

Mineral Oil Will Ease Cow Bloat OSC Man Reports

It's the season of the year when bloat becomes a dairy problem.

H. P. Ewalt, OSC extension dairy specialist, says that cows who eat "too much, too rapidly," on lush, legume pastures are most frequently affected. Bloat causes, however, have never been fully explored, the specialist added.

These three conditions most often result in bloat and possible death to affected animals.

They are: (1) Turning cows into pasture hungry; (2) turning cows out on lush feed; (3) presence of moisture such as dew on a pasture which seems to increase a cow's appetite—and likelihood of bloat.

Ewalt suggests that cows be fed on "stern" feed even though abundant pasture is available. Rough forage, such as dry hay, will stimulate a cow's stomach and cause belching. Dry hay fed to a cow will take the edge off her appetite before turning her out to pasture.

Bloat, caused by gas trapped in the cow's digestive system is marked by swelling and discomfort to the animal. In severe cases death may result. Relief for a bloated animal will occur from any measure which allows gas to escape.

Standing the front feet of the animal on a level higher than its rear feet will often bring relief. Other remedies include feeding the affected animal one to two quarts of mineral oil from a long necked bottle. Use of a trocar to puncture the animal's side is a last resort remedy, Ewalt concludes.

Too Late Soon For Spraying Tansy

Tansy ragwort spraying with 2,4-D should not be delayed if good results are to be obtained, states County Extension Agent Clive Cook. After the plants begin to head out, 2,4-D will not prove effective. From then on, Cook says, treatment with more expensive ammate, sodium chlorate or atalicide will be necessary to produce a kill.

Cook's 2,4-D recommendation for tansy ragwort at this stage calls for three pounds of active acid per acre, preferably of the ester type. Following the spraying, he points out that it will take three or four weeks for the sprayed plant to die. Plants that continue to blossom after this time has elapsed should be pulled and burned to keep them from producing seed.

The application rates for ammate, sodium chlorate or atalicide call for one pound per gallon of water. With either spray—ammate, sodium chlorate or atalicide—put enough material to thoroughly wet the plants, he adds.



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