

May 2016

Nitrate Poisoning Alert

Recent weather has created the perfect conditions for nitrate/nitrite poisoning. We have seen severe cases with large numbers of stock lost. Both young stock and cows have been affected.

New permanent pasture has been responsible in these cases as well as annual grass and oats have been involved.

Nitrate fertiliser had not been used in all cases.

Animals should not be allowed onto these food sources when hungry.

There is a fast test available to test nitrate levels with same day return if we get samples by lunch time. We also have kits available for use on farm.

Symptoms are laboured breathing, depression, sitting down, and death. Progression is rapid and death can occur within 30 minutes of first signs. Abortions can also occur without other symptoms.

It is vital that if you have stock with symptoms you ring us immediately as we do have a good anti-dote. This is an emergency situation as a few minutes can mean the life or death of affected stock.

For more information if you are concerned please ring us.
(07) 827 7099

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