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IODINE IN DRINKING WATERS,
VEGETABLES, COTTONSEED MEAL,
AND ROUGHAGES

G. S. FRAPS and J. F. FUDGE

Division of Chemistry



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Iodine was determined in nearly 500 samples of city and rural drinking waters, vegetables, cottonseed meals, roughages and grasses from various parts of Texas. Iodine was deficient in only a very few samples, and in most samples was high when compared with similar samples from areas where the iodine was sufficiently low to cause goiter.

Iodine in 103 samples of city waters ranged from 4 to 312 parts per billion, with an average of 56. Iodine in three samples of cistern water averaged only 4 parts per billion. Iodine in city waters averaged lowest in the East Texas Timber Country (24 parts per billion) and highest in the High Plains (101 parts per billion). There was good agreement between the average iodine in waters and the average iodine content of soils of the same region. The iodine content varied directly with the quantities of sodium chloride in the waters.

Iodine in 37 samples of vegetables ranged from 62 to 3502 parts per billion. Iodine in Texas vegetables was much higher than in corresponding vegetables from goitrous areas, and as high as or higher than that in vegetables reported from other non-goitrous areas.

Iodine in 235 samples of cottonseed meal ranged from 23 to 1420 parts per billion. The average iodine in samples from different geographic divisions ranged from 92 parts per billion in the West Cross Timbers to 251 parts per billion in the Rio Grande Plain. There was good agreement between the average iodine in cottonseed meal and that in soils of the same region.

Iodine in 56 samples of roughages and grasses ranged from 17 to 1125 parts per billion. There was a considerable range in the iodine content of different samples of the same type of forage and a wide range between average iodine contents of different types of forage, but iodine was deficient in only a very few cases.

The use of iodized table salt for human consumption in Texas is not advisable, except under the supervision of a competent physician. The use of iodized mineral mixtures for livestock in Texas is not recommended.

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IODINE IN DRINKING WATERS, VEGETABLES, COTTON-SEED MEAL, AND ROUGHAGES IN TEXAS

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Iodine in minute quantities has long been recognized as necessary for the health of man and animals. Where very low quantities of iodine in foods, feeds, and waters occur, there may be a high incidence of simple goiter (43, 45, 46, 49, 50, 51, 59, 60, 63). Other disturbances of health may also be due in part to insufficient iodine intake.

The quantity of iodine required daily is very small, 1 microgram of iodine per pound of animal or man being considered sufficient (48), (one microgram is about two one-billionths part of a pound). Continuous consumption of quantities of iodine considerably in excess of the quantities required may result in injury to health of animals and of man (5).

Texas is not in an area in which deficiencies of iodine for man or animals are known to occur and give rise to goiter. No instance of an animal suffering from a disease due to deficiency of iodine has heretofore been found by the Division of Veterinary Science. Nevertheless, efforts are being made commercially to promote the use of iodine in animal feeds. Iodized salt is extensively distributed in Texas, and if sufficient quantities of iodine are present in the food or water, the use of iodized salt is unnecessary and may even injure health.

A survey of the possible needs for iodine in Texas is therefore important. The need for and importance of iodine surveys in different geographical regions, in order to determine whether or not the iodine supply is sufficient for proper development and maintenance has been shown by the work of Marine (43), McClendon (49), Weston (74), and others. Such a survey of the iodine content of soils, drinking waters, vegetables, cottonseed meal, and roughages from various sections of Texas was begun by the authors a number of years ago. Work already published has shown that very few of the soils of Texas are deficient in iodine, and that some of them are relatively quite high (20), and that the iodine content of vegetables and drinking waters from various sections of Texas is also relatively high (19).

This bulletin presents in detail the results of a study of the iodine content of vegetables, cottonseed meal, and a few roughages collected from various sections of Texas, together with the iodine and mineral content of drinking waters collected from a number of cities. Cottonseed meal was selected as an indicator of the iodine taken by plants from the soil. Irish potatoes and cabbage have been used by other investigators (50, 61, 64) for the same purpose. Cotton is widely grown, and meal from the cotton seed grown in various locations of the state can easily be secured, as representative of the different localities.

Method of Analysis

In case of water, an aliquot, usually 500 cc, was treated with a slight excess of sodium hydroxide and evaporated to about 30 cc. Iodine was then estimated by the method described elsewhere in detail (21). The waters collected were also analyzed for mineral salts.

Vegetables and feeds were cut into small pieces and dried in an oven at about 45° C. The material was then ground in a Wiley mill and stored in tightly closed jars. Cottonseed meals were ground in a Quaker City mill. A portion of the sample, from 25 to 100 grams, was burned in a current of oxygen in the apparatus described by von Kolnitz and Remington (31). The combined absorbing solution and washings were then evaporated to about 30 cc and iodine estimated.

The estimation of iodine was made by a colorimetric modification of the method described by Trevorrow and Fashena (16, 72) already described in detail (21). In this procedure, iodine and residual organic matter are oxidized by chromic acid, the iodates reduced by phosphorous acid, the iodine distilled in an all-glass apparatus, the iodine in the distillate oxidized to iodic acid by the addition of bromine, the bromine boiled off, and the iodic acid reduced by potassium iodide. The liberated iodine is extracted from the aqueous solution with carbon tetrachloride, and the color produced by the iodine compared with that produced by iodine from a standard iodide solution treated in the same way. The distillation of the iodine was necessary to eliminate interfering substances.

Iodine and Salts in Drinking Waters

The quantities of iodine and mineral salts found in the drinking waters from 103 cities in Texas are shown in Table 1. The numbers given in the fourth column of Table 1 refer to the geographic division of Texas shown in Figure 1. Iodine in these city waters ranged from 4 to 312 parts per billion. The iodine content varied within a given division, and also between different divisions. With a very few exceptions, however, all of the Texas samples had a high content of iodine in comparison with waters from goitrous areas shown in Table 2. The mean iodine content, as shown in Table 3, was 56 parts per billion, with a standard deviation of 60 parts per billion. Iodine was lowest in city waters from the East Texas Timber Country and the West Cross Timbers; both of these areas are covered by sandy, noncalcareous soils low in iodine as compared with other Texas soil (20). Iodine was highest in city waters from the High Plains and the Rio Grande Plain, both of which are covered, in the main, by heavier soils, many of which are calcareous and high in iodine. However, waters containing relatively low quantities of iodine occur throughout the state, as is shown by the minimum analyses (Table 3).

In the opinion of Miss Mildred Horton, State Home Demonstration Agent, and the District Home Demonstration Agents, goiter is of very rare occurrence in all districts, with the possible exception of certain

areas in the High Plains. Samples of well water from rural homes in this section (Table 4) were high in iodine with the exception of 3 samples of cistern water which were low (3 to 5 parts per billion). In many parts of the State, rain water is collected in cisterns and used for cooking and drinking, and water is also stored in earthen "tanks" for the use of farm animals. Most cistern and tank waters are probably low in iodine, and a deficiency may result if not made up in the foods or feeds.

The relation of the iodine content of drinking waters to the incidence of goiter has been discussed by a number of workers. In Utah the iodine content in 5 waters (24) ranged from .018 to .216 parts per billion, and the corresponding incidence of goiter among school children ranged from 57 per cent to 6 per cent. In 4 counties in Michigan (59) the iodine content of waters was 8.7, 7.3, 0.5 and 0 parts per billion, and the incidence of goiter was 26 per cent, 32.7 per cent, 55.6 per cent, and 64.4 per cent. In Suffolk, England, (60) iodine averaged 8.2 parts per billion, and in Somerset, 2.9 parts per billion; corresponding incidences of goiter were 3 per cent and 56 per cent. In Maryland, iodine in 11 city waters from the mountainous area, where goiter is common, ranged from .06 to 1.21 parts per billion (53), while in Baltimore, where goiter is uncommon,

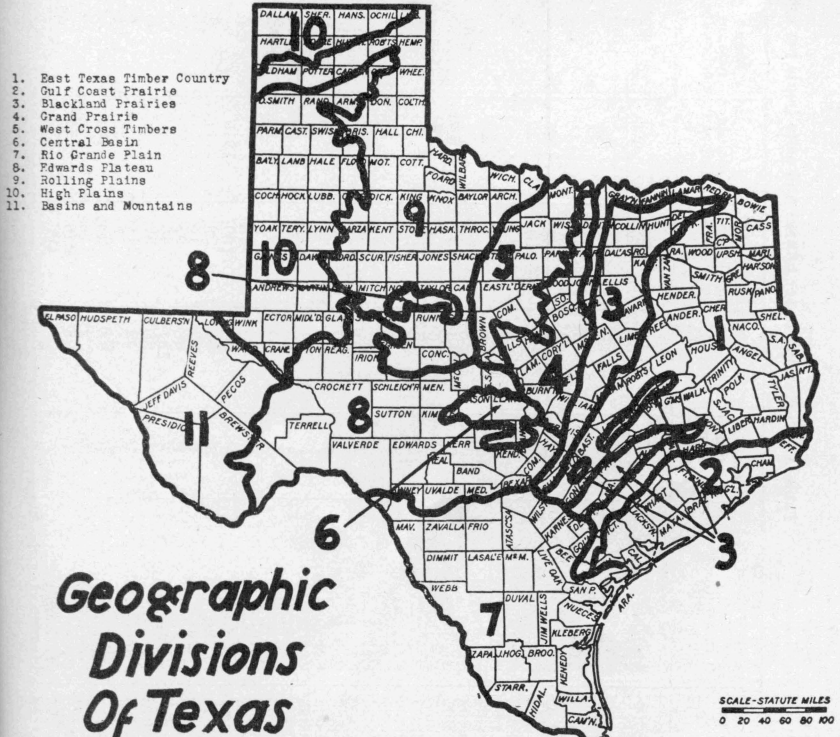


Figure 1. Geographic Divisions of Texas.

Table 1. Iodine (parts per billion) and salts (parts per million) in waters from cities in Texas

Lab. No.	City	Geo-graphic division (Fig. 1)	Iodine	Calcium carbonate	Calcium sulphate	Mag-nesium carbonate	Mag-nesium sulphate	Mag-nesium chloride	Sodium carbonate	Sodium sulphate	Sodium chloride
48406	Abilene	9	48	29		22	24			2	35
46865	Alto	11	27	4		3			494	9	118
48397	Amarillo	10	230	98		122	39	2			18
46866	Anderson	1	35	225	17		6	24			239
44516	Athens	1	18	18		2			109	5	53
47278	Austin	3	40	30		15	36			18	97
48401	Ballinger	9	38	145	29		116	7			102
43629	Beaumont	2	25	31	22		15			9	59
46052	Beeville	7	45	18		2			456	11	792
49092	Benjamin	9	25								
48402	Big Spring	10	27	178	12		39	2			64
48403	Borger	9	38	125		41		35			
48405	Breckenridge	5	14	110	27		69			20	76
46055	Brenham	3	15	105	31			9			20
46867	Buffalo	1	13	32		8			73	25	28
48404	Canyon	10	13	21		33			220	48	33
46681	Carrizo Springs	7	68	123		46	9			158	234
48424	Childress	9	13	128	236		117			4	59
48400	Cleburne	1	21	27		17			285	172	73
39113	College Station	1	40	16		10			508	451	406
46053	Corpus Christi	7	107	178	78		90	5			340
46868	Corrigan	1	24	27		7	3			66	48
39471	Corsicana	3	35	28	80		63			44	26
43955	Corsicana	3	24	41		3	60			112	33
46680	Cotulla	7	49	5		2			269	119	135
46355	Crockett	1	20	16		8			29	70	71
39311	Crowell	9	29	169	1910		389	146			205
44519	Dallas	3	65	29		1	21			23	54
48439	Denton	1	29	18		10			305	174	59
48462	El Paso	11	48	95		26				50	328
46051	Falfurrias	7	191	95		73			40	62	325
49073	Farwell	10	80	57		96			3	37	36
48463	Fort Worth	1	42	111		8	26	7			41
48438	Graham	5	51	28	12		12	14			2
46144	Grand Saline	1	35	20	102		60	21			101
44521	Greenville	3	72	112		3	27			57	28
46353	Groesbeck	3	78	238	51		51			57	153
48973	Harlingen	7	20	108	199		167			69	393
43748	Hearne	1	33	11					309	7	84

46678	Hebronville	7	179	24	14			116	162	551
43578	Hempstead	1	26	70				203	11	86
43954	Henderson	1	9	7	6			113	16	31
46147	Hillsboro	3	101	20	13			358	495	96
43637	Houston	2	97		56			165	11	89
44079	Huntsville	1	21	37	8			220	21	119
43956	Jacksonville	1	24	25		17	5			17
39556	Jasper	1	7	20	3	9			9	17
49074	Jayton	9	117							
48482	Junction	8	42	198	63	18	31			
46050	Kingsville	7	312	48	42			137	247	442
48477	Lamesa	10	183	86	172	45			222	203
48461	Lampasas	4	43	274	44		213			1064
46679	Laredo	7	34	38	330	72			64	348
46356	Livingston	1	30	79		10		169	20	64
47279	Lockhart	3	49	213	82					168
44520	Longview	1	12	12		6	3		11	36
48723	Lubbock	10	144	143		87	179		51	155
39555	Lufkin	1	30	6	41	12				21
44076	Lufkin	1	14	30	29	20		5		36
44078	Madisonville	1	13	108	68	72				47
43953	Marshall	1	11	44	12	27				483
43747	Mexia	3	113	98		27		163	7	35
46143	Mincola	1	16	20		15		55	30	290
48724	Mineral Wells	5	22	38	27				4	28
48641	Midland	10	279	165	143		27			15
49090	Montague	5	23				345	5		363
48967	McAllen	7	51	105	272					
48743	McCamey	8	59	179		8	173		23	455
44077	Nacogdoches	1	10	9		8	93	26		38
43577	Navasota	1	49	62		6			81	26
48779	Odessa	10	70	160	27			343		140
46869	Oakwood	1	10	82			114		7	109
49185	Paducah	9	29			27		20	39	25
44400	Palacios	2	36	20		8				
43754	Palestine	1	18	20		3	24	251	28	125
44517	Paris	3	46	43	10		15		4	31
48804	Plainview	10	4	112			38		5	21
48968	Raymondville	7	192	114		115	69			45
44398	Refugio	7	108	34		3			1634	914
47274	Rockdale	1	17	40	37	15		277	94	520
47277	Round Rock	3	52	266		41		66		135
46358	Rusk	1	32	25	7		38	21		23
48711	San Angelo	9	30	120			15			21
46683	San Antonio	7	14	152		17	47	2		74
46054	Schulenburg	3	65	93		32	17	9		23
48631	Seymour	9	27	179		19			183	167
49067	Spur	9	64			117	18		101	168

IODINE IN DRINKING WATERS, VEGETABLES, COTTONSEED MEAL, ETC.

Table 1. Iodine (parts per billion) and salts (parts per million) in waters from cities in Texas—Continued

Lab. No.	City	Geo-graphic division (Fig. 1)	Iodine	Calcium carbonate	Calcium sulphate	Magnesium carbonate	Magnesium sulphate	Magnesium chloride	Sodium carbonate	Sodium sulphate	Sodium chloride
44518	Sulphur Springs...	3	62	35	10		21			18	28
48742	Sweetwater.....	8	63	170	15		36	28			3
47276	Taylor.....	3	171	43		15			307	580	361
46357	Teague.....	1	43	39		13	9			27	54
48801	Temple.....	3	15	130	44		17	28			20
46145	Terrell.....	3	37	55	27		27				25
44515	Texarkana.....	1	44	43	19			33			7
47275	Thorndale.....	3	210	55		13	18			14	50
46354	Trinity.....	1	127	29		8			21	11	393
44514	Tyler.....	1	21	23	15			26			
46682	Uvalde.....	7	15	202		7	19	19			15
49187	Vernon.....	9	22						154	23	162
44401	Victoria.....	2	102	79		42					31
46148	Waco.....	3	52	130	32		11	21	406	160	480
46146	Waxahachie.....	3	51	12		10					83
44399	Wharton.....	2	28	161		20	23	7			410
48710	Wichita Falls.....	9	23	45	194			71			

Table 2. Iodine (parts per billion) in some city waters from goitrous areas

Region	Reference	Iodine		
		Low	High	Average
Illinois.....	6, 7	.13	1.33	.....
Maryland.....	8, 53	.06	5.0	.....
Massachusetts.....	10, 11	0	6.3	2.14
Michigan.....	14, 59	0	8.7	.....
Minnesota (Duluth).....	6	.....	.....	.014
Nebraska.....	6	.005	.30	.....
North Dakota.....	69	Too	small to determine	.....
Utah.....	24	.18	2.16	.....
Poland.....	32	1.1	12.4	.....
England (Suffolk).....	60	.....	.....	8.2
England (Somerset).....	60	.....	.....	2.9
Norway.....	40	1.5	2.0	.....
Germany (Westphalia).....	3, 4	.12	19.6	.....
New Zealand.....	68	.4	15.0	.....
Average for Texas.....	.....	4	312	56

the water contained 5 parts per billion of iodine. In Poland, iodine in 56 waters (71) ranged from 46 parts per billion in northern Poland, where no goiter occurs, to .05 parts per billion in the southern mountainous region, where goiter frequently occurs.

The lowest quantity of iodine in drinking waters required for good health is estimated differently by different workers. Broll (8) recommends that iodine be added to the drinking water supply whenever the iodine content falls below .3 parts per billion. Little (36) states that the addition of 169 micrograms of sodium iodide to a gallon of water, equivalent to 44.6 parts per billion of iodine, for 2 weeks in the spring and 2 weeks in the fall, cured or prevented common goiter. This would average less than 4 parts per billion for the entire year. Rogers (66) states that when the iodine content of the water exceeds 2 parts per billion, goiter incidence is reduced; however, Lunde (40) reported 1.5 to 2 parts per billion of iodine in drinking water in Norway when the incidence of goiter was about 70 per cent. McClendon (47) states that 10 parts per billion or over of iodine in water is sufficient to prevent goiter, even though the diet is deficient in iodine. This seems to be a liberal allowance.

Only 3 of the waters from Texas cities contained less than 10 parts per billion of iodine (Table 1); it may therefore be concluded that city waters in Texas usually contain sufficient quantities of iodine.

The quantities of the mineral salts in the waters analyzed are given in Table 1. Excessive quantities of salts are not contained in any of these waters.

The relation between the iodine and the other salts in drinking water is of interest. Throughout the Middle West, where the incidence of goiter is much higher than it is in Texas (37), waters are in most cases high in calcium and low in sodium. Many Texas waters contain considerable quantities of sodium and in many, the quantity of sodium greatly exceeds the quantity of calcium (Table 1). The coefficient of correlation

Table 3. Average iodine (parts per billion) in city waters in Texas

Geographic Division	Number in Fig. 1	Total	Frequency Iodine by groups					Mean	Standard deviation	Minimum
			0-25	25-50	51-75	76-100	101 +			
East Texas Timber Country.....	1	33	19	14	0	0	0	24	12	9
West Cross Timbers.....	5	4	3	0	1	0	0	28	16	14
Rolling Plains.....	8	13	5	6	1	0	1	38	27	13
Grand Prairie.....	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	43	.....	43
Basins and Mountains.....	10	1	0	1	0	0	0	48	.....	48
Edwards Plateau.....	7	3	0	1	2	0	0	55	11	49
Gulf Coast Prairie.....	2	5	1	2	0	1	1	58	37	25
Blackland Prairies.....	3	20	3	5	7	1	4	68	49	15
Rio Grande Plain.....	6	14	3	3	2	0	6	99	89	14
High Plains.....	9	9	2	1	1	1	4	114	101	4
All Divisions.....	.....	103	36	34	14	3	16	56	60	4

Table 4. Iodine (parts per billion) in waters from farms in Northwest Texas

Locality	County	Depth of well feet	Iodine
Lamesa	Dawson	80	213
Lamesa	Dawson	50	223
Lamesa	Dawson	Unknown	196
Lamesa	Dawson	Unknown	97
Spur	Dickens	Cistern	4
Dickens	Dickens	50	40
Dickens	Dickens	55	42
Clairmont	Kent	Cistern	3
Clairmont	Kent	Cistern	5
Clairmont	Kent	200	31
Farwell	Parmer	200	76
Farwell	Parmer	200	64

between iodine and calcium salts was + .0335, and is not significant, while that for iodine and sodium salts was + .4099, and is highly significant. The coefficient of correlation between iodine and calcium carbonate, the principal calcium salt, was + .1007, and is not significant; that between iodine and sodium chloride, the principal sodium salt, was + .8131, and is highly significant. The iodine is probably derived from the sea water contained in the deposits when they were laid down under the sea.

Iodine in Vegetables

Iodine was determined in a small number of vegetables secured from Weslaco in the Rio Grande Valley, Winter Haven in the western part of the Rio Grande Plain, Sugar Land and Prairie View in the Gulf Coast Prairie, and College Station in the East Texas Timber Country (Table 5). The limited number of vegetables analyzed is, of course, not sufficient to represent all parts of the vast area of Texas, but the results secured indicate that the vegetables from all of the areas sampled are relatively high in iodine (Tables 5 and 6).

While iodine in most of the vegetables was high, it varied considerably with the portion of the plant used as food, the variety, location, and soil. The effect of the season upon the iodine content of the vegetables was not determined. Leafy vegetables contained much more iodine than root or fruit vegetables. Greens from beets and turnips contained about 75 per cent more iodine than roots from the same plants. Copenhagen Market cabbage from Weslaco contained over four times as much iodine as All Head cabbage collected at the same time and place. A sample of Italian Green Sprouting broccoli grown on a Brennan fine sandy loam at Weslaco contained over eight times as much iodine as the same vegetable grown on a Duval fine sandy loam at Winter Haven. Other comparisons may be made from the data presented in Table 5.

The vegetables analyzed contained quantities of iodine which are in most cases as high as, or higher than, amounts reported for similar vegetables from other states (Table 6). The averages for carrots, okra, and tomatoes

Table 5. Iodine (parts per billion) in vegetables grown in Texas

Vegetable	Variety	Location	Soil Type	Iodine
Beans	Bountiful	Weslaco	Victoria sandy loam	955
Beets, leaves	Unknown	Sugar Land	Miller silt loam	915
Beets, leaves	Unknown	Prairie View	Hockley fine sandy loam	702
Beets, leaves	Unknown	College Station	Lufkin fine sandy loam	369
Beets, leaves	Dark Red Turnip	College Station	Lufkin fine sandy loam	1030
Beets, roots	Unknown	Sugar Land	Miller silt loam	588
Beets, roots	Unknown	Prairie View	Hockley fine sandy loam	431
Beets, roots	Unknown	College Station	Lufkin fine sandy loam	180
Beets, roots	Unknown	College Station	Lufkin fine sandy loam	308
Beets, roots	Dark Red Turnip	College Station	Lufkin fine sandy loam	429
Broccoli	Italian Green Sprouting	Winter Haven	Duval fine sandy loam	3502
Broccoli	Italian Green Sprouting	Weslaco	Brennan fine sandy loam	521
Broccoli	Glory of Calabria	Weslaco	Brennan fine sandy loam	62
Brussels Sprouts	Long Island Improved	Winter Haven	Duval fine sandy loam	1208
Cabbage	Unknown	Sugar Land	Miller silt loam	2163
Cabbage	Marion Market	Sugar Land	Miller silt loam	370
Cabbage	Enkhuizen	Weslaco	Victoria sandy loam	153
Cabbage	All Head	Weslaco	Victoria fine sandy loam	667
Cabbage	Copenhagen Market	Weslaco	Victoria fine sandy loam	233
Carrots	Danver's	Weslaco	Victoria fine sandy loam	112
Eggplant	Imperial Black Beauty	Weslaco	Webb fine sandy loam	559
Endive	Green Curled	Weslaco	Brennan fine sandy loam	498
Mustard	Southern Giant Curled	Weslaco	Brennan fine sandy loam	1071
Mustard	Tender green	Weslaco	Webb fine sandy loam	510
Mustard	Unknown	Sugar Land	Miller silt loam	866
Mustard	Southern Giant Curled	Weslaco	Victoria fine sandy loam	1185
Mustard	Southern Giant Curled	College Station	Lufkin fine sandy loam	251
Okra	White Velvet	Weslaco	Webb fine sandy loam	312
Pepper	California Wonder	Weslaco	Webb fine sandy loam	220
Potatoes, Irish	Early Triumph	Sugar Land	Miller silt loam	347
Potatoes, Irish	Bliss Triumph	Weslaco	Victoria sandy loam	162
Potatoes, Irish	Triumph	Weslaco	Victoria fine sandy loam	160
Potatoes, Irish	Irish Cobbler	Sugar Land	Lake Charles clay loam	1045
Potatoes, Irish	Triumph	Sugar Land	Lake Charles clay loam	821
Spinach	Unknown	Sugar Land	Miller silt loam	679
Spinach	Bloomsdale Savoy	Weslaco	Brennan fine sandy loam	290
Squash	Giant Summer Straightener	Weslaco	Webb fine sandy loam	2088
Swiss Chard	Giant Lucullus	College Station	Lufkin fine sandy loam	351
Tomato	Bonny Best	Weslaco	Webb fine sandy loam	339
Tomato	Marglobe	Weslaco	Brennan fine sandy loam	723
Turnips, leaves	Shogoin	Weslaco	Webb fine sandy loam	1525
Turnips, leaves	Purple Top White Globe	College Station	Lufkin fine sandy loam	460
Turnips, roots	Shogoin	Weslaco	Webb fine sandy loam	705
Turnips, roots	Purple Top Globe	Weslaco	Victoria fine sandy loam	833
Turnips, roots	Purple Top White Globe	College Station	Lufkin fine sandy loam	

Table 6. A comparison of the iodine (parts per billion) in vegetables from different states

	Texas	Oklahoma*	Georgia†	South Carolina‡	Calif.‡
Beans	955	501			
Beets, roots	377	245			
Beets, leaves	854	651			8
Cabbage	912	286			
Carrots	233	507			8
Mustard	826	561			
Okra	251	777		412	
Potatoes	387	210	54	333	
Spinach	750	483	567		32
Tomato	345	379			20
Turnip greens	1124	676	226		

*See Literature cited, 25

†See Literature cited, 27

‡See Literature cited, 52

are lower than the averages reported for Oklahoma (25), but for carrots and tomatoes are very much higher than those reported for California (52). Conner (12) states that vegetables grown in Florida contain about the same quantities of iodine as similar crops grown in South Carolina. Potatoes from Michigan contained 94 parts per billion of iodine (64), from Minnesota, 86 parts per billion (64), from Pennsylvania, 78 parts per billion (23), from the eastern section of Minnesota, 85 parts per billion (50), and from the western section of Minnesota, 226 parts per billion (50), while the average of 5 samples of potatoes grown in Texas was 387 parts per billion (Table 6). Cabbage from the east-northeast section of Minnesota contained 111 parts per billion of iodine, and from the southwest section of Minnesota, 174 parts per billion (51), while the average of the Texas samples (Table 6) was 912 parts per billion. McClendon and his associates are of the opinion that the lower occurrence in goiter in the western sections of Minnesota, as compared with the eastern section of the state, is largely attributable to the higher iodine content of the vegetables. Cabbage grown in Texas contained 912 parts per billion of iodine, compared with 174 parts per billion in the less goitrous part of Minnesota; potatoes grown in Texas contained 387 parts per billion of iodine, compared with 226 parts per billion in the less goitrous parts of Minnesota. If McClendon and his associates are correct, the comparatively high iodine content of Texas vegetables should be sufficient to preclude the probability of the development of goiter in Texas because of an insufficient supply of iodine in vegetables.

The limited number of vegetables analyzed is of course not sufficient to represent all parts of the vast area of Texas.

Iodine in Cottonseed Meal

Cottonseed meal was analyzed for iodine in order to compare the quantities of iodine which could be taken up by the cotton plant from soils in different parts of the State. Since cottonseed meal could be readily secured and represents a single kind of plant grown on different soils

Table 7. Iodine (parts per billion) in samples of cottonseed meal

County	Primary geographic division (Fig. 1)	Number of samples	High	Low	Average
Anderson	1	4	166	52	98
Bastrop	3, 1	5	218	60	109
Bee	7	2	998	65	532
Bell	3	1			253
Bexar	7	3	140	65	108
Bosque	5	1			27
Bowie	1	3	201	102	150
Brazos	1	1			73
Brown	5	2	144	67	106
Caldwell	1, 3	4	203	92	156
Camp	1	3	157	89	132
Childress	9	5	534	94	217
Coleman	9	2	120	102	111
Collin	3	3	121	77	99
Colorado	3, 1	1			104
Cooke	5	1			146
Coryell	5	1			98
Crosby	10	1			42
Dallas	3	2	200	111	156
Delta	3	5	371	56	223
De Witt	3, 1	4	513	46	212
Ellis	3	7	475	50	155
El Paso	11	4	441	153	241
Erath	5	2	41	39	40
Falls	3, 1	4	807	79	341
Fannin	3, 1	3	214	61	120
Fayette	3, 1	2	84	55	70
Floyd	10	2	372	138	255
Fort Bend	2	2	93	40	67
Gonzales	3, 1	4	151	48	104
Grayson	1, 3	5	346	95	197
Gregg	1	1			139
Grimes	1	1			48
Guadalupe	3, 1	3	132	48	98
Hale	10	2	78	44	61
Hamilton	5	2	207	56	132
Hardeman	9	4	156	41	88
Harris	2	2	210	176	193
Harrison	1	1			189
Haskell	9	2	145	125	135
Henderson	1	4	184	42	119
Hill	3	7	194	65	151
Hopkins	1, 3	5	576	81	222
Houston	1	1			105
Hunt	3, 1	8			200
Jim Wells	7	2	478	68	154
Jones	9	3	216	91	91
Karnes	7	3	140	42	91
Karnes	9	3	910	48	353
Kaufman	3, 1	7	230	23	77
Kent	9	2	163	56	110
Knox	9	2	76	67	72
Lamar	3	1			117
Lamb	10	1			249
Lavaca	3	2	899	708	804
Lubbock	10	5	223	50	125
McCulloch	9	3	265	132	199
McLennan	3, 1	6	437	59	164
Maverick	7	2	110	82	96
Milam	3, 1	3	587	77	282
Mitchell	9	1			131
Nacogdoches	1	2	504	232	368
Navarro	3	5	255	59	125
Nolan	9	2	129	95	112
Nueces	7	4	1420	29	465
Parker	10	1			48
Potter	10	4	105	55	81
Red River	1	2	83	64	74
Robertson	1, 3	1			511
Runnels	9	5	327	45	124
Rusk	1	2	262	71	167

Table 7. Iodine (parts per billion) in samples of cottonseed meal—Continued

County	Primary geographic division (Fig. 1)	Number of samples	High	Low	Average
San Patricio.....	7	1			115
Scurry.....	9	1			86
Smith.....	1	1			156
Tarrant.....	5	1			128
Taylor.....	9	1			156
Titus.....	1	1			67
Tom Green.....	3	2	241	37	139
Travis.....	3	2	235	159	197
Upshur.....	1	1			166
Victoria.....	7	6			142
Walker.....	1	1	291	32	170
Wharton.....	2	3	200	87	133
Wheeler.....	9	2	211	61	136
Wilbarger.....	9	1			512
Williamson.....	3, 1	4	405	61	173
Wood.....	1	2	42	33	38
Young.....	5	1			52

Table 8. Distribution of samples of cottonseed meal from different geographic divisions in various ranges of iodine content (parts per billion)

Geographic division	Average iodine p. p. b.	Distribution				Above 200	Total
		Below 50	50-100	101-150	151-200		
West Cross Timbers.....	92	3	4	3	0	1	11
East Texas Timber Country.....	96	11	33	12	8	3	67
Gulf Coast Prairie.....	131	1	2	1	2	1	7
Rolling Plains.....	141	5	12	10	4	7	38
High Plains.....	144	3	6	3	4	4	20
Blackland Prairies.....	240	0	12	16	14	27	69
Rio Grande Plain.....	251	3	5	7	1	7	23
Total.....		26	74	52	33	50	235
As percentage of all samples.....		11	31	22	14	22	100

Table 9. Mean iodine content of cottonseed meals (parts per billion) and of soils (parts per million) for various geographic divisions

Geographic Division	Iodine in cottonseed meal p. p. b.				Number of samples	Average iodine in soils p. p. m.
	Mean	High	Low	Standard deviation		
West Cross Timbers.....	92	207	27	6	11	5.0
East Texas Timber Country.....	96	262	23	5	67	2.2
Gulf Coast Prairie.....	131	210	40	6	7	3.5
Rolling Plains.....	141	534	41	11	38	7.1
High Plains.....	144	441	42	10	20	3.9
Blackland Prairies.....	240	899	50	19	69	5.8
Rio Grande Plain.....	251	1420	29	19	23	8.0

in a variety of climatic conditions, it is a good means of comparing the possibility of the soils to furnish iodine to plants. Iodine was determined in 235 samples of cottonseed meal sent in by inspectors of the Feed Control Service. Samples were used only from mills located in smaller towns; these were probably from seed produced in the locality of the mills, whereas samples from large mills in the larger cities might have come from seed from much larger areas.

The analyses of the cottonseed meals are summarized by counties in Table 7. The iodine content of different cottonseed meal samples ranged from 23 to 1420 parts per billion. Considerable differences occur in different samples from the same county. The data for variation and distribution, and the variation in the different sections of the state (see Fig. 1), are summarized in Table 8. Of the 235 samples, 26 contained less than 50 parts per billion of iodine, 126 contained between 51 and 150 parts per billion of iodine, and 50 contained more than 200 parts per billion. In the different geographic divisions, however, the relative proportion of samples in the different iodine groups varied considerably. For example, 84 per cent of the samples from the East Texas Timber Country contained less than 150 parts per billion, while 60 per cent of the samples from the Blackland Prairies contained over 150 parts per billion.

The mean iodine content, high and low analyses, and standard deviation of cottonseed meals from the different geographic divisions (Fig. 1) are shown in Table 9. The average iodine content of samples from the different divisions ranged from 92 to 251 parts per billion but in no case was it low. The average iodine content of the soils of the geographic divisions (20) is also shown in Table 9. The relative standing of the different divisions with respect to the iodine content of the meals is about the same as it is with respect to the iodine in the soils, with the exceptions that the iodine in the samples from the West Cross Timbers and Rolling Plains is comparatively low and that in the samples from the Blackland Prairies comparatively high. In general, however, there is a close relation between the iodine content of the meals and that of the soils.

The iodine content of cottonseed meal can contribute effectively to the needs of animals for iodine.

Iodine in Roughages and Grasses

The iodine content of 20 samples of roughages and grasses is shown in Table 10. Iodine in 6 samples of coarse roughage (fodders, silage, and stover) ranged from 53 to 115 parts per billion, with an average of 74 parts per billion. One sample of sumac silage, however, contained 835 parts per billion of iodine. Iodine in 5 samples of hay varied from 90 to 550 parts per billion, with an average of 271 parts per billion. Iodine in 6 samples of grass varied from 92 to 1086 parts per billion with an average of 492 parts per billion. A sample of chapparero prieto (*Condalia obtusiflora*) contained only 21 parts per billion, while a sample of prickly pear (*Opuntia* sp.) tips contained 1125 parts per billion. There was thus a

Table 10. Iodine (parts per billion) in various roughages and grasses

Laboratory Number	Forage	Locality	Geographic division (Fig. 1)	Iodine
37753	Sumac fodder.....	Big Spring.....	10	53
37618	Kafir fodder.....	Spur.....	9	55
37615	Red Top fodder.....	Spur.....	9	58
37617	Hegari fodder.....	Spur.....	9	69
37600	Silage.....	East Texas.....	1	95
39323	Sumac silage.....	Spur.....	9	835
39064	Hegari stover.....	Beeville.....	7	115
37731	Sorgo hay.....	East Texas.....	1	90
37512	Alfalfa hay.....	Rosser.....	3	92
37732	Alfalfa hay.....	East Texas.....	1	168
37645	Alfalfa hay (medium).....	Balmorea.....	11	455
37644	Alfalfa hay (grassy).....	Balmorea.....	11	550
34277	Buffalo grass.....	Sonora.....	8	92
40607	Dallis grass.....	Tyler.....	1	303
40611	Dallis grass.....	Angleton.....	2	336
37784	Sudan grass.....	Beeville.....	7	358
40609	Bermuda grass.....	Tyler.....	1	778
40606	Carpet grass.....	Tyler.....	1	1086
33419	Chaparro prieta.....	Laredo.....	7	21
39334	Prickly pear tips.....	Sonora.....	8	1125

Table 11. Iodine content (parts per billion) of young Bermuda and young and mature little bluestem grasses

Soil type	Bermuda	Bluestem young	Bluestem mature
Susquehanna silt loam.....	124	120	20
Lufkin fine sandy loam.....	120	123	24
Susquehanna fine sandy loam.....	78	44	25
Ochlockonee fine sandy loam.....	35	35	31
Victoria clay loam.....	387	35	33
Ruston fine sandy loam.....	162	347	34
Susquehanna fine sandy loam.....	121	61	40
Susquehanna fine sandy loam.....	521	254	52
Norfolk fine sandy loam.....	126	789	53
Nacogdoches gravelly fine sandy loam.....	17	465	61
Susquehanna fine sandy loam.....	161	151	90
Bowie fine sandy loam.....	34	209	173
Average.....	157	220	53

considerable range in the iodine content of different samples of the same type of forage, and a large range in the average iodine content of different types of forage.

The influence of the species and age of grass upon the average iodine content of some grasses is shown in Table 11. The results are somewhat erratic, but the average iodine content of young bluestem was appreciably higher than that of young Bermuda and about four times as high as that of mature bluestem.

Discussion of Results

While the necessity for small amounts of iodine in the development and healthful maintenance of the body has long been recognized, the quantities required have only recently been estimated. The requirements may be

increased by certain unfavorable physiological, dietary, and environmental conditions. Under normal conditions, however, the quantity required is very small.

The daily iodine requirements for humans has been estimated by Marine, Lenhart, and Kimball (44) to be about 85 micrograms (a microgram is one one-millionth of a gram, or about two one-billionths of a pound), by Meerburg (54) from 80 to 100 micrograms, by Hercus and Purves (26), from 120 to 160 micrograms, by Cameron (9) from 35 to 70 micrograms, by Orr and Leitch (61), 45 micrograms for an adult male and 150 micrograms for a child, and by Levine, Remington, and von Kolnitz (35) and Mitchell and McClure (55) from 60 to 120 micrograms. McClendon (48) states that if the daily intake is less than 1 microgram per kilogram (2.2 pounds) of weight, danger of goiter in man exists; if it is near or above 2 micrograms, there is no danger of goiter, even though the susceptibility to goiter is increased by infectious disease or high fat or high cabbage diet. Remington and Levine (65) state that a diet probably does not produce goiter if it contains more than 35 parts per billion of iodine.

The daily iodine requirement for farm animals has been estimated by Levine, Remington, and von Kolnitz (35) to be from 20 to 40 micrograms per 1000 Calories of the ration. Using this estimate as a basis, Mitchell and McClure (55) estimate that the daily iodine requirement of a chicken is from 4.5 to 9 micrograms, of a sheep from 50 to 100 micrograms, of a pig from 80 to 160 micrograms, and of a cow giving 40 pounds of milk from 400 to 800 micrograms. Orr and Leitch (61) estimate that in non-goitrous regions the daily iodine intake of a fowl is 5 micrograms, of a sheep from 120 to 2,000, of a pig from 40 to 80, of a sow, about 200, and of a cow, from 3,000 to 30,000 micrograms; evidently, there may be considerable excess iodine at the higher levels, but the lower figures given by Orr and Leitch are in fair agreement with the estimates of Mitchell and McClure.

The iodine required by the body comes both from the water and from the food ingested. The mean iodine content of the 103 samples of water (Table 3) from cities in Texas was 56 parts per billion. Two quarts of average Texas city water would thus contain about 100 micrograms of iodine, or sufficient iodine for a day's requirement without including the iodine in the food consumed. Most people in Texas probably drink considerably more than that quantity per day and in so doing ingest in their drinking water alone, sufficient iodine for proper development and maintenance. Iodine in Texas vegetables has also been shown to be high, and in addition, people in many parts of Texas consume considerable quantities of sea food, which is very high in iodine. Very few of the roughages, grasses, and cottonseed meals contained less than 35 parts per billion; most of them contained much more than this amount. It seems highly probable, therefore, that in very few areas in Texas is the supply of iodine in drinking waters, foods, and feeds sufficiently low to be a dietary problem, and that goiter produced by an insufficient supply of iodine is of comparatively rare occurrence in Texas.

That this conclusion is warranted is shown by a survey of goiter among men drafted during the World War (37). The incidence of goiter among these men ranged from 2.691 per cent among men from Idaho to .025 per cent among men from Florida; Texas was second from the bottom of the list, with a goiter incidence of only .030 per cent. Reports of later goiter surveys in the United States (57, 58) corroborated these results; goiter among Texas school children (58) in Austin, Denton, El Paso, and Hidalgo was extremely rare. Since it is well known that mature individuals are much more resistant to the development of simple goiter than are children, it may safely be concluded that iodine deficiency in Texas is of comparatively minor importance and rare occurrence.

Goiter among animals in Texas is also comparatively rare. In cases where iodine is markedly deficient, pigs and lambs are often born hairless; no cases of hairless pigs or lambs have been reported from Texas. Goiter in cattle is extremely noticeable, the enlargement in the throat being very marked; this condition is not known among Texas cattle. Fenger, Andrew, and Vollertsen (17) reported that the yearly average iodine content of thyroid glands from hogs from North Dakota was 0.32 per cent on the desiccated, fat-free basis, while that in thyroids from hogs from Texas was 0.60 per cent, or nearly twice as great. The seasonal variations in the iodine content of the thyroid was much greater in the hogs from North Dakota, as compared with those from Texas.

Throughout Texas, the iodine content of waters, foods, and feeds is sufficiently high to insure that the occurrence of simple goiter, due to a deficiency of iodine, will be extremely rare. In cases where it does occur, it seems probable that simple adjustments of the diet will provide sufficient iodine.

The Use of Iodine in Table Salt and in Mineral Mixtures

During recent years, considerable interest has arisen concerning the use of iodized table salt for human consumption and iodized mineral mixtures for livestock. The use of iodized table salt and the addition of iodine to water supplies has been recommended by a number of investigators (8, 36, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49) in areas where a deficiency of iodine is definitely known to exist. However, there may be some danger from excess iodine, even in these deficient areas, when too much iodine is used (5).

The value of iodine in mineral mixtures for animals is doubtful, even in areas which are known to be deficient in iodine. Fairbanks and Curzon (15A) concluded that, except in special cases, it was uneconomical to supplement rations with iodine. The majority of the work done on this question indicates either that no beneficial effects were secured from its use, or that detrimental results were secured.

With poultry, the use of iodine salts greatly increased the iodine content of the eggs (62, 67, 70, 75) but did not improve the nutritive value of the ration (28), egg production, or rate of mortality (18, 29, 33). Iodine in

feeds containing high amounts of iodine was considerably better than iodine in mineral mixtures (2, 75). The iodine in the eggs immediately decreased upon discontinuance of the iodine feeding, indicating that the bird was simply using the egg as an outlet from the body for excess iodine (75). The size and calcium content of the eggs may be decreased by iodine feeding (62). Goiter in poultry is exceedingly rare (30), except in certain minor areas (73).

With sheep, Malan, DuToit, and Groenewald (41) report that among ewes fed 50 milligrams of potassium iodide daily, only slightly more than the quantity recommended by Nichols (56), reproduction was abnormal; the condition was aggravated by feed low in carotene and was not overcome by more protein. Forbes and his associates (18) found no significant difference, except that the lambs fed iodine required more feed per 100 pounds of gain than did the lambs which received no additional iodine.

With hogs, Forbes and others (18) obtained no beneficial results with the use of iodine, while McClure and Mitchell (55) found no effect of iodine on the weight of the pigs but some indication that the retention of calcium was adversely affected. Evvard (15) recommends the use of iodine for hogs in goitrous regions.

With cattle (18), milk and cream from cows fed iodine had an objectionable odor and contained very large amounts of iodine. Calves that received iodine ate less hay and made appreciably less gains in weight than did those receiving no iodine.

All of the work discussed above, in which the use of iodine rarely gave any beneficial results and sometimes gave detrimental ones, was done in areas in which the iodine supply is known to be low and goiter is of considerable importance. In Texas, where the iodine content of waters, foods, and feeds has been shown by the work here reported to be high, and where goiter is of rare occurrence, it is certainly not to be expected that favorable results would be secured from the feeding of iodine in table salt or mineral mixtures. The addition of iodine to a diet already high in iodine results in more iodine being excreted in the urine (38, 39).

The use of iodized table salt for human consumption in Texas is not recommended, except under the supervision of a competent physician. The use of iodized mineral mixtures for livestock in Texas is not recommended.

SUMMARY

This bulletin presents the results of a study of the iodine content of vegetables, cottonseed meals, and roughages grown in Texas, and the iodine and salt content of 103 samples of city waters and 12 rural waters in Texas.

Iodine in city waters varied from 4 to 312 parts per billion, with an average of 56 parts per billion and a standard deviation of 60 parts per billion. Only 3 samples of city water contained less than 10 parts per billion iodine, the quantity thought by some investigators to be sufficient. Water from 3 cisterns contained from 3 to 5 parts per billion, and is comparatively low. Compared with waters from other areas, city and well waters in Texas are high in iodine.

Iodine in 37 samples of vegetables varied from 112 to 3502 parts per billion. Leafy vegetables contained much more iodine than root or fruit vegetables. Iodine varied with the part of the plant used for food, the variety, location, and soil. Compared with vegetables from other areas, vegetables grown in Texas are high in iodine.

Iodine in 235 samples of cottonseed meal varied from 32 to 1420 parts per billion. Twenty-six samples contained less than 50 parts per billion, 126 contained from 51 to 150 parts per billion, and 50 contained more than 200 parts per billion iodine. Iodine in cottonseed meals varied considerably in the different geographical divisions of the state; in general, there was good agreement between average iodine in cottonseed meal and average iodine in the soils of the several divisions.

Iodine in 6 samples of coarse roughage varied from 53 to 835 parts per billion; in 5 samples of hay, from 90 to 550 parts per billion, and in 42 samples of grass, from 17 to 1086 parts per billion. The average iodine content of young bluestem was higher than that of young Bermuda and mature bluestem grasses.

Iodine in Texas city waters, well waters, vegetables, cottonseed meals, roughages, and grasses is sufficiently high to insure adequate iodine intake by man and animals under ordinary conditions. In most cases, much more iodine is present than is required. Iodine in Texas foods, feeds, and waters is much higher than in similar material from goitrous areas.

The use of iodized table salt for human consumption in Texas is not recommended, except under the supervision of a competent physician. The use of iodized mineral mixtures for livestock in Texas is not recommended.

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