

Avocado Leaves Dangerous Food For Livestock

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During recent months there have come to my attention several cases where milk-goats and cows have been made sick by eating avocado leaves. The goats have usually died, while the cows, although losing their milk, often recover after good nursing.

These cases were called to the attention of Dr. L. M. Hurt, Los Angeles live stock inspector, who reported as follows:

"Your inquiry relative to avocado leaf poisoning is received. We have observed a marked non-bacterial mastitis in goats, cattle and rabbits following the ingestion of avocado leaves. Death losses in goats have also come to our attention. In one instance three goats died following ingestion of large quantities of leaves and bark. Autopsy lesions were quite scant, only a marked oedema and a hypostatis congestion of the lungs were found. Heavy death losses have occurred among canary birds following ingestion of this material. We do not know what the active principle is in avocado leaves that causes poisoning."

This matter was discussed at a Farm Bureau Avocado Department meeting where several additional cases were brought to light.

It is now quite evident that avocado leaves are unsafe for feeding farm animals. No prunings should be fed and animals should not be tethered within reach of avocado foliage.