

Prevent colic through plowing pastures

MONTICELLO, N.Y. — "When you plow or harrow your pasture, the deeper into the ground you go, the more protection against bloodworms your horse will have."

This important piece of information was revealed by a team of University of Illinois veterinarians working under the sponsorship of the Morris Animal Foundation, according to Peter L. Rhulen, the organization's Equine division vice president. The non-profit foundation is dedicated to improving the well being of animals.

The University of Illinois veterinarians, J.A. DiPietro, D.V.M. and T.A. McPherron, D.V.M., found even an inch of earth can help prevent contact with bloodworms or *Strongylus vulgaris*. This may mean preventing colic, since an estimated 90 percent of all cases of colic in horses is caused by bloodworms.

The investigators buried horse feces infested with strongyle larvae to several depths and carefully evaluated their migration to the surfaces of the ground, as well as temperature, humidity and other factors. Only a few of the buried larvae successfully reached the ground surface indicating that plowing or harrowing will help control the strongyles.

However, the researchers are quick to point out that the larvae can migrate upwards as much as 11 or 12 inches. The researchers also found that as temperatures get colder, fewer larvae migrate to the surface of the ground. The reverse is also true as temperatures get warmer.

Preliminary studies also show gradual changes in temperature, such as when winter turns to spring, don't seem to affect the larvae. Large or sudden temperature changes which some

areas experience in midsummer may harm the larvae's ability to migrate upward or even survive.

The colic cycle begins when a horse starts to graze. Bloodworm larvae on grass are eaten by the horse, enter the digestive system and migrate through the circulatory system as they mature. The adult parasites return to the intestinal tract after several

months, where they lay eggs that are passed out in the horse's feces.

The larvae cause severe damage to the horse's blood vessels and infest the artery which supplies the horse's digestive organs with blood. This causes the horse to form blood clots in an attempt to wall off the parasites. The clots and pieces of clots then block circulation, causing colic.

Learn how to read weeds

NORRISTOWN — At this time of year, weeds and other wild plants are thriving conspicuously wherever they have a chance. If you know how to read the weeds, they can tell you a lot about the land on which they grow, according to Joy Way, Montgomery County agent.

Most wild plants will grow under a wide variety of conditions, but some require specific kinds of environments to survive. These are the indicator plants which identify particular environmental conditions.

These plants are sensitive to: soil moisture, varying from excessively wet to excessively dry; soil texture, varying from clay, which is compacted and comparatively very hard, to sand, which is loose but retains no moisture; and acidity, which varies in Pennsylvania from very acid (pH 4.5 or less) to neutral (pH7).

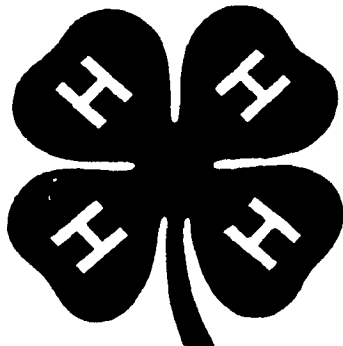
Plants that grow where conditions are acid and wet include mosses and sedges. Bracken, sheep sorrel, sweetfern, blueberries, hawkweed, broom-sedge, and yarrow thrive where the soil is acid and dry.

Generally, soil infertility decreases as acidity increases. Plants that require wet, neutral soil are purple loostrife, teasle, and cattails.

Land which is too compacted or crusted to support most other plants will be occupied by erect and prostrate knotweed, prostrate spurge, and the mustards, such as field white and black mustard.

On pasture in which legumes, such as clover and alfalfa, seem to be taking over the grasses, a nitrogen deficiency is indicated.

Where drainage and fertility are good, as in cultivated fields, common plantain, lambsquarters, yellow foxtail grass, velvet leaf, pigweed, and many other common weeds will be found.



Dairy photo album



On strike!

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
LANCASTER — Everybody's going on strike.

Baseball's on strike. Postmen threaten and get a multi-billion dollar settlement. Air traffic controllers get an arm and a leg in a new contract and still aren't satisfied.

Well, it's been real easy to do without baseball. It's not missed. I don't care if they stay out so long that Pete Rose gets too old to lift a bat and break Stan Musial's record.

I can do without the mail, too. Ninety percent of its is junk advertising and bills.

I don't need to fly either. Just so long as some lost 747 pilot doesn't decide to set down in my backyard.

But what if cows went on strike. Suppose they get angry at the parity levels set in the new federal ag bill.

So all cows — black, white, red and brown — just sit down in the

middel of the barnyard without so much as a "moo."

What do you do?

Farmers can't get them into the barn for milking. Feed sales drop off. Milk haulers are halted. Dairies shut down. Supermarket dairy sections close.

Coke comes out with a new trothy white substitute. Toddlers in stroller begin to picket. Meow-Mix gives 10-second TV spots to complaining cats.

Sound far-fetched. Perhaps.

But who ever thought that grown men who are paid as much as \$20 million for hitting a little ball with a stick would ever go on strike. But if it ever would happen, the accompanying photo submitted in the recent Dairy Month Contest by E. James Bruckhart, of R4 Manheim, might suggest a possible solution.

But it's a long and laborious one.

Just grab a pail and get down on your knees to milk the bovine on a sit-down strike.

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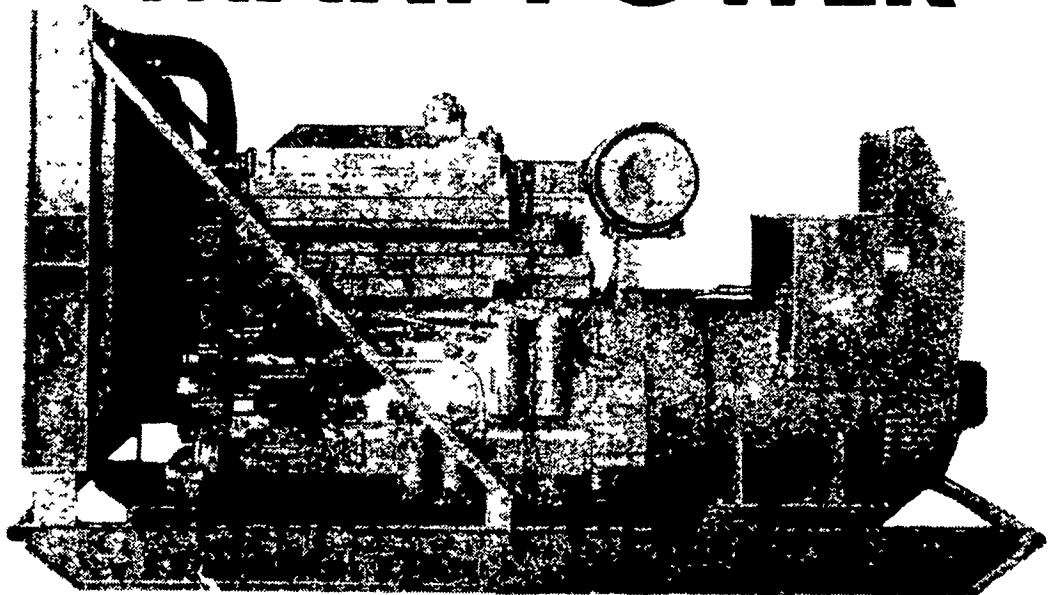


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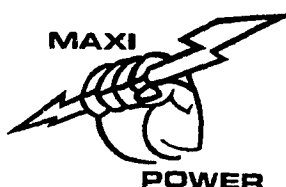
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