

Prussic Acid Warning Issued For Livestock Producers

COLLEGE PARK, MD. — Indian Summer days following a light frost can create life-threatening danger to livestock being fed or pastured on sudangrass, grain sorghum or sorghum-sudangrass hybrids.

This warning comes from Dr. Lester R. Vough, forage crops specialist for the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service.

Most livestock producers are aware that wilted and frosted forage from these grasses often contains toxic levels of prussic acid. They probably also know that such forage usually becomes safe for livestock feed after being allowed to dry for five to seven days.

But many farmers may not be aware of the extreme danger to livestock posed by new growth that comes from the lower part of sudangrass and sorghum plants after the tops have been frosted.

This new growth is apt to contain very high levels of prussic acid, Vough warns, and it probably will produce cyanide poisoning in livestock, whether pastured or fed as green chop.

Vough advises farmers with unharvested fields of sorghum or sudangrass forages to cut them for hay — thoroughly dried — or for silage. He notes that even forages containing toxic levels of prussic acid should be safe for livestock feed after the normal three-week waiting period which is recommended generally for new silage.

The Maryland agronomist warns that allowing green-chop sorghum or sudangrass to sit in a feed wagon for a day or two will not reduce high levels of prussic acid. Such action can make the feed even more toxic, creating a situation for cyanide poisoning similar to that which results when livestock eat wilted chokecherry or black cherry leaves.

Cattle and sheep are the farm animals most susceptible to cyanide poisoning caused by eating plant materials with a high prussic acid content.

Poisoned animals show increased respiration and pulse rates, gasping, muscular twitching or nervousness, trembling, foaming at the mouth, blue coloration of the mouth lining, and spasms or

convulsions. Animals often die within 15 to 20 minutes after eating the poisoned forage. It takes only one gram of cyanide to kill a 1,000-pound cow.

If you have doubts about the safety of hay or silage from sorghum or sudangrass, Vough advises using one or two of your least valuable animals as "testers" instead of risking a whole herd or

flock.

For more information, check with your county office of the Cooperative Extension Service. If you live in Maryland, ask for a free copy of "Prussic Acid Poisoning of Livestock-- Causes and Prevention" (Fact Sheet 427), published last year by the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service.

USDA Announces Additional 1989 Farm Program Provisions

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that during the 1989 farm program signup producers may declare their intentions to plant from 10 to 25 percent of each crop's permitted acreage to soybeans or sunflowers while protecting their crop's acreage base history.

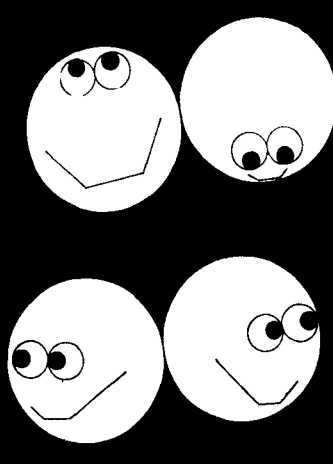
Planting intentions under this special provision will be reviewed and the percentage of permitted acreage that may be devoted to additional soybean/sunflower plantings may be adjusted, if necessary, to ensure that the price for the 1989 crop of soybeans will not be less than 115 percent, or \$5.49 per bushel, of the prior year's loan rate of \$4.77. Any limitations concerning this planting option will be announced after an analysis of producers' planting intentions.

Also, any portion of a farm's acreage base (FAB), excluding the soybean acreage included in the calculation of the FAB, may be designated an acreage base for oats for the 1989 crop year. Any

acreage so designated in 1989 will be considered planted to the original program crop for the purpose of determining the FAB or crop acreage base in future years but will not result in an increase in the program bases. Program benefits for such acreage planted to oats will be those applicable to oats.

Wheat and feed grains producers may elect to participate in an optional acreage diversion program — known as 0/92 — under which they devote all or a portion of the wheat or feed grain permitted acreage to conserving uses (CU) and receive deficiency payments on an acreage not to exceed 92 percent of the crop's permitted acreage. The deficiency payment rate on the CU acreage will not be less than the estimated deficiency payment to be announced before signup. Rice and upland cotton producers may participate in the 50/92 program; however, a guaranteed deficiency payment level on the conserving use acres is not applicable.

Signup dates for the 1989 farm programs will be announced later.



DON'T LOOK ANY FURTHER!
YOU'LL FIND IT IN LANCASTER FARMING'S CLASSIFIEDS

1989 TILLAGE & PLANTER PARTS EARLY ORDER PROGRAM

If you order tillage or planter parts before December 31st, you will receive 15% Discount - Guaranteed Price.

Parts available for pickup March 1 thru March 15, 1989

Some Of The Available Items On This Program:

- PLOWSHARES
- CHISEL PARTS
- MOLDBOARDS
- LANDSLIDES
- DISK BLADES
- CULTIVATOR SHOVELS
- OTHER SELECTED TILLAGE & PLANTER PARTS



WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT
Division of ALLIED PRODUCTS CORPORATION

Serving The Farmer Since 1914

SHUEY'S
SALES
SERVICE

Ono, PA 17077
Phone
717-865-4915

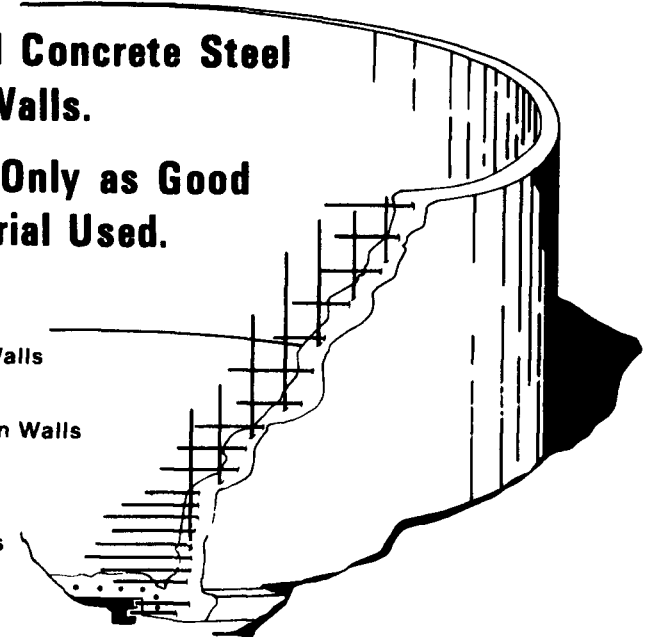
IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT - GIVE US A CALL. WE WILL SHIP THE PARTS TO YOU U.P.S.

THE STRENGTH IS IN THE CONSTRUCTION

■ Poured Solid Concrete Steel Reinforced Walls.

■ The Wall is Only as Good as the Material Used.

- Manure Pit Walls
- Hog House Walls
- Chicken House Walls
- Concrete Decks
- House Foundation Walls
- Cistern Walls
- Barnyard Walls
- Concrete Pit Tops
- Silage Pit Walls
- Retaining Walls



All sizes available
Round or rectangular

Take the questions out of your new construction
Call: Balmer Bros. for quality engineered walls.

Invest in Quality - It will last a lifetime.

Balmer Bros.

CONCRETE WORK, INC.

243 Miller Road, Akron, PA 17501
(717) 733-0353, 6:30 AM - 3:30 PM, (717) 859-2074, After 6:00 PM