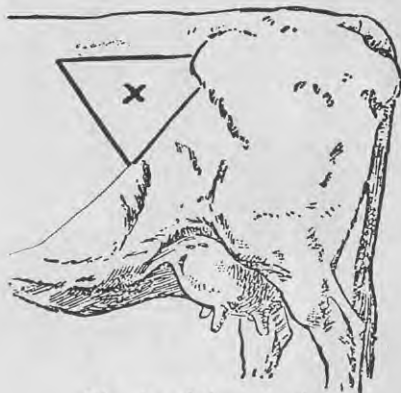


# Veterinary Notes for the Farmer

## Treatment of Bloat in Cattle

EACH spring the problem of bloat in cattle has to be considered. In some seasons the trouble is more serious and widespread than in others. Several factors enter into the explanation. If the cows have wintered well they are not so subject to bloat, even though the spring feed may not be very different from that of other years. On the other hand, the succulent or clovery nature of the spring feed may be more conducive to bloat in some seasons. The herd management is also another factor to be considered on the



The site of the operation.

type of country where some degree of bloat is to be expected year after year.

The speedy accumulation of gas in the paunch in acute cases of bloat must be attended to without delay if the animal is to be saved. It is advisable to remove the herd from the offending pastures to prevent other animals being affected. To relieve the acutely distended paunch of an affected animal one of several measures may be taken. A gag may be placed in the animal's mouth, and, if a probang is available, this may be passed down the gullet until it enters the paunch. If gas does not escape through the probang because of the doughy nature of the contents of the paunch, it may be necessary to puncture the animal in the left flank with trocar and canula.

The site of the puncture is the centre of the triangular space formed by the last rib, the point of the haunch and the loin bones above. As this so-called

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triangular space is frequently non-existent in the blown animals because of its distension from the gas-filled paunch underneath, the point of puncture is taken as an equal distance from the last rib, the point of the haunch bone, and the loin bones above.

The trocar and canula are directed downwards, forwards, and inwards. The trocar is then withdrawn and the gas escapes through the canula. The canula is left in the flank as long as gas continues to escape, and may be used as a means of administering any medicinal agent direct to the paunch.

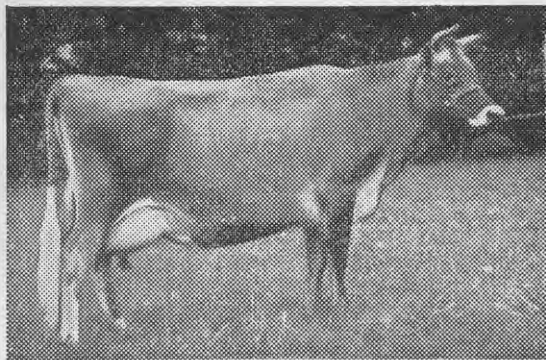
In an emergency a long, thin-bladed knife may be used to make the punc-

ture. This is not so satisfactory, as the escape of gas is not free, and in any case some of the solid contents of the paunch may escape with the gas. Abscess formation frequently results in the flank wall.

In less acute cases a large dose of ordinary baking soda may be given in water as a drench. From  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. to  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. may be given in a quart of cold water. Another drench frequently given is prepared by mixing two fluid ounces of oil of turpentine in a pint of raw linseed oil.

Occasionally, massage of the flank and exercising the affected animal is all that is necessary. The escape of gas through the usual channel, that is, through the gullet, may be facilitated by the insertion of a gag in the mouth. The salivation thus caused brings about attempts at swallowing, when the gas may be regurgitated.

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