

Nutritional Diseases

Here are some details on a few of the more common nutritional diseases found in cattle.

Nutritional disease	Effect(s) on cattle	Probable cause(s)	Preventive treatment
Bloat	The rumen becomes bloated with gas and foam is seen in the left flank; restlessness, groaning, cattle go down and may die.	Feeding on high levels of Lucerne, clovers and other legumes which contain foaming agents that bloat the stomach.	Occurs in certain areas only. Maintain mixed pastures, feed roughage or spray pastures. Tropical breeds are more resistant. Give anti-bloat capsules or provide bloat block licks.
Plant poisoning • pigweed • lantana • mother of millions • kikuyu grass • yellow bristle grass	Different plants occur in different locations and have different effects on cattle.	When cattle are hungrier than normal, and/or confined in yards or on roadsides, they may eat plants that they would not normally eat.	Be aware of toxic plants in your area. Avoid situations where stock have little choice except to eat toxic plants.
Hypo-magnesaemia (lactation tetany, oat tetany)	Effects vary from mild signs to convulsions and death.	The causes of hypo - magnesaemia vary, depending on the situation. Effects are due to low magnesium levels in the blood.	Be aware if hypomagnesaemia occurs in your area. Ask an experienced grazier or vet in the local area to explain how it occurs and how to treat it.
Mineral deficiencies	Various forms and effects.	Deficiency of specific minerals in the soil.	Be aware of any mineral deficiencies on the property and how they may be prevented .