.

Actions

Although the Recommendation does not introduce new maximum levels for ergot alkaloids in feed, it may lead to increased requests for data, testing expectations, and risk-management measures. Exporters should review their capacity to control ergot contamination, especially in feed intended for cattle and pigs.

Timeline

EU Member States should regularly submit monitoring results to EFSA, with monitoring to be completed by **30 June 2028**.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

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