

Moldy Grain Can Cause Livestock Losses

By
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Recently a North Dakota farmer began feeding some moldy corn to his pigs to use it up. The herd consisted of sows and month old pigs. The day after the first feed the entire lot of 100 young pigs were sick and there were 6 dead. Symptoms consisted mainly of scouring and weakness. The final loss was 25 pigs.

Some affected animals and a bushel of the corn were submitted to the Veterinary department by Dr. E. C. Walker, Fargo veterinarian. The veterinary staff agreed with the diagnosis after inspecting the animals. Dr. H. H. Flor, U.S. D.A. plant pathologist, identified a pink mold on many cobs as a *Gibberella*, a mold capable of causing sickness and death if eaten in any amount.

Several inquiries have been received relative to the use of moldy corn in chick feeds. Although it is highly probable that the drying process used by commercial feed concerns reaches a sufficient temperature to kill mold spores, it is not a dependable procedure and could be the cause of heavy chick or poult mortality. Toxic substanc-

es might have been produced and remain to cause losses.

The last few years have been years of heavy rainfall and storage facilities have in many cases been inadequate. The amount of moldy grain on hand must be great and a decision as to the best means of disposal must be made. Mature birds as a rule are less susceptible to molds and fungi than other livestock. The moldiest grain is not always the most dangerous, the toxicity depending on the species of molds or fungi present. Fairly clean grain may sometimes be highly poisonous.

If possible secure competent advice on salvage or moldy grain, including corn, before using it. Avoid using such grain if at all possible.

FARM MORTGAGE DEBT DECLINES IN NORTH DAKOTA

The estimated farm mortgage debt in North Dakota has declined by 20.8 percent from 1944 to 1945, according to a study released by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in May, 1945. Only one other state, Florida, showed a larger decline, namely 23 percent in the same period. The estimated farm mortgage debt in 1945 for North Dakota is placed at \$83,150,000 on January 1, 1945, a decline of 41.1 percent from what it was on January 1, 1940. Only two other states showed declines in farm mortgage debts of 40 percent or more namely Kansas and Nevada.

Of the total farm mortgage debt of \$83,150,000 on January 1 1945, \$35,776,000 was to the Federal land banks, \$11,150,000 to the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation, \$1,700,000 to the Farm Security Administration, \$11,865,000 to life insurance companies, and \$22,659,000 to other lenders.

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