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BEGIN TRANSCRIPTION

00;00;16;15 - 00;00;42;23
Unknown
Welcome to Pasture to Profit. My name is Scott Stinnett. CSU extension specialist in Kit Carson County in the Burlington, Colorado office. And with me again today is CSU extension specialist and my partner in crime on the podcast, Travis Taylor from the Yuma County office in Wray, Colorado. And Travis, I think today we've had kind of a unique weather year here in the High Plains, especially in eastern Colorado.

00;00;42;26 - 00;01;12;25
Unknown
And where do weather years or odd weather years that aren't the normal? We go from cold to slightly warm to nice and warm and wet tend to create some issues of some strange, let's call them weird weeds that we don't normally see popping up. And so you and I both had some examples over the past few years. So let's talk about some of our weird weeds, and I'll let you go first with your example of one that you came across a year or so ago.

00;01;12;27 - 00;01;41;19
Unknown
Yeah. Well, it's been almost two years now, Scott. And any time that we have these weird weather patterns where we there have periods of dry or we have extreme hails, or we have other type of wet springs, we have a different variety of weeds that may show up. The one that comes to mind that we're talking about is we had an issue with what we call ground cherry.

00;01;41;21 - 00;02;09;21
Unknown
It's usually known to be in those around peanut fields in the South, and we don't have very many peanut fields here on the High Plains, but it showed up in some pastures. I've seen it in a couple different locations. We had some individuals that had some cows that digest it and it is highly toxic. It looks like one of those little Chinese lantern deals with a tomato in it.

00;02;09;22 - 00;02;30;27
Unknown

If you see it out there along the road, ditches or in your pastures, and it is highly toxic. And, you know, in these years where we may maybe have had some dry and shorter forages and then we get some rains and it comes along, we have the ability for some of those things to spread. So it's one of them that I would really look out for.

00;02;30;29 - 00;02;55;17
Unknown
Because, you know, the instance where I crossed paths with it, we had a number of cows there, but we had three that were extremely affected, and two of them, well, actually wound up, all three of them being fatal in terms of consuming that plant. It's highly toxic to beef cattle, and particularly those of our cattle out here that aren't used to it.

00;02;55;17 - 00;03;23;10
Unknown
So in those years where we don't have the abundant forage and the ability for cattle select, as we've talked on this past pasture to profit program, so many times, we can get them coming in and eating those plants. And in that case, I had somebody that was high intensity grazing. And that causes them to just about everything that's there instead of allowing an animal to selected time.

00;03;23;10 - 00;03;54;28
Unknown
So it's one of those things that particularly if you're doing some rotational high intensity type grazing, you want to make sure that weeds that cows don't normally eat maybe eaten in that situation. So we want to make sure we get a good handle and understanding of what's out there. So look for strange new weeds and new grazing patterns on some of those, particularly on these years where we don't have consistent weather patterns or maybe consistent forage growth is a better way to put that.

00;03;55;02 - 00;04;23;28
Unknown
Yeah. I think that little situation that you had right there, you know. Yeah. Number one, not even a weed that we normally see in the High Plains. But obviously at some point that seed had been brought in here and the conditions were just right for it to come up for me. The latest one that I had, and these are just examples of things that have been brought into our extension office and things we can do to help producers try to investigate and figure out what they've got.

00;04;24;01 - 00;04;51;12
Unknown
Producer brought in to me an example of a weed, and he and I both agreed. The identification of it was two grew vetch and two grew is not necessarily a toxic weed for immediate toxicity, but it's a selenium accumulator. And so if it is consumed along with any other plants or any other forage that are high, insulin can cause high selenium issues in our cattle.

00;04;51;14 - 00;05;19;05
Unknown

And the way that we start to see that they start getting the old term is blind staggers and low code. Their coordination starts to go, their mobility starts changing their their become poor doers. We start seeing a little bit of weight loss and some other indications of some things that are not treating them well. So a two group milkvetch as a selenium accumulator, along with some other things.

00;05;19;07 - 00;05;51;06
Unknown
And so I called good old Doctor Kathy, our CSU extension veterinarian, to investigate what this means for this producer. And essentially, she and I looking through some things and talking back and forth, we found that, yes, it's it's a selenium accumulator. If they're not eating it, it's not a problem in the pasture. So some simple solutions. Maybe you could spot spray it or you could fence it out if there was a just an area of it that, that it was in, if it was just randomly dispersed throughout the pasture.

00;05;51;07 - 00;06;11;17
Unknown
Not necessarily a big deal. Normally very unpalatable cattle will pass it by. The might take a bite of it and decide who. I don't like that and keep going. But if someone did have a selenium issue, she said, some of the things you might can do is, number one, keep an eye on all your cattle. If you're concerned about your slim, you can do forage and soil test to see what the selenium is like in your area.

00;06;11;20 - 00;06;31;20
Unknown
But with us, with this time of year that it was brought in here in June, we're going to have some Prague checks going on here pretty soon. See adjusted that if the producer had some bad poor doers, bad doing cattle, maybe pulled bloodwork on them with the veterinarian when they come to do checks, or if they were concerned about it.

00;06;31;20 - 00;07;05;09
Unknown
Overall, do about 10% of the cattle that come through for a check and, find out if you're getting some high selenium, a couple of different things, just because the weather here, definitely through this spring and into this early summer has been odd. But then there's our continuous obnoxious friend of high nitrates. Yeah, Scott, I think when we we start talking about those plants that accumulate high nitrates, you know, we have our different culprits.

00;07;05;09 - 00;07;35;02
Unknown
But one of the ones out here, particularly in grazing is, is kosher wheat. Particularly if we're grazing things that start to be stubble fields and around the edges of other fields and around those high sacrifice areas where maybe we've had all winter in the backside of a pin or just outside of a lot. We definitely want to look out for that kosher coming, because coach is one of those things that can be a friend or foe.

00;07;35;05 - 00;08;11;02
Unknown
Kosha, when it's young and growing, it's very high in protein. It's very good for nutrient supply. But if we get a kosher that's a little bit drowsy or maybe starting to get a little bit quick rank, or maybe it's that kosher that grows in the manure lot where it's had plenty of access to nitrates. It is a nitrate accumulator which turns into nitrites as we ingest that into the bloodstream, and that floods those animals with that.

00;08;11;04 - 00;08;47;13
Unknown
Another thing that you can get with Kosha, as you can get some photosynthesis, particularly on those cattle that have a little white coloring, Hereford marking white bags, they can there's a chemical oxalate in that kosha that when they eat it and changes their blood, and then they get exposed to high levels of sunlight. We actually get some peeling of the nose and peeling of those white udders and white skin, and it causes them to go off of and not let those calves nurse at a young age.

00;08;47;20 - 00;09;15;21
Unknown
So and again, it causes things like moon gazing or day blindness, night blindness, whatever you want to refer to it as. So I think when you look at Kosha, it's one of our local ones that can be a great advantage in some of our dry years, but also carries with a considerable risk depending on where and how it's been grown and located.

00;09;15;24 - 00;09;49;27
Unknown
Red root pigweed falls into that, as well as a nitrogen accumulator. Those plants, usually when we get these dry springs with quick moisture, come fast and furious and are available. But you want to make sure that your cows are getting enough other dry feed to go with those things and are not just camped out on those kosher plots or those red red pigweed plots, and ingesting that to try to avoid some nitrate problems.

00;09;50;00 - 00;10;08;21
Unknown
Yeah. And these dry years, sometimes we think, well, we'll bring them into the lot and we'll start feeding them. Well, the first thing they may do is go in there and clean up anything that's green in a dry lot, because I haven't seen it before. And just a little bit sometimes can cause you a big problem. And I know some producers, I fully understand it.

00;10;08;21 - 00;10;38;26
Unknown
You look at a lot. It's full of weeds. Oh, I'll just turn the cows in there and they'll trample it down, eat it down and those weeds will be gone. But you may be putting them right into a toxic environment. And at, you know, if the way the market's continuing on for talking $2,000 for every calf that hits the ground, you know, even if you just sloughed 1 or

2 and it doesn't appear, big on your percentages of calving, that's 4 to $6000.

00;10;38;26 - 00;11;01;01
Unknown
You'd lose 2 or 3 calves, due to something like nitrate poisoning. Yeah, I think it's I think it's brings us to some very important management things when we start thinking about grazing, when we go into a new pasture, we move into something else. We probably want to go in with cows that are full, right? We want them to have a full stomach.

00;11;01;01 - 00;11;22;19
Unknown
So they're not just going out there and hammering the first thing that they find. We want them to be feeling comfortable. We want them to come if we're hauling them like I do across the country, 100 miles to get to a pasture. When they come off the truck, they're a little washed out and a little gant, and we want to make sure that they've had some food in their system.

00;11;22;19 - 00;11;47;00
Unknown
So they're not just running out there and grazing. The first things they find. We want them to be a little bit selective when they go in and acclimate to those different situations. Just like your Pin with the all the kosher weed in it there. We can get that grazed out, but we don't want to make sure that the coast isn't the only thing they have, that maybe there's some dry feed and other things there to level out that ration, right?

00;11;47;01 - 00;12;09;14
Unknown
A great example of that is we had a producer when I first moved here, called my office mate with along with me, and we went out to his place and he had weaned some calves in a dry lot, and that dry lot was clean where the calves were, but the lot behind it. He was letting the cows come into and fence line knows with their calves.

00;12;09;16 - 00;12;26;18
Unknown
But there was coaches standing around and this would have been in the late September 1st of October when the kosher was big and the cows, being cows, a little bit lazy, turned around and started eating on the kosher. And he lost a couple of cows. And so when we came out there and did a quick little nitrate test, we found that, yeah.

00;12;26;20 - 00;12;52;07
Unknown
Most of those plants that were standing around in that dry lot were were hot. So management understanding what's in the environment for your cattle before you turn them out, before you move them. Managing these weeds is going to be not only important for your animals health, but definitely for your bottom line. And I want to encourage our producers out there that have questions to reach out to us.

00;12;52;07 - 00;13;15;21
Unknown
And it's pretty easy to reach out to us. We both get emails and, of pictures or whatever that you can send on your cell phone. And the main thing we need when you do that is a very quality, clear picture of those plants. So those things a lot of us have can get an app right now that will help us.

00;13;15;24 - 00;13;37;19
Unknown
What those are, particularly those things that we're not used to seeing. So you take a picture of it, send it off to us. There's a few things that I, you need to do in terms of making sure that it's a clear, viable picture that has pictures of the seeds if they have them, particularly of the leaves if they have them.

00;13;37;22 - 00;14;02;11
Unknown
And make sure that we get an estimate when you send it in of how tall this plan is, kind of where it was found to help us better work for you, and whether that may be some kind of problem. So we can definitely get those things through email and pass them along to somebody, usually, who maybe even a little more plant focused than you and I are.

00;14;02;13 - 00;14;24;15
Unknown
Scott, to to get an answer back from you on something that may be poisonous or toxic. Right. And if you're wanting good resources and you're not a smartphone person that wants to use an app on your phone, one of the resources I still have right behind me on the old bookshelf is the old weeds of the West book, and you can still purchase and order that book.

00;14;24;15 - 00;14;43;13
Unknown
And it's great resource for here on our High Plains, as well as you can get free downloads of it, a PDF version. So if you don't want an app but you do have the home computer, you can download it for free and print it yourself at the house or look through it. Print out a page or two that you think are some suspect weeds.

00;14;43;13 - 00;15;14;23
Unknown
Take it out there and compare it. I agree Scott, the biggest thing we need to do is just be vigilant and see what's out there. I know, particularly in these dry springs where you've had some dry fall winter things, didn't winter kill the way they normally would? There's some weeds out there that grow up and mature, and maybe we have some leftover nitrates from the year before and some of that stuff that we're trying to graze off because we are short on forage.

00;15;14;25 - 00;15;43;11
Unknown

The biggest thing is to be diligent and look for those odd case scenarios that may just cause you some problems, because 300ft of electric fence to keep them out of a kosher patch for a while, maybe pretty reasonable. Or or maybe it's just the fact that we need to fill them up on some sorghum sedan. Hey, before we turn them out there so that they don't all just hang out in the lush patch when they get there.

00;15;43;14 - 00;16;22;13
Unknown
And let them acclimate their systems to it a little at a time, instead of most of these toxic chemicals coming in and flushing their system and causing things like abortion or causing high selenium issues, as we've talked about here. So I think just be vigilant into the to those changes that you don't normally see in your common grazing forage situations, particularly with changes in weather patterns from a really wet spring last year to a very dry winter and spring this year, and now coming back with some moisture here in the high Plains.

00;16;22;16 - 00;16;45;23
Unknown
Yeah, weird weather creates weird weeds and those seeds that have played there for years and years. When the time is right and the conditions are good, they're going to appear. So I think great conversation today, Travis. Again, if you have any questions out there or about this topic or any other topic you'd like to hear Pasture to Profit, feel free to reach out to Travis and I.

00;16;45;23 - 00;17;16;20
Unknown
You can hit me up here in the Kit Carson County office. Either you can call me at (719)346-5571 or send me an email at Scott.Stinnett. That's STINNETT at colostate.edu and Travis. How do they get ahold of you? Well, my phone number in the Wray office is (970)332-4151. Or I'm at Travis.Taylor@colostate.edu.

00;17;16;22 - 00;17;21;09
Unknown
Thanks again for listening to Pasture to Profit. We hope that you will tune in next time.

END TRANSCRIPTION