

Protect Livestock And Feed From Radioactive Fallout

By M. M. Smith

County Agricultural Agent

Radioactive fallout from a nuclear explosion could emit radiation that would injure or kill exposed cattle, sheep, horses, pigs and other farm animals. Where the fallout is heavy, the main danger to animals is external radiation from fallout particles lying on the ground and root surfaces. If animals are not exposed to large amounts of this radiation, they will usually not get enough to cause critical injury from skin contamination, or from internal injury caused by drinking contaminated water or eating contaminated feed.

For animals, as for humans, shelter is the best protection against fallout, it is usually impractical to remove animals from fallout areas, therefore, shelter facilities should be provided and kept in readiness, as well as an adequate supply of feed and water.

A good shelter is a two-story, basement-type barn with a hay-filled loft. This type of building will reduce radiation as much as 80 percent. Next best is the same type of barn without a basement. Concrete buildings give more protection than wooden buildings, however, a good tight wooden barn would reduce radiation by about 50 percent. Therefore, most Pennsylvania barns filled with hay or straw will provide good protection to animals from fallout.

Poultry are more resistant to radiation exposure than are other species of farm livestock, also, most poultry are kept under shelter and should have a greater chance of survival than other livestock.

Feeds should be protected by having a roof over it or by placing a heavy cover over it, since fallout is like fine dust, a cover will prevent it from coming in contact or being mixed with the feed. Grain stored in a permanent bin or covered silo would be well protected. A haystack in an open field could be protected with a canvas tarpaulin or similar covering. The covering may be removed after the danger of fallout is over and the hay would be safe to use. Unprotected materials such as hay or straw out in the open fields may be safe for feeding, only after the outer layer (12 to 15 inches) was removed.

Water from covered sources such as springs or wells, usually would be free from contamination and be safe for use both by man and animals. Water stored outside in open troughs or barrels should be covered with any material that will keep out the dust. Farm ponds, lakes, and streams are almost impossible to protect and this water should not be used unless urgently needed.

Livestock farmers are urged to make plans for protecting their animals in case of fallout. Provide a good shelter for all of them and protect their feed and water supplies. Have plenty of feed supplies handy and have them under cover away from the fallout dust.

Prevention is much better than cures, we urge rural folks to make plans for the protection of their family, and then for their livestock and feed supplies. We can survive radioactive fallout, but we must be prepared and we must have a plan of action.

Beavers are the largest rodent in North America, weighing up to 60 pounds with an average weight of about 40

Rug Safety

A nonslip treatment for small rugs can help prevent falls and injuries, say Penn State extension home management specialists. You can apply a nonslip rubbery coating to rug backings, or place rubber mats under small rugs to anchor them in place.

Think Ahead

Try to visualize how plants will look in your garden before you plant them, suggests A. O. Rasmussen, extension ornamental horticulturist at Penn State. Many people set their plants too close together, not realizing how they will look when they are mature.

Cigarette Smoking Increases

Americans, including those in the armed forces overseas, smoked about 510 billion cigarettes last year. This is 8 billion more than in 1961, according to U. S. Department of Agriculture statisticians. Americans will smoke even more in 1963, they say.

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