

Livestock Ledger

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To prevent such an accident, install a rollover protective structure with a safety belt. All tractors before 1986 will need this addition. By doing so, you'll increase survival odds.

The American Society of Ag Engineers estimates that 90 percent of tractor operators involved in overturns in Sweden, where ROPS are mandatory, escape serious injury or death.

For added safety, make a habit of inspecting warming and marker lights to make sure they're functioning. Check tires for soundness and inflation levels. Also, don't allow extra riders on any tractor or skid loader. The equipment wasn't designed to handle extra passengers.

Finally, shut off the power take-off when you leave the tractor. PTOs are very dangerous and can sever a limb in seconds. Avoid loose clothing and keep children away from PTOs. This is especially true when your tractor is stationary and the PTO is operating a grinder-mixer. Children are curious and often want to play near the fast-revolving equipment.

For more information on farm safety, contact The National Safety Council, 1121 Spring Lake Drive, Itasca, IL 60143.

Prussic Acid Danger

Prussic acid is a nice term for the real culprit, hydrocyanic acid. Prussic acid is found in both cultivated and native forages. Practically all prussic acid containing plants are quite palatable.

There are a number of feed plants which may have toxic

amounts of prussic acid under the right conditions, but major ones of concern are sorghum-Sudan crosses and johnsongrass.

Plants of the sorghum family may have toxic levels of prussic acid in new growth which follows either frost, a severe period of drought, or a period of heavy trampling or physical damage.

Heavy nitrate fertilization of the soil followed by abundant rainfall may increase the prussic acid poisoning potential of these crops as well. Under normal circumstances, prussic acid should not be a problem but under severe drought conditions or around the time of the first killing frost, we need to be careful.

Poisoned animals show signs of nervousness, abnormal breathing, trembling or jerking muscles, blue coloration of the lining of the mouth, spasms or convulsions, and respiratory failure followed by death. Prussic acid poisoning can be very rapid. Often, the first sign of a problem is some of the animals are found dying or dead.

Animals which have not shown much evidence of toxicity may be ingested intravenously with a mixture of sodium thiosulfate. Prussic acid poisoning is not cumulative and therefore upon removal, from the forage source, animals not showing evidence of being poisoned will likely not be affected adversely.

Acorn poisoning generally deals its most severe blow in the month of September and very early October. It seems cattle like newly fallen acorns best. If you're grazing cattle in pastures with oak trees and — where corns will be present on the ground, take proper precautions. Clinical signs are loss of appetite, listlessness, weakness, constipation early, followed by


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WHAT LIES AHEAD

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Professor of Entomology

diarrhea which may be dark colored or bloody and animals will appear bowed in the back. Animals get weaker and eventually go down. Affected animals may show yellow color, bloody urine, and dehydration.

There are no specific treatments for this condition other than rumen stimulant (mineral oil and the like) and fluid for dehydration. Treatment of down animals is rarely successful, while early treatment of cases is helpful. If possible, the removal of animals from the source of poisoning will greatly reduce the loss and increase the success rate of treatment.

A prevention ration of 10 to 15 percent calcium hydroxide in a protein feed is helpful. It may take about four pounds of this mix per day per cow and two pounds per day for younger animals.

If acorn poisoning is a threat, cattle should perhaps be removed from the pasture with oak trees producing acorns or be fenced from these wooded areas while corns are falling.

We are in the process of winding down another year of fly control.

Some of you had successful years in keeping your fly populations at low levels, and others were not so lucky. The question we need to ask is, why weren't all of the producers successful in controlling their flies?

As we start to make plans for the coming year, we should evaluate what problems we had this past year and what we can do to correct them.

As you think about the problems you had during the fly season, I would like for you to send a list of your problem areas to C. W. Pitts, Department Of Entomology, 501 AS&I Building, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802, or call me at (814) 863-7789.

Also, if any of you have suggestions for approaches to solving your problem, please include these in your list. Don't be bashful in making suggestions on how we might control flies. We will evaluate all suggestions sent as to the feasibility and the researchability of the approach.

It appears that we will be getting some financial support to

conduct some new extension and research programs in the major poultry producing counties. It is for this reason that we are looking for any suggestions as to new or old ideas on how to control flies.

We will be considering several mechanical approaches to fly control, but the basis of the program will be integrated pest management (IPM). Generally defined, this means directing several methods of control toward the same pest, which when added together gives adequate fly control and is environmentally safe.

This approach is even more important now with Congress preparing to overhaul the food safety laws. In the initial press releases outlining food safety revisions, one of the key statements is that by the end of the decade, 75 percent of the farmers will be using integrated pest management techniques designed to combat insects without pesticides.

Alternative methods include cultural control, predators, parasites, and biologically derived safe pesticides.

How revisions of the food safety laws will finally end up remains to be seen, but the message is clear that we will be moving toward non-chemical methods of fly control.

During the winter, we will be initiating some new programs and we will keep you updated on the progress of our new projects through Poultry Pointers.

I hope the articles that have appeared in Poultry Pointers have been of use to the poultry producers. If there are topics or questions that deal with pest control that you would like to see covered in future articles, please send them to the address previously mentioned.

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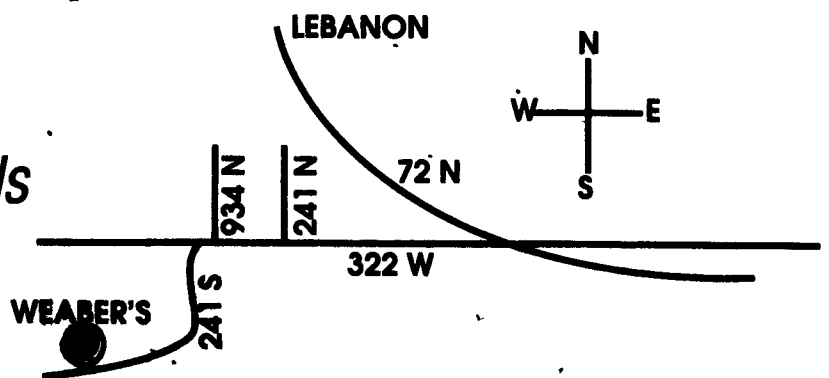
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