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## **The Yellow Weed**

I have had some calls about the yellow weed that has been showing up more and more, mostly in hay fields. The C.O.R.N newsletter addressed the situation last week. I have included a portion of the post provided by OSU Extension Weed Specialist, Mark Loux.

Cressleaf groundel (*Senecio glabellus*) is a winter annual weed that emerges in the fall, and flowers in May. It is a problem in no-tillage corn and soybean production, but not that difficult to control. Most fall herbicide programs are effective, and it can be adequately controlled in the spring with mixtures of glyphosate and 2,4-D when still relatively small. Cressleaf groundsel is more of a concern in pastures and hayfields, due to its toxicity and the risk to animals that ingest it. The following information on toxicity comes directly from our fact sheet, and was provided by Dr. William P. Shulaw, OSU Extension Veterinarian:

Nearly all species of *Senecio* are considered potentially toxic plants because they contain compounds called pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs). These are metabolized in the liver to other compounds that are toxic, primarily to the liver cells. *Senecio glabellus* is considered nearly as toxic as some of the more troublesome plants in this genus, but fortunately, it does not appear to be very palatable to grazing livestock. The PAs are found in the plant throughout the growing season but appear to be at their highest levels when the plant is in the bud to flower stage. The flowering portions of the plant and the youngest tissues generally contain the highest concentrations. PAs are not destroyed by the hay-making and curing process. Ensiling of forages may reduce the concentration of PAs, but will not entirely eliminate them. Sheep are considered more resistant to the effects of PAs than cattle and horses, and have been used in some areas to control the plant. However, sheep are susceptible to poisoning if they consume sufficient amounts.

Under typical grazing conditions in Ohio, it is unlikely that animals will consume significant quantities of the *S. glabellus* because of the availability of higher quality, more palatable forages. Poisoning could result under unusual conditions, such as drought, where good quality forage is not available. Hay containing significant amounts of the plant may pose a greater risk. Poisoning usually occurs as a result of consumption of the plants over several days to several months. Because the effect on the liver is cumulative, signs of poisoning can occur weeks to months after consumption of the plant ceases. The signs are directly attributable to liver degeneration and failure. Affected animals usually show depression and loss of appetite initially, and progress to neurological signs with head pressing, aimless walking, incoordination, and rectal straining. At post mortem examination, the liver will usually be shrunken and fibrotic with grayish blue to yellowish discoloration. Treatment is only symptomatic and not usually successful once signs appear.

## **Jackson Beef and Forage Field Night**

Mark your calendar for the Jackson Beef and Forage Field Night on August 28. The program will be at the Jackson Research Farm (part of OARDC) starting at 5:00 p.m. and running until approximately 8:30. Pre-registration is required. This has been an annual event for a few years now and the attendance has continued to grow. The deadline for registration is August 25 and there is a \$5 charge which includes supper which starts at 5:00. Come early and visit with sponsors that help put this event on.

This year the topics will include long lasting fence braces, cattle handling facilities designs, and controlling spiny amaranth (the prickly pig weed that shows up late summer where you have fed hay). The tour of the farm will be

on shuttles. For more information contact Kenny Wells, the Jackson Farm Manager at 740-286-3803 or by e-mail at [wells.296@osu.edu](mailto:wells.296@osu.edu). A copy of the registration form can be found at [www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/branches/jackson](http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/branches/jackson)

### **Dates to Remember**

- July 1                      Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development informational meeting at Southern Hills Career Center in Georgetown, starting at 1:30 p.m.
- July 2                      Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development informational meeting at the Adams County Fairgrounds in West Union starting at 6:00 p.m.

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