

With climate change accelerating spread of aflatoxin mold in Midwest corn, farmers look to genetically modified seeds as key solution

Climate change is expanding the reach of aflatoxin, a chemical produced by a gray-green mold that infects corn crops and could threaten widespread damage to the country's lucrative Corn Belt. According to [new research](#), aflatoxin has been primarily confined to the South. But as hot and dry weather moves northward, fungal infections will move with it, hitting the Midwest more frequently and on a wider scale than previously seen.

The study, published in the journal [Environmental Research Letters](#), found that under current climate change scenarios, aflatoxin contamination will increase in 89.5% of corn-growing counties in 15 states by the 2030s. This includes a number of states in the Corn Belt, such as Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana, which produce the majority of the United States' corn — [an \\$82 billion industry](#).

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