

Brookings Harbor Pilot 3
THURSDAY, NOV. 12, 1953

**Tansy Ragwort Is
Poisonous, County
Agent Says**

By KENNETH W. PRIEST
County Extension Agent
Doubt has been expressed by some ranchers in Curry County as to whether or not Tansy Ragwort is actually a poisonous plant. I have just lately received information from Dr. Shaw, head of the Department of Veterinary Medicine, at Oregon State college which I would like to pass along to you ranchers. It seems that these plants were introduced to this country from Europe and many of the species have been proven poisonous by feeding experiments. The species that we have here in Oregon was experimented with by station workers in Nebraska who found that this plant was the cause of a so-called disease in horses and cattle. Some of these species are even poisonous to sheep. The Bureau of Plant Industry workers began feeding experiments with species of this plant in 1915 and worked on such experiments for a period of 15 years leaving no doubt that many of the species of this plant are definitely poisonous. The poison contained in Tansy Ragwort is an alkaloid and produces very serious damage to the liver. The poison is an accumulative one and animals have been known to show evidences of the disease as long as 12 days after they have been removed from a chance to eat the plant. Symptoms of poisoning by this plant are not definite enough to enable the veterinarian to be sure of his diagnosis.

but this same thing is true of many of our poisonous plants.

Feeding experiences with this plant occurred in Lobster Valley in Benton County. Cattle dieing had damaged livers and pieces of the plant were found in the paunch of one animal. In one instance a young heifer newly introduced to the area was showing marked symptoms and the lesions found upon autopsy were such as one would expect to find resulting from a poisonous plant. One animal staggered out of the barn and began eating mre of the Tansy Ragwort almost immediately indicating that animals suffering from this sort of plant poisoning often have a depraved appetite. The symptoms often seen in the cattle are a marked loss of condition, colic, nervousness, staggers and jaundice. The yellw condition of the tissues is very apparent in whitefaced cattle.

Control is relatively easy in areas that are farmed or in areas where spray equipment can be readily used.

Best control has been obtained by spraying with ground or hand equipment. Aircraft spraying has not been satisfactory. For good control, over 90 per cent of the weed should be eradicated with one application. This high degree of kill is impossible in timbered areas by air application.

The problems of attempting to control Tansy ragwort with sheep are the lack of fences and sheep losses from predatory animals.

We hope to extend our program of weed control and to hit it hard early next spring. If you know of an area of Tansy Ragwort invasion we hope that you will notify this office so that we can plan our spring program as efficiently as possible.

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Kraft Quart Jar

MIRACLE WHIP ea. 49c

Giant Size Soap Powder

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Hillsdale Broken Sliced

PINEAPPLE 2 1-2 can 31c

PRODUCE

Spitzenberg, Red & Golden Delicious
APPLES - - - 2 Lb. 25c

California
GRAPEFRUIT - - Lb. 7c

Crisp Large
LETTUCE - - - - Lb. 7c

Sno-White
CAULIFLOWER - Lb. 7c

MEATS

By the Piece
BACON - - - - Lb. 65c

Rib End
PORK CHOPS Lb. 59c

ROUND STEAK Lb. 59c

BOILING BEEF Lb. 19c

Friday — Saturday Only

Del Haven Yellow Cling 2 1/2 can
Sliced Peaches 25c

CRISCO - - - 3 lb. 89c

Campbells
TOMATO SOUP - 10c

Krispy Soda
CRACKERS - - Lb. 25c

Ajax Household
CLEANSER - - 2 for 25c

M.J.B. RICE 1-lb 8-oz. 33c

Wellman No. 2 Can
TOMATO JUICE 10c

WE WILL BE OPEN THIS SUNDAY, NOV. 15