Minnesota Certified 
DDGS Program
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What is the Minnesota 
Certified Program?
- Minnesota Certified - a program 
developed jointly by the U of M and MDA.
- Minnesota Certified Board reviews the ethics 
and proposed standards submitted by 
aricultural producer groups.
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture
  • conducts external audits of farms
  • provides third party certification of audited, within 
  plant production procedures based upon ISO 
  9000/HAACP principles

Principles of the Minnesota 
Certified Program
- Standards are set at or above mandatory 
  requirements and current industry levels
- Standards are defined as SOP’s in Quality 
  Handbooks
- Compliance with the standards needs to be 
  recorded
- Standards need to be internally audited on a 
  regular basis (auditing check lists)
- Third-party certification is dependent on 
  compliance (records and on-site inspections)

Auditing and Certification of 
Minnesota Certified Ethanol Plants
- Internal audits of every MN Certified ethanol plant is 
  conducted by accredited auditors once/month for SOP’s 
  involving the claims being made.
- Third-party certification of MN Certified ethanol 
  plants by MDA once/year
- ISO-9000 training and official accreditation of the 
  internal and external auditors

Characteristics of the 
Minnesota Certified Program
- Accountability and liability
  - production of primary products for the food chain
- Product identity and traceability
  - producer-buyer relationship
  - quality and safety assurance
- Written documents
  - SOP’s described in Quality Handbook
- Records, Audits, and Certification
- Partnership with other members of the chain 
  - goal is long-term market access and added value

Why Was the Minnesota 
Certified Program Developed?
- Agriculture is evolving from generic 
  commodity production into customized 
  production for differentiated markets.
- Credibility of claims is essential.
- Need standardized best management 
  practices and quality standards to 
  maintain existing markets and acquire 
  new markets.
- Need to be proactive not reactive.
The Evolving Demand-Driven Markets

Why Develop a Minnesota Certified DDGS Program?

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<th>DDGS Certification Committee</th>
<th>Function of the DDGS Certification Committee</th>
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| - Corn growers and Board Members of MCGA  
- Minnesota Corn Growers Association Administrative Staff  
- MN and SD ethanol plant representatives  
- Advisory members  
  - Ralph Groschen (MDA)  
  - Dr. Jerry Shurson (U of M)  
  - John Gohl (Agri-Nutrition Services)  
  - Dr. Harold Tilstra (Land O'Lakes/Farmland Feeds) | - Serve as the coordinating committee for development and implementation of the program  
- Appoint/elect/hire a person to serve as a contact and oversee to day-to-day operations of the program  
- Hire individual(s) to conduct internal audits of participating plants  
- Develop plans for promoting and marketing the program to new and existing domestic and export markets |

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<th>Role of the University of Minnesota</th>
<th>Role of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture</th>
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| - Develop the DDGS Quality Handbook  
- Provide temporary internal auditors until a designated internal auditor is hired and trained  
- Training internal auditor(s)  
- Develop the internal auditing checklist  
- Provide education to the international feed industry and livestock producers regarding DDGS and the certification program  
- Provide technical assistance for monitoring and defining quality standards  
- Assist ethanol plants to comply with the quality standards | - Approves the claims and quality standards in the Quality Handbook  
- Provides external audits  
  - review internal audits for compliance  
  - provide "third-party" certification of ethanol plants  
- Provides official certificates of certification to Minnesota Certified ethanol plants  
- Authorizes and manages the use of the Minnesota Certified label  
- Works with other governmental groups to certify ethanol plants in other states |

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<th>Who Can Participate?</th>
<th>How Does the Minnesota Certified DDGS Program Work?</th>
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| - Minnesota Ethanol plants  
  - All "new generation" MN ethanol plants are encouraged to participate and are eligible for certification  
  - The Minnesota Certified DDGS program is VOLUNTARY and is NOT REGULATORY  
  - All participating plants must comply with the DDGS Quality Standards described in the Quality Handbook and be audited monthly to be eligible for certification  
  - Standards are defined by the CUSTOMER (livestock nutritionists and ingredient buyers) NOT by the ethanol plants | - Develop a DDGS Quality Handbook  
  - Defines specifications and quality control in DDGS production to meet the needs of the target markets  
- Plants are audited monthly  
  - Performed by an ISO trained internal auditor to ensure compliance with standards (claims)  
- Plants become eligible for certification by external auditor (MDA) after 3 months of internal audits  
- Certified ethanol plants  
  - receive a certificate of certification from the State of Minnesota  
  - may use the Minnesota Certified logo as a quality seal in marketing |
Minnesota Certified DDGS Program

What are the quality standards?
- Nutrient content
  - Moisture (dry matter)
  - Minimum crude protein
  - Minimum crude fat
  - Maximum crude fiber
- Random screening process for mycotoxins in corn
- Physical characteristics
  - bulk density
  - particle size
  - flowability
  - color
- Food safety
  - Salmonella reduction procedures
  - No drug residues "Letter of Guarantee"

Minnesota Certified DDGS Program

- Estimated cost of the Minnesota Certified DDGS Program?
  - $500 annual membership fee/plant
  - $250 monthly internal auditing cost/plant
  - $750 monthly quality control monitoring cost/plant
  - Additional costs to get participating plants in compliance with standards?
  - Additional cost/ton of DDGS produced
    - $0.10 to 0.20/ton DDGS

Recommended Quality Standards for Minnesota Certified DDGS

1. Biosecurity
   1.1. External Biosecurity
   1.1.1. Employee and visitor accessibility to Minnesota Certified ethanol plants
   1.1.2. Corn supply
   1.1.3. Bird proofing
   1.1.4. Rodent control
   1.1.5. Insect control
   1.2. Internal Biosecurity
   1.2.1. General sanitation
   1.2.2. Personnel
   2. Routine Production Practices
   2.1 DDGS Production
   2.1.1. Corn quality
   2.1.2. Nutrient content of DDGS
   2.1.3. Mycotoxin screening
   2.1.4. Grinding and particle size
   2.1.5. Quality control
   2.1.6. Bulk density
   2.1.7. DDGS flowability
   2.1.8. Feed spills
   2.1.9. Corn and DDGS storage

Physical Properties and Nutritional Specifications of Minnesota Certified Distiller’s Dried Grains with Solubles

Mission of Minnesota Certified DDGS Ethanol Plants

History of the Minnesota Certified DDGS Program

Description of the Minnesota Certified DDGS Ethanol Plants

Quality Policy of the Minnesota Certified Ethanol Plants

Certified Quality Claims of Minnesota Certified DDGS

Physical Properties and Nutritional Specifications of Minnesota Certified Distiller’s Dried Grains with Solubles

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Minnesota Certified DDGS Quality Handbook
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C. Food Safety
  • 1. Aflatoxin screening
  • 2. Sanitation to reduce bacterial contamination (Salmonella spp.)
  • 3. Antibiotic residues

D. Environmental Stewardship & Community Relations
  • 1. Compliance with environmental regulations
  • 2. Verification/documentation
  • 3. Community Relations
    • 3.1 Plant tours
    • 3.2 Other

E. Records and Record Keeping

F. Minnesota Certified DDGS Approved Analytical Laboratory

G. List of Approved Enzymes, Yeasts, and Chemical Additives