

Family

Nitrate in 'hot' feed can kill cattle

Many cows are headed out to stalks or may already be there. Be aware of the possibilities of nitrate toxicity in your cattle from these stalks or from hay fed to them later in the winter. High nitrate, or "hot" feed, can be deadly to cows.

Nitrate toxicity is a misnomer because nitrite (NO₂), not nitrate (NO₃), is poisonous to animals. After a plant is eaten, however, rumen bacteria rapidly reduce nitrates in the forage to nitrites.

Normally, the nitrites are converted to ammonia and used by rumen microorganisms as a nitrogen source. However, if nitrite intake is faster than its breakdown to ammonia, nitrites will begin to accumulate in the rumen. Nitrite is rapidly absorbed into the blood system, where it converts hemoglobin to methemoglobin. Red blood cells containing methemoglobin cannot transport oxygen and the animal dies from asphyxiation.

Animals under physiological stress (sick, hungry, lactating or pregnant) are more susceptible to nitrate toxicity than others. Toxicity is related to the total amount of forage consumed and how quickly it is eaten, but, generally, if forages contain more than 6,000 ppm nitrate, they should be considered potentially toxic.

Some animals can adjust to medium to high levels of nitrates in their feed. They need to be introduced to high nitrate feed slowly by mixing feed know not to be high in nitrates to



Clint Milliman

• Knowledge for Life

dilute it.

Ensiling feed can reduce nitrate levels by half. However, if nitrates are extremely high, reducing by half may not be enough. It is always best to get a test to know for sure what you have. I tested some feed a few years ago that came back with nitrate levels of 32,000 ppm. If you would have ensiled this feed to break it down by half, that gets you to a nitrate level of 16,000 ppm, which is still deadly. Feed this high should not be used.

Nearly all plants contain nitrate, but some species are more prone to accumulate nitrate than others. Crops such as forage and grain sorghums, sudangrass, sudan-sorghum hybrids and pearl millet are notorious nitrate accumulators. Weed species such as Kochia, lambsquarters, sunflower, pigweed and Johnsongrass also are often high in nitrate.

Under certain environmental and managerial conditions, corn and cereal grains like wheat and oats and other plants can accumulate potentially toxic levels of nitrate. Under extreme

stress, legumes like alfalfa and soybeans also can accumulate nitrate.

The potential for high nitrate concentrations occurs when crops such as corn, sorghum, cereal grains and some grasses are exposed to drought, hail, frost, cloudy weather or soil fertility imbalance. Nitrates accumulate in the lower part of the plant when stresses reduce the crop yield to less than that expected, based on nitrogen supplied.

Forage suspected to contain high nitrate levels should be tested by a laboratory before feeding. Unfortunately, different laboratories may report nitrate level as either nitrate (NO₃), nitrate-nitrogen (NO₃-N), or potassium nitrate (KNO₃). Potassium nitrate, nitrate nitrogen, or percent nitrate can be converted to ppm nitrate. Bring your test results to the Extension office for interpretation.

If you have hay you question the level of nitrates on, bring a feed sample to the office and we will send it into the lab for testing so that you know whether it is safe to feed or not. The total cost is around \$10, much cheaper than losing an expensive cow.

Clint Milliman is the Thomas County agriculture and natural resources agent with Kansas State Research and Extension. A native of Illinois, Milliman works with area 4-H clubs, farmers and ranchers.

Babies

Kenadie Coleen Rothchild

Kenadie Coleen Rothchild, daughter of Shea and Kasiah Rothchild of Brewster, was born Friday, Oct. 22, 2010, at Citizens Medical Center. She weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches.

A sister, Kallan, welcomed the baby home.

Grandparents are Delmer and Glenda Rothchild of Downs and Jerry and Rhonda Nichols of Winona. Great-grandparents are Agnes Bartcher of Smith Center, Lola Bretz of Wallace and Merlin Nichols of Culbertson, Neb.



Kenadie R.

Elijah Stephens Steinlage

Elijah Stephens Steinlage, son of Joe and Ashley Steinlage of Cary, N.C., was born Nov. 5, 2010, at Duke University Hospital in Cary. He weighed 9 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Brother Nick, 7, and sister Elizabeth, 5, welcomed him home. Grandparents are Dorothy Stephens of Wichita and the late Joe Stephens of Colby, and Gertie Steinlage and the late Lambert Steinlage of Wichita.

Tessa Rae Leitner

Tessa Rae Leitner, daughter of Jeffrey and Danielle Leitner of Oberlin, was born Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010, at Citizens Medical Center. She weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Sister Isabelle Eryn Leitner, 2, welcomed her home. Grandparents are Rocky and Teresa Diederich of Oberlin, and Danny Joe and Jean Ann Leitner of Herndon. Great-grandparents are Vernon and Jeanette Diederich of Oberlin, and Dick and Carolyn Bird of Colby.

Deaths

Maxine Swihart

Maxine Swihart, 95, Colby, died Tuesday, Nov. 30, at her home. Services are pending with Har-

ison Chapel of Colby, (785) 462-2331.

Don't let your holiday season go up in smoke

Holiday decorations, especially candles and electrical lighting, can be fire hazards, and Safe Kids Kansas reminds parents and caregivers to take a few precautions when decorating for Christmas or other winter festivities.

From 2003 to 2007, fire departments in the U.S. responded to an estimated 15,260 home fires started by candles each year. The top five days for home candle fires were Christmas, Christmas Eve, New Year's Day, Halloween and Dec. 23, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Battery-operated flameless candles are an alternative that does not pose a fire risk.

If you decorate a tree, Safe Kids

Kansas recommends:

- Never leave a Christmas tree or other decorative lighting display unattended. Inspect lights for exposed or frayed wires, loose connections and broken sockets. Do not overload extension cords or outlets and never run an electrical cord under a rug.

- Natural Christmas trees always involve some risk of fire. To minimize this, get a fresh tree and keep it watered at all times. Do not put the tree within three feet of a fireplace, space heater, radiator or heat vent. LED lights burn cooler than incandescent lights and pose a lower risk of fire.

- Decorate with children in mind. Do not put ornaments that

have small parts or metal hooks, or look like food or candy, on the lower branches where small children can reach them. Trim protruding branches at or below a child's eye level, and keep lights out of reach.

- Do not burn Christmas tree branches, treated wood or wrapping paper in a home fireplace.

Safe Kids also offers these tips to prevent accidental poisoning:

- Keep alcohol (including baking extracts) out of reach and do not leave alcoholic drinks unat-

tended. Store medications, including those for kids, out of reach.

- Color additives used in fireplace fires are toxic and should be stored out of reach. Artificial snow sprays can be harmful if inhaled.

For information, go to www.usa.safekids.org.

K-State planning regional beef meet

MANHATTAN – The Four-State Beef Conference is planned for Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 11 and 12, at locations in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri.

Topics and speakers planned for each location include:

- Show-Me Select Multi-year Selection Impact – Dave Patterson, University of Missouri
- Low-Input Heifer Development – Rick Funston, University of Nebraska

The Tuesday morning session will begin at 9:30 a.m. in

Tecumseh, Neb., at the Community Building and the afternoon session will begin at 3:30 p.m. in Lewis, Iowa, at the Iowa State University Armstrong Research Farm.

The Wednesday morning session will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Holton, Kan., at the Jackson County Fair Building, and the afternoon session will start at 3:30 p.m. in King City, Mo., at the Eiberger Building.

To register for information, contact your county Extension office.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$5.90
Corn (bushel)	\$4.62
Milo (hundredweight)	\$7.91
Soybeans (bushel)	\$11.13

EAT HEARTY.....
CHICKEN, STEAK & SHRIMP
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.
Your choice of Potato and Salad

COLBY VFW MEMBERS & GUESTS WELCOME!

Winter Arts & Crafts Fair
 Sunday, December 5, 2010
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Hoxie 4-H Building

New and Favorite Vendors

Lunch served by White House Chefs featuring Chicken Noodle Soup, Jim's BBQ Sandwich, and other goodies.

Questions call Reba 785-675-1602

The Tubbs Family would like to thank everyone that attended the Tubbs Family Thanksgiving at the VFW Hall.

Thank You

Jeff, Lezley & Cash Tubbs	Mike, Pat, Michael & Madison Tubbs
Christie and Chase Cersovsky	Gerald & Eileen Herman
Justin Foss	Travis, Kim & Zach Herrman
Francis, Pam & Jessie Rudell	Gene & Kathy Brown
Joseph Rudell	Mike, Bonny, Dan, Nathan & Anna Brown
Bettie Hamill	Tim, Karen & Zachary Stiegel
Duane, Elizabeth & Travis Tubbs	Vernon & Belinda Doonan
Lesia Beamer	Dale Deaver
Monte Lewis	Terry, Lina, Ethan & Haley Stickel
Clarence Rudell	Bill & Peggy Miller
Gerald Tubbs	Dale & Alana Tubbs
Joe and Marcella Stenger	Jeanie Rogers & Vis Jaunaris
Travis, Lori, Lindsey, & Tessa Stickel	Luke, Liv, Guy & Fia Tubbs
Robert & Cardine Tubbs	Nolan, Lacey, Raynce, & Dryce Brott

High Plains Lions Club Pancake Feed
 Saturday, December 4, 2010
 \$4.50 Donation ~ 7am - 2 pm
 Colby Community Building

Bring your glasses & hearing aids to be recycled. \$ goes toward community projects!

Veda Mae Nelson

Veda Mae Nelson passed away November 13, 2010 at the Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby KS at the age of 84. Memorial services were held November 19 at the United Methodist Church in Atwood KS with burial at the Lone Star Cemetery rural Rawlins County.

Veda Mae (Henningsen) Nelson was born at her Grandma Cooper's Home June 9, 1926, the oldest of Otto and Genevieve (Cooper) Henningsen. She grew up in rural Rawlins County, attended country school and Atwood High School transferring to Decatur Community HS her senior year to get her Teaching Certificate in 1944. After graduation she taught in country schools from 1944-1947.

In 1947, Veda married Orvis Leroy "O.L." Nelson after he returned from World War II. Five children were born to the family. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Orvis of 60 years; infant son David Lee; brother Melvin Dale Henningsen and infant granddaughter Marsha Lee McCain.

Veda Mae was a homemaker, she enjoyed gardening and canning the produce to enjoy over the winter and sharing with family and neighbors. Veda Mae was an active member of the United Methodist Church and Women's Association. She was a Cloverleaf 4-H leader for many years. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

She is survived by; son Donald Jay "D.J." of Ludell, daughter Shirley and Dale Vap of Colby, their daughter Michele (Ian) DeWaal and children Shelby, Clay and Coy Cas-saw and Bree DeWaal all of St Francis; daughter Jane and Skip McCain of Atwood and their son Trent of Colby, and daughter Joan and Patrick Kania and their sons, Zachary and Alexander of Newbury, OH.

She is also survived by her sister Betty (Ralph) Borgeson of Kansas City, sister Pat (Dean) Larsen of Colby and brother Cernit (Patrice) Henningsen of Atwood, brother-in-law James McDonald of AZ, sister-in-law Maxine (Clifton) Starkey of Brewster and sister-in-law Mary Nelson of OK.

Veda will be remembered for her love of the farm, family and many good friends. She enjoyed fancy work and sharing it with her family. She will sadly be missed by all.

Open House
 December 4, 2010
 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

10% OFF SALE ONE DAY ONLY!

Handmade Christmas Ornaments

Candles, Cards, Jewelry, Soap, Bags, Aprons, Baby Items, Pottery, Books, Home decor and more!

Open Sundays 1 - 5 Through Christmas

Featuring Special Guests

Elsie Rietcheck with *Western Decor* and Julie Barnes with *Christmas Cards & Gifts*

Creations Gallery
 478 N Franklin • Colby, KS 67701

Excitement is in the Air...
 Come Join Us
Farmer's Christmas Market
 Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BP Miller Building
 895 S. Country Club Drive
 Colby, Kansas

Linda's Bakery Linda Van Horn
 Patsy Cake Brittney Johnson
 Made of Iron Lana Johnson
 The Denver Lady Barb Stark
 Double M Designs Mary Maxwell
 Geraldine's Sugar Cookies Geraldine Swart
 Parker's Homemade All Beef Summer Sausage & Spicy Mustard Sandi & Merle Parker

We'd like to see our old friends and make some new ones...

FAIRVIEW ESTATES SENIOR DAY
 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010
 12:00 NOON

Seniors Invited to a Complementary Meal and Program

Menu

Roast Turkey
 Stuffing
 Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
 Cranberry Sauce
 Green Bean Casserole
 Roll
 Pumpkin Pie
 Coffee & Tea

Program
 HOLIDAY BINGO

Fairview Estates Retirement Community
Independent & Assisted Living

1630 Sewell Ave. • Colby, KS
 (785) 462-2154

Meal reservations are required as seating is limited. Call Gary to reserve your seat before December 6th.