

Nitrate Poisoning

Nitrate Poisoning

- ▶ $\text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{RBCs}$
 - \rightarrow combines w hemoglobin
 - \rightarrow methemoglobin
 - Methemoglobin cannot transport O_2 vs. hemoglobin
 - \uparrow Heart rate / respiration \
 - Blood / tissues \rightarrow **BLUE** to **CHOCOLATE BROWN**
 - muscle tremors, staggering, eventual suffocation
 - Abortion

Common Plants Known to Accumulate Nitrates

<u>Crops</u>		<u>Weeds</u>
Barley	Soybean	Canada Thistle
Corn	Sorghum	Dock
Flax	Sudan grass	Kochia
Millet	Sugar beets	Lambs quarter
Oats	Sweet Clover	Nightshade
Rye	Wheat	Pigweed
		Russian Thistle

Current Situation

- ▶ Drought
- ▶ Rain Regrowth
 - Harvested forage tests can be very high
 - Volunteer corn or oats
 - Turnips and Radishes
- ▶ Forages being brought in

Avoiding Toxicity

- ▶ Test forages
 - Standing
 - Harvested
- ▶ Cut corn for silage 12–18 inches from ground
- ▶ Blend down hot feeds
- ▶ Feed grain
- ▶ Do not turn hungry cattle into suspect forages or feed just purchased hay

Any Questions

- ▶ Fact sheet
- ▶ Robbie LeValley
 - rlevalley@deltacounty.com
 - 970-250-0608

THANK YOU

