

Jake Geis

# Treating And Preventing Lump Jaw In Cattle

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A significant source of frustration for ranchers is to find a lump on a cow's jaw when looking over your cattle. They seem to appear out of nowhere, like grasshoppers in your otherwise pristine garden. And unlike grasshoppers, you can't simply spray to remove them.

So what do you do about lump jaw in cows? The good news is it is easy to treat. However, treatment is not always 100 percent curative, so if lump jaw is a significant problem in your herd there are preventative steps to lessen its occurrence.

Lump jaw starts when a sharp object, such as a stiff piece of hay or a bit of metal, makes a cut in the cow's gums. The object pushes bacteria into the cut as it jabs into the soft tissue, sometimes infecting the cow down to the bone. The bacteria grow inside the gums or bone, causing an abscess to form.

If the abscess is only in the soft tissue, it is usually not problematic. The exception to this would be if the abscess grows to the point that it impinges on structures in the head, like the trachea or the tongue, to prevent them from functioning properly. In addition, if the abscess ruptures internally it can cause generalized swelling of the head, leading to a loss of body condition.

If the infection includes the bone, the bacteria causes damage to the bones of the head. Instead of being solid like normal bone, the bone becomes holey like Swiss cheese. Infected bone is more fragile and if left untreated will lead to the death of the cow.

Treating a cow currently affected

with lump jaw is fairly simple for an abscess in soft tissue, but more challenging if the bone is affected. If the lump is entirely in soft tissue, simply lancing the abscess open and flushing it out with water will be sufficient in most cases. These lumps feel firm, but not hard, to the touch, with the consistency of a green tomato. If you are not sure if the lump is abscessed, before lancing it, tap the lump using a 16 gauge, 1 1/2 inch needle attached to a 12 cc syringe. If you can pull white material into the syringe, it needs to be lanced.

Lumps with bone involvement are another matter; simple lancing alone will not drain these abscesses. These lumps need to be treated with an intravenous medication called sodium iodide. According to Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook, although it is not exactly known how the drug works, sodium iodide is suspected to have an anti-inflammatory effect. What is known is sodium iodide treatment will provide the best chance of clearing the infection, better than using other drugs like oxytetracycline (sold under trade names like LA 200). It is critical the sodium iodide is given IV; if it goes into the muscle or under the skin it will cause another abscess.

There have been anecdotal reports that sodium iodide can cause a pregnant cow to abort and some manufacturers label their bottles as such.

However, both the authors of Rebhun's Diseases of Dairy Cattle and the Merck Veterinary Manual cast doubt on this claim. In particular, the Merck Manual states a single high dose of sodium iodide has failed to cause abortion in recent studies. Because of this, if the lump jaw is having a distinctly adverse effect on the cow currently, it is better to treat the cow immediately than to wait until after calving. Otherwise the lump could continue to grow and cause more damage. Despite the thoughts of some, under no circumstances has it been shown for sodium iodide to affect bull fertility. Therefore, bulls can be treated during breeding season, as well as the rest of the year.

For some cattle herds, lump jaws are a persistent problem. Rather than treat each animal individually as lumps occur, an extra dose of organic iodine can be put into the feed or mineral. This will decrease the incidence of lump jaws. In addition, providing hay that had minimal thistle contamination will help. Feeding ditch hay will also cause more lump jaws, due to the amount of trash that is found in it.

Although it is not as exciting as exterminating grasshoppers in your garden, decreasing the incidence of lump jaw in your cow herd is just as satisfying. The key is to treat cows with lumps early and aggressively. By doing this and then following up with a good preventative program, the amount of lump jaws in your herd can be greatly reduced or eliminated.

Jake Geis, DVM, works out of the Tyndall Veterinary Clinic.

## Enroll In 2015-2016 Rural Economic And Leadership Development Program

HURON — Farmers Union Rural Economic and Leadership (REAL) Development Program is looking for committed leaders from farms, ranches and rural communities across South Dakota to enroll in the 2015-2016 class.

"Farmers Union is committed to developing leaders within rural communities," explains Erin Wilcox, SDFU Rural Development Coordinator of the program Farmers Union sponsors. "Whether you are interested in serving as a board member, thinking about participating in local or state politics or taking the next step personally or professionally, REAL is designed to help individuals advance their leadership and communication skills."

In its seventh year, REAL was designed to fill a void many working on farms, ranches or for small rural businesses experience. "Here's the thing, those working in corporate America often have access to professional development training sponsored by their companies. Small businesses or family farming or ranching operations in South Dakota don't have the capital to invest in this type of training, so Farmers Union developed REAL," says Doug Sombke, SDFU President.

This adult leadership program is open to Farmers Union members across South Dakota with the purpose of improving leadership and communication skills.

REAL is \$50 for members and non-members. Along with enrollment in REAL, non-members receive a one year free Farmers Union membership.

"This program provided me with a well-rounded approach to leadership and touched on many different areas that I encounter as a community leader," said Kellie Ecker, NESD Business Advisor, South Dakota Manufacturing & Technology Solutions. "Through the interaction with my REAL classmates, I found my long-held beliefs were confirmed, leadership development is not just a workplace phenomenon. This group of individuals really is committed to making their communities better as well."

Throughout the year, REAL hosts three two-day sessions. Each with a unique focus, the sessions are packed with top notch presenters and industry experts covering topics ranging from identifying your personal strengths and how to best implement those strengths when working with others to understanding policy development and how to effectively communicate with the media.

"Each session is carefully developed to help participants grow personally and professionally; improve their leadership and communication skills; as well as become more involved in their communities," Wilcox says. "Although each session has a unique focus, this year we are trying something new and will be bringing some speakers back to build upon their presentation over multiple sessions. We are excited about the ability this gives our class members to really dig deep into topics."

REAL is limited to 30 class members. Sessions will be held in November 2015, February 2016 and March 2016. If you are interested in being a part of the 2015-2016 class, contact Wilcox at ewilcox@sdfu.org or call her, 605-352-6761 ext. 118.

## Nebraska

### Resource Conservation Funds Deadline Oct. 16

LINCOLN, Neb. — Farmers and ranchers interested in soil, water and wildlife conservation are encouraged to sign up now for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is available from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Those interested in applying are encouraged to sign up before Oct. 16, 2015.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program available to private landowners and operators. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical help to install conservation practices on agricultural land.

According to Craig Derickson, NRCS State Conservationist, there are several options available to producers through EQIP.

"EQIP is one of our most versatile programs. It offers cost share and technical assistance to apply conservation measures on cropland and rangeland, as well as for animal feeding operations and establishing or enhancing wildlife habitat. There are many opportunities available, and NRCS staff can help landowners and operators sort out their EQIP options," Derickson said.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program has

become one of the most widely applied conservation programs in Nebraska; enrolling over 300,000 acres in 2015 with more than 1 million acres currently under contract statewide. The goal of EQIP is to provide a financial incentive to encourage landowners to install conservation practices that protect natural resources, resulting in cleaner air and water, healthy soil and more wildlife habitat.

Individuals interested in entering into an EQIP agreement may apply at any time, but the ranking of applications on hand to receive funding will begin Oct. 16,

2015. The first step is to visit your local NRCS field office and complete an application.

For more information about the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and other conservation programs, visit your local NRCS field office or www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov.

## Low-Stress Cattle Handling Seminars To Be Offered

BROOKINGS — The Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Programs in South Dakota, Minnesota and North Dakota will host a series of Low Stress Cattle Handling Seminars featuring Stockmanship Expert, Curt Pate the week of Sept. 14-18.

"These seminars on effective stockmanship and handling techniques provide cattle-men with the tools to produce safe, healthy and wholesome beef," said Heidi Carroll, SDSU Extension Livestock Stewardship Associate.

The BQA Program is the industry's gold standard of livestock handling and animal well-being programs to demonstrate producer commitment to continually improve sound production practices that promote domestic and global beef demand.

"Implementing low-stress cattle handling techniques is not only beneficial for animal well-being, but also increases the quality of beef we produce on our family farms and reduces the human safety risk when working with livestock," said Ashley Kohls, Midwest Beef Quality Assurance Program Coordinator.

Low stress handling techniques can help reduce incidence of carcass bruising, and improve both cattle well-being and handling time efficiency.

These seminars also fulfill employee training requirements for the F.A.R.M. and BQA Programs.

The cattle handling seminars will be held at the following locations:

- Sept. 14: 9-11:30 a.m. — Chandler City Park, (Dave & Tim Holm Farm) in Chandler, Minn.; Lunch will be provided by Zoetis
- Sept. 14: 1-3 p.m. — Turner County Dairy, (27167 458th Ave) Parker.
- Sept. 15: 9-11:30 a.m. — Jay & Peter Bakken Feedlot (272 121st St) Garretson; Lunch is provided by Zoetis

- Sept. 15: 1-2:30 p.m. — SDSU Dairy, (3219 Medary Ave) Brookings.

- Sept. 15: 3-4:30 p.m. — SDSU Animal Science Arena, Brookings.

- Sept. 16: 1-3 p.m. — Moes Feedlot, (16319 445th Ave) Florence.

- Sept. 17: 6-8 p.m. — North Dakota State University, Sheppard Arena, (1350 Albrecht Blvd) Fargo, N.D.

- Sept. 18: 10 a.m.-Noon — Entzinger & Sons Dairy, (7750 45th St SE) Jamestown, N.D.

- Sept. 18: 2-4 p.m. — Van Bedaf Dairy, (6959 2nd St NE) Carrington, N.D.

Each session will include cattle handling basics and handling demonstrations presented by Mr. Pate. A chute side implant demonstration by Zoetis will be performed at the feedlot locations, and a MN BQA Certification class will be conducted at the Chandler City Park and Bakken Feedlot locations. The State BQA Coordinators will be available at all locations to discuss future opportunities for producers to receive their BQA Certification or Re-certification.

Sponsors of these cattle handling seminars include the Midwest Dairy Beef Quality Assurance Center, Minnesota Beef Council, North Dakota Extension Service, South Dakota Beef Industry Council, SDSU Extension and Zoetis. Beef and Dairy producers and industry representatives may attend any of the available sessions. There is no fee to attend, but pre-registration is encouraged.

To pre-register, or to learn more about South Dakota BQA, contact your state BQA Coordinator: Tracey Walsh (South Dakota), 605-222-4054; Ashley Kohls (Minnesota), 612-618-6619; or Lisa Pederson (North Dakota), 701-226-3733.

To learn more, visit iGrow.org.

## Security

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livestock equipment and monitoring your animal's health, Grussing said it is also important to monitor your family's health since some zoonotic diseases have the potential of being spread between humans and animals at the fair.

"Although there were several hand washing stations throughout the fairgrounds, washing clothes and shoes upon arriving home will quickly remove any infectious debris that may have traveled with you," she explained.

Although all livestock exhibitors are required to have health papers for their animals attending the fair, Grussing said being aware of the health of your animals

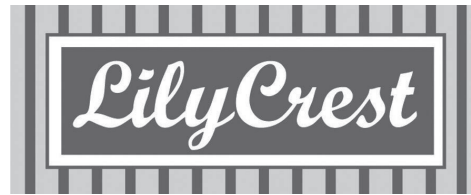
prior to, during and after the fair is vital to maintain biosecurity on the farm and minimize the spread of diseases.

"Showing livestock is an enjoyable experience for all parties involved, and by following these guidelines you can protect the health of you and your livestock once the show season is over," Grussing said.

To learn more, visit iGrow.org.

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