

SOIL, WATER & FORAGE ANALYTICAL LABORATORY

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Just because a water sample passes the livestock water test does not mean it is safe for all livestock. Other elements or substances not tested for may be present at harmful levels. Recommended concentration limits for some potentially toxic substances not tested by the OSU laboratory are presented in Table 3. Pesticide contamination may also make water harmful to livestock. If you suspect a water supply is contaminated with potentially toxic substances or pesticides, another reputable laboratory should be consulted for testing your sample.

TABLE 3. Recommended Limits of Concentration of Some Potentially Toxic Substances in Drinking Water for Livestock and Poultry*

Substance	Safe Upper Limit of Concentration (ppm)
Arsenic	0.2
Barium	Not established [§]
Cadmium	0.05
Chromium	1.0
Cobalt	1.0
Copper	0.5
Cyanide	Not established [§]
Fluoride	2.0
Iron	Not established [§]
Lead	0.1
Manganese	Not established [§]
Mercury	0.010
Molybdenum	Not established [§]
Nickel	1.0
Nitrate-N	100
Nitrite-N	10.0
Vanadium	0.1
Zinc	25.0

*The concentration values in this table are generally far below the LD₅₀ intakes of the **various elements**.

[§]No limit is given for a number of elements since experimental data available are not sufficient to make definite recommendations.

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