Fescue Toxicity Symptoms

The symptoms of fescue toxicosis always include:

1. Reduced rate of gain and or milk production
2. Rough, dull hair coat

Symptoms may also include:

3. An unsteady gait
4. Very slight to severe lameness in one or more feet
5. Slight to rapid loss of body weight
6. Emaciation
7. Arched back
8. Listlessness
9. Partial or complete loss of hair from the distal end of the tail or legs
   Variable amounts of dry gangrene in the extremities (tail, legs, ears)
11. Lesions on the legs
12. Erythema of the coronary band or tail tissues
13. Reduced hoof and horn growth during the consumption of toxic forage
14. Elevated body temperature (up to 106°F)
15. Elevated respiration rates (to over 100/minute)
16. Increased heart rate
17. Diarrhea, slight to severe
18. Cloudy cornea of the eyes
19. Reduced tail skin temperature
20. Tranquilized or somewhat anesthesized behavior
21. Slightly swollen tissue around the knees and legs and portions of the tail associated with the erythema
   Reduced feed intake

Credit: Missouri Cooperative Extension Service Agricultural Guide MX0014: Proceedings of the Fescue Toxicity Conference