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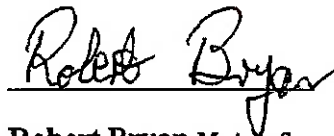
10th October, 2023

Re: The effects of selenium on Bloodstock Production

High selenium can be found in low lying areas in Ireland. These areas are generally in flood planes where selenium can be deposited by rivers as the land becomes flooded. I have noticed over the years that high selenium intake has a major effect on horse health. The symptoms are hair loss from the body and the hooves cracking and eventually falling off.

This problem has been identified on the stud farms on Kildare/Meath border as well as other parts of the country. The problem can be most prevalent during warm dry weather. Through soil and herbage analysis, I have identified areas that are potential hot spots for selenium poisoning.

Stephen and Gail Collins's farm at Ballycurraghan could become liable for flooding due to the proposed DART & West rail line adjacent to the property. At present, this land is just above the flood plane in the area. The proposed construction of the rail yard adjoining their property will increase the volume of water in the river dividing the properties and could lead to flooding in the Ballycurraghan property. If selenium levels become elevated in this property, the land will be rendered useless for bloodstock production.


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