

Metabolic diseases

BLOAT

The result of an excessive accumulation of gas in the rumen. Bloat is generally associated with cows grazing pastures with a high legume content (clover or lucerne) in spring and autumn. Occasionally young grasses can cause bloat if they contain large amounts of soluble protein. Intensive system of beef fattening, which contains high amounts of concentrates, low amounts of forages.

CLINICAL SIGNS:

no longer grazing, a reluctance to move, distended left abdomen, appear distressed, bellowing, eyes bulging, strain to urinate and defaecate, rapid breathing — mouth may be open with tongue protruding, staggering.

Death can occur within 15 minutes after the development of bloat

Gaseous bloat is usually seen in one or two animals. Frothy bloat can affect up to 25% of cases. In some cases sudden death may be the first sign seen by the stockman.

PREVENTION: Balanced rations, use of buffers (control of ruminal pH), avoid using high-risk pastures at high-risk times, providing adequate fiber intakes at risk periods, gradual changes in the ration.