

Chemical Analysis Finds Prussic Acid Levels In Sudan Grass Safe

Nearly 1300 samples of sudangrasses and sorghum-sudan hybrids, some of which were grown at the Penn State Field Research Station near Landisville, were analyzed chemically for prussic acid content. Only four percent of these samples showed some toxicity related to plant height, growing conditions, or frost. Dr. Joseph D. Harrington, research agronomist in charge of the experiments, told a veterinarians' conference in Philadelphia this week.

These two crops are being grown increasingly by farmers for livestock forage, and possible prussic acid poisoning of stock has long been a concern. Current research has pinpointed some important man-

agement factors that will help farmers avoid problems with these forages.

Prussic acid content is somewhat higher in the sorghum-sudan hybrids than in the sudangrasses but is not dangerous when the crop is managed properly, Harrington stated. Based on his investigations, Harrington said the sorghum-sudan hybrids should not be used for pasture or green chop until the plants are 30 inches tall. He added that stunted sudangrasses should not be used under prolonged drought conditions since drought increases the prussic acid content.

Second growth sudangrasses averaged less prussic acid content than first cuttings, Har-

rington reported. This was especially true in drought-stricken areas where second growth plants averaged considerably less prussic acid than first and third growth plants.

Harrington and associates suggest that a balanced level of soil fertility, with nitrogen used only in split applications, will aid in preventing a prussic acid buildup. Well-adapted, highly productive varieties and hybrids will help the farmer avoid toxicity.

A killing frost increases the prussic acid content of sorghum-sudan hybrids, he pointed out, saying that the hybrids should not be fed to livestock for at least 72 hours after such a frost. There is no question, he stated, regarding the superior yields of sorghum-sudan hybrids over sudangrass varieties or pure sudangrass hybrids.

2 Area Ivanhoe Daus. Repeat 1/2-Ton Fat Marks

Two registered Holstein cows in Lancaster County herds have completed production records exceeding one-half ton of butterfat, and each for the second time, according to the Holstein-Friesian Association of America. These animals also have in common the fact that they were sired by Osbornedale Ivanhoe (EX.), a bull that has earned Gold Medal Sire recognition.

Blossomelle Zsa Zsa (VG), owned by Herbert & Rhelda Royer, 2025 Oregon Pike, Lancaster, completed a production record of 28,568 pounds of milk and 1200 pounds of butterfat in 365 days.

Zsa Zsa was bred in the Royer herd. She started her record lactation at the age of five years and four months, and was milked three times daily.

The second record-breaking daughter, Bayfield Ty Grawin Johanna (EX.), is owned by J. Mowery Frey & Son, 401 Beaver Valley Pike, Lancaster.

Johanna produced 29,408 pounds of milk and 1260 pounds of butterfat in 365 days. She started her lactation at the age of ten years and one month, and was milked twice daily.

Johanna was bred in the herd of George F. Causey, Bayfield Farm, Wakefield, Rhode Island.

Weather Forecast

Temperatures for the next five days are expected to average near the normal range of 82 to 60 degrees. It will be somewhat cooler over the weekend, then warmer about mid-week.

Showers will occur at the beginning of the period and again about Tuesday. Total rainfall may total 1/2-3/4 of an inch.

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