
TOXIC PLANT DEMONSTRATION CAN BE USED TO PREVENT LIVESTOCK POISONING

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With the abundant rainfall has come an abundant growth of plants that can be toxic to livestock. The good news is that cattle generally will not consume these plants if an adequate supply of forages is available. The greatest potential of poisoning occurs when cattle are confined in a small area overnight. The animals quickly consume the available forage and then consume the toxic weeds. Perilla Mint is one of the plants most often implicated in animal poisoning cases. Many producers cannot identify or do not realize the toxicity of these plants. A great demonstration possibility would be to transplant Perilla Mint and other toxic plants into pots. Take the pots along with a poster giving information about the plant and ways to prevent livestock poisoning to supply stores, livestock markets, etc. This would be an easy and very effective demonstration that could help producers protect their animals from plant poisoning.