

A jaundice or icterus caused by liver damage is involved in this disease and may precede the factors or sequence which inhibits the normal excretion of phylloerythrin.

Occurrence of photosensitization in South Florida followed periods when bermudagrass had been frosted. Several molds appeared on the dead grass in 3 to 5 weeks after a frost. The most prominent of these molds has been identified as *Periconia minutissima* Cla. Re-growth of green grass becomes available for grazing at about the time this mold sporulates on the dead grass. Cattle obtaining their forage from such pastures developed photosensitization.

In New Zealand, research has shown that facial eczema, a similar photosensitization disease of sheep, is produced when a fungus identified as *Sporodesmium bakeri* Syd. is present on the forage.

Since both icterus and photosensitization follow the consumption of moldy grass along with new green grass, the disease may be a mold toxicity, with icterus and photosensitization as effects or symptoms.

By following approved cultural practices and eliminating common bermudagrass, cattlemen in South Florida have successfully controlled photosensitization for a period of nearly 10 years. When cases occur, the treatment with sodium thiosulfate either intravenously or orally has alleviated the symptoms and reduced economic losses.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our present level of understanding of this disease was made possible only in consequence of the prompt and generous cooperation of the stockmen and veterinarians of this area. It is indeed a pleasure to acknowledge their assistance and to commend them as they successfully control this disease by using the treatments and preventive measures which they helped so graciously to develop.

LITERATURE CITED

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