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Clover Concerns: Bloat

It's time for a re-write on this topic! I've gotten a lot of phone calls this spring and early summer about bloat concerns. It seems that most of us are having quite a clover season! While these legumes are great for soil, providing protein to cattle, and diluting fescue toxicosis, there is also the potential for frothy bloat.

Bloat is the buildup of gas in the rumen as foam begins to form. It is relatively rare, but when pastures have over 50% of a clover stand, then it's best to take some precautions.

These include:

- Turing cattle out on clover-pastures when dew is gone and letting them fill on dry hay before (if you are able).
- Providing bloat preventing compounds (such as Bloatguard).
- Adding ionophores (such as Rumensin) to feed.
- Remove animals that tend to bloat.

Bloat can cause death in about an hour from initial turnout, so be sure to monitor your herd during this time. Bloat can also be seen on day two and three of grazing. Watch for frequent standing up/lying down and urinating/defecating, kicking at the abdomen, stretching out neck, and difficulty breathing. If you notice any symptoms, do not remove all animals, as continuous grazing will decrease further bloat. While this may be a hard decision to make, it is better than removing and returning.

Survey your pastures; white clover and alfalfa are most likely to cause bloat, while red clover has a moderate likelihood of causing bloat. However, you will be surprised how much your cattle can handle. No one can tell you definitively if your pasture will cause bloat in your animals, or even which animals going to be most susceptible. The best thing you can do is know what to look for and be ready to prevent the possibility of a bad situation.

Disease Updates:

Rabbit Hemorrhagic (RHDV2)

If you are in a county that will be hosting their 4-H fair this year, you may have heard of the concerns with the rabbit shows. This is because of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Serotype 2 (RHDV2). According to the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA), cases of this disease have been confirmed in 6 southwest states (CO, CA, TX, NM, AZ, and NV).

It is highly contagious by direct contact within rabbits or indirectly by sharing cages and equipment. RHDV2 takes 1-5 days to manifest and usually causes sudden death (sometimes bloody nose, difficulty breathing, general lethargic nature has been observed).

Check with your fair or MDA about control measures or other information.

Vesicular Stomatitis

While Vesicular Stomatitis has been in the US for several years, I've been seeing several alerts from veterinarians about affected horses in neighboring south and west states. This disease affects more than horses though: cattle, sheep, pigs, llamas, alpacas, and people. It is very similar to foot and mouth disease. There is no cure, so 14-day quarantine is required. Symptoms include:

- Dairy Cattle: teat lesions, mastitis, decrease in appetite, lesions
- Horses: lesions in the mouth and nostrils
- Pigs: foot lesions and lameness
- Humans: flu-like symptoms

Testing is critical to determine diagnosis. Contact your veterinarian if you suspect symptoms. Take precautions, such as cleaning and wearing gloves when evaluating livestock for symptoms. For more information, visit APHIS.USDA.gov.

Spring SMS Heifer Sales

Even during a very tough year, there were plenty of quality heifers to be had; and buyers knew it! Single lots did very well at most all of these sales this year. What at first seemed to be an unfortunate situation, Fruitland and Farmington postpone their sales (usually at the beginning of May) to June.

These ended up being the most successful sales! All sales utilized online bidding, and this proved to be very helpful this season. As for Vienna, we had an excellent first-time sale!

Our Central Region consignors and others will be meeting August 6th at 6 pm at the South Central Regional Stockyards to discuss next year's sale. If you are interested in selling and would like to attend, let me know!

Don't forget about this year's fall sales.

Location	Sale Date	Number of Head	Average \$
Joplin	5/15	215	\$1,686
Kingsville	5/16	151	\$1,712
Vienna	5/22	145	\$1,735
Palmyra (F&T)	5/30	138	\$1,815
Fruitland	6/5	70	\$2,294
Farmington	6/12	131	\$2,132

Events

Tax School

July 9th from 8 am – 4:30 pm via Zoom. Topics include: ag tax issues including the CARES Act, Entity Structuring Considerations, QBID, Self Employment Tax Issues, Ag Bankruptcy Taxation, Deferred Contracts, and more. Contact Mary Sobba at 573-581-3231 or sobbaM@missouri.edu.

4-H Day Camp: Callaway

July 22nd from 8 am – 5 pm at the Veteran's Park in Fulton, MO. All are welcomed to participate in games, activities and more! Cost is \$5 + optional \$10 t-shirt. Sign up in 4-H online by July 12th or call 573-642-0755 for more information.

Announcements

Not too many Extension events during this time of year. Typically, we try and focus on fair season. You can stay up to date on upcoming Extension programs by going to Extension2.missouri.edu or looking up your local Extension's county Facebook page. When in doubt, call the county office.

Furthermore, this will be the last issue of Livestock Newsletter. I plan to begin working on a part-time research project. I encourage everyone to continue reaching out via email, phone, or walk-in with their questions! This has been a fun part of the job; to hear your questions, research the topic and then write about it! Thank you all!

Have a fun and safe fair season everyone!

