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Nutritionist

## Beating Bloat with *Bloat Buster*

Bloat is a seasonal issue with cattle producers, usually at a time of lush pasture (both legume and certain grasses) growth. Whilst the severity of the issue can vary from year to year, when bloat dose strike, it tends to strike rapidly, leaving producers little chance of effecting treatment. Successfully beating bloat is a matter of prevention rather than cure

### What is Bloat?

As a normal part of the digestion process, gas is produced in the rumen and is normally expelled without any issues. At certain times of the year, usually coinciding with the rapid growth of legume dominant pastures, the gas forms into a foam that cannot be easily expelled.

As the gas is now trapped in the rumen, pressure increases rapidly. If not treated, death occurs as a result of the distended rumen compressing the heart and lungs.

### Environmental Factors

Animals grazing pastures dominated by fast growing young clovers and/or Lucerne are most at risk of bloat, although young, actively growing ryegrass plants can also cause problems. In short, any lush, rapidly growing pasture that is high in soluble protein can place cattle at risk of bloat.

Sadly, it is these type of pastures that are the most valuable as they produce the highest weight gains in young cattle as well as support high milk yields in lactating cows.

### Clinical Symptoms

Cattle affected by bloat often cease grazing, show a reluctance to move about, appear distressed (bellowing and distended eyes) and exhibit distension on the left side of the abdomen

#### AT A GLANCE

- *Bloat is a seasonal issue that usually effect stock grazing high value pastures*
- *Fabstock's 'Bloat Buster' has been developed to aid in Bloat prevention and well as maximizing productivity on 'at-risk' pastures*
- *As always with animal health, prevention is better than cure.*

Whilst an animal suffering from bloat can be assisted by inserting a stomach tube directly into the rumen to allow anti-foaming agents to be administered, often by the time an effected beast is found, it is too late.

### Fabstock's *Bloat Buster*

To allow producers to maximize the utilization of high protein pastures, Fabstock have release '**Bloat Buster**'. '**Bloat Buster**' is our **Lactation Pasture Mix** that

has been fortified with Teric 16a22, an anti-foaming agent, Rumensin, which aids in reducing ruminal gas production and extra vegetable oil to assist in the breakdown of foam within the rumen.

Apart from assisting in bloat prevention, the addition of rumensin to '**Bloat Buster**' will further support increases in milk production in lactating cows and growth rates in young cattle.

**Fabstock's *Bloat Buster*** should be provided 5 – 7 days to ensure acceptance before grazing 'at risk' pastures and well grazing such pastures. It is also recommended that a roughage source should also be provided in order to maximize rumen function with grazing high moisture content feeds

For further assistance or advice, – please contact the author or your local Fabstock distributor.