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# 1,000 Sheep Are Dead or Dying From Unknown Cause in Utah

GARRISON, Utah, Jan. 21 (AP) — More than 1,000 sheep are dead or dying of an undetermined cause on a remote ranch in western Utah, the Utah Governor's office said today.

The area is about 150 miles southwest of Skull Valley, where 6,400 sheep died in 1968 in a secret nerve gas test by the Army's Dugway Proving Ground. The Army at first had denied responsibility for the 1968 sheep deaths, but later acknowledged that nerve gas sprayed from an airplane had been the cause.

Of the latest incident, a spokesman for the Deseret Test Center at Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City said: "We are looking into the matter."

The Deseret Test Center operates Dugway, a secret Army testing area for chemical and germ warfare agents in the desert of western Utah.

State Veterinarian James Schoenfield was dispatched to the site of the sheep deaths in a Utah Highway Patrol plane. Two veterinarians from the United States Bureau of Land Management were also sent to the site.

### Near Nevada Border

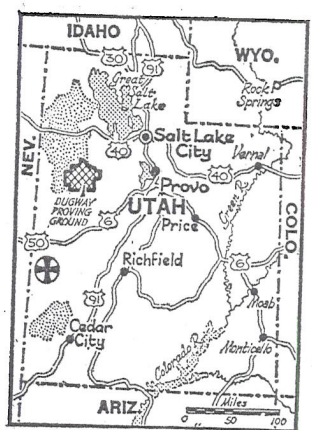
The sheep belong to Clarence Ingram of Nephi. They were grazing on Bureau of Land Management land about 25 miles south of Garrison, near the Nevada border.

Mr. Ingram was not immediately available for comment, but Cecil Rowley, who operates a service station in Garrison, said that the sheep started dying last night.

"One of the Ingram boys came in this morning raving that half his sheep had started dying during the night," Mr. Rowley said.

The Ingram ranch is about 200 miles east of the Atomic Energy Commission's nuclear test site at Mercury, Nev.

Mr. Rowley discounted the possibility that the sheep might have starved. He said that there



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Sheep death area (cross)

was plenty of grass and little snow in the area.

### Poisonous Weed in Area

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 21 (UPI)—A spokesman for Gov. Calvin L. Rampton said today that initial speculation had attributed the sheep deaths to a poisonous weed growing in the area.

In Washington, a spokesman for the Pentagon said: "Dugway Proving Ground has not tested toxic agents of any type in the open air since the ban imposed by public law in November, 1969."