

Don't feed green chop corn

Dairymen should be alert to corn problems

LITZ — Eastern Pennsylvania's corn crop is suffering from lack of rainfall. Normal growth but poor pollination has occurred in some areas. In others, corn is severely stunted and may not have pollinated at all.

Drought-stricken corn is more apt to contain relatively high nitrate levels which can result in dangerous silo gas formation. The latter is a serious hazard to both humans and animals.

Properly ventilate silos and silo room areas before entering a recently filled silo. Watch out for a heavier-than-air gas, sometimes brownish in color. Look for signs of poisoned birds or small animals in the area.

Nitrogen oxide gases are very toxic and damaging to lung and other body tissues. Small amounts will cause a burning sensation in nostrils and chest.

High nitrate levels in corn silage can cause the hemoglobin in the blood to lose its ability to take up oxygen. The animals sort of suffocate to death.

Tests on corn silage at the Penn State Forage Testing Laboratory indicate a greater incidence of nitrate problems in this year's corn silage crop. Some of these have been extremely toxic

and if fed to dairy cattle would have caused death.

Nitrate and silo gas problems may be kept to a minimum by delaying harvest for five days after a rain such as one we had just recently. Always feed other forage and grain ahead of drought-stricken material.

The addition of eight pounds of sodium metabisulfite per ton will

help prevent silo gas formation. Immature corn plants will generally contain higher nitrate levels than mature corn.

If at all possible, do not feed this year's corn as green chop. Dairymen who persist in feeding corn this way are taking a sizeable risk.

Feeding this corn as green crop does not allow for

control of nitrate intake and may adversely affect animal performance. Production will probably drop, plus you could lose some animals. Until the whole corn plant material has undergone fermentation, the protein in the plant is relatively unavailable to the cow.

Thus the use of drought damaged corn in this form requires the feeding of high-

protein items just before and after the green chopped material.

Check your corn fields. Corn is maturing faster than normal because of the warmer weather. Your corn may be mature and getting dry. Some silage samples have been checked at 50 percent moisture. Normal moisture levels are 60 percent to 65 percent.

Whenever possible test corn silage made from drought-stricken corn. Obtain nitrate tests as well as the usual moisture, protein, fiber and mineral contents. These are available through the Penn State Forage Testing Service and other laboratories.

Contact your county agricultural extension office for further information.

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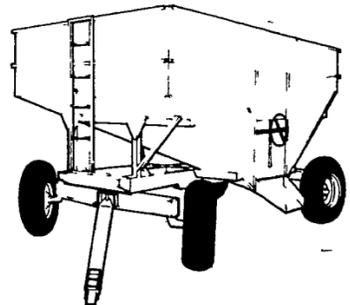
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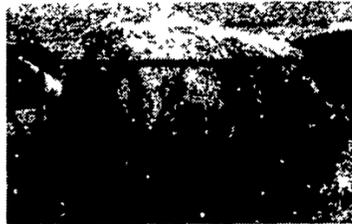
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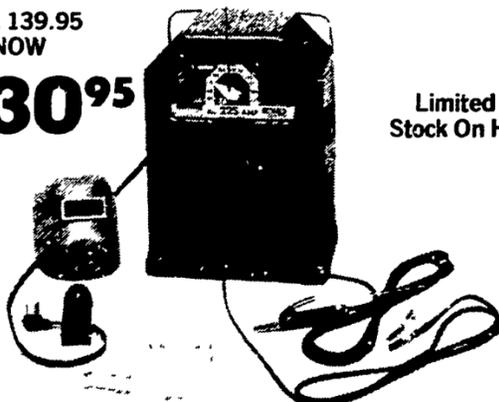
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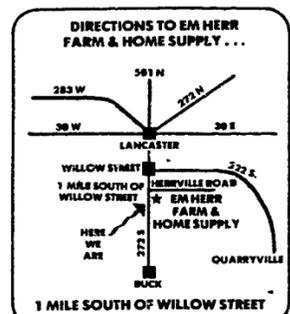
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NJ 4-H poultry show Sunday

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — Over 190 chickens, geese and ducks will be competing for top prizes in the New Jersey 4-H Invitational Poultry Show on September 21.

Their owners are 4-H members from ten different clubs in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. The show will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in conjunction with the Antique Auto Show at the Flemington Fairgrounds.

Entries will be judged by members of the Garden State Poultry Fanciers Association.

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