

*Ethanol intoxication in cattle associated with feeding distillers slop mixed with a highly fermentable food product.*

Feeding distillers slops and other food by-products to cattle has become commonplace. However, this practice can be associated with unintended adverse effects. This report describes a case of ethanol intoxication in cattle fed a mixture of distillers slops and a readily fermentable food product (Nesquik dairy drink). 25 animals died and 40 additional animals showed clinical signs including inability to rise, staggering, excessive chewing and licking, decreased rumen motility, tachypnea, and diarrhea. A sweet odor was present in 2 animals presented for post-mortem. A sample of the feed mixture smelled of alcohol and gas production was evident. The serum ethanol concentration in one moribund heifer was analyzed by gas chromatography with flame ionization detection and head space injections and was found to be 293 mg/dl. Ethanol concentration of the feed product was 2,731 mg/dl. These results along with history, clinical signs, and post-mortem findings support a diagnosis of ethanol intoxication.

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