

MOVING CATTLE TO NEW PASTURES CAN INCREASE POISONING BY TOXIC PLANTS

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Late summer and fall often bring increased reports of cattle losses due to toxic plants. These losses often follow movement of the cattle into a different pasture.

One common scenario is to enclose a group of cattle into a barnyard paddock for a period prior to shipment or working. Cattle in a small enclosure may consume toxic plants that they would pass by in normal pasture.

Cattle producers should learn to identify common toxic plants such as perilla mint, yew, jimsonweed and cherry. You should have publications which assist in plant identification.

Avoid penning cattle in smaller paddocks with toxic plants. Also, inspect pastures and remove toxic plants before turning cattle into new lots.