

COPING WITH FESCUE TOXICOSIS

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The following are ideas suggested over the years by farmers, feed dealers, researchers, extension staff, etc. as practices they've seen or heard about that helped alleviate the severity of fescue toxicosis in beef cattle. Some are research-based while many are not. Some are even contradictory. During today's discussion I'll try and sort through the list and help you decide which, if any, you might wish to adopt.

1. Dilute by adding legumes to the toxic pastures.
2. Graze fungus-free or novel endophyte pastures, especially in the summer.
3. Rotate pastures.
4. Use warm season grass pastures in June, July, and August (johnsongrass, bluestem, bermuda, crabgrass, etc.)
5. Graze wheat pasture in the spring.
6. Prevent cattle from grazing the fescue stem and seedhead (possibly ergot) by early clipping or by using a plant growth regulator (Embark or Chaparral)
7. Graze pastures short.
8. Stock pasture lightly
9. Sometime during the year, mow the fescue as close to the ground as possible.
10. Burn the fescue pasture.
11. Be sure there's adequate shade in the pasture.
12. Fill in or fence ponds, let cattle drink fresh, clean, cool water.
13. Feed some alfalfa hay (3-7 lbs.) during the winter and mid summer.
14. Do not allow cattle to eat big round bales that have been stored outside.
15. Ammoniate mature fescue hay or fescue stubble hay.
16. Topdress pasture with sulfur.
17. Lime pasture more often.
18. Use more magnesium in lime and fertilizer.
19. Cut back on nitrogen fertilizer or poultry litter.
20. Don't apply nitrogen early in the spring.
21. Apply seaweed extract to the growing fescue.
22. Feed two to four pounds of grain per day in the summer.
23. Feed a grain sorghum that contains a relatively high level of antifungal activity.
24. Feed a protein supplement.
25. Feed two pounds a day of 20% liquid supplement.
26. Use ionophores (Rumensin or Bovatec.)
27. Feed cottonseed meal, especially the old process (high fat) type.
28. Supplement with a high oil/fat feed like whole soybeans, cottonseed, peanuts or dried distillers grains.
29. Include walnut by-product supplement.
30. Feed MFA #1 salt mix year around.
31. Do not use salt to limit grain or protein intake.
32. Feed cattle some kind of alcohol containing product such as an alcohol-molasses mix.
33. Feed "special" enzyme compound MTB-100 or a glucomannan polymer.
34. Feed a yeast fraction (FEB-200)
35. Feed fermentation extracts.
36. Feed an antioxidant.
37. Feed iron sulfate.
38. Feed extra-selenium.
39. Feed extra-sulfur.
40. Feed extra-potassium.
41. Feed extra-copper.
42. Feed extra-zinc.
43. Feed extra-calcium.
44. Feed extra-phosphorus.
45. Feed extra-manganese.
46. Feed extra-cobalt.
47. Give vitamin B12.
48. Give extra vitamins A and E.
49. Administer thiamine.
50. Feed niacin.
51. Administer nitric oxide.
52. Vaccinate for BVD and IBR.
53. Vaccinate for chlamydial abortion.
54. Use Ivomec. (Injectable or bolus)
55. Use thiabendazole.
56. Feed phenothiazine.
57. Use stilbestrol implants.
58. Administer growth promoting implants to stocker cattle. (Ralgro)
59. Treat for coccidiosis.
60. Give aspirin to reduce temperature.
61. Give dipyrone to reduce temperature.

62. Administer cimetidine.
63. Administer metoclopramide.
64. Administer domperidone.
65. Vaccinate against ergot alkaloids.
66. Feed tea leaves.
67. Feed caffeine.
68. Feed oregano.
69. Feed a brown seaweed product. (Tasco)
70. Give a shot of Pet milk under the skin to make cattle shed their hair.
71. Calve in the fall.
72. Calve in January and February.
73. Use bulls that sire shorter haired, easy shedding calves.
74. Select cattle that show heat tolerance.
75. Clip the hair off the affected cattle in hot weather.
76. Sell long, rough-haired cows.
77. Sell cows that pond-stand.
78. Sell bob-tailed cows and don't retain replacement from them.
79. Crossbreed.
80. Add Brahman breeding.
81. Add Longhorn breeding.
82. Add Limousin breeding.
83. Add Jersey breeding.
84. Add Gelbvieh breeding.
85. Add Senepol breeding.
86. Reduce percentage of Hereford,
87. Reduce percentage of Simmental.
88. Reduce percentage of Angus.
89. Reduce percentage of Shorthorn.
90. Reduce percentage of Charolais.
91. Reduce percentage of Salers.
92. Use bulls that have EPD's that resulted from progeny raised on fescue.
93. Keep cattle in fleshy condition.
94. Keep first-calf heifers off toxic pastures in spring and summer.
95. Let cattle have access to brushy pastures where there are sassafras, persimmon and sumac sprouts to browse on.
96. Have curly dock in the pasture for cattle to graze on.
97. Drench affected cattle with a chelated copper solution.
98. Inject copper solution into their briskets.
99. Feed zeolite, a clay-like compound.
100. Feed magnesium mica.
101. Feed bentonite clay.
102. Feed hydrated sodium calcium aluminosilicate.
103. Pour diesel fuel on the lower leg and hoof.
104. Chase sore footed animals with pickup, horse, dog, or four-wheeler to stimulate circulation.
105. Use Grazon as a herbicide.
106. Feed I. C. E. (Internal Cooling Elements) Vigortone
107. Include AP5 (Peppers) in the mineral mix.
108. Feed psyllium husks
109. Hexasol and Multimin injections
110. Clip the hair off their head and neck.
111. Feed sweet clover hay. (Coumadin)
112. Give them Apple Cider Vinegar.
113. Spray fescue with Chaparral in spring to reduce seed heads.
114. Establish annual ryegrass in pastures you graze in the winter, spring period.
115. Provide cattle access to plants that contain condensed tannins such as birdsfoot trefoil or sainfoin.
116. Include essential oils in their supplements.
117. Use red clover isoflavones and/or other biologically active chemicals from forage legumes.
118. DNA test your replacements (T-Snip) for fescue toxin sensitivity.
119. With Shorthorn cattle, use the new \$Fescue Index that identifies the number of markers the animal possesses.
120. Feed Vita Ferm Heat that contains capsaicin and Amaferm
121. Feed Fescue EMT™ a new mineral defense with Endophyte Management Technology.
122. Provide a mix of charcoal, cayenne pepper, salt, vinegar and kelp feed at the rate of 8 to 10 ounces per day.
123. Feed some garlic.