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Feeding management and exposure to mycotoxins contamination in intensive beef cattle production system

S u m m a r y

The aims of this study were to evaluate the variability of diet composition and exposure to mycotoxins in beef cattle intensive production systems. Fifteen beef farms located in Northern Italy (provinces of Verona and Mantova) were monitored for six months. Total mixed rations and feedstuffs were collected and analyzed for particle size, chemical composition and mycotoxin contamination (aflatoxins, fumonisins, ochratoxin A, deoxynivalenol and zearale-non). Feces were also collected and analyzed for pH and corn residues. Diet variability was influenced by farm, period and bred reared. Corn and corn gluten feed were responsible for aflatoxins and fumonisins contamination. Level of mycotoxins contamination was proportional to the intake of corn and its moisture content.