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## WHAT TO DO IF YOU COME ACROSS A HAB?

1. Stay out! You cannot identify a toxic bloom event based on just the texture or color of the mat. The only way to know if the mat is toxic is to sample and test the water. **WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!**

2. Report it! When you come across a HAB that you believe could be toxic, please contact The South Dakota State Veterinarian, Dustin Oedekoven (605-773-3321). If you believe your livestock are experiencing symptoms from a toxic HAB event, contact the state vet and let them know there is a potential bloom in your stock watering pond. Also, you should contact your local NRCS office to find alternate water sources for your livestock.

Symptoms apply to all types of livestock and can include but are not limited to: excessive fatigue, difficulty breathing, vomiting, diarrhea, and seizures. Death can occur within hours of exposure.

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### Contacts and Links

For more information on HABs  
<https://danr.sd.gov/Conservation/WatershedProtection/HAB.aspx>

EPA:  
<https://www.epa.gov/cyanoHabs>

SDDOH:  
<https://doh.sd.gov/diseases/infectious/diseasefacts/AlgalToxins.aspx>

CDC:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/habs/index.html>

Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222



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## HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND LIVESTOCK



**WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!**

Keep your livestock safe  
while grazing the fields of  
South Dakota

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## What are Harmful Algal Blooms?

A harmful algal bloom (HAB) occurs when toxin producing algae grow excessively in a body of water. In South Dakota, HABs are typically produced by blue-green algae, a primitive photosynthetic algae also known as cyanobacteria. Blue-green algae are capable of producing toxins that can be fatal to pets and livestock. In South Dakota, harmful algal blooms typically occur during the warm summer months in nutrient enriched lakes and ponds.



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## WHAT DO HABs NORMALLY LOOK LIKE?

### STRIATIONS



### CLUMPS



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## Aquatic Vegetation Mistaken for a HAB Event

### DECAYING PLANT MATTER



### DUCKWEED



