

Mushrooms

Amanita, Galerina, Gyromitra, Lepiota

Common Names: Death Cap, Smith's Amanita, Deadly Galerina, False Morel, Destroying Angel

Species Affected: Cattle, Equines

Description:

Although there are a wide variety of mushrooms, they all have similar structure. Mushrooms are fleshy, have a rounded cap on a central stalk, and reproduce through spores on the cap.

Toxin: Amanitin

Growing Location and Timing :

Mushrooms can be found growing in forests, orchards, pastures, meadows, and areas with good moisture. Depending upon the species the growing season can be from early spring to fall.

Affects on Livestock:

The toxin blocks RNA polymerase, this enzyme is necessary for producing messenger RNA. With this blockage, proteins are not able to synthesize. Liver necrosis is likely to occur.

Signs and Symptoms:

Signs and symptoms are abdominal cramping as well as vomiting, in most cases livestock pass within a couple of days without showing symptoms.

Preventative Measures:

Remove livestock from areas heavily infested with mushrooms, unless an adequate amount of feed is present. Mushrooms will only be consumed if other feed is lacking.



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