

quired only 2 to 4 weeks, against 6 to 12 weeks or longer for untreated cattle that recovered. The majority of the cattle treated in this series received only the intravenous injections, but it was observed in other herds that concurrent oral therapy expedited recovery.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Since it is possible to observe the development of mold on frozen bermudagrass and, by relating this to the appearance of new growth, predict the time of appearance of the disease, it is also possible to break this cycle by destroying the dead bermudagrass after a frost, before the mold has developed, and allow the cattle access to the new growth alone. Mowing bermudagrass very closely following a frost will help to avoid the moldy stage on the dead grass. A rotary mower is satisfactory for this purpose.

A better plan is to replace the bermudagrass with pangolagrass, St. Augustinegrass, caribgrass or paragrass, because any of these will provide at least twice as much forage as common bermudagrass in South Florida. These preferred grasses have growth habits which do not produce new growth with moldy dead grass.

A regular program of pasture fertilization will help bring out the new growth more quickly following a frost.

Supplementary feed such as grass silage, sugar cane or temporary pastures will provide forage, following a frost, so that cattle will not have to consume moldy grass.

SUMMARY

A disease of cattle appeared in southern Florida following the flood of 1947. This disease was observed almost exclusively on bermudagrass pastures as an epidemic. Studies indicated that sunburn or some abnormal sensitivity to sunlight was involved. Reports from New Zealand and from South Africa described a similar disease in sheep and established a hypothesis for further study.

One of the normal by-products from the digestion of chlorophyll is a porphyrin called phylloerythrin. This is removed normally from the circulation by the liver and excreted with the bile. Whenever some factor inhibits the normal excretion of phylloerythrin, it accumulates in the blood and produces sensitivity to sunlight in the non-pigmented and thin-skinned areas of the animal.