

Lead Industries Association

420 LEXINGTON AVENUE

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MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

June 28, 1952

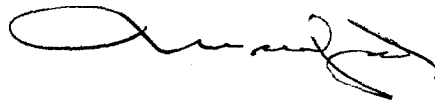
Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
University of Cincinnati
College of Medicine
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Bob:

What is the status of your fund of knowledge on the subject of cocklebur poisoning? With the thought that you may be glad to have them for your file of the weird and unusual, I am sending you herewith copies of a letter from the County Agent of Post, Texas and of the newspaper item which caused me to write to him. If the symptoms of this ailment really do resemble those of plumbism, the point is not without interest, but as I know of no way to secure further enlightenment on the subject, I am afraid that this little bit of research has come to a dead end. Incidentally, I have received 56 clippings on lead poisoning in livestock since the first of May.

Your admirable letter of June 20 has just come to hand, and when I have had a chance to take a deep breath I shall respond to it.

Sincerely,



MB:JG
Enclosures

KE 0014879



C O P Y

Cooperative Extension Work in
Agriculture and Home Economics

State of Texas
Post, Texas
June 14, 1952

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Director of Health & Safety
Lead Industries Association
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bowditch,

I received your letter regarding cocklebur poisoning. First of all, I wish to thank you for the book on Painting Farm Buildings and Equipment.

I did not see the article in the Lubbock on the cocklebur poisoning we were experiencing following our first rains. The story as it was given to a local reporter for a weekly paper in the country was sent in by him.

The story as given to him was that cocklebur poison like that of lead poison must be treated by a Veterinarian in the early stages for any promise of success.

You referred me to page 111 of the publication for recommended livestock precautions.

Again I wish to thank you for the publication and will be glad to try to answer any question you might have on our weed poison problems.

Yours truly,

Lewis Herron
County Agent
Post, Texas

KE 0014880

~~MAY~~ 9 1952

Twenty-Two Head Of Cattle Die As Result Of Cocklebur Poisoning

POST, May 9 (Special — Cocklebur poisoning has hit the county for the first time in two years with a reported 22 head of cattle having died from eating the weed during the past week and a half.

This number exceeded 1950's total when the weed poisoned and killed 16 head of cattle. That year Bob Roberts lost 10 head and Sonny Nance six head.

According to reports from County Agent Lewis Herron and cattle owners, the poisoning has been more widespread this year. Hardest hit were Shorty Bland, who lost six head, and Mrs. Pearl Nance and Mrs. Winnie Tuffin, who lost six.

Other reported loses were: Lee Lavis, 3; Sol Davis, 4; Ed Kelly Sims, 2; and Fred Babb, 1.

Herron explained that the weed seems to be poison from the two to six leaf stage. And it usually crops up after a hard winter when the cattle have gone without any green feed for sometime.

The weed sets up a toxic reaction much like lead poisoning, Herron explained. He said that a vet might be able to save the stricken cow or steer if he got to it in time, but most of the time it's too late, when discovered.

There are two methods by which the owner might prevent the cattle from eating the cockleburs, Herron pointed out. Move them off the affected area or hay them pretty heavy and regularly.