

Management Best For Poison Prevention

Proper management is still the best way to reduce the threat of livestock poisoning by plants, U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists say.

Management is stressed because the cost of eradicating poisonous plants on the broad expanses foraged by range livestock would be prohibitive. Research has shown that almost all poisonous plants are unpalatable to livestock; they are eaten only when no other feed is available. Exceptions include arrowgrass, lupine, larkspur, and locoweed.

Just why livestock eat the unpalatable types is not fully known, but toxicologists L. F. James, Wayne Binns, and J.

L. Shupe of USDA's Agricultural Research Service have observed several contributing reasons. These include (1) low feed intake caused by overgrazing, drought, trailing, or trucking; (2) perverted appetites caused by a deficiency of salt, phosphorus, or other minerals; (3) the tendency of animals to eat anything available immediately after getting water, especially if they have been without water for more than normal lengths of time; and (4) lack of variety in normal diet.

On the basis of what is known, ranchers can help prevent livestock poisoning if they learn to identify poisonous plants; maintain healthy animals; provide ample feed to prevent overgrazing; and drive or herd livestock slowly.

The scientists also recommend against turning hungry animals on an area infested

with poisonous plants; putting salt in areas that abound with poisonous plants, or relying only on medication. Ranchers should provide ample water, change sheep bed grounds often, try to control poisonous plants in problem areas, and graze species of animals least susceptible to poisonous plants in a given area.

Livestock should be kept off areas where infestations of poisonous plants are heaviest, or grazing should be confined to periods when poisoning is least probable.

Not all poisonings are caused by range weeds, the scientists point out. Oat or other hay, corn, and weeds such as lamb's quarter can contain excessive amounts of nitrate and be toxic to livestock. High levels of nitrate may occur if these plants are grown on soils containing excessive amounts of manure or artificial nitrogen fertilizer.

Several cultivated plants and weeds—rhubarb, lamb's quarter, and sugar beet tops—can be high in poisonous oxalates. And hydrocyanic or prussic acid is produced in such plants as sorghum, sudan grass, Johnson grass, and arrow grass because of drought, frost or other injury.

Wheat Growers Get Program

Notices were mailed recently to wheat growers of Lancaster County, transmitting 1965 wheat program information as applicable to the individual farm, Fred Seldomridge, Chairman, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation County Committee, said today.

The notices list the 1965 farm wheat allotment, the farm's normal yield, the allocation for marketing certificates, the rate of the payment available for wheat diversion, and the conserving base established for the farm.

The Chairman urges farm operators to study the notice information carefully, so that farming plans for the next growing season may be completed while there is still opportunity to file applications under the 1965 voluntary wheat program. The sign up was started August 24 and it will extend through October 2, 1964.

Operation of the 1965 program generally will be about the same as for 1964, Mr. Seldomridge pointed out, but some provisions have been modified. The program is again

entirely voluntary and is more flexible, offering farmers a number of attractive choices.

Program benefits include price support loans averaging \$1.25 per bushel nationally on the participating farm's wheat production, domestic marketing certificates worth 75 cents a bushel on as much as 45 per cent of the farm allotment's normal yield, and export marketing certificates worth 30 cents a bushel on as much as 35 per cent of the allotment's normal production. Wheat diversion payments will be based on one-half the county price-support loan rate and the normal yield for the farm.

New program provisions for 1965 include the opportunity for growers taking part in both programs to substitute wheat for feed grains or feed grains for wheat, and the establishment of an oats-rye base for a farm if this is requested. Storage under bond of wheat produced in excess of the farm allotment may be arranged at the time of the sign-up. Growers who wish further information about these or other provisions of the 1965 program may obtain details at the ASCS County Office.

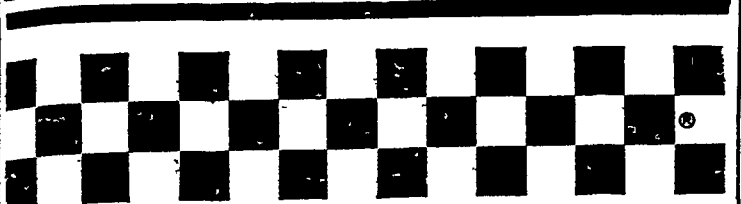
Red Rose Cow Joins Distinguished Ranks

Brattleboro, Vt. — The 1,636th yearly production record exceeding a half ton of butterfat has been completed by a Registered Holstein cow, Red Rose Invincible Elnora 3997598 (VG), owned by Red Rose Research Center, John W. Eshelman & Sons, Lancaster.

The Pennsylvania Holstein's official record of production totaled 25,545 lbs. of milk and 1,006 lbs. of butterfat in 365 days. She started her lactation at the age of 8 years, and 2 months and was milked two times daily.

Red Rose Invincible Elnora was bred in the Eshelman herd. She was sired by Curtiss Candy Invincible 1056882 (EX).

Pennsylvania State University supervised the weighing and sample testing of her production in cooperation with the Herd Improvement Registry program of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America.



Checkerboard News



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