Invasive Plants that are
TOXIC TO LIVESTOCK

Invasive plants can directly impact livestock health. Some plants have sharp spines or burs that puncture and scratch animals or get tangled in fur. This can increase animal stress and veterinary costs. Other invasive plants have toxins that can lead to poisoning or fatalities.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR LIVESTOCK

- Learn to identify and control toxic invasive plants
- Regularly patrol pastures, hay fields and fence lines for toxic plants
- Confirm your source of hay and forage is not contaminated
- Fence off areas where toxic plants occur
- Share your knowledge with your livestock association or club members
- Familiarize yourself with your regional invasive plant program

Symptoms of poisoning can vary depending on the type and quantity of toxin consumed. Symptoms may include, but are not limited to:

- Weakness, fatigue or weight loss
- Diarrhea or frequent urination
- Blood in stool or urine
- Behaviour changes
- Convulsions or tremors
- Sensitivity to sunlight
- Loss of fetus in pregnant livestock
- Decreased milk production or bitter-tasting milk in dairy cows
- Coma or death

Contact your veterinarian immediately for proper diagnosis and treatment if livestock are experiencing unusual symptoms.

Toxic Invasive Plants of the Okanagan-Similkameen

COMMON TANSY

Causes liver damage in livestock and bitter-tasting milk in cows.

HOARY ALYSSUM

Causes swelling, stiffness, coma or death in horses.

HOUND'S-TONGUE

Damages the nervous system and liver of horses and cattle.

KOCHIA

Decreases blood oxygen and blinds livestock, particularly sheep and cattle.

LEAFY SPURGE

Irritates the skin, eyes and digestive tract of cows and horses.

RUSSIAN KNAPWEED

Causes "chewing disease" in horses - loss of control of the muzzle, lips and tongue.

RUSSIAN THISTLE

Causes kidney failure and decreased blood oxygen of livestock, particularly sheep.

ST. JOHN'S-WORT

Increases sunlight sensitivity of animals with light skin.

TANSY RAGWORT

Causes liver damage in livestock, particularly cattle and horses.

GET ADVICE

For more information about toxic invasive plants, visit:

www.oiso.ca/toxicity