

Effective and safe spot on treatments

You may have seen reports from the Environmental Protection Agency recently about spot-on parasite preventives. This may have led you to question the safety and efficacy of spot-on treatments. Fear no more, even though the circumstances seem to be a tragedy, there is a happy ending!

Vet tips
Dr. Sara White

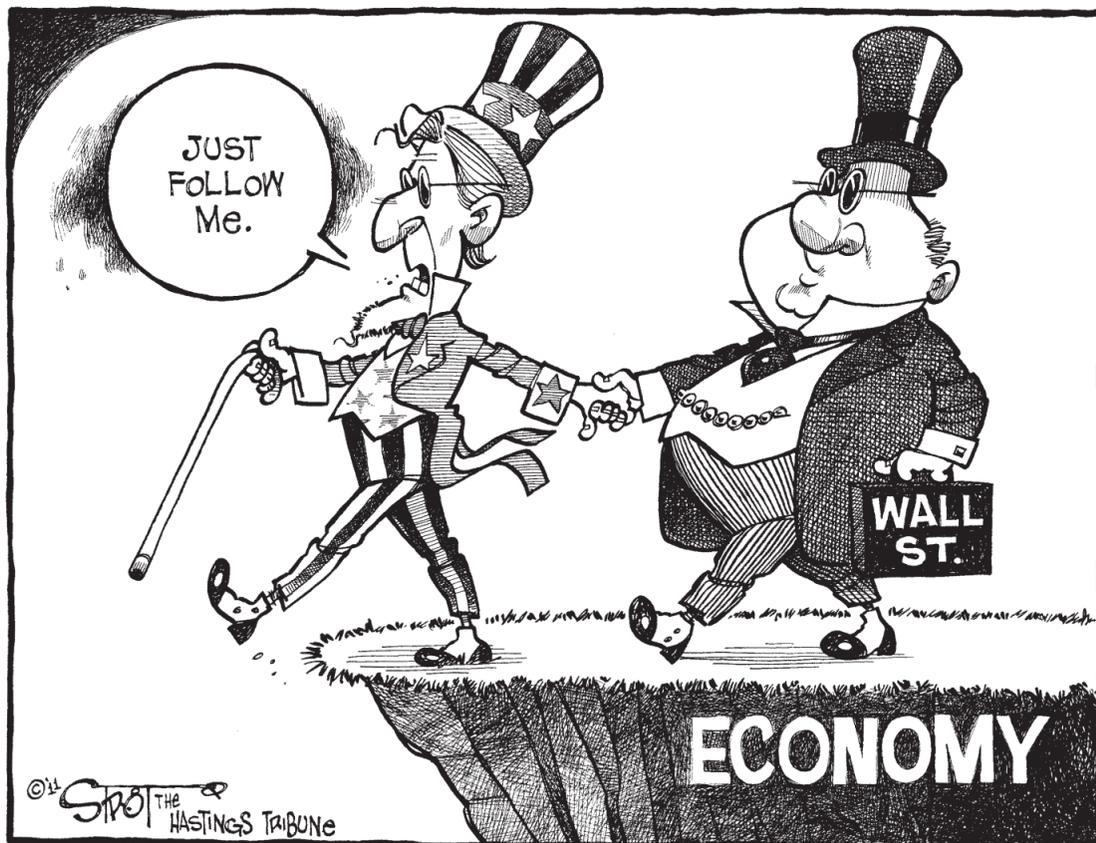


The story started in 2009 when the Environmental Protection Agency received a higher than normal number of reports about dogs and cats suffering from adverse reactions to spot-on parasite-control products. The Environmental Protection Agency responded by conducting a yearlong safety review of the products, subsequently recommended stronger label warnings, public education, and increased monitoring for adverse events. But, the Environmental Protection Agency did not do enough, according to the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC). The Environmental Protection Agency will not be looking into whether spot-on parasite products were purchased and applied under the direction of a veterinarian. This is very important because the most common cause of pets experiencing an adverse reaction to these products is simple human error. What this means is when a veterinarian is not involved in helping pet owners choose the correct spot-on treatment and making sure the owner understands how to properly apply the product, adverse reactions sky-rocket.

Parasite prevention products are safe and effective, when product label instructions are read and followed. If parasite preventives were stopped, millions of pets would be exposed to infestations by fleas and ticks, which spread dangerous illnesses such as Lyme disease and Ehrlichiosis. These parasites also cause debilitating allergic reactions, which lead to secondary infections that may cause death.

Rest assured if you and your pet have a sound relationship with your veterinarian, your veterinarian will recommend the most effective and safest product for your pet. Parasite prevention products are safe when used according to the label for the correct species, pet weight, and applied correctly. If spot-on treatments are combined or used too often, a pet's health may be at risk. Also remember directions and warnings are printed for a reason and should not be ignored. Reliable, trusted pet health companies have thoroughly researched and tested their products before they ever enter the veterinary market. The pet health company's job is to provide us with safe, reliable products.

Your veterinarian is always your best trusted source for your pet's health. Any medication, if used incorrectly, can cause adverse reactions. Your veterinarian is the only who can ensure that the appropriate product is purchased, applied correctly, and questions are expertly answered. It is very important to realize that most manufacturers will only guarantee their product when purchased through a licensed veterinarian. This means that if a pet has a rare side effect after purchasing a product from your veterinarian, the company will work with you and your veterinarian to find out why and usually reimburse the owner for diagnosis and treatment costs. Last, but not least, it is very important to use name brand spot-on parasite treatments that are only available from your veterinarian. Our job as veterinarians is to provide the best possible care and to above all do no harm!



When the skies and young children open up

I thought I had been shot! When that baseball-size hailstone hit the windshield, it sounded like a rifle had gone off beside my ear. When the next one hit, I was only slightly more prepared for it.

Last week our little town found itself in the middle of a devastating hail storm. Leaves were stripped from trees, flowers and gardens were pounded, and crops were hit hard. The jury is still deciding if corn was far enough along to finish filling out or not. I guess the decision will have to be made soon, whether to leave it in the field or cut it for ensilage.

I was on the highway, just five miles from home when the first hailstone hit. By the time I pulled up in front of the house, the hailstones were pounding. I made a dash for the house where Jim and I stood in the doorway and just watched. The sound was so deafening we had to yell at each other to be heard. I watched as my petunias and moss roses were beaten up, and holes punched in the siding of our rental house across the street. By the time it was over, we had drifts of hail up against the house and in the fence corners.

One feels pretty insignificant up against the forces of nature. You are powerless in its wrath. But, it is what it is and if I would have had some cream in the house, I would have made ice cream.

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



After looking at the leaves and debris in the yard, Saturday was designated "Clean-Up Day". I hired a young man to help and expanded his duties to first clean out the chicken coop. That was a job I had been dreading and he tackled it with the gusto of someone who either (a) had never cleaned a chicken coop before, or (b) wanted to earn extra money for school clothes in the worst way. I'm sure it was the latter because he worked like a man with years of experience.

Chris is only 16, but he boosted my confidence in the up-coming generation. I told his mother what a good job she has done raising him. He was polite; he ate everything set before him for lunch and said it was good; he took his dishes to the sink after the meal; and, most importantly, he completed his jobs and kept asking for more to do.

He will get more jobs at our house and I'll give him good references.

It's no secret that our daughter, Jennifer, is a strict disciplinarian. She's not a tyrant, but she does expect to be obeyed. Actually, I wish more young parents were like her. But, that's another column.

Jennifer and her two girls, Alexandria, 16, and Ani, 5, have quite a menagerie consisting of two Pomeranians, one golden retriever and two cats. And, everyone is involved with caring for the animals.

One day Jennifer had put the little Pomeranian, "Pumpkin", in the back yard while she went back to work in her home office. Ani was on the living room sofa, watching cartoons, her mother heard the dog scratching at the door.

Jennifer called out, "Ani, could you let "Pumpkin" back in, please."

Without skipping a beat, Ani shot back, "You let him out....you can let him back in."

Jennifer said she practically "launched" out of her chair to go set Ani straight. But, by the time she got to Ani, it had blown over and she saw the humor in it.

Now, please don't think our little Ani was being sassy. She really wasn't. Jim thinks it's funny because, as he says, "Finally, Jennifer is getting what she deserves. After what she gave me."

What goes 'round, comes 'round.

Farmers mimicking mother nature

Insight

John Schlageck

It's all about using the soil while saving it at the same time on the Lloyd Farms in southwestern Clay County. The Lloyds are doing so with no-till farming practices, crop rotation and cover crops.

No-tillage or zero tillage is a farming system in which the seeds are directly deposited into untilled soil which has retained the previous crop residues.

"You don't turn the soil or disturb the soil," says Steve Swaffar, director of Kansas Farm Bureau Natural Resources who helped organize the farm tour. "The only thing you do to the soil is insert the seed when you plant the crop in the ground."

More than 80 interested folks visited the farm Aug. 9 while stepping into crops of corn, milo and soybeans - all no-till. This year marked the ninth year Kansas Farm Bureau has sponsored no-till workshops across Kansas.

Thirty-eight year old Josh Lloyd conducted the tour and presented the reasons he's a staunch disciple of no-till farming. He believes he is protecting the valuable resource that has been entrusted to him to grow crops. He understands that without keeping residue (residues are materials left in an agricultural field after the crop has been harvested. These residues include stalks and stubble, stems, leaves and seed pods) in place, wind and rain move soil from his land and into this state and country's water, compromising the water quality and silting in our reservoirs.

What drives Lloyd is the continual pursuit of excellence and finding the best way to farm. He's not interested in status quo.

"I'm always looking for a truly better way and soil science is very clear that tillage destroys soil productivity," Lloyd says. "So why would I want to

do that?"

Here's what he's talking about. When you till the soil it temporarily breaks the soil loose and the residue on top is destroyed. This is the same residue that protects that precious soil and keeps it in place in the fields where it remains productive and can grow crops. Keeping the residue in place also restores the precious and most productive layers of topsoil.

The Clay County farmer insists no-till is not easy. Lloyd struggles with it all the time, but that's what makes him tick. He loves the challenge.

"It'd be easy to just sit in the tractor and till the soil the way we used to," Lloyd says. "Too many people let something difficult or failure to succeed right away detour them from their ultimate goal."

Digging a bit deeper into the reason for his no-till fervor, Lloyd says all one has to do is look around at the native environment.

"You don't see any tillage, you don't see terraces and you don't see erosion," he emphasizes. "What you see is Mother Nature always trying to grow something and different things."

Another example Lloyd uses are the Flint Hills. Those hills began as rock. It took thousands of years and living and dying of different plants and the gradual buildup of nutrients and other materials to create the fertile soil that today produces some of the best grass in the world, he says.

the '40s, during the soil bank era and later in the '70s when Conservation Reserve Program was implemented.

"This land was extremely eroded and damaged by the dust-bowl era and drought in the '50s," Lloyd says. "Just by planting grass - a natural cover crop - some of these grasslands have increased their organic matter."

Lloyd tries to put that same concept into practice on his farm. That's what he attempted to demonstrate with the soil pits in his milo and corn fields.

He grows mainly dryland wheat, milo and soybeans on the family farm. He has been planting some corn and sunflowers. He mimics Mother Nature by planting cover crops in his no-till fields between harvesting so the soil is never really void of plant material. These cover crops include canola, peas, radishes and turnips.

Cover crops provide a natural canopy which helps keep weeds out of his fields while holding the soil together and in place on the field with little or no erosion. Without the crops the residue from no-till tends to bunch up with moving water and can break across terraces and create a mess, Lloyd says.

Lloyd has been in the business of no-till farming since 1998 when he returned to the farm after his father asked him if he was interested in coming back and helping.

Since that time he says he's learned something every day. And today, there's no place he'd rather be.

"We're making progress with our no-till practices," Lloyd says. "Sure, we've suffered some setbacks. Everybody does. But we're also taking steps forward. I'm certain we're headed in the right direction."



Letter to the Editor,

I found Mr. Eveleigh's remarks in the new article, rude and insensitive towards the concerns of the people as to the safety of the carnival rides.

Regardless of the state law or the inspection process, the fact is the arm on the spider broke and four children were injured. Does the laws he quoted address this fact?

As a professional mechanic for 50 years, I can assure you the failure of the arm occurred over a period of time not as an instant break.

The article stated the children only fell seven feet. Have you ever tried falling seven feet in a sitting position? Almost everyone has had their feet slide out from under them on ice and only fell three feet to land on their behind. Not too much fun!

As a father, grandfather and great grandfather and having lost a daughter and a grandson, I know there isn't anything more precious than our children.

Should we be worried and concerned? I think so.

Look into your heart and tell me you shouldn't.

Sincerely yours,
Bruce Chambers



Thumbs up to the gentleman for calling about the lost photo album. The outcome wasn't as we wished but we at least learned of its whereabouts. Brought in.

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