

## What to do in an emergency--Gassy Bloat

Recently we received a call from a client with a calf that was distended with gassy bloat. In the matter of a few minutes the client called back that his calf had died. Having a plan to deal with bloat may have saved such an animal. Bloat is simply the build up of gas in the rumen. This gas is produced as part of the normal process of digestion, and is normally lost by belching (eructation). Bloat occurs when this loss of gas is prevented. There are two sorts of bloat. Gassy bloat in the advanced stages puts so much pressure on the diaphragm that the animal can not breathe and the heart and circulation is compromised leading to death. When presented with an advanced case of gassy bloat it is beneficial to have a plan of action. Advanced cases are often recumbent, unable to rise.

Steps to address these cases include: 1. Attempt to get the animal into a sternal sitting position. In some cases the animal will be able to belch some of the gas out. This is particularly helpful when the bloat is secondary to milk fever, 2. Attempt to pass a stomach tube or a short garden hose done into the rumen through the esophagus. You can see it pass in the esophagus under the skin on the lower side of the neck if it is properly placed. Another test of proper placement is to blow air into the tube or hose as you pass the it, intermittently sucking back. If you are in the trachea (windpipe) you will be able to blow in and suck back gas. You do not want this to happen. When applying the same procedure if the tube is in the esophagus, you will be able to blow gas in, but not suck gas out as the muscular esophagus collapses around the tube creating a vacuum, 3. If the animal is still in distress, you may want to place a bloat trocar into the rumen. This is by making a small half inch incision in the skin about two-three inches behind the ribs and below the transverse processes of the lumbar vertebra on the left side of the animal (viewed from the rear of the animal). After cutting through the skin the trocar is thrust through the muscle layers into the rumen.

Bloat trocars are available from our clinic and our doctors are willing to review their use with you.

## Commodity Futures

Corn(Mar as of Dec 30	\$3.52
Soybeans(Jan) as of Dec 30	\$9.96
Soybean meal(Dec) as Dec 30	\$312.90
Cheese (Dec) as of Dec 30	\$1.80
Class III(Dec) as of Dec 30	\$17.39
Class III(Jan) as of Dec 30	\$16.47
Class III(Feb) as of Dec 30	\$16.95

## Practice News

A few White Oak Veterinary Clinic clients have used the new drug Imrestor (pegbovigrastim injection). Imrestor works by increasing the immunity of the cow for approximately seven days after it is given. It's label indication is to reduce mastitis in early lactation. Feedback from its use has been positive. Some feedback from clients is that there may be other benefits from its use. If you have any questions about how it may benefit you, please talk to your herd veterinarian.

## Veterinary Feed Directive

The FDA's Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) rule became law on January 1, 2017. This rule means that you will be required to have authorization from a veterinarian to use feeds containing antibiotics for animal use that have been deemed medically important for humans. If you are using any of these antibiotics in your feeds you will need to complete the paperwork in order to continue their use. One aspect of this law is that you will have to have a VFD prescription from your veterinarian in order to use these antibiotics in feed.

Finally, the VFD document must be issued in the context of a valid VCPR or veterinarian-client-patient relationship, meaning that we can only authorize use of these drugs for our clients when we are overseeing treatment of their animals, and only according to the label directions.

## Southwest Pennsylvania Regional Dairy Day

This meeting will be held March 9, 2017, 8:45 AM - 2:30 PM at the Chestnut Ridge Golf Resort & Conference Center, Blairsville, PA. The 2017 SW Dairy Day program will offer pertinent information for **today** (providing high quality feed to cows efficiently) and the **future** (considering whether new automated technologies might have a role in the dairy). Charlie Gardner will be speaking on the use of robotic milking systems. In addition Dr. Zawisza from White Oak Veterinary Clinic has been asked to speak. For information contact Andrew Sandeen 724-465-3880.