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*We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.*

St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am to 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm

Hwy 89 Clinic Hours: Mon-Sat 7am to 1 pm

CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service - call 519-698-2610 519-323-9002 519-699-0404 1-800-663-2941

## **MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER**

### **May Holiday**

The clinics will be open only in the morning, and there will be no delivery for Victoria Day, **Monday, May 23**. A Vet will be on call for your emergency needs.

### **2022 Waterloo Wellington Beef Tour**

Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup>

Free Admission

At Marvin Burkhardt 5690 Buehler Line RR1 Wallenstein N0B 2S0

Exhibits open at 4pm with steak dinner served at 6:30 pm followed by speakers and presentations.

**Please RSVP for steak dinner by May 24<sup>th</sup>** by contacting Jared Frey or Jeff Martin

Jared Frey 226-338-5763

Jeff Martin 519-580-0674

## **BLOAT**

### **Free-gas bloat versus frothy bloat**

Free-gas bloat is the accumulation of fermentation gasses (CO<sub>2</sub> and methane) in the rumen. The inability of the cow to eliminate this gas may be due to physical defects, functional defects and/or positional effects.

- Physical defects: obstruction of the esophagus (eg. Potatoes, apples, etc), stenosis, abscesses and/or tumors
- Functional defects- esophageal spasm (eg. Tetanus), severe toxemia, hypocalcemia
- Positional effects- lateral recumbency, cow facing downhill, etc.

Frothy bloat occurs when cattle are grazing legumes and/or thick lush grasses. The breakdown of these legumes inside the rumen results in the production of foam. This stable foam traps the gasses produced and prevents the cow from being able to eructate the gas. Different types of frothy bloat can occur including pasture bloat and grain bloat.

With the summer months approaching producers should take precautions and avoid placing cattle directly onto thick lush pasture. Steps taken to manage factors involved in the development of bloat can help reduce the risk of your cattle developing pasture bloat.

#### Pasture bloat

- Risk periods: spring and fall
- Grazing lush, rapidly growing legume forage
- High risk times: morning or evening (dew formation\*) and/or rainy weather
- High risk forages:
  - Alfalfa
  - Sweetclover
  - Red clover
  - White clover
  - Winter wheat

\*Alfalfa can cause bloat in the spring, summer and fall. Fall bloat conditions are due to frequent heavy dew and/or frost.

- Cattle present as apple-shaped (Figure C) and may show one or more of the following signs:
  - Increased respiratory effort and rate, +/- open-mouthed breathing
  - Showing signs of discomfort
  - Nasal discharge
  - Recumbency/sudden death
- Treatment: Contact veterinarian immediately. Anti-foaming agents (eg. Vegetable oils, mineral oil) may be administered via stomach tube.
- Prevention:
  - Avoid putting cattle onto primarily legume pasture (see list of high-risk forages above)
  - Provide mixed grass/legume pasture
  - Place cattle onto mature pasture instead of rapidly growing pastures
  - Feed roughages prior to turning out to legume-based pastures
  - Anti-foaming agents

