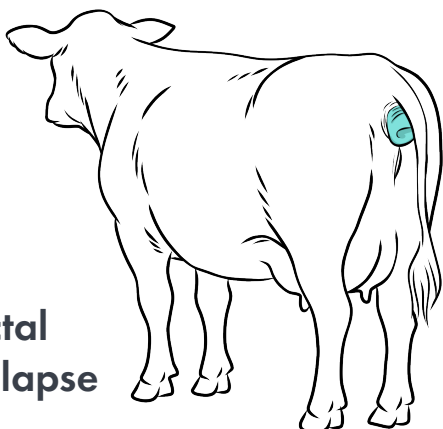


Prolapses in cattle involve internal tissues protruding externally and require different levels of intervention depending on the type and grade of the prolapse. The three main types are rectal, vaginal and uterine. They are graded for severity based on veterinary evaluation.

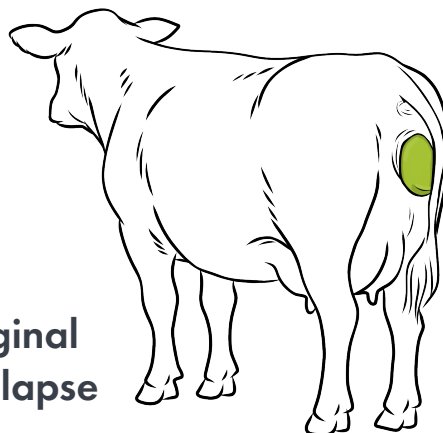
URGENT veterinary consult

- Consult a veterinary professional to establish the grade and severity of the prolapse
- Animal can be transported safely to the veterinary clinic

Rectal
prolapse



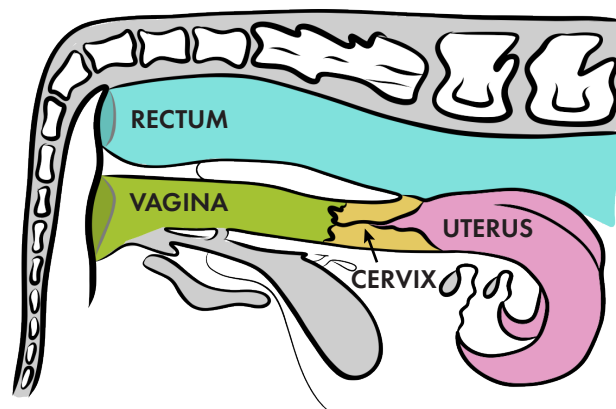
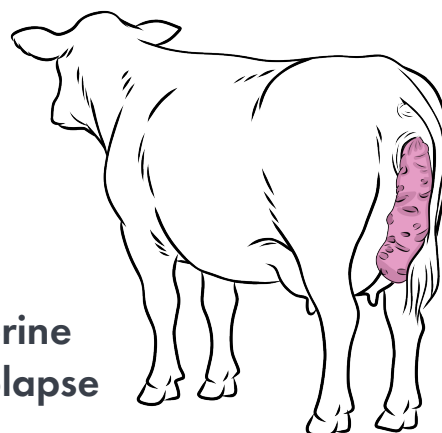
Vaginal
prolapse



EMERGENCY veterinary farm call

- Do not transport
- Keep animal calm and clean until veterinary help arrives (as soon as possible)

Uterine
prolapse

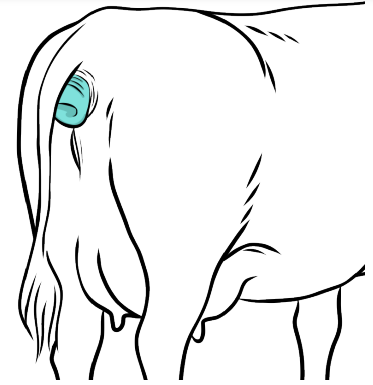


Rectal Prolapse (Urgent)

Rectal prolapse occurs when part of the rectum protrudes from the anus. It is not considered an emergency, but prolonged exposure of the delicate mucosal tissue will escalate the severity of tissue damage if left untreated. This condition can affect both male and female cattle, generally occurring in fed cattle.

Common causes of rectal prolapse:

- Straining from diarrhea, constipation or calving
- Genetic predisposition
- Hormone related causes
- High body condition score

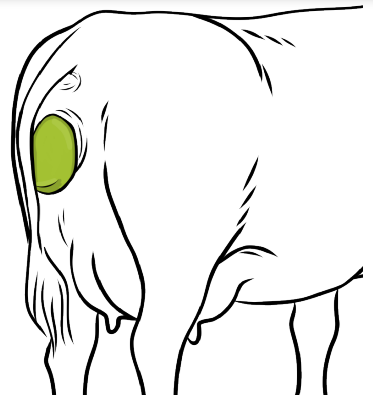


Vaginal Prolapse (Urgent)

Vaginal prolapse involves the vagina and sometimes the cervix protruding through the vulva. Vaginal prolapse can be identified as a smooth, ball-like structure protruding from the vaginal opening. Although this is not a true emergency, it should be corrected quickly to avoid complications.

Common causes of vaginal prolapse:

- Genetic predisposition
- Pregnancy, especially late gestation
- Hormonal changes
- High body condition score
- Carrying twins
- Difficult calving (dystocia)



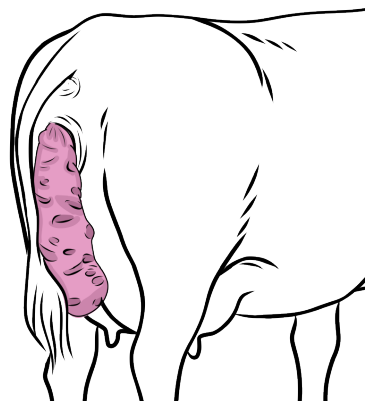
Uterine Prolapse (Emergency)

Uterine prolapse occurs immediately after calving and is a true emergency. The uterus may hang as low as the hocks. It can be easily identified by its size and the button-like structures (caruncles) that cover the surface. A uterine prolapse can lead to organ damage and the rupture of the uterine artery, making it a **veterinary emergency**. Because of the risk of artery rupture, cows with a uterine prolapse should never be transported to a veterinary clinic for treatment and should be handled as little as possible until a veterinarian can attend to them on the farm.

Note: Uterine prolapse is situational, not genetic, so culling for genetic reasons is not necessary. However, many choose to cull based on possible difficulties in rebreeding.

Common causes of uterine prolapse:

- Difficult or traumatic calving
- Excessive straining after calving
- Hypocalcemia (milk fever)
- Delayed or assisted delivery



Scan or click here for more
Cow 911 resources

BeefResearch.ca/Cow911