

# Handling Drought Stressed Corn Crops with Potential Nitrates

1. Always test nitrate levels prior to harvest and feeding.
2. Do not harvest or graze within 3 days of a rain.
3. Be aware of fields with high nitrogen or manure.

## HARVEST METHODS

**Ensiling** – a good fermentation may reduce nitrate levels 30-50%

- Ideally take at 55-65% moisture
- Raise cutter at least 6"
- Inoculate with NS-5 at a 2X rate helps improve fermentation
- Pack with additional weight for better fermentation
- Seal with plastic and tires
- Wait 30 days before feeding

### Grazing

- Do not turn cattle out to graze on an empty stomach or over graze.

**Baling** – Baling does not reduce nitrate levels

- Mow at least 6" high

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## FEEDING GUIDELINES

Consult with your Land O'Lakes Purina Feed Nutritionist

- Test for nitrates prior to feeding
- Dilute the amount of forage containing nitrates to a safe level
- Test suspected forage frequently

Feeding Guidelines NO3-N	
<1000 ppm	generally safe but test periodically and do not slug feed
1000-1700 ppm	reduce feeding levels by 50% on a dry matter basis
1700-2300 ppm	dilute to levels of 900 ppm on a dry matter basis