

## **Tennessee Farmers Cooperative Feed Recall Statement**

*Tennessee Farmers Cooperative Feed Department officials have solidified more information about the recent voluntary recall of a custom horse feed mix and are providing these additional facts as a follow-up to the press release issued on Nov. 16 to help answer any questions customers may have.*

Tennessee Farmers Cooperative (TFC) has voluntarily recalled four lots of a custom horse feed mix that was distributed to three Co-op feed outlets in East Tennessee and one store in northeastern South Carolina. This recall affects a limited amount of feed with a few specific lot numbers and there are no concerns with any other feeds manufactured by TFC. These facts should help clarify this situation:

- Specifically, the recall involves four lots of 10% Grain Mix (item #93638), manufactured at TFC's Tenco Feed Mill in Rockford, Tenn.
- Laboratory testing has found a potentially harmful level of monensin sodium (Rumensin) in lot 4287593638, which has been implicated in three equine deaths. Monensin sodium, a feed additive used to improve feed efficiency and rate of gain in ruminant animals such as cattle and goats, can be fatal if fed to horses.
- After much sampling and testing, Co-op feed officials have identified a problem with four bags of 10% Grain Mix with the specific lot number lot 4287593638 and have contacted all known customers who purchased feed from this batch, which included 123 50-pound bags.
- As a precaution, bags with the lot numbers 4276593638, 4283593638, and 4290593638 are also included in the recall. However, there is presently no information indicating a problem with these lot numbers.
- Feed from these lots is known to have been shipped between Oct. 10 and 25, 2005, to McMinn Loudon, Monroe, and Blount Greenback Farmers Co-ops as well as Homewood Feed Company in Conway, S.C.
- Feed mill staff and TFC nutritionists have been working with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), University of Tennessee (UT) College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) Regulatory Services Division to address this situation.
- All of TFC's feed mills strictly adhere to FDA Good Manufacturing Practices, TDA Manufacturing Regulations, and Facilities Certification Institute (FCI) Guidelines in feed manufacturing to assure high-quality feed products are being provided to Co-op customers.
- TFC officials and FDA regulatory agents are actively reviewing procedures at the Tenco mill to determine the origin of this problem.
- Customers who have purchased 10% Grain Mix with any of these specified lot numbers should not continue to store or use this product and are asked to return the feed to their Co-op for replacement.
- TFC officials believe that the problem has been contained and do not anticipate additional problems.

"We consider this an isolated incident," says Jim Sherman, Feed and Animal Health Division operations officer. "Our feed mills are continually inspected by state and federal regulatory agencies, and we have stringent quality control measures to safeguard our feed production. Our mission is to produce safe and nutritious feeds, and we take any reported problems very seriously."

If you have any questions relating to this voluntary recall, contact TFC's Feed Department in LaVergne at 1-800-366-2667, extension 8526. We appreciate your patience with us as we work towards addressing this issue.