



Cattle Abnormalities

Visually examining cattle helps identify problems and helps determine whether affected animals should be treated or culled. Also, examining replacement cattle will help avoid introducing problems into a herd. Inspecting herds frequently helps detect problems in their early stages when treatment may be most effective. If cattle must be culled, they should be marketed early before their conditions deteriorate. This mini-

mizes the risk that carcasses will be condemned and also saves space and feed.

This outline is a supplement to the film "Cattle Abnormalities." The brief descriptions include alternative names for an abnormality, visual signs, causes, treatment, incidence, economic impact on an individual producer's total herd, culling recommendations and carcass acceptability for food.

Abnormality	Visual Signs	Causes	Treatment	Incidence	Economic Impact on Herd	Culling Recommendations		Carcass Disposition
						Purebred	Commercial	
SKIN AND HAIR								
*Warts (papillomatosis)	Small, horny elevations or large cauliflower-like benign tumors (usually on head and neck)	Virus	Surgery, medication if severe	Common	Slight	Keep	Keep	Passed
*Grubs (ox warbles)	Small lumps on back	Larvae of heel flies	Medication	Common	Moderate	Keep	Keep	Hide devaluated, fat and musculature over back may be condemned
*Ringworm (dermatomycoses)	Round, thick, asbestos-like plaques on head and neck	Fungus (contagious)	Medication if severe, nutrition, sunshine	Common	Slight	Keep	Keep	Passed
Chorioptic Mange & Psoroptic Scabies	Scaly, crusted lesions on thickened, wrinkled skin, itching	Mites	Medication	Rare	Slight (Scabies must be reported to your State Department of Agriculture)	Keep	Keep	Passed
SKELETAL STRUCTURE								
*Stifled (patellar luxation)	Stiffness of hind limb, jerky movement	Injury	Surgery (usually not practical), rest	Occasional	Small	Depends on severity	Depends on severity	Passed after recovery
*Weak Pasterns	Too much slope	Heredity	None	Common	Slight	Depends on severity	Keep if not severe	Passed

*Indicates an abnormality shown in the film.

Abnormality	Visual Signs	Causes	Treatment	Incidence	Economic Impact on Herd	Culling Recommendations		Carcass Disposition
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*Cow-hocked	Hocks close together	Heredity	None	Common	Slight	Depends on severity	Keep	Passed
*Splayfooted	Toes turned out	Heredity	None	Common	Slight	Depends on severity	Keep	Passed
*Sickle-hocked	Angle of leg too narrow	Heredity	None	Occasional	Slight to small	Depends on severity	Depends on severity	Passed
*Swollen Joints	Enlarged knees and hocks	Injury, disease (arthritis), nutrition	Medication (depending on cause), rest	Common	Large	Depends on treatment	Depends on treatment	Legs may be condemned
*Lameness	Impaired mobility	Injury, disease, nutrition	Medication or surgery, depending on cause	Common	Large	Depends on treatment	Depends on treatment	Affected part condemned
*Bobtail	Short or missing tail	Heredity, injury	None	Occasional	None	Depends on cause	Keep	Passed
*Mule Foot (syndactyly)	Uncloven hoof	Heredity	None	Rare	Slight	Cull individual and parents	Cull**	Passed
Polydactyly (polymelia)	Extra toes on fore limbs	Heredity	None	Rare	None	Cull	Keep	Passed
Pigeon-toed	Toes turned in	Heredity	None	Occasional	Slight	Depends on severity	Depends on severity	Passed
Flexed Pasterns	Toes turned under	Heredity, nutrition	None	Rare	Slight	Cull	Depends on severity	Passed
Steep-shouldered, post-legged & steep pasterns	Rear and front pasterns, legs and shoulders too straight (vertically)	Heredity	None	Occasional	Slight	Cull	Depends on severity	Passed
*Buck-kneed	Knees bent forward	Heredity, nutrition	None	Rare	Slight	Cull	Cull	Passed
Bowed Legs	Knees bowed out	Heredity, nutrition	Depends on cause, diet if not advanced	Rare	Slight	Depends on treatment and severity	Depends on treatment and severity	Passed
Wry Tail & Screw Tail	Crooked tail setting, fusion of vertebrae	Heredity, (possibly injury)	None	Rare	None	Depends on cause	Keep	Passed

REPRODUCTIVE

*Injured Penis	Bleeding, swelling around sheath, prolapsed prepuce (rose)	Injury	Surgery, medication, rest	Occasional	Small to large	Depends on treatment	Depends on treatment	Depends on severity
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** Cull means to cull only affected animal.

Abnormality	Visual Signs	Causes	Treatment	Incidence	Economic Impact on Herd	Culling Recommendations		Carcass Disposition
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*Freemartin	Masculine head and neck, enlarged clitoris	Sterile heifer born twin with a bull	None	Rare	Slight	Self eliminating	Self eliminating	Passed
*Double Muscling (muscular hypertrophy)	Bulging muscles, intermuscular grooves, small head, tapering rump, shallow middle, lean	Heredity	None	Rare	Small	Cull individual and parents	Cull individual and parents	Passed
*Vaginal Prolapse	Vagina (and sometimes cervix) pushed out	Heredity, nutrition, advanced age	Surgery, medication	Occasional	Small	Depends on cause	Depends on cause	Passed
Uterine Prolapse	Uterus pushed out, usually after parturition	Heredity, calving trauma, advanced age	Surgery, medication	Occasional	Small	Depends on cause and treatment	Depends on cause and treatment	Passed
Mastitis (mammitis, garget)	Enlarged, lumpy (chronic) udder, abnormal secretions	Bacteria, injury	Medication	Common	Large	Depends on cause and treatment	Depends on cause and treatment	Udder condemned
*Weak Udder Attachments	Loose, pendulous udder	Advanced age, injury, heredity	None	Common	Small	Depends on severity	Depends on severity	Passed (udder may be condemned)
Milk Fever (parturient paresis)	Usually after parturition; Listless, lying on sternum with head turned toward flank	Unknown, decreased serum calcium, heredity (Jersey)	Intravenous administration of calcium gluconate	Occasional	Small to large	Depends on treatment	Depends on treatment	Depends on treatment
Hermaphroditism	Sex organs of both male and female	Heredity	None	Rare	Slight	Self eliminating	Self eliminating	Passed
Enlarged Testes (orchitis)	Swollen scrotum	Injury, disease	Medication, hot compress, castration	Occasional	Small	Depends on treatment and fertility	Depends on treatment and fertility	Suspect
Small Testes	Testes small relative to body size	Heredity	None	Occasional	Slight	Depends on relative size and fertility	Depends on fertility	Passed
Cryptorchidism	One or two undescended testes	Heredity	Surgery (usually not practical)	Occasional	Slight	Cull	Cull	Passed

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DIGESTIVE								
*Rectal Prolapse	Rectum pushed out	Heredity, nutrition	Surgery, diet	Occasional	Small	Cull	Cull	Passed
*Chronic Bloat (hoven)	Distended left side of paunch in front of hip bone, struggling	Heredity, nutrition	Diet, surgery	Common	Small to large	Cull	Cull	Passed
*Hardware Disease (traumatic gastritis)	Decreased lactation and feed intake, uneasy gait, groaning, pronounced jugular pulse	Ingestion of sharp metal objects	Surgery, medication, use magnet	Common	Large	Depends on treatment	Depends on treatment	Depends on severity
*Founder (laminitis)	Elongation and curling of hoof, lameness, gaunt condition	Overeating, overdrinking, inflammation of uterus or intestines	Diet, medication, soak feet in cold water	Common	Large	Cull	Cull	Passed
*Obesity	Very fat	Heredity, management	Diet	Common	Large	Cull individual and usually parents	Cull individual and usually parents	Passed
Grass Tetany	Frequent urination, stiff gait, restless, tetanic muscle contractions	Abnormal magnesium metabolism, low serum magnesium	Intravenous administration of magnesium salts	Occasional	Large	Depends on severity and treatment	Depends on severity and treatment	Passed
Ketosis	Depression, reduced lactation, acetone odor on breath	Nutrition	Intravenous administration of calcium gluconate	Occasional	Large	Depends on severity and treatment	Depends on severity and treatment	Passed
OTHER								
*Pinkeye (keratoconjunctivitis)	Watery discharge from eye, swelling, opacity over eyeball, temporary blindness	Bacteria or virus, injury	Medication (if bacterial infection), surgery, install eye flap	Common	Large	Depends on treatment	Depends on treatment	Passed
*Blindness	Awkward mobility (runs into objects)	Heredity, injury, disease	None	Occasional	Slight	Cull	Cull	Passed
*Cancer Eye (ocular carcinoma)	Malignant growth on eyes of mature cattle	Heredity, environment	Surgery, medication	Common (especially in Herefords)	Large	Cull	Cull	Condemned if advanced condition

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*Abscess	Swelling or open sore	Bacteria, injury	Medication, surgery	Common	Large	Depends on treatment	Depends on treatment	Partial or total condemnation
*Lump Jaw (actinomycosis, lumpy jaw)	Swelling of jaw, occasional drainage	Bacteria, injury	Surgery, medication	Common	Small	Depends on treatment	Depends on treatment	Head condemned
*Water Belly (urinary calculi)	Distended abdomen, listless, unable to urinate, usually affects males	Nutrition, infection, early castration	Surgery, diet	Occasional	Large	Depends on treatment	Depends on treatment	Depends on treatment
*Johne's Disease (paratuberculosis)	Diarrhea, wasted muscles, cachexia	Bacteria	None	Common	Large	Cull	Cull	Depends on severity
*Cachexia	Very thin	Disease, sickness, poor nutrition	Medication, diet	Occasional	Small	Depends on treatment	Cull	Condemned
*Downer Cow (skeletal paresis)	Lying down, unable to rise	Injury, mastitis, milk fever	Depends on cause	Common	Large	Cull	Cull	Usually condemned
*Dwarfism (achondroplasia)	Small frame, pot belly, short head, labored breathing	Hereditiy	None	Rare	Slight	Cull individual and parents	Cull individual and parents	Passed
Lack of Muscling	Flat, concave musculature, low muscle to bone ratio	Hereditiy, nutrition, disease	None	Common	Slight	Depends on cause	Depends on cause	Passed
Abdominal Hernia	Distended abdomen on one side	Injury, hereditiy	Surgery possible but not practical	Occasional	Small	Cull	Cull	Passed
Scrotal Hernia	Soft, enlarged scrotum	Hereditiy(?)	Surgery, castration	Rare	Slight	Cull	Cull	Passed
Foot Rot (foul-foot)	Lameness, infection of hoof, bad odor	Injury, bacteria, wet conditions	Medication	Common	Large	Depends on treatment	Depends on treatment	Passed
Circling Disease (listeriosis)	Solitary, walks in circles, blindness, facial paralysis	Bacteria	None	Occasional	Large	Self eliminating	Self eliminating	Condemned

Abnormality	Visual Signs	Causes	Treatment	Incidence	Economic impact on Herd	Culling Recommendations		Carcass Disposition
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Rabies (hydrophobia)	Lactation ceases, bellowing, excitable, dangerous, choking	Virus	None	Occasional	Small	Cull	Cull	Condemned
White Muscle Disease (nutritional myopathy)	Stiff movement, arched back, recumbent, diarrhea	Selenium, vitamin E deficiency	Supplementation of selenium and vitamin E	Rare if diet corrected	None if diet corrected	Depends on treatment	Depends on treatment	Condemned if treatment not effective
Red Nose (infectious bovine rhinotracheitis-IBR)	Quits eating, coughs, slobbers, nasal discharge	Virus	None (antibiotics will prevent infection)	Occasional	Small	Keep	Keep	Passed if recovered
Coccidiosis	Bloody diarrhea	Parasite	Medication	Common	Small	Keep	Keep	Passed

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Cattle Abnormalities Film

26 min., 16 mm, color, sound

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