



Livestock Animal Health BLOAT Technical Notes

A disease particularly prevalent in cattle grazing highly digestible, rapidly growing pastures generally containing legumes (i.e. clovers, medics, lucerne).

Cause of 'Frothy bloat':

Rumen microbes in the process of fermentation produce gas which becomes trapped in the rumen fluid and is unable to escape.

- Normally, this gas is released back through the oesophagus and is discharged by burping.
- The trapped gas then creates a 'frothy foam' which expands and fills the rumen cavity progressively inhibiting the oesophageal rumen from opening.
- Pressure builds up in the rumen as the foam and gas accumulate causing obvious swelling on the left side of the body
- A large build up puts excessive pressure on vital organs and large vessels of the abdomen & thorax and death usually follows.

Risky Situations:

- Highly digestible, rapidly growing, legume dominant pastures
- High-risk Pastures tend to be rapidly digested in the rumen & contain a high amount of legumes (e.g. lucerne, clover, medic). More fibrous & mature pastures are digested more slowly (lower risk)
- Bloat is common in the vegetative stage of pasture growth when fibre levels are low.
- Grazing young growing vegetative stage annual grasses & brassica's high in soluble protein
- Frosts change forage composition (increase the risk)

Symptoms:

- Upper left flank slowly becomes swollen
- A reluctance to move
- Reduced feed intake
- Tongue extended, difficult breathing
- Strain to urinate or defecate
- Staggering or unable to stand
- Death.

Treatment:

- Remove cattle with greatly distended rumens from the pasture immediately.
- Drenching is the only option that ensures each animal is treated. Drench with vegetable/teric oil or a commercial bloat drench to destabilise rumen foam & allow gas release from the rumen
- Keep animals moving if possible as walking can help relieve trapped gas in the rumen.
- In serious cases, rumen puncture trochar will need to be administered with veterinary assistance

Prevention:

- Blocks
 - Agricon Optimal Bloat Ade Block® - Includes the alcohol ethoxylate which breaks down the foam allowing the gas to escape. Molasses based block. One block per 10 animals. Try to provide to cattle before the onset of the bloat risk.
 - Oral drench, pasture oil or trough treatment (many available such as):
 - Victorian chemical company Bloat Pasture Spray®
 1. Paraffin oil base which can be used as an oral drench or pasture oil
 - Victorian chemical company Bloat Drench Oral®
 2. Can be used as oral drench or trough treatment. Use dispensers to distribute treatment evenly.



Farewell Shania!

Town and Country Rural Supplies would like to say farewell to Shania Patterson. Shania began working for Town and Country Rural Supplies after school at the age of 14. Shania then took on a full time role with us for more than 5 years. Shania was an integral part of the team and will be missed. We thank Shania for all her hard work and wish her every success in her new endeavours, working on the land and we know all the knowledge and skills she learned whilst working with us at Town and Country will come in handy.



Snake Repellants

Snake season is on our doorstep. Sureguard Snake Repellants have been developed to repel many kinds of snakes. They emit a pulsing vibration into the surrounding soil. When the snake perceives the vibration as a source of danger most snakes will choose to avoid confrontation.



GROUND COVER PROJECT - CONFINEMENT FEEDING Local Land Services

Expressions of interest (EOI) are now open to Central Tablelands producers for our confinement feeding project.

The project is designed to help you prevent degradation on your property and ensure you have adequate ground cover, particularly in dry times and adverse seasonal conditions.

Funding of up to \$7,500 is available for things like water troughs, pipe and fittings, fencing materials, non-portable feeders, shade cloth and trees.

To register your interest in this project, visit <https://www.ils.nsw.gov.au/regions/central-tablelands/financial-assistance>

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Spartan - Spray On Sheep Blowfly Protection.

A ready to use solution to protect sheep against fly strike by *Lucilia Cuprina*. When applied as directed Spartan Spray On Sheep Blowfly Protection will protect long wool sheep against fly strike for 11 weeks.

Spartan Spray may be applied to all breeds of sheep, providing protection against flystrike. Spartan Spray is applied as a low-volume treatment onto or near areas where protection is required.

14% Sheep Ewe & Lamb Nuts

Grain-based, large 8mm pellets for the energy, protein and mineral supplementation of adult sheep (and goats), especially during pregnancy and lactation for breeding ewes. They are formulated to maintain ewe condition in "grain-assist" feeding programmes during periods of high nutrition demand and to provide effective and essential mineral supplementation through ewes to their lambs during the pre- and postlambing periods. They are lower-fibre, higher energy pellets and should be fed in conjunction with forages such as mature pasture, cereal hay or straw.



ParaBoss webinar: Gaining the upper hand on sheep blowflies - this season and into the future

Gaining the upper hand on
sheep blowflies - this season
and into the future

ParaBoss Webinar feat. Megan Rogers
Tuesday October 18th | starts 1pm AEST



Join the ParaBoss team for a new webinar on the effective management of sheep blowflies in your flock!

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3fcukrE>

