

AFAC News Line # 7 –Ergot spreads even more in Alberta: Producers urge to be careful – be aware
– Barry Yaremco – December 5th, 2011 – Audio Clip Transcriptions

Audio 1 (12 seconds)

“We’re finding that the problem has become more wide-spread in Alberta, partly due to the weather patterns and the moisture conditions this year, but it’s a cyclical thing it’ll go up and it’ll go down after a while, in a couple more years.”

Audio 2 (16 seconds)

“The thumb rule that we use for ruminant animals is roughly .1% or 1 kernel per thousand is the upper limit for what you can feed to ruminance and for monogastric such as pigs or chickens the limit is 1 kernel of ergot per 2000 kernels of seed.”

Audio 3 (14 seconds)

“Reports that we’re getting out of that south-eastern corner of the province is that ergot is being found in the rye grasses, and wheat grasses as well in the native pastures so it’s not just the cereal grains this year that are causing the problem.”

Audio 3 (27 seconds)

“One is the estrogens which will either A: Prevent the animals from becoming pregnant or B: Cause the animals to abort if they are pregnant. The second thing are the alkaloids and these are the circulatory restrictors that will cause hair to fall off the ears. The worst situation is where they actually start sluffing off hooves. The worst case I’ve seen is where an animal was actually walking on it’s ankle bones.”