



**National Dairy
Development Board**

Handbook of Good Dairy Husbandry Practices



BREEDS OF INDIGENOUS DAIRY CATTLE

BULLS



Gir

Native tract: Junagadh, Rajkot, Bhavnagar and Amreli districts in Gujarat



Hariana

Native tract: Rohtak, Hissar, Sonapat, Gurgaon, Jind and Jhajjar districts in Haryana



Sahiwal

Native tract: Ferozpur and Amritsar district of Punjab & Shri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan



Rathi

Native tract: Bikaner & Shri Ganganagar districts of Rajasthan



Red Sindhi

Native tract: In Pakistan, also found in Punjab, Haryana & Rajasthan & Uttarakhand



Tharparkar

Native tract: Jaisalmer, Barmer and Jodhpur districts in Rajasthan



Kankrej

Native tract: Kutch, Mehsana & Banaskantha districts of Gujarat

COWS



MESSAGE

This handbook by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) reiterates its commitment to the dairy farmers of India. NDDB recognises that dairy farmers need to be equipped to take care of their animals through better management, nutrition, feed, fodder and preventive healthcare. The economic impact of animal health issues is well known, but its crippling effect on the dairy farmers' income and prosperity is very often under-estimated. This handbook is an attempt to enable the farmers to ensure that such incidents are avoided. We, in NDDB, hope that this publication will help them manage their animals better.

T Nanda Kumar
Chairman
National Dairy Development Board

FOREWORD

With an annual production of 138 million metric tonnes during 2013-14, India continues to be ranked number one in the world in milk production since 1997. Dairying is the main source of livelihood for our milk producers, majority of them either landless or marginal farmers. For making dairying a profitable and, sustainable venture, it is important for the dairy farmer to adopt scientific practices that would lead to increased productivity at optimum costs. For this to happen, the farmer should be aware of the basic tenets of animal health, breeding and feeding.

The National Dairy Plan-I (NDP-I) has been launched by the GoI with the aim to double milk production in the country by 2020. This would require focused efforts in the field of breeding, feeding and animal health, which would increase productivity and optimize costs. In breeding, coverage of artificial insemination (AI) needs to be increased using disease free semen from high genetic merit bulls. There is also an urgent need to optimize the utilization of feed resources in order to reduce the cost of milk production through balancing the ration of animals. More importantly, preventive measures to control occurrence of diseases need to be put in place, which is pivotal in harnessing the full production potential of the animal.

This handbook on scientific dairy practices has been designed keeping these requirements of the dairy farmers in mind. The handbook attempts to provide basic information on breeding, healthcare, management, nutrition, fodder production etc, based on existing and new technologies, along with illustrations. Such information is usually not available from a single source to the dairy farmer.

We sincerely hope that the handbook would be useful to the dairy farmer.

Dilip Rath
Managing Director
National Dairy Development Board

PART I

ANIMAL HEALTH AND BREEDING

Animal health plays an important role in harnessing the expected production potential of dairy animals. A diseased animal cannot perform to the expected level. Timely intervention is therefore pivotal in reducing the economic losses due to diseases. Improvement of breeds is also the need of the hour and the farmer needs to be made aware of various aspects of breeding to be an active participant of breed improvement programmes. With this aim, the Part I of this booklet is divided into XIV sections which are as under:

- Section I General observation of an animal
- Section II Buying and inducting a new animal
- Section III Care of new born calf
- Section IV Diseases preventable by vaccination
- Section V Other important diseases
- Section VI Tick and fly borne diseases
- Section VII Tick, Fly and worm control
- Section VIII Diseases that occur after calving
- Section IX Diseases that occur due to faulty feeding
- Section X Mastitis and diseases of teats
- Section XI Common poisoning conditions
- Section XII Common zoonotic diseases
- Section XIII Breeding and related activities
- Section XIV Traditional remedies for minor ailments

SECTION I

GENERAL OBSERVATION OF AN ANIMAL

General observation of certain parameters will guide you in assessing the health status of your animal which will in turn help you in seeking timely advice from a veterinarian.

Timely intervention can prevent or drastically reduce the losses due to diseases or other conditions. This section has therefore the following chapters:

- A. Seven questions for a healthy animal.
- B. Observing basic health parameters.
- C. Body scoring.



A. SEVEN QUESTIONS FOR A HEALTHY ANIMAL

1. Does the animal react normally to its environment and in the herd or is it acting strangely? (**Behaviour**)
2. Does it carry its head, ears, body and tail as usual? Does it walk normally? (**Attitude**)
3. Is the animal in good condition and is it well muscled, neither too thin or too fat? (**Condition**)
4. Does it eat, drink and ruminate properly?
5. Does it urinate and defaecate normally?
6. If a cow is in milk, is there a sudden drop in milk production?
7. Any other abnormal signs?












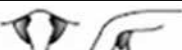



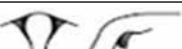



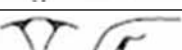
Consult a veterinarian in case any change is noticed

B. OBSERVING BASIC HEALTH PARAMETERS

- **Breathing frequency** - (Breathing in + breathing out) is 10-30 times per minute in normal adults and 30-50 times per minute in calves. Observed best from the animal's right flank, seen from behind.
- **Rumination** - Not less than 40 times per minute and 7-10 hours per day.
- **Rumen movement** - Two to three per minute, can be felt by pressing lightly on the upper part of the left flank.
- **Appearance** - A healthy animal has a shining, smooth and even coat as well as shiny horns and hoofs. Eyes should also be normal without discharge or tears and muzzle moist.
- **Fever** - Usually accompanied by rapid breathing, shivering and occasionally diarrhoea. Ears, horns and legs are usually cold to touch while body is too warm.

If any change is observed in the above parameters or fever seen, consult a veterinarian.

Body condition scoring

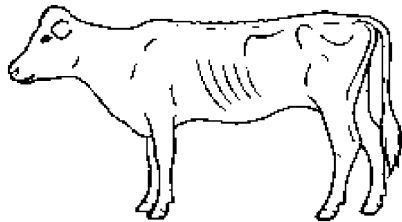
Scoring	Vertebrae at middle of the back	Rear view of the hook bone (cross-section)	Side view of the line between hook and pin bones	Cavity between tail head and pin bone (rear and side view)	Interpretation
Score 1 - Severe under-conditioning					Not in good health. Will not milk well or reproduce.
Score 2 - Frame obvious					Health may be OK. But milk production low and poor reproduction.
Score 3 - Frame and covering well					High producing, but fat may not be enough for peak production.
Score 4 - Frame not very visible					May have more metabolic problems at calving.
Score 5 - Severe over-conditioning					Extremely fat and will have metabolic and breeding problems.

Dry cows and calving cows should have a body condition score of 3.5 (See chapter on body scoring)

Observe your animals closely to help diagnose diseases early

C. BODY SCORING

- Body scoring is very important in assessing the health status of an animal.
- A low score may indicate diseases or improper feeding while a high score may indicate a high probability of breeding and metabolic problems.

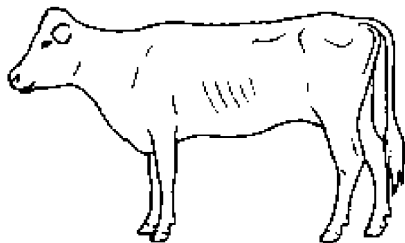


Body score 1

- **BODY SCORE-1**
- Extremely thin. No fat in brisket or tail docks.
- All skeletal structures are visible.
- Dull hair
- May be diseased and survival during stress is doubtful



Cattle with body score 1

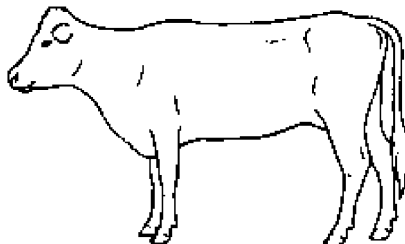


Body score 2

- **BODY SCORE-2**
- Thin. Vertebrae, hips and pin bone prominent.
- Some tissue cover around tail dock, hip bones and the flank.
- Muscle tissue evident but not abundant, health may be OK.



Cattle with body score 2

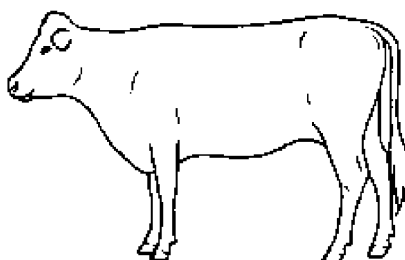


Body score 3

- **BODY SCORE-3**
- Ribcage only slightly visible.
- Fat deposit behind shoulder obvious, ideal condition for calving.
- Fat deposit in brisket area.
- Hook and pin bone visible, but not prominent.



Cattle with body score 3

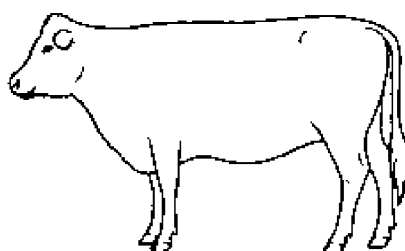


Body score 4

- **BODY SCORE-4**
- Skeletal structure difficult to identify.
- Obvious fat deposits behind shoulder and tail head.
- Flat appearance to the top line.
- Folds of fat starting to develop over ribs and thighs.



Cattle with body score 4 may have metabolic problems at calving.



Body score 5

- **BODY SCORE-5**
- Animal is obese, flat appearance dominates.
- Brisket is heavy and bone structure not noticeable.
- Tail head and hip bones completely buried in folds of fat.
- Back is flat and completely covered by fat.
- Mobility impaired by large fat deposits.



Cattle with body score 5 and above have high probability of metabolic and breeding problems.



Body scoring would be a helpful yardstick to monitor health

SECTION II

BUYING & INDUCTING A NEW ANIMAL

Newly purchased animals are one of the major sources of infection and may introduce new diseases into your herd. Once you decide on what type of animals you want to rear based on your resources, purchasing healthy animals and implementing strict protocols for introduction into your herd is one of the most important components to prevent diseases occurring in your herd due to introduction of a newly purchased animal. Determining the age of the newly purchased animal will also be a helpful tool. This section consists of the following sections:

- A. Purchasing a new animal.
- B. Inducting a newly purchased animal into the herd.
- C. Determining the age of an animal.

A. PURCHASING A NEW ANIMAL

Breed

- A decision on what breed one wants to keep depends on the resources available with the farmer and the suitability of the breed to the locale. A decision on the breed should be taken only after detailed discussions with your local veterinarian/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)/Kisan Call Centres, and should conform to the breeding policy of the State.

Source

- Known disease free farms (either govt or private) where regular testing for diseases like TB, JD and brucellosis are done and positive animals removed would be ideal sources to procure your animals.
- It is better to buy animals from the owners' premises rather than from cattle markets/shanties since chances of the animal being exposed to diseases is high at these locations.

General signs to observe for in healthy animals during purchase

- Eyes: bright, clear and not runny (no discharge), crusty or bloodshot.
- Nose: cool, moist muzzle, with frequent licking; breathing should be regular and not laboured; beware of discharge, coughing, wheezing or irregular breathing.
- Coat: Glossy, clean and un-matted, free of ticks/lice, other parasites or eruptions.
- Weight: Average weight for the breed; beware of emaciated or thin animals.
- Attitude: Curious, alert and contented; beware of cattle that stand apart from the herd, that seem disinterested or that show signs of a bad temper.
- Mobility: Walking should be easy and free of limps; beware of slow or uneven gaits or hunched positions when sitting; the animal should be able to rise from seated positions with ease.
- Udder: Healthy; size isn't necessarily an indicator of a good udder. It should sit forward with prominent milk veins, not sag and not be too meaty. Observe the cow when she walks, the udder should not show too much sideways movement.
- Body score: This is an important indicator of the health of the animal. An animal in good health will have a body score between 3-4. (See chapter on body scoring)
- History: It is important to have a record of the detailed history of the animal on number of calvings, recorded milk yield during previous lactation, any specific disease occurrence like mastitis, prolapse of uterus, ROP, dystocia, hypocalcaemia etc.
- Age : Though not directly related to health, the farmer should also ensure the age of the animal by referring to its dentition. (See chapter on aging and dentition)

Transportation of animals

- All steps should be taken to avoid stress while transportation. Adequate water, space, feed, water and rest should be provided at regular intervals while transporting, since stress predisposes to various diseases. The flooring should be provided with some bedding material like paddy straw.



Observe proper procedures while purchasing new animals

B. INDUCTING A NEWLY PURCHASED ANIMAL INTO THE HERD

Quarantine (Isolating the animal)

- The newly purchased animal should be kept in isolation without contact with the other animals atleast for 3 weeks. One should attend to the newly purchased animal only after attending the herd.
- Avoid attending to your herd after contact with the newly purchased animal without a proper wash and cloth change.
- Carry out routine deworming, fluke treatment (based on endemicity) and vaccination during the period of quarantine.
- For lactating animals, milk the newly purchased animal separately and, only after milking all the other animals in the herd.
- Always adopt an “all-in all-out” system, clean and disinfect the quarantine area before inducting another animal(s).

Testing during quarantine

The following tests should be performed while in quarantine.

1. For in-milk animals, test for sub-clinical mastitis (SCM)– If found positive, they should be treated and retested till negative results are obtained. In case these animals do not become negative for SCM on subsequent tests, they are most probably chronically infected.
2. Test for brucella
3. Test for bovine TB (bTB)
4. Test for Johne’s Disease (JD)

If the animals are positive to any of the above tests, it should not be inducted into your herd. Maintain these animals separately and dispose off at the earliest. There is no cure for these diseases and these are easily transmitted to healthy animals on contact. The following regional laboratories may be contacted for further information:

Note: An animal testing negative does not necessarily mean it is free from disease

For Northern region

1. Joint Director, Centre for Animal Disease Research and Diagnosis (CADRAD), Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar– 243122
2. Joint Director and In-charge Northern Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Jalandhar, Punjab

For Southern region

Joint Director
Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals
Hebbal, Bangalore - 24

For Eastern region

1. Joint Director
Eastern Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Kolkata-700 037
2. Deputy Director
North Eastern Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
Khanapura, Guwahati-781 022

For Western region

Joint Director
Western Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
Aundh, Pune-411 007

- The local veterinarian should be contacted for taking samples for the test or testing the animals (bTB/JD) and for any other advise. Many State animal husbandry departments also do the tests in their laboratories.

Proper quarantine will protect your herd from diseases

C. DETERMINING AGE OF AN ANIMAL

Determining age of the animal is important while purchasing a new animal since the information provided by the seller may not always be reliable.

I. DETERMINING AGE BY DENTITION

At birth to one month, two or more temporary incisor teeth are present. By first month all 8 temporary incisors appear.



Dentition at 30 months

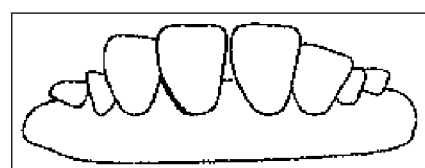
The central pair of temporary incisors are replaced by permanent ones which attains full growth by 2 years (thin arrows).

The third permanent incisor erupts at around 30 months of age (thick arrow)



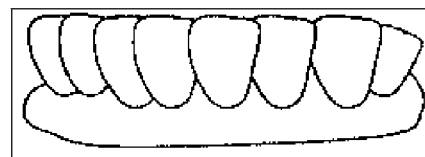
Dentition after 30 months

The fourth permanent incisors erupt after 30 months.



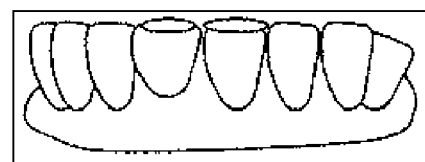
Dentition at 3 years

The second pair of incisors is fully developed at 3 years.



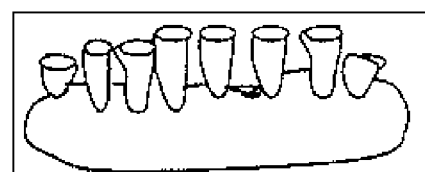
Dentition by 4-5 years years

By the 4-5 years the animal has a full set of permanent incisors. (In buffaloes by 5-6 years)



Dentition by 6th year

By the sixth year, the central incisor shows wear and leveled top.



Dentition by 10th year

The wearing progresses steadily after the sixth year and by the tenth year, all the incisors show significant wear and space in between them.



Dentition of a 3 year old cattle with 2 pairs of fully developed incisors



Dentition of cattle aged around 4-5 years with 4 pairs of permanent incisors.

II. DETERMINING AGE BY HORN RINGS

This is not a good guide and may give only a very rough idea. The first horn ring appears at 10-12 months. One ring is added approximately in a year. But at the fifth year, the first three rings may not be visible and after 8 years, none may be visible.



Determine the age of animal before purchase

SECTION III

CARE OF NEW BORN CALF

A calf is tomorrow's cow. From the health point of view, the life of a bovine is divided into two parts; the first 24 hours, and the rest. The first 24 hours of life of a calf is so important that it has a strong bearing on the rest of its life. A calf not provided adequate care in the first 24 hours may succumb to diseases or will always remain weak and an underperformer, even though it has good genetic potential and is provided a good environment. Another important reason for losing a calf is diarrhoea, the management of which is equally important till such time the cause is treated and cured. Keeping this in view, the following chapters are covered under this section:

- A. Care of new born calf
- B. Calf diarrhoea and its management

A. CARE OF NEW BORN CALF

The golden hour: The first hour after calving is the most critical period in the entire life of a new born calf.

Important points to remember:

- Clean nostrils and mouth which helps the calf breathe better and help prevent future breathing problems.
- Allow the mother to lick the calf clean which promotes circulation within the calf's body and prepares the calf to stand up and walk.
- Tie the navel cord with a thread at a distance of around 2 inches from the base and cut the remaining cord with a clean instrument.
- Dip the navel (a simple smearing will not serve the purpose) in 7% or higher tincture of iodine solution and repeat after 12 hours. (Do not use teat dip or weaker iodine solutions). A poorly maintained navel is the gateway to serious infections.
- A new born calf should be given 2 litres of colostrum within the first 2 hours of birth and 1-2 litres (based on size) within 12 hours of birth.
- Many calves do not nurse adequate amounts of colostrum from their dams within the first few hours of life, and thus they may not receive adequate immunity.
- Feeding colostrum after 24 hours of birth may not help the calf to ward off infections.
- A calf must receive adequate colostrum to protect it from diseases for the first three months of its life. Colostrum is the calf's "passport to life".
- Hand-feeding new-born calves is therefore recommended so that the farmer is sure about the amount of colostrum an individual calf receives.
- De-worming should be done within 10-14 days of age subsequently on a monthly basis up to the 6th month.
- When the animal is 3 months old, contact the veterinarian for vaccination.
- Provide calf starter from 2-8 weeks for better growth and early maturity.

Example of a simple calf starter (approx. percentages)

Maize - 52 %; Oats - 20 %; Soya bean meal - 20 %; Molasses - 5 %; Salt - 0.5 %; Minerals (Macro & Micro) - 1.5%; Vitamins - 1%



Licking stimulates the calf to stand up



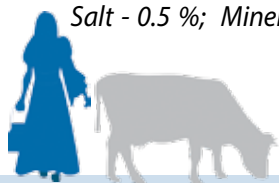
Dipping the navel in 7% Tr.iodine is very important in preventing navel infections



A new born calf should receive colostrum as early as possible



Hand-feeding to ensure adequate colostrum intake by calves



Timely care of new-born calf will ensure its survival

B. CALF DIARRHOEA

- Diarrhoea in calves can occur due to various reasons.
- Calves with diarrhoea lose considerable amounts of water and electrolytes.
- Diarrhoea and rapid loss of fluid and ions can cause the calf to die very quickly.

MANAGEMENT OF CALF DIARRHOEA

- Replace the lost water and electrolytes at the earliest - Feed 2-4 litres of electrolyte solution every day.
- The electrolyte solution provided should be over and above the normal feeding.
- Consult a veterinarian at the earliest to determine the cause of diarrhoea and to provide appropriate treatment.

Home electrolyte solution formula

(For 1 litre of warm water)

Glucose * - 5 teaspoons

Soda bi carb - 1 teaspoon

Table salt - 1 teaspoon

1 teaspoon=5 g (approx.)

** Calves do not digest table sugar (sucrose) effectively and addition may worsen diarrhoea leading to more fluid and electrolyte loss. Glucose is hence preferred.*

ASSESSING LEVELS OF DEHYDRATION

Dehydration level (%)	Symptoms
Up to 5%	No symptoms, animal is normal.
5 – 6%	Diarrhoea, no clinical signs, strong suckling reflex.
6 - 8%	Mild depression, skin tenting* 2-6 seconds, still suckling, sunken eyes, weak.
8-10%	Depressed, laying down, eyes very sunken, dry gums, skin tenting more than 6 seconds.
10-14%	Cannot stand, cool extremities, skin remains tented, comatose.
Over 14%	Leads to death

* The skin above the eye and around the chest and neck should rapidly snap back and return to normal when released. If the skin remains raised it is considered 'tented'. The time taken to return to normalcy indicates the level of dehydration.

Calves showing symptoms of above 8% dehydration require immediate intravenous fluid therapy, contact a veterinarian immediately.

PREVENTION OF CALF DIARRHOEA

- Ensure that adequate quantities of colostrum has been fed to the calf within 6 hours of birth to avoid failure of transfer of immunity.
- Ensure that the calf is maintained in a hygienic and dry environment.
- Ensure udder cleanliness before allowing the calf to suckle.

Early management of diarrhoea will save your calf

SECTION IV

DISEASES PREVENTABLE BY VACCINATION

Our country is endemic to many diseases that cause severe economic losses due to drastic reduction in the production capacity. Some of the diseases are even highly fatal. Fortunately, vaccines are available for most of these diseases (except IBR) in our country and can be easily controlled if timely vaccination is carried out in a mass scale, covering a large proportion of the susceptible population (at least 80%). This section describes the following diseases that can be easily prevented by resorting to timely and regular vaccination:

- A. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
- B. Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS)
- C. Black Quarter (BQ)
- D. Brucellosis
- E. Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)
- F. Rabies
- G. Anthrax
- H. Theileriosis
- I. Vaccination schedules for cattle and buffalo
- J. Important points to be noted during vaccination
- K. Common reasons for vaccination failure



A. FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

- A highly contagious viral disease
- Spreads through contact, contaminated water, feed and air.
- Disease is rarely fatal for adults, however the milk production, fertility in females and draft power of males are severely impaired for life after recovery from disease.
- Usually fatal in calves.
- Also affects sheep, goat (usually sub-clinically and are maintenance hosts) and pigs, which are amplification hosts (multiplies the virus around 3000 fold).

SYMPTOMS



Foot lesion



Tongue lesion



Dental pad lesion



Udder lesion

- Drastic drop in milk production and working capacity (draft animals).
- Fever and serous nasal discharge and excessive salivation.
- Vesicles may be seen on tongue, dental pad, lips, gums etc.
- Vesicle in inter-digital cleft may lead to lameness.
- Lesions on teat may lead to mastitis.
- Loss in condition may persist even after recovery.

PREVENTION

- Get your animals aged 4 months and above vaccinated once in 6 months.
- Infected animals should be immediately separated since all excretions and secretions from infected animals contain the virus.
- All feed and fodder in contact with the infected animal should be destroyed.
- All equipment used should be cleaned and disinfected with 4% sodium carbonate solution or as suggested by a veterinarian.
- Healthy animals should not be handled by persons in contact with infected animals.
- The infected premises should be disinfected with 4% sodium carbonate solution or with the disinfectant suggested by a veterinarian.
- Vaccinating sheep, goat and pigs would control the disease to a better extent.
- Informing authorities promptly would enable them initiate control measures at the earliest which will help in limiting the spread of the disease.

MANAGEMENT OF FMD

- Treatment is only symptomatic, the disease will run its course.
- Emollients may be applied on lesions to soothe pain.
- Contact veterinarian for suitable advice.

Vaccinate your animals regularly against FMD to avoid economic losses

B. HAEMORRHAGIC SEPTICAEMIA (HS)

- This is an acute bacterial disease of cattle and buffaloes which usually occurs during monsoon.
- Mortality rate may be as high as 80 %.
- Germs of this disease survive longer in humid and waterlogged conditions.

SYMPTOMS

- High temperature, sudden decrease in milk yield.
- Salivation and serous nasal discharge.
- Severe oedema of the throat region.
- Difficulty in breathing , animal produces a grunting sound.
- Animal usually dies within 1-2 days of showing symptoms.
- Buffaloes are generally more susceptible than cattle.
- Animals with clinical signs, particularly buffalo, rarely recover.
- In endemic areas, most deaths seen in older calves and young adults.



Severe throat and brisket oedema

PREVENTION

- Segregate the sick animal from healthy ones and avoid contamination of feed, fodder and water.
- Avoid crowding especially during wet seasons.
- Vaccinate all animals which are 6 months and above of age annually before the onset of monsoon in endemic areas.

TREATMENT

- Treatment is usually ineffective unless treated very early , that is during the stage when fever sets in.
- Few animals survive once clinical signs develop.
- Case fatality approaches 100% if treatment is not followed at the initial stage of infection.



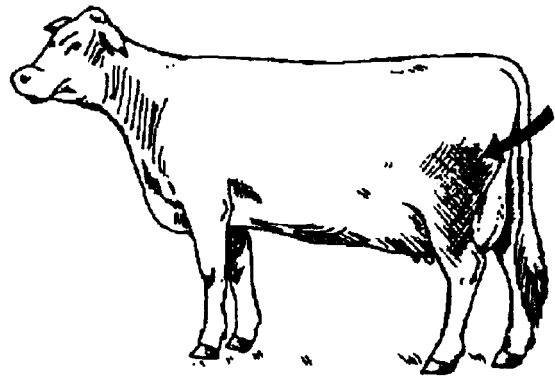
Get your animals vaccinated annually against HS before rains

C. BLACK QUARTER (BQ)

- An acute disease of cattle characterized by emphysematous swelling usually in heavy muscles.
- Buffaloes usually suffer from a milder form.
- Contaminated pasture appears to be major source of infection.
- Healthy animals in the age group 6 months to 2 years are generally affected.

SYMPTOMS

- Sudden high fever (107°F-108°F) and the animal stops eating and ruminating.
- Characteristic hot and painful swelling develops on loin and buttocks causing lameness. Swelling sometimes affects shoulders, chest and neck also. When pressed, a crackling sound is heard because of the gas accumulation in the swellings.
- Animal dies within 24-48 hrs of appearance of symptoms. At this juncture, swellings become cold and painless.



Swelling on legs

PREVENTION

- Vaccinate all animals which are 6 months and above of age annually before the onset of monsoon in endemic areas.
- Burning the upper layer of soil with straw to eliminate spores may be of help in endemic areas.
- Sprinkle lime over carcass at the time of burial.

TREATMENT

- Treatment may be effective in initial stages of infection. However in most cases treatment is not worth the while.

Get your animals vaccinated annually against BQ in endemic areas

D. BRUCELLOSIS (CONTAGIOUS ABORTION)

- An important bacterial disease of cattle and buffalo.
- Leads to loss in milk production, loss of calf, birth of weak or diseased calf ,repeat breeding and even mastitis.
- Humans may also get the disease from consumption of raw milk of infected animal or contact with uterine discharges.
- The disease is very much prevalent in India, both in humans and animals.

SYMPTOMS



Joint swelling



Abortion



Retention of placenta

- Abortion occurs typically after 5th month of pregnancy.
- In an infected animal, chances of abortion reduces with number of calvings.
- No abortions may be observed after 4th calving, but dam and calf remain infected.
- Placental retention may lead to infection and even death of the animal.

PREVENTION

- Vaccinate female calves (not male calves) between 4-8 months of age.
- Only one vaccination is required in its lifetime to protect it from brucellosis.
- Any abortion from 5th month onwards should be suspected for brucellosis.
- Ideally such animals should be culled. If culling is not possible, isolate the animal immediately for a minimum of 20 days after calving/abortion.
- The aborted foetus, placenta, contaminated bedding, feed etc, should be buried (at least 4 feet deep) after a liberal sprinkling of lime. These materials contain very high bacterial loads and if disposed improperly cause the spread of disease by contaminating food sources (pasture, feed, water etc).
- Disinfect the shed after isolating the aborted animal.
- When the animal is in isolation, disinfect the lochial discharges (which also contain high bacterial loads) daily with 1-2% NaOH or 5% sodium hypochlorite (bleach) solution till the discharges cease (usually by 10 –15 days).
- Do not handle infected material with bare hands since the disease is zoonotic.

TREATMENT

- There is no effective treatment once the animal is infected since the bacteria remains in the body of the animal. Consult a veterinarian in case of suspicion.
- Disease in humans is curable provided proper treatment regimen is followed.



Vaccinate 4-8 month old female calves once - protect them for life.

E. INFECTIOUS BOVINE RHINOTRACHEITIS (IBR)

- An important viral disease affecting domestic and wild cattle and buffaloes.
- There are three forms : respiratory, genital and encephalitic, the first two are more common. There is a high prevalence of this disease in India.
- Causes abortions, ROP, moderate reduction in milk production and even death in calves. Infection can be transmitted through semen.

SYMPTOMS



Salivation

- Coughing, profuse bilateral serous discharge from nostrils and pyrexia.
- Rhinitis, conjunctivitis (one or both eyes) with profuse ocular discharge.
- In genital form, swollen vulva with papules which later become ulcers.
- Abortion is common at 6-8 months of pregnancy.



Genital form - Pustules on vulva

- Uncomplicated cases of respiratory and genital forms usually resolves in 5-10 days. Infected animals may carry the virus throughout its lifetime.
- The brain may be effected in calves below 6 months causing high mortality.



Respiratory form - Red nose



Respiratory form - Necrosis of mucous membrane

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Purchase new animals only after testing them.
- Induct only negative animals to your farm.
- Though vaccination is a method of prevention, no vaccines are produced in India presently for IBR.
- Consult a veterinarian immediately if the above symptoms are seen to prevent the disease from spreading.



Intra-nasal vaccination

IBR is an emerging disease that needs to be controlled

F. RABIES

- A highly fatal viral disease mainly transmitted by bite of a rabid dog.
- Humans can get the disease through bites of rabid dogs.
- Wild carnivores and bats also present a considerable risk where the disease is prevalent. The disease is endemic in India.

COMMON SYMPTOMS

- Hyperexcitability.
- Drooling of saliva
- Peculiar hoarse sound (bellowing)
- Aggression or paralysis
- The animal dies within 24-48 hours after appearance of first sign, which may be mostly seen within 3 weeks or as late as 5-6 months of the dog bite. Once symptoms are seen, death is inevitable.



Bellowing and salivation

PREVENTION

- Wash the wound immediately in running water for 5-10 minutes.
- Gently clean the wound with bath soap.
- Consult a veterinarian immediately.
- Carry out post-bite vaccination in suspected cases. (see chapter on vaccination)
- Protect your pet dogs and cats against the disease through annual vaccination.



Paralytic form of rabies



Vaccinate in time to save your animal

G. ANTHRAX

- A highly fatal bacterial disease affecting all farm animals.
- Disease is characterized by high fever, respiratory distress, bleeding from orifices and sudden death.
- Infection is due to ingestion of contaminated feed and fodder with spores of the bacteria, which can survive for up to 30 years in the soil.
- Treatment is usually ineffective unless done at very early stages.
- Humans get infection by eating infected raw meat, contact with infected animals or by inhalation of spores.



Sudden death

PREVENTION

- Regular annual vaccination of animals in endemic areas will prevent the disease from occurring.
- Vaccination may be carried out at least a month prior to expected disease occurrence in endemic areas.



Bleeding

- Never open a carcass of an animal suspected to have died from Anthrax.
- Contact a veterinarian immediately if the above symptoms are seen and seek advice on control measures to be adopted.

H. THEILERIOSIS (a protozoan disease)

- Young exotic and crossbred cattle are highly susceptible. Indian breeds of cattle (Zebu) are comparatively resistant.
- Buffaloes are also infected but symptoms are mild.
- Fever, swollen peripheral lymph nodes, pallour of mucous membranes, anaemia, nasal discharge, jaundice, salivation, rapid and shallow breathing, watery eyes etc are common symptoms.
- Cattle lose condition rapidly.
- Some animals show nervous signs characterized by stepping gait, head pressing, recumbency, unconsciousness and death.



Swollen lymph node in a theileria infected calf.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

- Regular tick control is the most effective way to keep these infections in check (see chapter on tick control).
- Seek veterinary treatment if above symptoms of any of the above diseases are seen, since treatment is most effective in the initial stages. Delays may result in death.
- For control of theileriosis, vaccinate all exotic and crossbred animals aged 3 months and above, once in its lifetime.

I. VACCINATION SCHEDULES FOR CATTLE AND BUFFALOES

S.no	Name of Disease	Age at first dose	Booster dose	Subsequent dose(s)
1	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)	4 months and above	1 month after first dose	Six monthly
2	Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS)	6 months and above	-	Annually in endemic areas.
3	Black Quarter (BQ)	6 months and above	-	Annually in endemic areas.
4	Brucellosis	4-8 months of age (Only female calves)	-	Once in a lifetime
5	Theileriosis	3 months of age and above	-	Once in a lifetime. Only required for crossbred and exotic cattle.
6	Anthrax	4 months and above	-	Annually in endemic areas.
7	IBR	3 months and above	1 month after first dose	Six monthly (vaccine presently not produced in India)
8	Rabies (Post bite therapy only)	Immediately after suspected bite.	4th day	7,14, 28 and 90 (optional) days after first dose.

J. IMPORTANT POINTS TO BE NOTED DURING VACCINATION

- Animals should be in good health at the time of vaccination.
- The cold chain of the vaccines wherever prescribed should be maintained till the time of administration to the animal.
- The manufacturers' instruction on the route and dosage should be strictly followed.
- A minimum vaccination coverage of 80% of population is required for proper control of the disease.
- It is beneficial to deworm the animals 2-3 weeks before vaccination is carried out for better immune response.
- Vaccination should be carried out at least a month prior to the likely occurrence of the disease.
- Vaccination of animals in advanced pregnancy may be avoided even though in most cases nothing untoward may happen.

K. COMMON REASONS FOR VACCINATION FAILURE

- Lack of maintenance of cold chain from the time of manufacture till vaccination.
- Poor immune response in weak and improperly fed animals.
- Lack of herd immunity due to only a few animals being vaccinated.
- Poor quality of vaccine - Quality will deteriorate if repeatedly thawed and cooled.
- Low efficiency or ineffective vaccine – May occur in case of strain variation (eg. FMD).



Vaccination is the easiest and cheapest way to prevent diseases

SECTION V

OTHER IMPORTANT DISEASES

There are certain other diseases which cause severe economic losses but cannot be prevented by vaccination since there are no vaccines available. A few of these diseases are self limiting and proper care and treatment during infection may aid in recovery.

Besides these, there are some diseases which are incurable and the only option is to isolate and remove infected animals from the herd to prevent infection spreading to other animals. The clinical symptoms are seen only late in the disease and animals can spread the infection before exhibiting any symptoms. This section therefore deals with the following important conditions:

- A. Johne's Disease (JD)
- B. Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB)
- C. Aflatoxicosis
- D. Ephemeral Fever (3 day sickness)
- E. Foot rot

A. JOHNE'S DISEASE

- An important bacterial disease of ruminants causing long-lasting diarrhoea with heavy economic losses.
- Loss of weight despite good appetite.
- Bottle jaw may also appear.
- Once clinical signs appear the animal will not recover and will continue to deteriorate.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL



Loss of weight

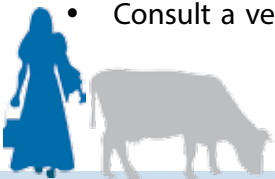
- Johne's disease is not curable.
- Positive animals should be culled from farm as it may infect other healthy animals.
- Purchase new animals only after testing them.
- Induct only negative animals to your farm.
- Carry out regular testing of your animals.
- Consult a veterinarian to test your animals for Johne's disease.

B. BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS (bTB)

- It is also an important bacterial disease of cattle and buffalo.
- The disease develops over a number of years and results in weakness, coughing and weight loss.
- Also leads to anorexia, emaciation, difficulty in breathing, enlargement of lymph nodes and diarrhoea.
- The disease is also transmissible to humans.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Bovine Tuberculosis is also not curable.
- Positive animals should be culled from farm as it may infect other healthy animals.
- Purchase new animals only after testing them.
- Induct only negative animals to your farm.
- Carry out regular testing of your animals.
- Consult a veterinarian to test your animals for bTB.



Purchase only negative animals to avoid TB and JD.

C. AFLATOXICOSIS

- Disease is caused by toxins produced by mold (fungus) that grows on feed (eg. ground nut cake, maize etc) and stored fodder that is damp. Also known as “Degnala” disease in cattle & buffaloes.
- The toxins can occur in concentrations high enough to cause major losses in health and performance of the animal.
- The economic impact of reduced productivity is many times the impact caused by fatalities, milk production may drop by more than 15%.



Mold growth on cattle feed stuffs



Mold growth on paddy straw

COMMON SYMPTOMS

- Gradual loss of appetite and body condition, intermittent diarrhoea may be seen.
- Alopecia, sloughing of extremities like tail and ear.
- Gangrenous lesions on foot.
- High producers may show symptoms first.
- Reduction in feed consumption, reduced fertility, abortions, weight loss, increased occurrence of ketosis, Retention of Placenta (ROP), metritis, mastitis and other diseases due to lowered immunity.



Gangrenous foot lesions and tail necrosis due to aflatoxins.

PREVENTION

- Avoid feeding dry fodder that is or has been damp and is obviously moldy and also avoid feeding feed ingredients with fungus.
- Provide adequate mineral mixture supplements and green fodder.
- Consult a veterinarian immediately on observing any of the above symptoms.

Avoid feeding moldy straw and feed–prevent aflatoxicosis

D. EPHEMERAL FEVER (Three day sickness)

- Ephemeral fever is viral disease of cattle and buffalo.
- It is an insect-transmitted disease.
- Persists usually for 3 days.
- Morbidity may be very high but mortality is very low (1-2%).

SYMPTOMS

- Biphasic to polyphasic fever with shivering, tears from eyes and decreased appetite.
- Nasal discharge, drooling, labored breathing, depression, stiffness, lameness and sudden decrease in milk yield.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

- Spontaneous recovery usually occurs within a few days.
- Proper fly control would help to reduce the disease (See chapter on fly management).
- Complete rest is the most effective treatment. Recovered animals should not be stressed or worked for some days since relapse may occur.
- Consult a veterinarian for symptomatic treatment.



Nasal discharge, drooling



Unable to rise



E. FOOT ROT

- Foot rot is a bacterial infection which is of great economic importance for dairying.
- The incidence varies according to weather, season of year, grazing periods, housing system, type of flooring etc.
- Stony ground, sharp gravel and pasturing on coarse stubble also predispose to the condition.



Foot rot with lesion

SYMPTOMS

- Fever and anorexia.
- Reduced milk yield.
- Swelling of inter-digital space.
- Foul smell from lesion.
- Severe lameness -Animal holds leg in air to relieve pressure.



Severe foot rot

- Hind feet are affected most often and cattle tend to stand and walk on their toes.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

- Remove sources of injury and keep feet dry and clean.
- Animals that are actively shedding infectious organisms should be isolated until signs of lameness have disappeared.
- Steps should be taken to ensure that areas around drinking troughs, gateways, and tracks are adequately drained.
- Preventive use of a footbath with an astringent and antiseptic solution eg. copper sulphate 5% & zinc sulphate 10%, gives good results.
- Systemic therapy is more important than topical treatment.
- Prompt diagnosis and initiation of parenteral antimicrobial therapy are essential to achieve a satisfactory response.
- If improvement is not evident within three to four days, it may mean the infection has invaded the deeper tissues.
- Contact a veterinarian immediately on observing the above symptoms.



Regular foot bath is useful in preventing foot rot

Proper foot care is very important

SECTION VI

TICK AND FLY BORNE DISEASES

Tick infestation is a major problem for dairy farmers. Many farmers find it difficult to control the problem. Ticks and biting flies cause a great amount of discomfort to the animal and also drain the animal of considerable amounts of blood, which in itself leads to a significant decrease in productivity. More importantly, they are also responsible for transmitting some diseases that destroy the blood cells. Infected animals, if not treated in time will succumb to the infection or remain chronically ill. It is therefore important to understand the symptoms of such diseases so that timely advice and treatment is sought from a veterinarian. The following chapters are covered under this section:

- A. Anaplasmosis
- B. Babesiosis
- C. Trypanosomiasis
- D. Theileriosis (Refer chapter H of section IV)



TICK- BORNE INFECTIONS

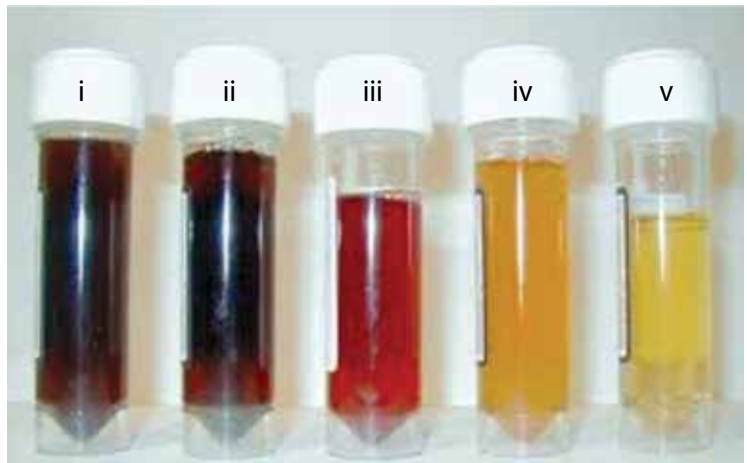
- Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Theileriosis (already covered under chapter H of Section IV) are the three main tick-borne infections affecting blood.

A. ANAPLASMOSIS

- Anaplasmosis is caused by a small type of bacteria called rickettsia.
- Anaplasmosis can also be spread by blood contaminated needles or AI gloves.
- Calves are more resistant to anaplasmosis than older cattle.
- Carriers exist in endemic areas which act as reservoirs of infection.
- Chronically infected cattle may relapse in adulthood.
- Fever, fall in milk production, progressive anaemia, jaundice, abortion are the common symptoms.
- In later stages, inappetence, incoordinated movements, breathlessness when exerted, and a rapid pounding pulse are usually seen and animals may succumb.
- The disease is curable if treated promptly in early stages.

B. BABESIOSIS

- Babesiosis is caused by a type of microbe called protozoa.
- Fever, inappetence, increased respiratory rate, sharp decrease in milk production, muscle tremors, anaemia, jaundice, abortion, constipation or diarrhoea are the common symptoms.
- Curable if treated promptly.
- In later stages, loss of weight with haemoglobinuria is seen. Nervous symptoms may also be seen.
- It is better to repeat treatment if colour of urine does return to normal by 24 hours after treatment.
- Babesiosis is not to be confused with “Red Water Disease” which is an acute highly fatal bacterial disease seen especially in areas with liver fluke infestation.



Urine before treatment (i) and progressive improvement (ii to iv) to normal (v) after prompt treatment.

Treat tick-borne infections promptly – save your animal

C. TRYPANOSOMIASIS (SURRA)

- An important disease of cattle and buffalo caused by protozoa.
- Transmitted mechanically by biting flies.
- Cattle and buffalo also are reservoir hosts to horses and camels.
- Blood from infected animal, occasionally meat and milk are the sources of infection.
- There is severe loss of productivity due to anaemia. Animals under stress are more susceptible to the disease.

BITING FLIES THAT CAN TRANSMIT SURRA



Tabanus



Stomoxys



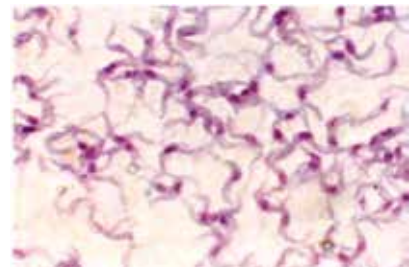
Haematobia

SYMPTOMS



Weak and anaemic animal

- Progressive anaemia, weight loss and weakness.
- Abortions, infertility and stillbirth may occur in buffaloes.
- Cattle may have a chronic course with high mortality and may last up to 2 years.



Tryps in blood

- Death may occur in 2 weeks to 2 months.
- Oedematous swellings of the lower parts of the body (legs, briskets and abdomen) may be seen.
- Lymph nodes also may be swollen.
- Nervous signs like head tilt, circling, blindness, hyper-excitability, paddling movements may also be seen.

PREVENTION

- Control fly population (see chapter on fly control).
- Sufficient ventilation and sunlight should be available in the shed.
- Insecticide applications may be done in the shed and surrounding areas under advice of a veterinarian.

TREATMENT

- Call the veterinarian immediately on seeing the symptoms for treatment.
- Timely and early treatment ensures a high cure rate.



SECTION VII

TICK, FLY AND WORM CONTROL

Both external (tick and flies) and internal parasites (worms) cause a marked reduction in the production potential of the animal. As already discussed in the previous section, ticks and flies also are responsible for transmitting certain diseases. Worms inside the body drain the animal of valuable nutrients. Infestations with worms lead to poor growth rate, diarrhoea, delayed maturity, weakness, increased susceptibility to infection, low response to vaccination and in severe cases, may lead to death. A little attention in controlling the external and internal parasites would go a long way in harnessing the production potential of the animal. This section therefore deals with the following chapters:

1. Tick and fly control.
2. Management of worm infestation.

A. TICK AND FLY CONTROL

- Ticks transmit diseases like anaplasmosis, theileriosis and babesiosis (see chapter on tick-borne diseases).
- Biting flies transmit diseases like Surra and E fever (see respective chapters).
- Heavy infestations may lead to anaemia and significant loss in productivity.
- Tick and biting flies cause severe discomfort to the animal.
- May cause allergic reactions at the biting sites.
- They lay a large number of eggs resulting in further increase in population.



Various types of ticks



A tick with eggs



Skin allergy due to tick bite



Skin allergy due to fly bite

I. TICK CONTROL

- Any newly purchased animal should be completely de-ticked before allowing to mix with other animals.
- Carry out periodic application of acaricide on the animal.
- Each adult tick lays around 3000 eggs and the larvae can survive from 2-7 months, based on the climate, without feeding.
- All cracks and crevices in the cattle shed therefore should be sprayed with a higher concentration of the acaricide along with application on the body to avoid re-infestation. Flaming also can be done using a flame gun if available, with a little bit of caution.
- The acaricide group should be changed often to avoid resistance from developing.
- The acaricide should be applied in proper concentration.
- Seek advice from a veterinarian on the appropriate acaricide and its dosage.

II. FLY CONTROL

- Proper manure and urine disposal on a regular basis. Disposal should be done at a reasonable distance from the cattle shed.
- Any stagnation of drainage should be avoided.
- Smoking the shed with raw leaves (neem leaf preferred) especially during evenings would help reduce the nuisance.
- Fly repellants may be used in proper concentration.

Natural repellants like neem oil etc, may be applied regularly to repel both biting flies and ticks. This does not have any harmful effects of chemicals and chances of resistance developing are also remote. Application should be always done against the direction of the hair and should cover the entire body, especially underbelly and legs.



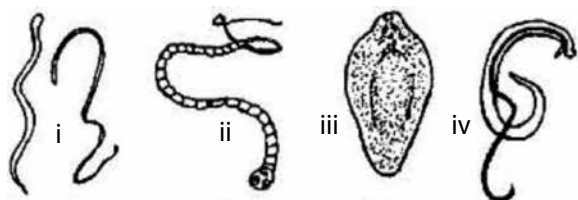
Control ticks and biting flies- Prevent blood borne infections

MANAGEMENT OF WORM INFESTATION

- Worms are parasites that usually live inside the digestive tract of the host, feeding on tissue fluids or blood of the animal. Worms may also be found in lungs, nasal passage, eye etc.
- Eggs are passed through the faeces which contaminate pasture, feed or water sources. Some cause disease in humans also.
- There are basically four types of worms : (i) Round worms and (ii) Tapeworms-found in the digestive tract; (iii) Flukes- found in the rumen and liver and (iv) Schistosomes – found inside blood vessels. (See figure below)
- Different treatment regimens are required based on the type of the worm.

SYMPTOMS OF WORM INFESTATION

- Diarrhoea, delayed age at maturity, reduction in growth rate and milk production, lower reproductive, draft and feed conversion efficiencies, lower disease resistance, anaemia etc.
- In amphistome (rumen and liver fluke) infestation, severe foetid diarrhoea and sub-mandibular oedema (bottle-jaw) may be seen.
- Jaundice may be seen in liver fluke infestation.
- In tapeworm infestation, pot-belly and moving small white segments in faeces maybe seen. It may also cause intestinal obstruction due to its length.
- Hookworm (type of round worm that sucks blood) and schistosome infestation may cause severe anaemia and bloody diarrhoea.
- Thick nasal discharge, snoring and shortness of breath may be seen in nasal schistosome infestation. Cough is seen in lungworm (type of round worm in lung) infestation.



Different types of worms



Weak animal



Bottle-jaw

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

- First dewormer dose to calves to be given between 10-14 days of age and repeated monthly till 6 months of age.
- Administer dewormer to all animals above 6 months of age twice a year, once at the beginning and another at the end of the rainy season. Ensure administration on the back of the tongue rather than into the mouth to avoid rumen bypass.
- Adopt deworming on a mass scale to reduce the egg load of worms in the soil.
- Pregnant animals should also be dewormed twice, 1st dose near its calving time and the 2nd dose around 6-7 weeks after calving.
- If the animal is not responding to treatment, get the dung of the animal examined by a veterinarian to determine the type of worm and provide appropriate drug as advised.
- In areas with snail population (water-logged etc), flukes and schistosomes may be suspected, since snails are involved in completion of its lifecycle.
- To avoid drug resistance, do not administer the same drug repeatedly .
- For any worm treatment to be effective, the drug must be provided in adequate dosage, consult a qualified person for proper advise.

Deworm your animals regularly – Increase the productivity

SECTION VIII

DISEASES THAT OCCUR AFTER CALVING

There is a huge increase in the requirement of nutrients and minerals in the body immediately after calving. Unless the body of the animal is conditioned properly through proper management and feeding during pregnancy, there is a high probability of such animals developing disease conditions due to such nutritional deficiencies which are collectively called "Metabolic Diseases" which leads to drastic decrease in milk production or even leads to death if timely treatment is not given. It would be important to identify the symptoms of such diseases so that prompt veterinary aid can be sought. The chapter describes the following disease conditions:

- A. Hypocalcaemia (Milk Fever)
- B. Hypomagnesaemia
- C. Ketosis
- D. Post-parturient haemoglobinuria
- E. Prolapse of Uterus
- F. Retention of Placenta
- G. Udder Oedema



A. HYPOCALCAEMIA (MILK FEVER)

- Occurs due to low calcium level in blood, there is actually no fever. May also cause dystocia, ROP and uterine prolapse.
- Occurs usually within 72 hours of calving. Initial stage is excitability with fine tremors over flank and loins, ear twitching and head bobbing.
- Complete milking during the first 48 hours of calving may precipitate milk fever in some cases.
- The animal is unable to stand up and in later stages become recumbent, first with its neck turned to one side and then laterally. Eye reflex is also lost.
- In last stage the animal becomes unconscious with sub-normal temperature.
- Hypocalcaemia also exists in sub-clinical form with greater risk of the animals developing fever, metritis & ketosis. More losses are thought to occur from this form.

VARIOUS STAGES IN MILK FEVER



Unable to get up



Head turned to one side



Lateral recumbency

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF MILK FEVER

- Do not feed calcium supplements in excess during late pregnancy.
- Chances of milk fever in prone animals is reduced greatly if given 3-4 doses of oral calcium 12-24 hours before calving to 48 hours post calving, with each dose providing 40-50 g of calcium.
- Anionic salts like ammonium chloride and magnesium sulphate or ammonium sulphate (50-100 g each/day) may be fed during last 3 weeks before calving.
- Contact veterinarian immediately if symptoms are seen, animals respond to therapy instantly. If left untreated, the animal will succumb.
- Some animals may relapse within 24-48 hours and require further treatment.
- An animal should ideally have a urine pH between 6.5-7 near the time of calving. Higher pH indicates increased risk of milk fever.

B. HYPOMAGNESAEMIA

- Occurs due to low magnesium levels in blood, adult lactating animals are most susceptible. May occur in calves also.
- Normal animal suddenly throws up its head, bellow, gallop and fall exhibiting severe paddling convulsions which are repeated in short intervals.
- In milder cases animal walks stiffly, is hypersensitive to touch and sound, urinates frequently and may progress to convulsive stage after 2-3 days.
- Often occurs along with hypocalcaemia. Untreated animals will die.
- Soils fertilized with potash and nitrogen are high risk areas.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF HYPOMAGNESAEMIA

- Provide Magnesium oxide @ around 50 g per day to animals at risk.
- Contact veterinarian immediately if symptoms are seen, animals respond to therapy instantly. May relapse after 1-2 days which require further treatment.

Timely treatment will save your animal

C. KETOSIS

- Occurs in lactating animals usually during the first 2 months of lactation.
- Initially there is slight decrease in feed intake, drop in milk production, lethargy and firm mucous covered dung.
- As disease progresses, there is marked weight loss, pica (animal seeks coarse materials), humped-back posture. Some even show frenzy and aggression.
- Compulsive licking of mangers, bodies, head and nose pressing, chewing bellowing may occur.
- Walking may be abnormal with staggering, circling and falling.
- If untreated, milk production decreases to an insignificant amount.
- Once a cow develops the condition, it is likely to recur in succeeding lactations.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF KETOSIS

- Proper feeding during late lactation and dry period.
- Body score at calving should be 3.5 on a 5 point scale.(see chapter on body scoring)
- Sudden change of feed /overfeeding should be avoided.
- Conditions like ROP, metritis, mastitis, environmental stress etc should be managed properly.
- Contact a veterinarian when above symptoms are seen.



Weight loss in ketosis

D. POST PARTURIENT HAEMOGLOBINURIA

- Recent parturition, heavy milk production, phosphorous & copper deficiency, excess consumption of turnips, rape (Brassica species), sugar beet pulp etc, are considered as predisposing factors.
- Symptoms are haemoglobinuria, marked drop in milk production, fever, diarrhoea, severe anaemia, weakness and pallor and sloughing of the extremities.
- Diseases like babesiosis and theileriosis have to be ruled out.
- Contact a veterinarian when above symptoms are seen.



Haemoglobinuria



Timely treatment will save your animal

E. PROLAPSE OF UTERUS

- More common in buffaloes than in cattle.
- May have genetic predisposition and may occur pre or post partum.
- Place the prolapsed mass gently over a clean surface and protect it from soiling /flies/birds etc.
- Do not attempt to remove anything or push the uterus back, this may cause severe bleeding.
- Gently wash with saline solution if excessively soiled.
- Call a veterinarian for further treatment at the earliest.
- Prone animals may be kept with the hind quarter at a slight elevation.
- Check the vulval area for any stitch marks before purchasing an animal.



Prolapse of uterus after calving

F. RETENTION OF PLACENTA (ROP)

- Normally foetal membranes are expelled within 3 to 8 hours after delivery.
- It is termed as ROP if foetal membranes are not expelled even after 12 hours of parturition.
- Chances of ROP are increased in cases of abortion, dystocia, milk fever, twin birth, induction of calving, infection and nutritional disturbances.
- Never pull the placenta on your own.
- Consult a veterinarian to avoid complications like metritis, septicaemia etc which may lead to even death of the animal.
- Dispose the removed placenta by deep burial. Avoid handling it with bare hands.



Retained placenta

G. UDDER OEDEMA

- Accumulation of excess fluid in udder and sometimes in the belly around calving time.
- Mainly due to increased blood flow to udder against decrease flow from udder and increased permeability of blood vessels in the udder.
- More prevalent in high producing animals, especially heifers.
- Udder is not painful or hot and should not to be confused with clinical mastitis.
- Predisposing factors may be genetic, nutritional, obesity, lack of exercise.
- May become chronic and persist throughout lactation.
- Veterinarian may be consulted if the oedema interferes with milking the animal.



Cow with udder oedema

Proper management will lead to resolution

H. FATTY LIVER SYNDROME (LIPIDOSIS)

- Fatty liver can develop within 24 hours of an animal going off feed.
- This is typically happens around calving time. Fat mobilisation occurs as a result of negative energy balance which is exacerbated when off feed.
- The broken down fat is then converted back to fat in the liver thus the liver is filled with fat even when the cow is losing condition.
- Once fat is deposited in the liver, its concentration in the liver does not fall until the cow gets into positive energy balance, which can be over ten weeks after calving, particularly if the fatty liver is severe.
- Fat cows (Body Condition Score greater than 3.5) are much more prone to fatty liver. (Please see chapter on Body Condition Scoring)
- It is an important economic disease especially in high yielders because cows that develop fatty liver are affected by multiple metabolic and infectious diseases.

SYMPTOMS

- Lower milk yields
- Depressed appetite
- Incidences of milk fever, ketosis, mastitis, retained fetal membranes etc
- Reduced fertility
- This condition can be detected by blood tests.
- Mortality can be high.

PREVENTION

- There is no proven treatment for fatty liver.
- Ensuring that cows are calving at the correct body condition would prevent the breakdown of fat and fatty liver.
- An ideal body condition score to calve would be between 3 to 3.5 Cows should be dried of at this score and weight maintained through the dry period.
- Changing diets during this period should be avoided.
- Consult a veterinarian immediately if the above symptoms are seen.
- Glucose supplements can be given to overfat animals as preventive measure.
- Minimising stress is important for prevention of fatty liver. Sudden changes in environment should be avoided.



Fat cows are more prone to lipidosis



SECTION IX

DISEASES THAT OCCUR DUE TO FAULTY FEEDING

The digestive system of cattle is highly complex with the stomach having four chambers. The digestive process is based on the action of various types of microbes which break down the feed and provide nutrients to the animal. Any sudden change in feeding pattern or an improper feeding regimen is bound to disturb the balance of the various types of microbes, leading to an over population of certain unfavourable microbes that may cause various problems like laminitis or even death in severe cases (acute acidosis). Such conditions may also arise from interference in the process of natural gas expulsion produced as a by-product of microbial digestion. It is important to understand the common conditions so that timely advice or treatment can be sought from a veterinarian. The following conditions are described under this section:

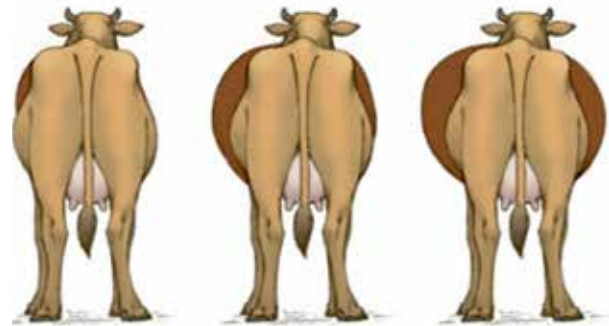
- A. Bloat
- B. Rumen acidosis
- C. Laminitis

A. BLOAT

- Bloat is a form of indigestion marked by excessive accumulation of gas in the rumen.
- Bloat can occur when the animal grazes on lush young pasture, particularly if the pasture is wet. Some plants, e.g. clover, lucerne and alfalfa are especially dangerous in causing bloat but any fast growing plants can cause it.
- Choking due to foreign objects (esophageal obstruction) will also cause bloat by preventing gas release and causing accumulation of gas in the rumen.
- Sometimes feeding of leftover food such as dry bread can cause bloat.

SYMPTOMS OF BLOAT

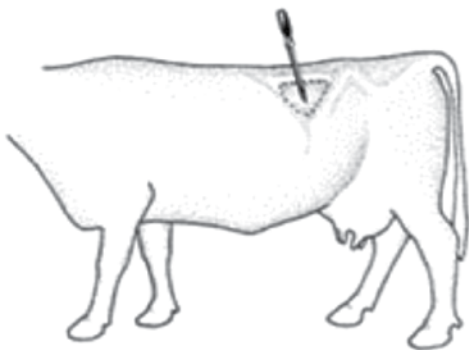
- The left flank balloons out.
- The animal kicks its belly or stands with its back legs wide apart.
- It has difficulty in breathing.
- In severe cases, death occurs due to asphyxiation.



Bloating can be mild to fatal

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

- Avoid moving animals to wet pasture in the morning.
- Do not allow very hungry animals to graze a pasture. Offer dry, cut grass first before turning out to graze.
- Home remedies may be used in mild cases.
- In severe cases, puncturing the left flank with a sharp knife to release the gas is necessary, it will be necessary for you to act quickly as any hesitation could lead to the death of the animal.



Point for puncturing in the left flank

Home remedies for adult animals

- Drench coconut/vegetable /peanut oil: 300-500ml once a day for 2-3 days till recovery. Or;
- Above plus 30-40 ml turpentine oil. Or;
- Drench 1 tablespoon of detergent in half litre of water once. Or;
- Feed 4-6 banana leaves (mild bloat)



Timely treatment of bloat will save your animal

B. RUMEN ACIDOSIS

- Acidosis may be clinical or sub-clinical.
- Feeding large quantities of rapidly digestible carbohydrate in a short period of time causes clinical acidosis.
- In severe clinical cases, animals may be recumbent within 24-48 hours, which may resemble cases of milk fever. Animal may not urinate or pass dung.
- Sub-clinical acidosis is seen as a result of feeding increased concentrates compared to forage.
- In sub-clinical acidosis there is reduced feed intake, weight loss, unexplained diarrhoea and exhaustion. This may also lead to laminitis and lameness.
- In severe clinical cases, prognosis may not be good. Some animals though appear to improve, may become seriously ill 3-4 days later.



Diarrhoea in acidosis

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF ACIDOSIS

- Proper feeding practices should be adopted after consulting a veterinarian.
- Animal should be provided a roughage diet in the mornings before feeding concentrates so that adequate quantities of saliva is produced.
- Never provide the animal with large quantities of rapidly digestible carbohydrates.
- A veterinarian must be consulted immediately in case of clinical acidosis.

C. LAMINITIS

- Commonly seen in mature dairy cows during peak lactation, often a herd issue.
- Higher concentrate/protein, low forage, mastitis, metritis , acidosis etc predispose.
- Occurs in sub-clinical, acute and chronic form.
- Rough irregular flooring , lack of enough lying space also predispose to the disease.



Sole ulcer in sub-clinical laminitis



Cross leg in acute laminitis



Hoof deformity in chronic laminitis



Dropped sole in chronic laminitis.

PREVENTION OF LAMINITIS

- Provide soft flooring.
- Provide balanced feed which includes sufficient forage.
- Practice foot bath using 5% copper sulphate for 2-4 days continuously every fortnight.
- Arrange for regular hoof trimming at least once in 6 months.
- Adequate lying space should be provided to avoid excessive standing.
- Check hoofs regularly for any injury and signs of laminitis.



Arched back in severe lameness



Untrimmed hoof



Untrimmed and trimmed hoof



Trimmed hoof

Hoof care is essential especially in high yielders



SECTION X

MASTITIS AND DISEASES OF TEATS

Mastitis is a scourge that result in heavy losses to the dairy farmer by causing a reduction in milk production, drastic decrease or cessation of production, causing permanent damage to the udder or, even death of the animal in severe cases.

Pure exotic breeds like HF, Jersey etc have the highest susceptibility to mastitis followed by crossbreds. The lower susceptibility of local breeds is basically due to its lower milk production and a better immunity levels. Buffaloes are the least susceptible to mastitis.

With more farmers taking to crossbreeding for higher production, the prevalence of mastitis is also on the rise. Preventing the occurrence of mastitis would therefore play a pivotal role in making milk business profitable. A proper understanding of the mastitis will go a long way in reducing the incidence at the farmers' homestead.

Diseases of the teat may not lead to production losses directly, but indirectly there could be a decrease in yield due to difficulty in milking and pain caused by the lesions. This may also predispose the animal to mastitis. The following chapters are described here:

- A. Clinical mastitis
- B. Chronic mastitis
- C. Sub-clinical mastitis
- D. Mastitis in heifers
- E. Teat warts
- F. Ulcerative mammillitis
- G. Pseudocowpox

A. CLINICAL MASTITIS

It is one of the 3 forms of contagious udder infections where physical changes are clearly visible in udder and milk. High yielding animals are more prone. Mainly caused by bacteria (around 100 types). Also caused by fungi, virus & rarely by algae.

MAJOR PRE-DISPOSING FACTORS



Unclean animal/shed



Faulty milking practices

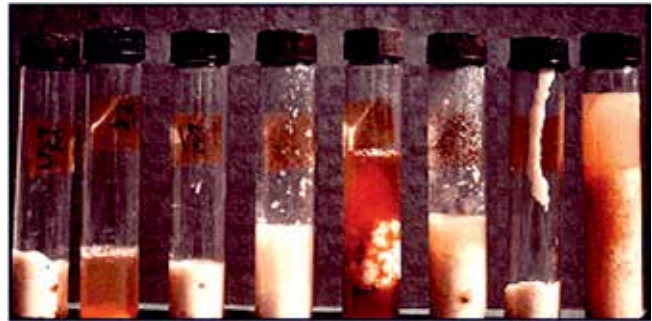


Teat/ udder Injury

MAJOR SYMPTOMS



Inflamed udder in clinical mastitis



Physical changes of milk in clinical mastitis

PREVENTION

- Manage the pre-disposing factors of mastitis properly.
- Before milking, clean the udder well with clean water and wipe dry with clean towel. Should use separate cloth towel for each animal. Disposable paper towel is also an option. Repeated use of unclean towel may itself predispose to mastitis.
- Milking should be quick, complete and hygienic.
- Milk animals with chronic mastitis in the end. (see chapter on this)
- Carry out teat dipping or spray immediately after milking.
- Prevent the animal from sitting for at least 30-45 minutes after milking.
- Periodically check and treat for sub-clinical mastitis (see chapter on this).
- Keep the floor of the cattle shed without holes and as dry as possible.
- Continue teat dipping/spray 2 weeks after drying off and start the practice two weeks before calving.
- Carry out proper fly control.

TREATMENT

- Contact a veterinarian immediately. Early treatment (within 2-3 hours) improves the chances of cure, delayed treatment may cause loss of udder or even death of animal.
- Milk of animal suffering from mastitis should be discarded at least for 4 days after the treatment is over or as directed by the veterinarian.



Detect and treat cases early. Avoid loss of udder or animal.

B. CHRONIC MASTITIS

- A persistent infection of udder.
- Exists most of the time in the subclinical form.
- Occasionally can develop into the clinical form before returning to the subclinical.
- This results in hard lumps in the udder.

MAJOR PRE-DISPOSING FACTORS

- Neglected sub-clinical mastitis
- Improper treatment protocol of acute mastitis
- Unhygienic shed



Unhygienic shed



Improper treatment of mastitis

MAJOR SYMPTOMS

The affected udder may atrophy or may lead to fibrosis leading to decreased or total loss of production in the affected quarter.

Chances of recovery of chronically affected quarters are very low once atrophy/fibrosis has occurred.



Atrophy of quarters due to chronic mastitis



Fibrosis and hardening of quarter due to chronic mastitis

PREVENTION

- Separate the affected cow from rest of the herd since they remain a source of infection for healthy animals. Milk chronically affected cows in the end.
- Screen regularly for sub clinical mastitis and treat positive animals.
- Shed hygiene is of prime importance.

TREATMENT

- Antimicrobial treatment is usually not effective.
- It is better to dispose off such chronically affected animals.

Avoid occurrence of chronic mastitis through timely action

C. SUB-CLINICAL MASTITIS (SCM)

- Most prevalent form of mastitis - causes about 70% of the losses due to mastitis.
- Causes heavy losses due to its prolonged effect throughout lactation.
- The other forms of mastitis (clinical or chronic) develop from this stage.

SYMPTOMS

- No specific symptom seen except a slight decrease in milk production.
- Cannot be normally detected since there is no physical changes in udder or milk.

DETECTION OF SCM



California Mastitis Test



Strip cup test



YELLOW NORMAL	YELLOWISH GREEN SUSPECTED	GREEN SUB CLINICAL	BLUE CLINICAL
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- CMT - Equal quantities of milk and CMT reagent are mixed by rotating, SCM milk will form a gel. CMT reaction may disappear within 20 seconds, readings must therefore be taken fast. Also check each quarter separately.
- CMT may give false positive reaction in very early (less than 10 days) lactation or when animal is almost dry.
- Strip cup test - Small flakes are present in SCM milk when viewed against a black surface, size of flakes increase with the degree of SCM.
- Paper test - Green colour is indicative of SCM.
- Field mastitis test - Can be carried out like CMT using concentrated detergent solution instead of CMT reagent.

PREVENTION OF SCM

- All the points mentioned for prevention of 'clinical mastitis' are relevant here too.
- Test for the occurrence of SCM in your animals at least once a week.
- Each quarter should be separately tested.
- Newly purchased animals should be tested first for SCM and treated if found positive before mixing them with the herd.
- SCM positive animal (s) should always be milked at the end.
- If animals are tethered in open, change places frequently.
- Ideally, no lubricant should be used during milking. If used, it should be heated daily before use.

TREATMENT

- Consult a veterinarian for proper treatment.
- The chances of curing SCM is much higher than a clinical or chronic case.
- Timely treatment of SCM will also reduce the chances of clinical and chronic cases of mastitis.



Treatment of SCM will greatly reduce losses

D. MASTITIS IN HEIFERS

- Traditionally heifers have been thought of as a group free of mastitis which is not true.
- Routine visual and manual examination of the developing udder, mammary fluid and teat skin to identify swollen quarters and abnormal secretions (clots and flakes) help to detect heifer mastitis.
- Heifers with teat scabs and abrasions also are likely to be infected and should be treated with advice from a veterinarian.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Calves should receive early, adequate colostrum intake and be removed from the dam as soon as possible.
- If calves are grouped, they should be kept separate for at least one hour after feeding.
- Watch for suckling of heifers: Remove any calf from a group that sucks on other calves.
- Use fly control measures to minimize skin and teat fly strikes.
- Pay attention to environmental conditions. Avoid wet, bacteria-laden areas for resting areas indoors and outdoors.
- Maintain adequate nutrition without over-conditioning heifers.
- Mineral mixture should be fed in adequate quantities for boosting the udder immune system.
- The critical time to prevent new infections is the last seven days before calving.

DISEASES OF TEAT

- Various conditions affect the teat causing difficulty in milking and some may even be transmitted to the milker's hands.

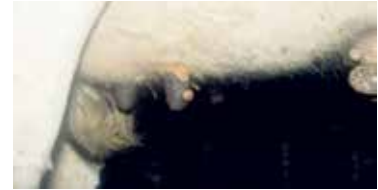
E. TEAT WARTS

- Teat warts are caused by virus and heifers are more prone to infection.
- Teat warts may appear as fleshy lumps or they may be of the feathery type.



Feathery teat warts

- Teat warts are generally more of an unsightly appearance issue rather than a serious physical problem. But may hamper milking.



Fleshy teat warts

TREATMENT

- Treatment is not usually required, as most warts eventually regress spontaneously.
- Surgical removal is possible but may lead to recurrence.
- Removal should only be done on mature growths, since removing warts too soon can stimulate the growth and spread the virus.
- Large pedunculated warts can be removed slowly by tying a ligature around the base. The wart will dry up and fall off within a month.
- Consult a veterinarian for further advice on treatment.

PREVENTION

- Disinfection of stalls etc, can reduce transmission.
- The virus is thought to be transmitted by flies, so fly control is also important.
- Teat warts can sometimes be prevented by mixing heifers with cows when they are younger.

F. ULCERATIVE MAMMILLITIS

- Ulcerative mammillitis is a relatively uncommon condition but it can spread rapidly in herds which are affected for the first time and cause significant pain and discomfort.
- It tends to occur most commonly in first lactation cows.
- It is also caused by a virus.
- Lesions of mamillitis can spread over the entire udder and perineum.
- Mouths of nursing calves might be affected. The clinical signs vary from small irregular fluid-filled blisters to larger areas of ulcers and scabs.



Ulcerative mammillitis

TREATMENT

- No specific treatment is available.
- Infected cows should be separated from others.
- Iodine dips may help disinfect teats to prevent the spread of the disease.
- An emollient udder cream can speed healing of skin.

PREVENTION

- Difficult to eliminate once disease occurs in the farm.
- Proper quarantine of newly purchased animals, good hygiene on farm and controlling biting flies can significantly reduce the disease.



G. PSEUDO COWPOX (MILKERS NODULE)

- The most common infectious cause of teat disease in cattle.
- Caused by a virus and not to be confused with cowpox, which is rare.
- Since immunity is short-lived, cows can get infected fairly soon (often less than six months) after recovering from the disease.

SYMPTOMS

- Initial infection causes a small area of swelling and reddening on the teat.
- Over the next two days, the affected area elevates into an orange papule, which then scabs over.
- Seven to ten days after first signs the scabs start dropping off. This often leaves a horse-shoe or ring shaped area, which is very characteristic of pseudocowpox.
- Affected areas may grow together leading to scabs covering the entire length of the teat.
- Damaged teats are usually healed around a month after first signs.
- Lesions of pseudocowpox is usually found on the teat. However up to 10% of affected cows may have lesions on the udder skin.
- It can spread from cattle to man by contact. Skin infection in man is known as milker's nodules, and is a painful localised infection.



Pseudocowpox



Scabs covering the teat in pseudocowpox

TREATMENT

- Removal of scabs followed by application of a suitable disinfectant .
- Emollient teat dips and sprays have a beneficial effect of reducing bacteria and viruses on teat skin.
- Consult a veterinary doctor if above symptoms are seen.

PREVENTION

- Proper quarantine of newly purchased cows before introducing into the herd.
- Proper teat dipping using iodophor is one of the most effective means of control.
- Maintain proper hygiene in the shed.

SECTION XI

COMMON POISONING CONDITIONS

There are a large number of plant and chemical agents that cause poisoning in animals. Some of them are fatal in nature if left untreated. A general awareness on the symptoms of common poisoning conditions would help the farmer in seeking timely treatment. The following conditions are described in this section:

- A. Gossypol poisoning
- B. Cyanide poisoning
- C. Organophosphorous poisoning



A. GOSSYPOL POISONING

- Occurs due to consumption of cottonseed or cottonseed products that contain excess free gossypol and can affect high-producing dairy cows with high feed intake.
- Also affect other mature ruminants fed excess gossypol for long periods of time.

SYMPTOMS

- Irregular cycling in cows and buffaloes, reduced libido in males.
- Weight loss, weakness, anorexia, and susceptibility to stress.
- Adult dairy cattle may show weakness, depression, anorexia, edema of the brisket, and dyspnoea, and also have gastroenteritis, hemoglobinuria, and reproductive problems.

CONTROL

- Remove cottonseed products from the diet immediately. Severely affected animals may still die even 2 weeks after stopping feeding of cottonseed products.
- Poor weight gains in affected livestock and increased susceptibility to stress may persist for several weeks after cottonseed products are removed from the diet.
- A high-quality diet supplemented with lysine, methionine and fat-soluble vitamins should be included in supportive therapy.
- Consult a veterinarian for further advise.

B. CYANIDE POISONING

- The most frequent cause of cyanide poisoning is ingestion of certain plants. These include arrow grass, velvet grass, young plants of Sorghum species, tapioca leaves etc.

SYMPTOMS

- Signs occur within 15-20 minutes to a few hours after animals consume toxic forage.
- Excitement may be displayed initially, followed by rapid & difficult respiration, excess salivation. Mucous membranes are bright red but may become cyanotic later.
- Animals stumble/struggle and collapse within an hour.

PREVENTION & CONTROL

- Avoid feeding grasses that cause poisoning until they are 15-18 inches tall.
- Forage sorghums should be several feet tall before being used as fodder.
- Animals should be turned out to new pasture later in the day only.
- Grazing should be monitored closely during periods of environmental stress.
- Immediate veterinary help must be sought if cyanide poisoning is suspected.
- Treatment is very effective if given on time.

Recognize symptoms and provide immediate treatment to save the animal

C. ORGANOPHOSPHOROUS (OP) POISONING

- Pesticides are used on both plants and animals to control crop pests that and to control ticks on cattle.
- A majority of pesticides are organophosphorous (OP) compounds which are active poisons.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF OP POISONING IN CATTLE & BUFFALO

- Severe depression
- Hypersalivation
- Frequent urination
- Diarrhoea, colic, and dyspnoea
- Involuntary muscle contraction and relaxation which may be visible under the skin
- Nervousness, ataxia, apprehension, and seizures
- Pupillary constriction

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Animal should be fed adequate water before applying liquid/spray on the animal body to kill ticks.
- The fodder sprayed with insecticides should be properly washed with water before feeding it to the animal.
- Apply the pesticide as directed on the label at the recommended dose and time.
- Do not treat sick, emaciated or convalescent animals, or animals under severe stress with pesticides for removing external parasites.
- Generally, animals less than 3 months of age should not be treated for external parasites with pesticides.
- Keep animals away from pesticide containers (new or used) or pesticide-contaminated feed.
- Check the label for restrictions regarding application in conjunction with other pesticides or animal health products.
- Contact a veterinarian immediately on observing the symptoms for timely treatment which could save the animal.



Treat OP poisoning at the earliest to increase the chances of survival

SECTION XII

COMMON ZONOTIC DISEASES

Zoonoses are diseases and infections that are naturally transmitted between vertebrate animals and humans.

Zoonoses constitute 61% of all known infectious diseases. It may also be noted that out of the 175 diseases considered to be emerging, 75% are zoonotic.

Poor hygiene, poverty, malnutrition, lack of education, close contact with animals are predisposing factors causing zoonotic diseases.

There are some 45 zoonotic diseases purported to be transmitted from cattle. Dairy farmers who are in close contact with their animals are always at risk of acquiring infections from animals, especially since most of these diseases are prevalent in animals in our country. It is important that the farmer is aware of these diseases which could help him seek appropriate advice or treatment from a doctor. This section briefly describes the following zoonotic diseases that can be transmitted by cattle:

- A. Human Brucellosis
- B. Human Tuberculosis
- C. Leptospirosis
- D. Gastro-intestinal zoonotic diseases
- E. Tick borne zoonotic diseases

A. HUMAN BRUCELLOSIS

- Brucellosis is considered to be a significant public health problem in India.
- Fewer than 10% of the human cases of brucellosis in India may be clinically recognized and treated or reported.
- Most common symptoms are intermittent fever, joint pain and swelling , sweating, dizziness, headaches, chest and abdominal pain etc, though there are a wide range of symptoms that can be seen.
- Humans get infection by drinking raw milk of infected animal or by contact with infected secretions through skin or mucous membranes, especially conjunctiva. (See chapter D in Section IV on Bovine Brucellosis)
- Accidental injection with S 19 vaccine could also lead to infection.

B. HUMAN TUBERCULOSIS

- The disease in humans caused by bovine TB (bTB) (see Chapter B of Section V for bTB) and human TB bacteria are identical with respect to clinical symptoms and lesions and would require complex tests to distinguish them.
- The importance of human TB bacterium as a reverse zoonosis (causing infection in animals) is also gaining prominence with reports humans and bovines respectively having mixed infections with both bTB and human TB organisms.
- There may be no symptoms till the disease is quite advanced. The common symptoms are cough, loss of weight, poor appetite etc.
- Humans get the infection by drinking contaminated milk from infected animals or by close contact with infected animals.

C. LEPTOSPIROSIS

- Cattle are one of the principal hosts for Leptospirosis.
- Infection in humans is most likely to occur by contact with contaminated urine or uterine contents and by milking infected cattle. Infection rate is also higher in monsoon months.
- The most common symptoms are fever, headache, nausea , vomiting, diarrhoea , jaundice , body rashes etc.



Zoonotic diseases can be cured if diagnosed and treated promptly

D. GASTRO-INTESTINAL ZONOTIC DISEASES

- There are various zoonotic diseases affecting the intestinal tract. Some examples are infections with Salmonella, E.Coli, Campylobacter, Rota virus, Cryptosporidia and Giardia.
- The infection occurs through the faecal-oral route which is always a possible route of contamination in the rural environs where close contact with cattle is common.
- The young, malnourished, immuno-compromised and pregnant women are usually more susceptible.
- The common symptoms in gastro-intestinal zoonotic diseases are fever, diarrhoea, loss of appetite , weight loss, dehydration etc.

E. TICK BORNE ZONOTIC DISEASES

- Tick-borne infections have been reported from various regions of our country and are a group of zoonotic diseases that requires attention.
- They may be difficult to diagnose due to their non-specific signs and symptoms.
- The possibility of these infections being prevalent cannot be discounted with people living in close proximity with cattle (with moderate to high loads of ticks on them). Babesiosis, Rickettsial infections and Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) are some of the examples of tick borne infections.

SECTION XIII

BREEDING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Selective breeding of cattle and buffalo to increase milk production has been going on for a long time in our country and has made commendable progress in certain areas. But by and large, majority of the cattle and buffalo are still non-descript and low milk producers. In order to increase the milk production in our country, there is a need to increase the production potential of non-descript local animals through scientific methods like crossbreeding. On the other hand, improving the milk production potential of indigenous breeds in their native breeding tracts is also equally important. Progeny testing (PT) and Pedigree Selection (PS) coupled with Artificial Insemination (AI) and milk recording have been identified as activities leading to steady genetic progress. For a profitable milk business, it is also necessary for the animal to calve every 1 to 1.5 years. The following chapters would provide a good idea on the various aspects of breeding:

- A. Heat– signs of heat, proper time of insemination.
- B. Advantages of artificial insemination (AI).
- C. Drying off an animal.
- D. Normal Calving and dystocia.
- E. Management of Infertility
- F. A brief on Progeny Testing (PT)
- G. A Brief on Pedigree Selection (Ps)



A. HEAT

- Heat is a period of acceptance for mating (sexual receptivity) that normally occurs in non-pregnant, pubescent heifers and non-pregnant cows.
- This period of receptivity may last from 6 to 30 hours and occurs every 21 days on an average but may vary between 18 to 24 days.
- To maximize productive life of a cow, it must be bred within 60- 90 days after calving. This will enable her to produce a new calf every year or so.
- Longer calving intervals have detrimental effects on lifetime milk production.
- Heat detection is therefore a critical component of good reproductive management on the farm.
- Recording the dates of cows in heat and dates of services is necessary to predict future heat or calving dates and to manage the cows accordingly.

SIGNS OF HEAT

- Repeated bellowing.
- Lifting of tail and stretching of back.
- Swollen vulvar lips and redness of vaginal passage due to congestion.
- Thick, sticky and transparent vaginal discharge.
- Frequent urination (Micturition).
- Reduced feed intake and decreased milk yield.
- Restlessness, smells other animals and mounts on them.
- After 10-12 hours in heat, the animal allows a bull or a cow to mount on her. This is the right time for carrying out AI.



When a cow stands still while being mounted is the right time for insemination.

PROPER TIME OF INSEMINATION

- Insemination (either natural service or by Artificial Insemination (AI) should be given ideally after 10-12 hours, or maximum of 18 hours of first sign of heat, that is, if heat is seen in the evening, inseminate in the following morning. If heat persists in the following morning, another AI may be required on the same evening.
- If the animal does not become pregnant, she will come into heat after 18-21 days.
- After 21 days of insemination the animal should be observed for symptoms of heat, especially during early morning and late evening hours.
- Special care should be taken in case of buffaloes, as symptoms of heat are not very prominent.

Timely heat detection is very important in getting the animal conceived

B. ADVANTAGES OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION (AI)

- When cow/buffalo is in heat, it is not necessary to search for a bull. A trained inseminator can inseminate the animal in time with quality semen.
- Thousands of females can be inseminated using the semen of a single bull, only a few best bulls are needed to cover a large female population.
- Rapid improvement of the progeny is possible (See chapter on progeny testing).
- Transmission of infectious genital diseases can be avoided.
- During insemination, we could detect reproductive disease, if any.
- It is a cost effective technology.
- Frozen semen from a high pedigree bull can be used even after its death.
- AI can be done at the farmer's doorstep avoiding the need to make the animal walk long distances for getting it inseminated.



AI being done by a trained technician at the farmer's doorstep.

POST AI MONITORING

- 21 days After AI, the animal should be observed for symptoms of heat.
- 90 days after AI, the animal should be examined for pregnancy.
- If the animal does not conceive even after three inseminations, consult the veterinary doctor. (refer chapter on infertility)



AI is a simple and cost effective method to improve milk production

C. DRYING-OFF AN ANIMAL

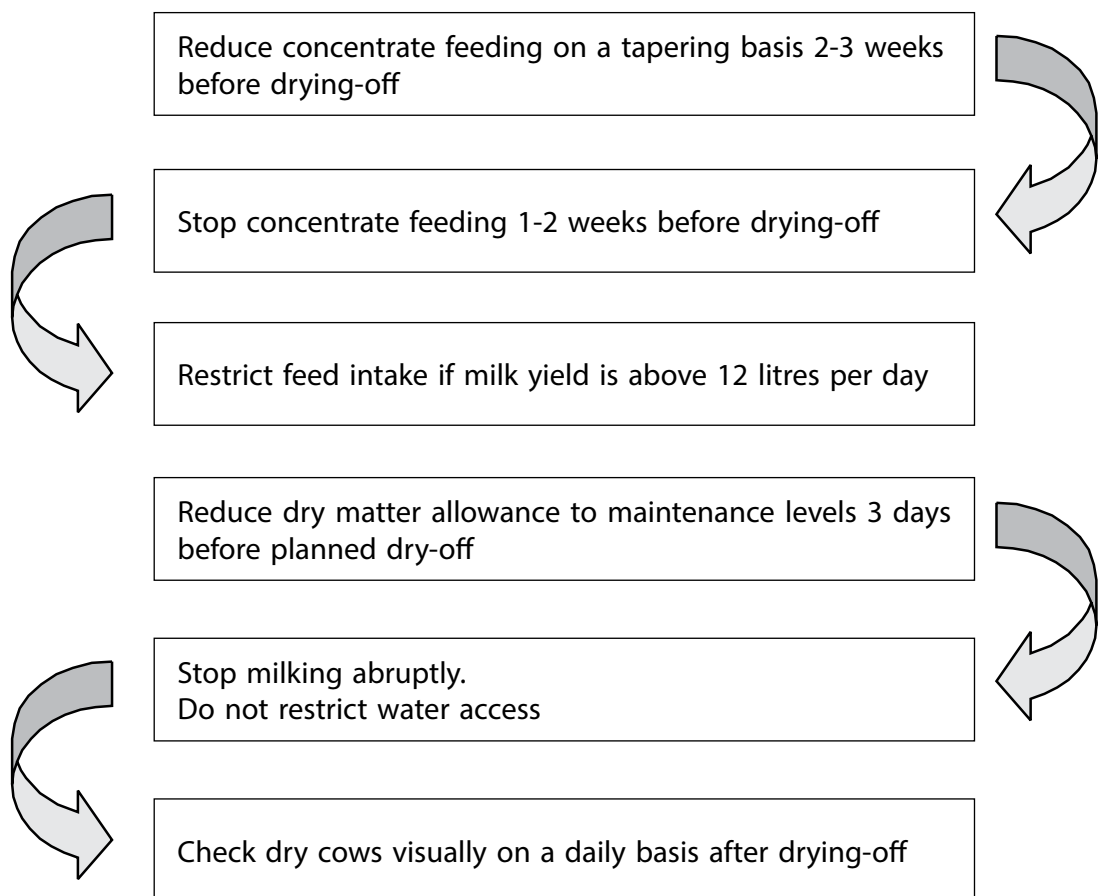
The dry period is the most important phase of a dairy cow's lactation cycle. For optimal animal health and best performance in the next lactation, lactating animals should have an opportunity to rest and regenerate mammary tissue between lactations. During this phase, the cow and her udder prepares for the next lactation; hence any abnormalities during the dry period will have a negative effect on the cow's health and milk production after calving.

Due to the amount of milk they produce, the drying-off process is often more complicated for dairy animals. Preparation for dry off should begin at least two weeks prior to the dry-off date with a significant change in the animal's diet. Reducing the energy content of the diet and feeding primarily a high-fiber diet will reduce the nutrients available for the animal to make milk; this is often all that is needed to reduce milk production to a level that makes dry off safe and simple.

Length of Dry Period

Animals should be dry for around 60 days. If animals have prolonged dry periods, they run the risk of becoming obese, experiencing obesity-related diseases and having difficulty in calving.

Procedure for drying off



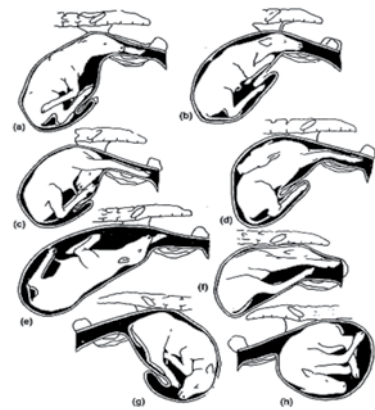
Ideally, cows should be kept at pasture on a maintenance diet for a week after drying-off.

D. NORMAL CALVING & DYSTOCIA

- Calving usually takes place normally without help.
- A sticky vaginal discharge is usually seen a day before calving.
- In older cows the calf is usually delivered 30-50 minutes after the water bag bursts, but may extend up to 2 hours.
- In heifers calving may take up to 4 hours after the water bag bursts.
- If calving does not occur within the prescribed time after the water bag bursts, it is known as dystocia.
- If the head and two front legs appear after the water bag breaks, there is no need to call a vet and calving usually occurs normally.
- A gentle traction of the calf in a downward arc by holding the front legs may be done in the above situation.



In normal calving, the head and both the front legs of the calf will appear.



Improper positioning of the calf during delivery causes dystocia.

- Never attempt to pull the calf in any other position other than the one in which both front legs and head are visible (Not even if one front leg and head is visible).
- In case an abnormal presentation is seen or nothing appears after the water bag bursts, call a veterinarian immediately.
- Delay in attending will further complicate the situation.

POST CALVING MONITORING

- Under normal circumstances, an animal should come into heat within 45 days of delivery.
- It is recommended to breed the animal in the subsequent oestrus after the first heat or within 60-90 days.
- If the animal does not come into heat within a period of 60 days post calving, consult a veterinarian.



Early detection of dystocia may save the calf

E. INFERTILITY

- Infertility is a temporary disturbance in reproductive function wherein the animal cannot become pregnant. Normally an animal with a healthy reproductive function should calve every 12-14 months.
- Infertility causes economic losses to the farmers due to delay in maturity, calving and milk production. The farmer also incurs losses by maintaining an unproductive animal.
- Infertility may be due to various reasons like: (i) Diseases of genital organs (ii) Infectious diseases (iii) Physiological causes like absence of heat, repeat breeding, silent heat, cystic ovary (iv) Anatomical causes (v) Faulty AI technique.

MANAGEMENT OF INFERTILITY

- Inseminate at appropriate time of the heat. (See chapter on heat detection)
- Repeat AI may be required in cases of prolonged heat for conception to occur.
- Close observation is required to detect silent heat, especially in buffaloes.
- Provide proper nutrition right from birth of the animal.
- Provide adequate quantities of mineral mixture.
- Reduce heat stress on the animal by providing clean drinking water at all times and adequate shade or cooling systems.
- Ascertain whether the personnel providing AI services is adequately qualified.
- Consult a veterinarian if a regularly cycling animal has not conceived even after 3 inseminations to identify the problem. Repeated inseminations may cause permanent damage to the reproductive organs.
- Animals with anatomical conditions may not conceive.
- Infection/diseases of reproductive tract also may lead to infertility. Consult a veterinarian for proper advice and treatment.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONCEPTION DURING A NORMAL HEAT CYCLE



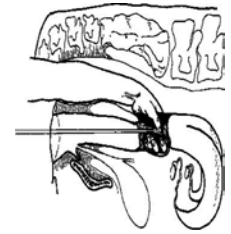
Proper heat detection



Proper handling of frozen semen straws



Proper time and technique of insemination



Proper site of semen deposition

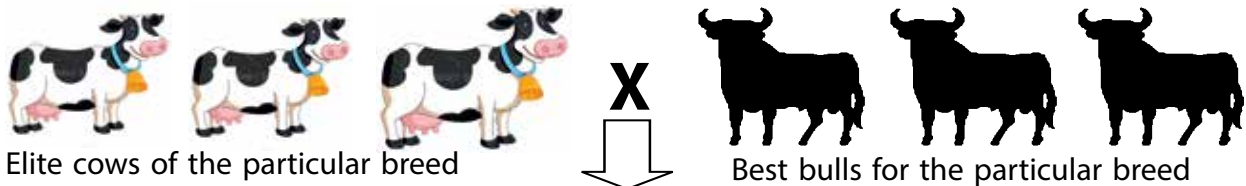
- Only timely heat detection is in the hands of the farmer.
- Proper handling of semen, proper time of insemination, proper AI technique and site of deposition of semen are in the hands of trained personnel (vets or AI technicians).
- It is therefore very important to ensure that AI is being done only by trained personnel to avoid complications or problems later on.
- A healthy cross bred heifer should come into heat by 18 months or earlier.
- Buffaloes and local breeds may take more time to mature (around 24 months).

Manage infertility-ensure conception

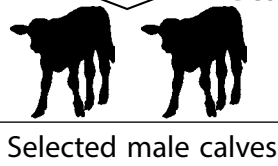
F. A BRIEF ON PROGENY TESTING (PT)

PT is a scientific technique used to improve the milk production of any particular breed through selective breeding.

STEP 1: Best yielding cows (elite cows) in identified areas for the breed are identified and inseminated with semen from the best bulls available.



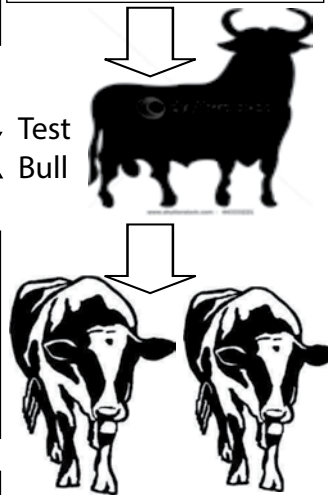
STEP 2: Male calves born to the elite cows are purchased from the farmer after testing the dam and calf for certain diseases with negative results.



STEP 3: The selected male calves then undergo a series of rigorous tests at various stages (pre-quarantine, quarantine & rearing stations) before moving to the semen stations. Selected male calves should test negative for all the tests done at all stages.



STEP 4: The semen from these selected bulls (test bulls) are then used on a larger population of cows of the same breed in the PT area.



STEP 5: The milk yield of the daughters born to test bulls are recorded. A minimum complete first lactation records of 100 daughters are required per test bull.

STEP 6: Based on daughters' performance, "breeding value" of each of the test bulls are estimated. The top 10% of daughters are also selected based on lactation records.

STEP 7: The top 10% of daughters (based on lactation records) and the top 10% of bulls selected (based on breeding value) are used to produce the next generation of young bulls. Each cycle takes 6-7 years to complete. It is always ensured that there is no inbreeding in the process.



Milk recording



An Holstein Friesian test bull



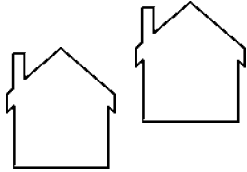
A Murrah test bull



PT is a scientific method to improve milk production of a breed

G. A BRIEF ON PEDIGREE SELECTION (PS)

In Pedigree Selection, bulls are evaluated solely on the basis of their parents' performance. This process is followed when a large number of animals of a breed are available in the native tract but there is no infrastructure to provide AI.



STEP 1: Identification of villages having best animals of the selected indigenous breed in its native tract.



STEP 2: Artificial Insemination (AI) network is started in the area. Extension activities like farmer education, fertility camps and calf rallies are carried out in villages with emphasis on promoting AI.



STEP 3: Selected cows or buffaloes of the indigenous breed are milk recorded and elite animals with the high yield are identified.



STEP 4: The elite animals having very good breed characteristics are inseminated with semen of best bulls for that breed available in the country.



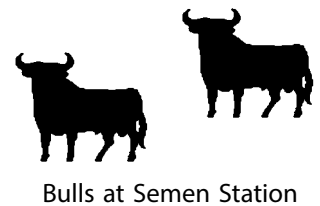
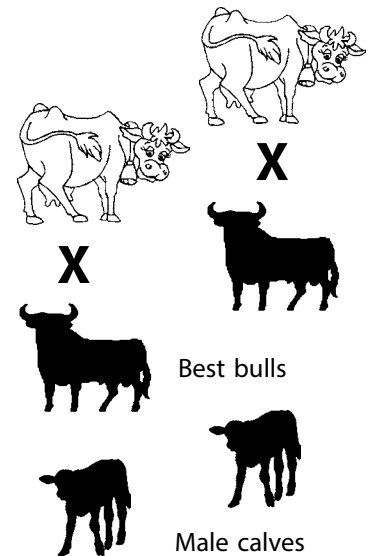
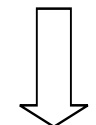
STEP 5: Male calves born to the elite cows are purchased from the farmer after testing the dam and calf for certain diseases with negative results.



STEP 6: The selected male calves then undergo a series of rigorous tests at various stages (pre-quarantine, quarantine & rearing stations) before moving to the semen stations. Selected male calves should test negative for all the tests done at all stages.



STEP 7: Semen from these bulls are then used on a larger population of the same breed for faster genetic improvement



PS is a method to improve milk production in indigenous breeds

SECTION XIV

TRADITIONAL REMEDIES FOR MINOR AILMENTS

Traditional remedies have been used for ages by the farmers to manage minor ailments in their livestock. The knowledge of some alternative form of medicine that could manage minor ailments till such time veterinary aid is sought is important to the farmer especially in areas where services may not be readily available.

Many of these remedies documented by various agencies like BAIF, some milk unions in south Karnataka, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), Vivekananda Kendra etc, have been mentioned here. However it is important to note that the remedies mentioned here are only suggestive in nature and may not ensure a cure. The underlying cause of these ailments may be a disease which needs to be investigated to cure the same. Veterinary advice therefore need to be sought at the earliest. Illustrations of the plants are also provided for easier recognition. Some remedies and preparations for the following ailments are suggested:

1. Failure to produce milk
2. Anaemia
3. Fungal infection
4. Bloat
5. Dehydration
6. Diarrhoea
7. External parasites
8. Maggot wound
9. Haemagalactia
10. Infertility
11. Udder oedema
12. Poisoning
13. Improper letdown of milk
14. Prolapse
15. Repeat breeding
16. Retention of placenta
17. Skin diseases
18. Stomach disorder
19. Tongue ulcer
20. Wart
21. Fly repellent
22. Mange infestation



COMMON HERBAL PREPARATIONS USED IN AILMENTS

S.no	Condition	Remedies / Plant name (Hindi name in brackets)	Portion used and preparation mode	Dose and amount
1	Failure to produce milk	(1) Asparagus racemosus (Satavari, Shahakul)	Grind 250 gm. of Asparagus root.	Give orally for 3 to 5 days.
		(2) Leptadenia reticulata (Jivanti)	Leaf and stem of Leptadenia to be given along with feed.	50 gm. Twice a day for 30 days.
2	Anaemia	Phyllanthus embelica (Amla)	Grind around 50 gm of fruit /bark.	Give daily.
3	Fungal infection	(1) Garlic (Lussan)	Make a paste	Apply on the affected part till it recovers.
		(2) Neem	Bark, flower, seed oil or tender twig- make a paste	Apply on the affected part till it recovers.
4	Bloat (mild)	Ginger (Adrak), garlic Cardamom (elachi), clove(laung) and jaggery (gud)	50 gm ginger, 1 full garlic, 3 Cardamoms, 5 to 6 cloves, all to be boiled in half liter of water, put a little jaggery and prepare a decoction.	Give once a day for 2 days. Prepare fresh daily. Give half the quantity to calves.



Asparagus plant



Asparagus root



Leptadenia plant and flower

COMMON HERBAL PREPARATIONS USED IN AILMENTS

S.no	Condition	Remedies / Plant name (Hindi name in brackets)	Portion used and preparation mode	Dose and amount
5	Dehydration	Salt, baking soda & sugar	Dissolve 2 teaspoons of Salt, half teaspoon of baking soda & 4 teaspoons of sugar in 1 Liter of water.	Adult animals - 2 - 3 ltrs 2 - 3 times/day. Calves- 1/2 to 1 liter till recovery.
6	Diarrhoea	(1) Tea leaves, Ginger	Boil handful of Tea leaves in one lit. of water. Strain & add half handful of ground ginger.	Drench twice a day for 3 to 4 days. Prepare freshly every day.
		(2) Guava (Amrut)	Boil half kg of fresh Amrut leaves in three glass of water.	Drench twice a day.
		(3) Potassium permanganate	Mix 5 to 10 crystals of Potassium in 1 liter of water.	Drench twice a day.



Tea leaf



Guava



Guava



COMMON HERBAL PREPARATIONS USED IN AILMENTS

S.no	Condition	Remedies / Plant name (Hindi name in brackets)	Portion used and preparation mode	Dose and amount
7	External parasites	(1) Custard Apple (Sitaphal)	Seed and leaf extract diluted up to 50% in oil base in any cheap vegetable oil.	Apply over the body for 5 days, twice a day.
		(2) Neem	Leaf pulp	Apply over the body
		(3) Custard apple, Neem & Tobacco leaves	Custard apple seeds-1 part; Neem seeds-1 part tobacco leaves-1/5th part. Make paste and allow to soak in 2 litres of water.	Apply over the body.
8	Maggot wound	(1) Marigold, Garlic and Tulsi	Handful of leaves of both leaves and 1 garlic is crushed with lime to get the paste.	Apply paste twice daily on the wound.
		(2) Custard apple, Neem	Crush leaves (either one or both) to a paste.	Once a day for 5 to 6 days.
9	Blood in milk	Mimosa pudica (Touch me not plant)	Half to one kg of plant made into paste.	Feed as such for 3-5 days, twice daily.



Custard apple



Marigold



Neem leaf with seeds

COMMON HERBAL PREPARATIONS USED IN AILMENTS

S.no	Condition	Remedies / Plant name (Hindi name in brackets)	Portion used and preparation mode	Dose and amount
10	Infertility	(1) Brinjal (Bengan), Horse gram	Ripened fruit– 1 Kg (either alone or with horse gram) Horse gram– 250 gm soak and grind.	Give brinjal first followed by horse gram daily for one week.
		(2) Coconut tree	Extract the juice from the newly opened inflorescence and mix with tender coconut water.	Drench once a day for 3 to 4 days.
11	Udder oedema	Aloe vera, Lime or mimosa leaves	Take 2 to 3 leaves of Aloe alone or; mix with 50 gm of Lime or; 2-3 handfuls of mimosa leaves and prepare a paste.	Apply twice a day for 4 to 5 days (Mix the Lime with Aloe before 2 to 3 days). Apply after milking.
12	Poisoning	(1) Paraffin Oil/ Raw linseed Oil/Natural Vegetable Oil.	One litre of any oil	Drench once a day
		(2) Milk/ Coconut water/ Charcoal	One litre of milk or coconut water; 200 gm charcoal in 800 ml water	Drench once a day



Mimosa plant



Aloe vera



Horse gram



COMMON HERBAL PREPARATIONS USED IN AILMENTS

S.no	Condition	Remedies / Plant name (Hindi name in brackets)	Portion used and preparation mode	Dose and amount
13	Improper milk let down	(1) <i>Jatropha curcas</i> (Jangali arandi)	Leaves	2-3 handful of leaves
		(2) <i>Datura metel</i> (Sadah datura)	Take one datura fruit, warm it in hot ash and crush along with rice polish.	Feed only once. Do not allow animal to stray after giving medicine.
		(3) <i>Asparagus racemous</i> (Shatavari)	Asparagus tuber or its extract	Twice a day for 4 days.
14	Prolapse	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> (Chuimui)	Crush two handful of leaves and give. Also extract juice of the Leaves.	Give thrice a day and apply the juice to the prolapsed portion of Uterus.
15	Repeat Breeding	(1) Curry leaves (Kari patti)	Take 2 handful of Curry leaves.	After insemination for 10 days.
		(2) <i>Mimosa pudica</i> (Chuimui)	200 gm of the plant and prepare decoction.	Give for 2-3 days.



Jatropha



Datura metel plant



Curry leaves

COMMON HERBAL PREPARATIONS USED IN AILMENTS

S.no	Condition	Remedies / Plant name (Hindi name in brackets)	Portion used and preparation mode	Dose and amount
16	Retention of Placenta	(1) Mimosa pudica (Chuimui)	1 Kg to leaves	Once a day for 2 days.
		(2) Aegle marmelos (Bael), Pepper, Garlic & Onion	Bael leaves—handful; garlic – 6 cloves; pepper –10 corns ; onions-2. Make a paste and mix in butter milk.	Give once daily.
		(3) Gossypium herbaceum (Kapas)	Prepare a decoction from 2 to 3 handfuls of root & shell.	Give once daily.
17	Skin diseases	(1) Neem	Make paste of bark, flower, tender twig or use seed oil.	Apply on affected part.
		(2) Brinjal	Crush brinjal and mix with Jowar powder.	Apply on affected part



Bael tree with fruit



Black pepper



Cotton plant with pod



COMMON HERBAL PREPARATIONS USED IN AILMENTS

S.no	Condition	Remedies / Plant name (Hindi name in brackets)	Portion used and preparation mode	Dose and amount
18	Stomach disorder	(1) Ginger (Adrak), Drum Stick (Soanjana), Honey	Take 500 ml each of juice of Ginger, Drum stick leaves, and 200 ml of Honey. Mix thoroughly to make a single dose.	Give twice a day for 2 days.
19	Tongue ulcer	Tamarind (Imli) ⁺ , Gingely oil (Til oil)	Tamarind- 100 gms; Gingely oil- 200 ml. Mix thoroughly to make a paste.	Apply on mouth and tongue 3 - 4 times a day.
20	Warts	(1) Euphorbia neriifolia (Barki-thohar)	Apply drops of Latex of Euphorbia on the wart.	Apply twice a day until the wart falls off.
		(2) Papaya (Papita)	Apply one or several drops of Latex of Papita trunk, fruit or leaves on the wart.	Apply twice a day until the wart falls off.
21	Fly Repellent	Aloe vera (Ghilkanvar)	Grind and extract juice of aloe leaves	Apply on the cow's body and also sprinkle in the surroundings.
22	Mange Infestation	Cassia alata (Dadmurdan)	Grind a handful of fresh/air dried leaves to make a paste with water or lemon juice	Apply on the infected skin daily using a brush or coconut husk till the infection has been cured.



Euphorbia



Tamarind Tree



Cassia alata plant and flower

PART II

ANIMAL NUTRITION & MANAGEMENT

Providing balanced nutrition is the foundation for productive and profitable animal husbandry. Without adequate nutrition, animals cannot express their full genetic potential nor will they be productively efficient. Low milk production, low reproductive rates, poor growth and increased illness may be the result of imbalance or deficiency of nutrients. Proper balance of protein, energy, vitamins and minerals are needed in the ration of animals to ensure best performance with respect to production, reproduction and health. Therefore, providing nutritionally balanced ration to the animal is necessary to gain economic returns from dairying.

The following sections are included in this part:

Section I : Feeding of Animals

Section II : Fodder Production

Section III : Housing of Animals



SECTION I

FEEDING OF ANIMALS

Feeding is an important aspect of dairying as it accounts for around 70% of total cost of milk production. Different types of dietary feed ingredients for dairy cows and buffaloes include concentrates such as compound cattle feed, oil cakes, grains and grain byproducts like brans and chunnies; cultivated green fodders and grasses; crop residues like straws and stovers. Following chapters are included in this section:

- A. Feeding of dairy animals.
- B. Importance of Ration Balancing Programme.
- C. Importance of compound cattle feed in milk production.
- D. Importance of bypass protein feed.
- E. Importance of feeding mineral mixture.
- F. Urea Molasses Mineral Block (UMMB)– A feed Supplement
- G. Importance of drinking water for dairy animals.
- H. Care of pregnant animals.
- I. Nutritional care after calving.
- J. Examples of preparing Total Mixed Ration (TMR) for cow.
- K. Examples of preparing Total Mixed Ration (TMR) for buffalo.

A. FEEDING OF DAIRY ANIMALS

- A normal adult animal should be fed 6 Kg dry and 15-20 Kg green fodder per day.
- Legume and non-legume green fodder should be fed in 1:3 proportion.
- Green fodder should be harvested at 50% flowering stage.
- Surplus green fodder should be conserved in the form of 'hay' or 'silage' .
- Conserved fodder becomes useful during summers or when green fodder is scarce.



Leguminous fodder



Non-leguminous fodder



Cattle feed

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- To optimize milk production and to meet the nutrient requirement of animals, balanced feeding using user-friendly software developed by NDDB may be adopted.
- Animals fed only on dry fodder may be provided Urea Molasses Mineral Block as a supplement to the diet, depending upon its availability .
- For body maintenance and higher efficiency of milk production, 'compound cattle feed' / 'bypass protein feed' should also be given .
- Minerals are essential for all metabolic functions of the body, animals' ration should be supplemented with area specific mineral mixture .
- Changing from one feed to another should not be sudden but in a gradual manner.
- Fodder should be chaffed before feeding, to avoid wastage and increase digestibility.
- Various feed ingredients including the additives, should be mixed to make Sani or total mixed ration (TMR). It would be more appropriate to feed this ration in 3-4 equally divided parts in a day. This would reduce spoilage and increase the digestibility.



Chaffing of fodder



B. IMPORTANCE OF RATION BALANCING PROGRAMME

- The feed given to animals usually comprises one or two locally available concentrate feed ingredients, grasses and crop residues.
- This leads to imbalanced feeding which means that proteins, energy, minerals and vitamins in the ration are either more, or less.
- While imbalanced feeding adversely affects the health and productivity of animals in various ways, it also reduces the net daily income to milk producers from dairying because the potential of milk production of animals is not fully exploited.
- To balance the ration of animals, NDDDB has developed a user-friendly software, which can be used by trained and dedicated local resource persons (LRPs) identified for the area.

BENEFITS OF RATION BALANCING PROGRAMME (RBP)

- Using the locally available feed resources, ration of animals is balanced at a least cost
- Increase in milk production with more fat and solids-not-fat
- Increase in the net daily income
- Improved reproduction efficiency
- Reduction in inter-calving period, thereby increase in productive life of animals
- Improvement in general health of animals
- Improved growth rate in calves, leading to early maturity
- Reduction in methane emission, a potent green house gas (GHG)



An LRP implementing RBP in the field

RBP is an effective tool to improve milk production at least cost and reduce methane emissions

C. IMPORTANCE OF COMPOUND CATTLE FEED IN MILK PRODUCTION

- Cattle feed produced by the Milk Unions/Federations is a balanced source of essential nutrients required for body maintenance, growth and milk production.
- It is manufactured using good quality grains, oil cakes/ meals, brans, molasses, common salt, minerals and vitamins.
- It is comparatively cheaper and highly palatable to the animals.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FEEDING CATTLE FEED

- Cattle feed contains protein, energy, minerals and vitamins required for the growth, maintenance and milk production of animals. It is advantageous to feed extra cattle feed to pregnant animals for proper development of foetus.
- It increases reproductive efficiency, milk production as well as fat percentage of milk.
- Growing animals should be fed 1 to 1.5 kg of compound cattle feed daily.
- Milking animals should be fed 2 kg of compound cattle feed for body maintenance and additional 400 g to cows and 500 g to buffaloes for every litre of milk produced.
- In addition to this quantity, 1 kg compound cattle feed and 1 kg good quality oil cake should also be given to pregnant animals during the last two months of pregnancy.



Cattle feed is prepared from different grains, cakes, brans, molasses, salt, mineral mixture and vitamins.



Compound cattle feed of appropriate quality keeps animals healthy and increases milk production

D. IMPORTANCE OF BYPASS PROTEIN FEED

- Proteins are essential for growth and milk production.
- Generally, the major portion of the feed proteins is broken down in the first compartment (rumen) of the stomach.
- In case of bypass protein feed, significant portion of the protein escapes break down in the first compartment and goes to the later part of gastro-intestinal tract resulting into better utilisation of proteins in the body.
- Bypass protein feed can be prepared using chemically treated protein meals.

BENEFITS OF BYPASS PROTEIN FEED

- More nutritive feed at a cheaper price.
- The utilisation of the dietary protein increases.
- It improves growth and milk production.
- If usual 'bypass protein feed' is not available, then 1 Kg 'treated bypass protein supplement' can be fed (half Kg in the morning and half Kg in the evening) to animals producing 8-10 litres of milk.



Bypass protein plant



Bypass protein feed

Bypass protein feed is an economical source of nutrients

E. IMPORTANCE OF FEEDING MINERAL MIXTURE

- Minerals are essential for proper metabolic functions. Mineral mixture contains all the essential minerals in required quantities. Feeding area specific mineral mixture should be preferred.

BENEFITS OF FEEDING MINERAL MIXTURE

- Helps improving growth rate in calves.
- Better utilization of absorbed nutrients.
- Increases milk production in animals.
- Improves reproductive efficiency and reduces inter-calving period.
- Increases productive life of animals.
- Improves immunity status.
- Prevents metabolic diseases like milk fever, ketosis, haematuria etc., which occur around calving period.



Change in hair colour due to copper deficiency



Iodine deficiency causing enlargement of thyroid gland (arrow) and zinc deficiency causing lachrymation.



Left to right: Area Specific Mineral Mixture (ASMM) manufactured by dairy cooperatives of Rajasthan, Karnataka and Bihar.

FEEDING RECOMMENDATION

Calves	20-25 g daily
Heifers and dry animals	50 g per animal daily
Milking animals	100-200 g per animal daily (as per milk production) or in view of level of mineral mixture in compound cattle feed/concentrate mixture.



Supplementation of deficient minerals improves milk production and reproduction efficiency

F. UREA MOLASSES MINERAL BLOCK (UMMB)– A FEED SUPPLEMENT

- Ruminants have a special compartment in their stomach, which is called rumen. It contains large number of beneficial microorganisms, which help in digestion of fibrous components of feed.
- During scarcity of green fodder, UMMB helps the rumen microbes to multiply and thus improves the digestibility of dry fodder.

BENEFITS OF UMMB

- Increases dry fodder intake and minimizes wastage.
- Improves the digestive efficiency of the animals.
- Improves milk production and fat percentage.
- It is a good source of essential minerals.



UMM Blocks



Animal licking UMMB

G. IMPORTANCE OF DRINKING WATER FOR DAIRY ANIMALS

Water is required for :

- Digestion of feed and fodder.
- Distribution of absorbed nutrients to various organs.
- Excretion of undesirable and toxic elements through urine.
- Maintenance of body temperature.
- Normally, an adult healthy animal requires 75 to 80 litres of water daily. Since milk contains about 85% water, for every litre of milk produced, additional two and half litres water is required.

RECOMMENDATION

- Animal should have a free access to clean drinking water round the clock.
- During summer, crossbred cows and buffaloes should be given bath twice daily and at least 100 litres of water per day to manage heat.

Dry fodder supplemented with UMMB can form maintenance ration for cows and buffaloes.

H. CARE OF PREGNANT ANIMALS

- Adequate health care and nutrition can ensure rapid growth of female calf as well as attaining puberty at an early age. Timely insemination of such animals can help them to calve at 2 to 2 ½ years of age.
- As foetus develops rapidly during last 3 months of pregnancy, adequate care needs to be taken during this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Animals in the last trimester of pregnancy should not be taken far away for grazing, uneven paths should also be avoided.
- A lactating animal should be dried within a period of 15 days after the 7th month of gestation.
- Pregnant animals should have enough space for standing and sitting comfortably.
- Pregnant animals need suitable ration to reduce the possibility of diseases like milk fever and ketosis at the time of calving and also to ensure adequate milk production.
- Water should be provided round the clock to pregnant animals with a minimum of 75-80 litres of fresh and clean drinking water daily.
- A heifer after 6-7 months of gestation should be tied with milking animals; and its body, back and udder should be massaged.
- 4-5 days before calving, the animal should be tied in a separate clean and airy area having sunlight. Bedding materials like paddy straw should be spread on the ground for the animal.
- The animal should be kept under observation during the last 1-2 days before calving.

DAILY FEED REQUIREMENT OF A PREGNANT ANIMAL

Green fodder	15-20 Kg	Oil cake	1 Kg
Dry fodder	4-5 Kg	Mineral Mixure	50gm
Compound cattle feed	3 Kg	Salt	30 gm



Proper care and management of pregnant animals ensures a healthier calf and higher lactation yield

I. NUTRITIONAL CARE AFTER CALVING

- Immediately after calving, the cow/buffalo has a low appetite and will not eat as much feed as the body may require.
- Cow/buffalo undergoes a lot of stress while calving, therefore, the animal should be given light, palatable, mild laxative ration containing warm rice gruel, boiled rice/wheat bran, boiled millet or wheat mixed with edible oil, bypass fat, Jaggery, Soya, Asafoetida, Methi, Black Cumin, ginger etc. for 2 to 3 days after calving. This kind of diet is also helpful in early expulsion of placenta.
- In addition, the animal should be given tender green fodder and fresh water as much as it wants to drink, but do not give hot water.
- Ensure the milking cow has constant access to clean drinking water and receives required quantity of Area Specific Mineral Mixture daily.



Feeding and management during the transition period has a significant bearing on the lactation length and total milk yield.

J. EXAMPLES OF PREPARING TOTAL MIXED RATION FOR COW

1. DRY COW

Ingredients *	Quantity (Kgs)		
	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Dry fodder	7	7	7
Green fodder	4	10	4
Cattle feed	2	1	-
Oil Cake	-	-	1

* Mineral Mixture @ 50g per animal per day should be given

2. COW YIELDING 5 LITRES OF MILK PER DAY

Ingredients *	Quantity (Kgs)		
	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Dry fodder	7	7	7
Green fodder	4	10	4
Cattle feed	4	3	-
Oil Cake	-	-	2
Wheat bran	-	-	1

* Mineral Mixture @ 100g per animal per day should be given

3. COW YIELDING 10 LITRES OF MILK PER DAY

Ingredients*	Quantity (Kgs)		
	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Dry fodder	7	7	7
Green fodder	4	10	4
Cattle feed	6	5	-
Oil Cake	-	-	3
Wheat bran	-	-	2

* Mineral Mixture @ 150g per animal per day should be given



K. EXAMPLES OF PREPARING TOTAL MIXED RATION FOR BUFFALO

1. DRY BUFFALO

Ingredients*	Quantity (Kgs)		
	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Dry fodder	6	6	6
Green fodder	2	4	10
Cattle feed	-	-	1
Oil Cake	2	-	-
Wheat bran	-	3	-

* Mineral Mixture @ 75g per animal per day should be given

2. BUFFALO YIELDING 5 LITRES OF MILK PER DAY

Ingredients*	Quantity (Kgs)		
	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Dry fodder	7	6	7
Green fodder	5	10	2
Cattle feed	5	5	-
Oil Cake	-	-	3
Wheat bran	-	-	1

* Mineral Mixture @ 125g per animal per day should be given

3. BUFFALO YIELDING 10 LITRES OF MILK PER DAY

Ingredients*	Quantity (Kgs)		
	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Dry fodder	7	7	7
Green fodder	10	15	5
Cattle feed	6	7	-
Oil Cake	2	-	5
Wheat bran	-	-	3

* Mineral Mixture @ 175g per animal per day should be given

SECTION II

FODDER PRODUCTION

Fodder production is one of the most important activities in dairying contributing to the profitability of the business. It is also one of the areas that is neglected most often. Fodder provides an economic nutrient source which is highly relished by the animals. A year round supply of fodder can be assured if farmers cultivate seasonal and perennial fodder crops by adopting suitable crop sequences and surplus green fodder is preserved properly in times of abundance for use during lean periods. There are various processes by which this can be done.

Most of the farmers in our country depend on crop residues to sustain dairying. However, these crop residues are very low in nutritive value which needs to be enriched before feeding to the animals to increase its digestibility and palatability. The following chapters are included under this section:

- A. Importance of green fodder in milk production.
- B. Fodder conservation.
- C. Urea ammonia treatment of crop residues.
- D. Fodder mowers and pick-up devices.
- E. Package of practices of important fodder crops in India.



A. IMPORTANCE OF GREEN FODDER IN MILK PRODUCTION

Green fodder is an economic source of nutrients for the dairy animals. It is highly palatable and digestible. Micro-organisms present in green fodder help in improving digestibility of crop residues under mixed feeding system. It also helps in maintaining good health and improving breeding efficiency of animals. Increased use of green fodder in the ration of animals may reduce cost of milk production.

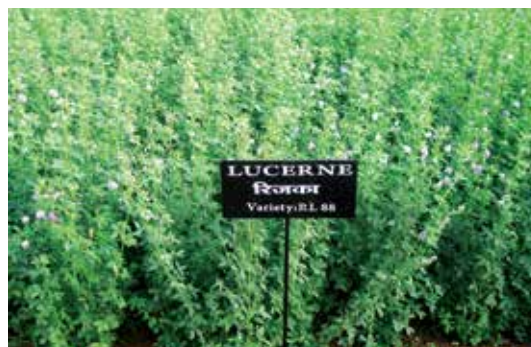
To reduce the gap between demand and availability of green fodder, there is a need to improve green fodder yield through enhanced use of improved fodder seeds. For ensuring year round green fodder production, farmers need to adopt following agricultural practices:

- Always use certified / truthfully labeled seed / planting material of improved high yielding varieties of fodder crops.
- Follow recommended package of practices for fodder cultivation such as land preparation, timely sowing, fertilizer application, irrigation, weed and pest control and harvesting schedule.
- Growing short duration varieties of fodder crops such as maize, sunflower, chinese cabbage, turnip, cowpea etc. between two main seasonal crops.
- Cultivate cereal fodder crops like maize, bajra and sorghum along with fodder legumes like cowpea, cluster bean and velvet bean.
- Cultivation of high yielding multi-cut perennial fodder crop like Hybrid Napier grass in fields and also on boundaries of other crop fields.
- Cultivate guinea grass, a shade tolerant fodder crop along with forage legumes like siratro / stylos under mixed cropping between trees rows in orchards.
- Harvest the multi-cut fodder crops at regular intervals (30 to 45 days) 10 cm height from ground level to get optimum production and quality fodder.
- Cultivate drought tolerant perennial grasses like anjan grass, sewan grass, rhodes grass and fodder trees like desi babool, neem, shisam, kanchan, aaradu, khejri, subabul and Gliricidia on fallow lands/wastelands/community for grazing.
- Some photos of important fodder crops and trees are provided in the following pages.

IMPORTANT FODDER CROPS



Fodder maize— African Tall



Lucerne



Oats



Multi cut Sorghum Sudan Grass (SSG) Hybrid



Fodder pearl millet—GFB 1



Job Tears—Coix



Berseem—Wardan



Sunflower



Feeding green fodder is the key to economic milk production

IMPORTANT FODDER CROPS



Velvet bean



Chicory



Cow pea



Fodder beet



Hybrid Napier- CO 4



Multi cut sweet Sudan grass



Teosinte



Sorghum mixed with cowpea

Feeding green fodder is the key to economic milk production

IMPORTANT FODDER CROPS



Anjan Grass



Clitoria ternatea (Aparagita)



Barley green fodder variety – RD 2035



Congo signal Grass



Dhaman Grass



Guinea Grass



Fodder Mustard – Chinese cabbage



Nandi Grass



Feeding green fodder is the key to economic milk production

IMPORTANT FODDER CROPS



Green Panic Grass



Para Grass



Rhodes Grass



Rice bean variety – Bidhan 1



Shevri (Sesbania sesban)



Siratro



Stylo hamata



Dasrath grass (Hedge Lucerne)

Feeding green fodder is the key to economic milk production

IMPORTANT FODDER CROPS



Stylo scabra



Sugar beet for fodder

IMPORTANT FODDER TREES



Kanchan (Bauhinia purpuria)



Maharukh/Aaradu (Ailanthus excelsa)



Subabul (Leucaena leucocephala)



Gliricidia (Gliricidia sepium)



Khejari (Prosopis cineraria)



Agasthi (Sesbania grandiflora)



Feeding green fodder is the key to economic milk production

B. FODDER CONSERVATION

Feeding quality roughages to the dairy animals throughout the year is essential to exploit their milk production potential. Generally, green fodder is available in plenty in few months like September / October (monsoon season) and February / March (Rabi season) under irrigated conditions while its availability is limited during summer months. The surplus green fodder can be conserved in the form of hay and silage to ensure supply of roughages during deficit period and to minimize wastage of green fodder.

I. HAY MAKING

Hay is a sun dried green fodder, containing moisture below 15 per cent. It is a good source of digestible dry matter and crude protein for dairy animals during deficit periods. The best quality hay is prepared from thin stem cultivated fodder crops like Lucerne, Oats and Sweet Sudan Grass during hot and dry summer months from March to May. Some perennial pasture grasses like Guinea grass, Rhodes grass, Anjan/Dhaman grass, Blue panic grass are also suitable for hay making.

To get best quality hay, these crops are cut at 50 per cent flowering stage. After cutting, green foliage is evenly spread on dry surface in thin layers of 5 cm thick for sun drying. Every morning after 10 A.M. fodder is inverted manually /mechanically for quick and evenly drying. After 4 to 5 days, when moisture reaches to less than 15 per cent in the forages, hay is collected and bundles are made for storage. While drying, care should be taken that hay retain the leaves and green colour, as it is an indicator of good quality hay.

These bundles of hay should be stored in moisture and dust free places like bunkers/godowns to maintain quality for longer period. Hay can be fed @ 5 kg per animal per day with or without chaffing.



Sun drying of green foliage



Bundles of hay

Hay - an alternative to green fodder during deficit period

II. SILAGE MAKING

It is known as pickle of green fodder. It is easily digestible and highly palatable. Best quality silage can be prepared from cereal fodder crops like Maize, Sorghum, Pearl millet, Oats and Barley which are rich in carbohydrates/sugars. Green fodder should be harvested at milking to dough stage of the crop, containing moisture content around 65 to 70 per cent, ideal for silage making. After harvesting, fodder is chaffed to 1 to 2 inch size for filling in silo pit.

Silage storage structure (Silo pit) is to be constructed prior to initiating silage making. Surface silo is an ideal storage structure and to be constructed on raised ground to minimize inflow of water. Size of the silo pit depends on the quantity of fodder to be ensiled. Silo pit with area of one cubic meter (1 metre length x 1 meter width x 1 meter height) is sufficient for ensiling 500 to 600 Kilograms of chaffed fodder.

The chaffed fodder is filled in tightly pressed layer of 10 cm each. Pressing of fodder can be done manually in small silo and through tractors on big size silo. After complete filling of silo pit, silage heap should be well sealed at the top with polythene sheet and 5 inches thick moist soil layer. Later, if some cracks are visible in the covered layer, more soil should be spread to seal it. Use of additives should be avoided in silage making. However, if fodder is not harvested at proper stage, suitable additives (molasses/common salt/ urea/formic acid) can be used during fodder filling.

After 45 days silage is ready for animal feeding. When green fodder is in deficit, silo pit can be opened from one side to take out the silage as per daily need of animals. It may be covered properly with polythene sheet after taking out of silage daily. Silage is a substitute of green fodder. However, initially for 3 – 4 days, its feeding is limited @ 5 to 10 kg/animal/per day to adjust the animals on silage feeding.



Chaffed fodder



Filling and pressing in silo pit



Fully sealed silo pit



Silage making is an effective way to conserve green fodder

C. UREA AMMONIA TREATMENT OF CROP RESIDUES

It is well known that green fodder, cattle feed and dry fodder in combination form the ideal nutritional source for maintaining health and milk production of animals. But sometimes due to non-availability of green fodder in sufficient quantity and high price of cattle feed pose problems for the farmer to meet nutritional demand of milking animals. Generally, paddy, wheat, bajra and sorghum straws are available in plenty with the farmers but these straws are deficient in nutrients and low in digestibility. Straws have less than 4 per cent protein. Urea treatment of straw increases its nutritive value by raising the protein content to about 8 per cent. Feeding urea treated straw may reduce the cattle feed requirement up to 30 per cent.

Straw Treatment Method:

1. At a time at least 1 ton straw should be treated. We need 40 kg urea and 400 litres of water for the treatment of 1 ton straw.
2. Dissolve 4 kg urea in 40 litres of water.
3. Spread 100 kg straw on the floor to form 3-4 inch thick layer.
4. Sprinkle 40 litres of prepared urea solution on the straw using gardener's sprinkler. Then press the straw with feet by walking on it.
5. Spread another 100 kg of dry straw on top of this compressed straw, and prepare another 40 litres of urea solution again by dissolving 4 kg urea in 40 litres of water. Sprinkle the prepared urea solution over the second layer of straw and repeat the compaction by walking on the layer of treated straw. Likewise, repeat the procedure 10 times by spreading 10 layers of straw, sprinkling it with 4 % urea solution and then pressing with feet.
6. Cover the treated straw heap with a new plastic sheet and spread some quantity of mud at the point where it touches the ground to prevent the formed ammonia gas to escape.
7. In case plastic sheet is not available, cover the treated heap with dry straw. Then after putting some soil, cover the same with wet clay / or cow dung layer to make it airtight.

UREA AMMONIA TREATMENT OF CROP RESIDUES (contd)

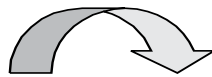
Precautions:

- Never feed urea or urea solution directly to the animal. Urea as such is fatal to animals.
- While treating the straw, keep the urea solution away from the reach of animals.
- Cemented floor is more appropriate for treatment of straw. If the floor is kaccha, use a plastic sheet on the floor before spreading the first layer of straw.
- It is convenient to undertake straw treatment in a closed room or in the corner location.
- Treated straw should be opened after 21 days in summer and 28 days in winter. Before feeding, the straw should be spread in open air for the ammonia gas to escape.
- Start with feeding small quantities of treated straw. Slowly the animal gets habituated and starts relishing it.

UREA AMMONIA TREATMENT OF CROP RESIDUES



Ensure correct quantities of urea & water



Ensure correct quantity of straw

UREA AMMONIA
TREATMENT OF
CROP RESIDUES



Ensure proper mixing



Ensure proper pressing and sealing



Urea treated straw after opening the seal

Urea treatment improves the nutritive value of straws



D. FODDER MOWERS & PICK UP DEVICES



Photo A

Auto Pick up Balers



Photo B

Flail Mower, Chopper Loader



Photo C

Reaper binder mower



Photo D

Raker

Due to labour shortage many farmers are adopting grain harvesters/pickers intensively for managing food crops like wheat rice, maize, oil seeds, pulses leading to huge loss of fodder biomass which was otherwise available to dairy cattle in manual harvesting system. For reducing fodder wastage, the farmers need to introduce fodder mowers and auto pick up devices for effective management of fodder and recovery of straw after combining. Mowers are high speed green fodder and straw harvesting machines having inbuilt options for threshing / chopping / trailer loading / stem cracking/ conditioning. They are the most economical devices for straw recovery, silage making, hay making, mulching, composting/fertigation. Mowers are also known as roughage management machines used for intensive fodder production for higher protein and higher energy recovery at right stage of harvesting, storage, banking and ware housing.

Depending on season, crop hardness, tenderness, thickness, height and moisture of different crops, various types of mowers are to be propagated. Following three kinds of straw securing and fodder management devices will be extremely useful in near future:

- a) Auto Pick up Balers (**Photo A**)
- b) Flail Mower, Chopper Loader (**Photo B**)
- c) Combine prevention / reversal mowers (**Photo C**)

FODDER MOWERS & PICK UP DEVICES (contd)

a) Auto Pick up Baler is driven by 50 - 75 hp tractors. It picks up a swath width of about 1500 -1800 mm. Straw or hay pick up rate with this machine is about 1 to 2 MT per hour depending on crop and swath. Size of the bales can be adjusted from 10 to 20 kg. Small bales are easy to handle and can be transported to transit storage points with ease and minimum drudgery. Loading, unloading and stacking of fodder becomes very convenient after field baling. Also onward trading and distribution is quite convenient after baling. Left out straw from dwarf varieties can be baled directly after combining. But for taller biomass additional disc or drum or sickle type mower is essential before baling works. For managing high moisture biomass we need another machine called collection inversion cum liner rake (Photo D) so as to sun dry the biomass before pick up & storage. The baler machine can work on almost all types of biomass. About 20 MT of straw can be secured in one day by employing 75 HP tractor driven baler. Many leading international brands of straw or hay baler machines are active in India now – Claas, New Holland, John Deere, Kuhn are among the top players.

b) Flail Mower, Chopper Loader is also driven by 50 - 75 hp tractors. It pick up swath width of about 1300 to 1900 mm. Straw recovery rate with this machine is about 2 to 3 MT per hour depending on crop height and swath. Machine has option of blowing the fodder biomass back into field for sun drying or fertigation or mulching as per specific needs of the farmer. For high moisture biomass collection, inversion cum liner rake (Photo D) is also required so as to sun dry the biomass before pick up and storage. The machine can work on almost all types of biomass. The mower ensures added benefit of high speed silage and hay making due to inbuilt chopping and cracking facilities. About 20 MT of straw can be picked up in one day with this mower in loose form. Mechanisms used in the flail mowers are simple, but strong & sturdy. Therefore, low skill level workers and operators can also run this type of biomass recovery mowers. Major players for flail harvesters in India are Fimaks, John Deere, New Holland.

c) Combine prevention / reversal mowers -Under this category many kinds of smaller crop mowers are available now. Self propelled Reaper Binder with 10 HP diesel engine is gaining momentum in India due to its versatile usefulness in fodder as well as grain crops like wheat, rice, rain-fed sorghum, bajra, pulses, oil seeds etc. The machine harvests the crops at almost zero level - just 60 mm above the ground thus guarantees 100% straw recovery. Bundles made by the reaper binders are fully automatic (labour free) and are quite handy. BCS and Jashoda are top suppliers for reaper binders in India. The mower machine can harvest about 8 acre in one day.



E. PACKAGES OF PRACTICES OF IMPORTANT FODDER CROPS IN INDIA

SUMMER/KHARIF CROPS

Crop	Soil type	High yielding varieties	Sowing time	Seed rate (kg / ha)	Row Spacing cms	Fertilizer rate (kg/ha)	No. of irrigations	Harvesting time (days)	No. of cuts / year	Fodder yield (ton / ha)
Sorghum (Single cut)	Sandy Loam to Clay Loam	PC – 6, 9 HC – 136, 308 HJ – 513, CSV 21 F Pant Chari 5	June – July (North India) Feb to Nov (South India)	25-30	30-40	N – 90 P- 30	2-3	80-90 for late varieties and 65-57 for early ones	1	30-50
Sorghum (Multi-cut)	Sandy Loam to Clay Loam	SSG 988 CSH 24 MF CSH 20 MF CO FS 29 Pant Chari 6	March – July (North India) Feb to Nov (South India)	25-30	30-40	N - 60 P - 30 & N - 30 kg after every cut	5-6	First cut at 60 days and rest at 45 days interval	3-4 & 6-7 in case CO FS29	70-90
Maize	Sandy Loam to Clay Loam Good drainage	African Tall J-1006 Pratap Makka Chari 6 Vijay Composite	March – August (North India) Feb to Nov (South India)	60-80	30-40	N – 80 P- 40 & N – 30 kg after every cut	3-4	75-80	1	35-55
Pearl Millet	Sandy Loam	AVKB-19 GFB-1 FBC 10	March to July	8-10	30	N – 40 P- 20	2-3	First cut at 50 days and rest cuts at 35 days interval	3-4	25-50



E. PACKAGES OF PRACTICES OF IMPORTANT FODDER CROPS IN INDIA

SUMMER/KHARIF CROPS (contd)

Teosinte	Sandy Loam to Clay Loam	TL - 1	July	30-40	40-45	N - 90 P- 30	2-3	75 days stage	1	35-40
Cowpea	Sandy to Loam	UPC 618 UPC 625 UPC 622	March to July	30-35	30-45	N - 30 P- 40	2-3	60 -80	1	25 -30
Crop	Soil type	High yielding varieties	Sowing time	Seed rate (kg/ha)	Row Spacing cms	Fertilizer rate (kg/ha)	No. of irrigations	Harvesting time (days)	No. of cuts / year	Fodder yield (ton/ha)
Rice bean	Sandy Loam to Clay Loam	Bidhan 1 KRB - 4	April to August	20-25	30-35	N - 30 P- 40	2-3	70-90	1	20-25
Cluster bean	Sandy to Sandy Loam	HFG-156 Guara-80 Bundel Guar - 1,2,3	April to August	25-30	30-35	N - 30 P- 40	2-3	60-75	1	20-30

PACKAGES OF PRACTICES OF IMPORTANT FODDER CROPS IN INDIA

WINTER/RABI CROPS

Crop	Soil type	High yielding varieties	Sowing time	Seed rate (kg/ha)	Row Spacing cms	Fertilizer rate (kg/ha)	No. of irrigations	Harvesting time (days)	No. of cuts /year	Fodder yield (ton/ha)
Berseem	Loam to Clay Loam	Wardan, JB-1, BL - 1, 10, 42 Mescavi	October to November	25	20	N - 30 P- 60 K - 40	10-15	First cut at 60 days and rest at 25 days interval	5-6	70-110
Lucerne	Sandy to Loam	Anand - 2 (Annual type) RL - 88 and Anand Lucerne 3 (Perennial type)	October to November	25	20	N - 30 P- 80 K - 40	10 (Annual) 15 (Perennial)	First cut at 50 days and rest at 30 days interval	Annual - (6) Perennial (8 cut)	60-80 (Annual) 80-110 (Perennial)
Oats	Sandy Loam to Loam	Kent UPO 212 Harita (RO19) Bundel Jai 2004	October to November	80-100	20-25	N - 80 P- 40	3-4	First cut at 60 days and second cut at 50 % flowering	1-2	30-45)
Fodder Mustard	Sandy Loam to Loam	Chinese Cabbage	September to November	6-8	30-40	N - 60 P- 30	2-3	AT 50 % flowering	1	25-30
Fodder beet	Loam	Jamon, JK Kuber,	November to December	3	50	N - 120 P - 60 K - 40	8	Digging of roots at 100 days onward	1	75 - 100

PACKAGES OF PRACTICES OF IMPORTANT FODDER CROPS IN INDIA

PERENNIAL GRASSES/PASTURE LEGUMES/FODDER TREES

Crop	Soil type	High yielding varieties	Sowing time	Seed rate (kg/ha)	Row Spacing cms	Fertilizer rate (kg/ha)	No. of irrigations	Harvesting time (days)	No. of cuts / year	Fodder yield (ton/ha)
Hybrid Napier Grass	Sandy Loam to Clay Loam	CO 3, 4 PBN - 233 BNH 10 APBN - 1 IGFRI 10 Phule Jayawant	March to October in North India Year Round (South India)	20000 root slips/ stem cuttings	100 x 50	FYM - 15 ton N - 50 P- 80 K - 60 at planting N - 50 kg/ha after every cut	Every 15-20 days interval	I cut at 90 days after planting Rest cut at 45-60 days interval	7-8	200 to 350
Guinea Grass	Sandy Loam to Clay Loam	CO PGG-518, 616 Bundel Guinea - 1	March to August in North India Year Round (South India)	40000 root slips or 3-4 kg per ha	50 x 50	FYM -10 ton N - 50 P- 60 K - 40 at planting N 30 kg/ha after every cut	Every 30-35 days interval	I cut at 75 days after planting Rest cut at 45 days interval	7-9	100 to 120
Anjan/ Dhaman Grass	Sandy to Sandy Loam	Bundel Anjan -1, 3 CAZRI 78	March to September in South India June-July in North India	5-6 kg / ha	45 x 30	N - 40 P- 30 K -30 at planting	Rain fed	I cut at 60 days after planting Rest cut at 50 % flowering stage	3-4	10-12
Para Grass	Loam to Clay Loam	Local	July -August	5-6 quintals of stem cuttings	50 x 50	FYM - 10 ton N - 25 kg after each cut	Rain fed	I cut at 75 days after planting Rest cut at 30 days interval	6-8 in North India and 8-10 cuts in South India	18-25



PACKAGES OF PRACTICES OF IMPORTANT FODDER CROPS IN INDIA

PERENNIAL GRASSES/PASTURE LEGUMES/FODDER TREES

Crop	Soil type	High yielding varieties	Sowing time	Seed rate (kg/ha)	Row Spacing cms	Fertilizer rate (kg/ha)	No. of irrigations	Harvesting time (days)	No. of cuts / year	Fodder yield (ton/ha)
Stylo	Loam to Sandy Loam	Verano, Scabra Hamata	June-July in North India and March to September in South India	6-8	30	N – 25 P – 40	Rain fed	I cut at 60-70 days after sowing second cut at 60 days interval	3-4	15-35
Siratro, Clitoria ternatea	Sandy Loam to Clay Loam	Local	June-July in North India and March to September in South India	8-10	30	N – 25 P – 40	Rain fed	I cut at 70-80 days after sowing second cut at 60 days interval	2-3	15-25
Hedge Lucerne	Sandy Loam to Clay Loam	Local	June-July in North India and March to September in South India	2-3	45 x 10	N – 25 P – 60	Rain fed	I cut at 70-80 days after sowing second cut at 45 days interval	4-5	30-40
Gliricidia sepium	Loam to Clay Loam	Local	July to August in rainy season	2000 stem cuttings	500 x 100	N – 25 P – 60	Rain fed	After 5-6 months of planting lopping of tree branches as per need	2 -3 times	10-15
Subabool, Agasthi, Shevri	Sandy to loam	Local	July – August	4-5	500 x 100	N – 25 P – 60	Rain fed	After 5-6 months of planting lopping of tree branches as per need	2-3 times	10-15

SECTION III

HOUSING OF ANIMALS

Animal housing is also very important in harnessing the maximum potential of the animal. Stressful conditions significantly reduces productivity and it is therefore important to protect the animal from inclement weather.

Improper housing also predisposes the animal to hoof conditions.

The following chapters are included in this section:

- A. Animal Housing.
- B. Heat Stress.
- C. Measuring heat stress through symptoms.
- D. Measuring heat stress through indices.
- E. Managing heat stress.

Some high cost cattle shed options



Some low cost cattle shed options



A. ANIMAL HOUSING

It is important to provide clean and comfortable housing facilities to the dairy animals for their proper growth and optimum productivity. The milch animals should be protected from extreme weather conditions of summer, winter, scorching direct sunrays and winds by providing proper animal sheds.

During summer, the animals suffer from heat stress and they become restless. Sweating and panting, to some extent helps them cool their bodies. Reduced feed intake of the animals results into decreased milk production. Therefore, we must have a suitable housing for the animals.

- Animal shed must ensure minimum 5.5 feet x 10 feet floor space for one cow / buffalo. The flooring should be of rough concrete finish with 1.5% slope towards drain. The drain should be open, 8 inch wide, 3 inch deep having 1.0% cross slope so that the shed remains clean.
- Height of the ceiling should not be less than 10 feet may it be thatched or of AC Sheets, Brick or RCC.
- Shed should be open from three sides. Only western side should have wall. For every animal there should be ventilator of size 3 feet x 1 feet at the ceiling level. During winter remaining three open sides may be covered by gunny cloth.
- 2 feet wide and 1.5 feet deep manger should be located on western wall of the shed. Base of the manger may be 1 feet above the floor level. Trough for drinking water should be provided by the side of the manger.
- Eastern side of animal shed should have free loafing area. Animals are more comfortable under the shade of the tree. Loafing area, therefore should have 2-3 shady trees e.g. Neem.
- During summer, sprinkling of water on the animal at an interval of 15 to 20 minutes reduces heat stress as evaporation of water causes cooling of body.



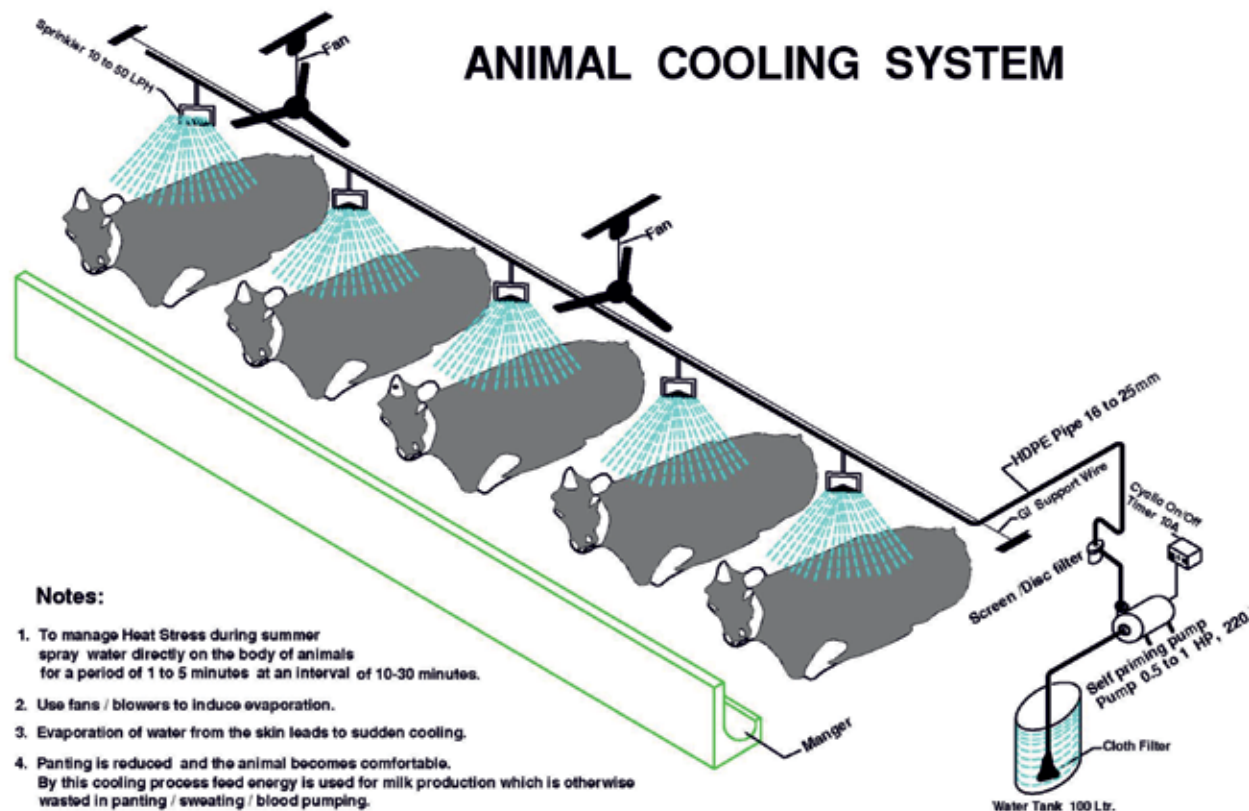
Animal cooling systems are very important especially in high yielding crossbreds and exotic animals.

Cooling systems reduces heat stress and maintains milk production

B. HEAT STRESS

Heat stress on animals leads to productivity loss on account of following:

- Rise in body temperature, reduced feed intake, sweating, panting, increased pulse rate, increased peripheral blood flow, reduced growth hormones, high mortality, increased water intake, reduced milk production & reduced breeding efficiency.
- To combat the ill effects of heat stress, NDDB has developed a water misting based Animal Cooling System costing Rs 11000 for six animals.



- One gram of water evaporation takes away 540 calories of metabolic heat generated by animals.
- Drop in temperature by water evaporation (so called zero energy cooling) from the animals body could exceed 13°C depending on humidity, thus bringing them back into comfort zone during hot summer days.



Cooling systems reduces heat stress and maintains milk production

C. MEASURING HEAT STRESS THROUGH SYMPTOMS

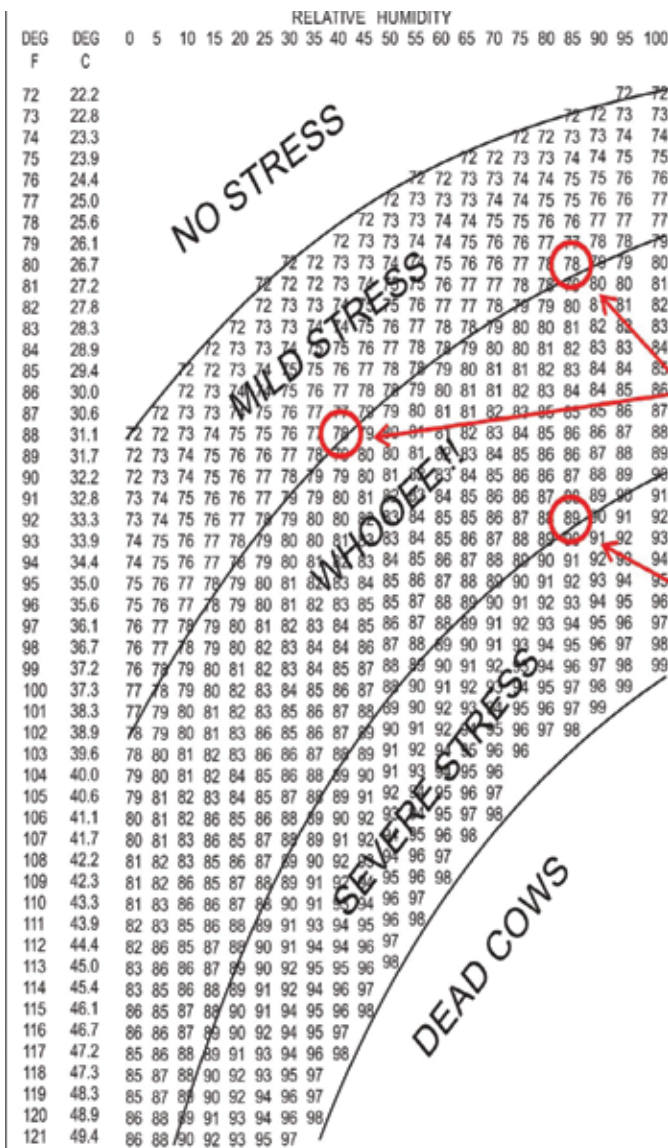
- Assessing the level of heat stress is important to prevent or reduce production losses due to heat stress or even prevent mortality in severe cases.
- Scoring the levels of heat stress by the symptoms (Panting Score) shown by animals would give an idea about the condition of the animals.

Breathing condition	Panting Score	Breaths/minute
No panting– normal Difficult to see chest movement	0	<40
Slight panting, mouth closed, no drool or foam. Easy to see chest movement	1	40-70
Fast panting, drool or foam present. No open mouth panting	2	70-120
As for 2 but with occasional open mouth, tongue not extended	2.5	70-120
Open mouth + some drooling. Neck extended and head usually up.	3	120-160
As for 3 but with tongue out slightly, occasionally fully extended for slight periods + excessive drooling	3.5	>160
Open mouth with tongue fully extended for longer periods +excessive drooling. Neck extended and head up.	4	>160
As for 4, but head held down. Breath from flank. Drooling may cease.	4.5	May decrease

Identify heat stress well in time to avoid production losses

D. MEASURING HEAT STRESS THROUGH INDICES

- Measuring the level of heat stress through indices can give a fair idea on its effect on the animals so that preventive measures can be implemented well in time.
- The Thermal Humidity Index (THI) is used for this purpose.
- The principle of THI is that as the relative humidity at any given temperature increases, then the comfort factor decreases.
- Milk production begins to be affected above a THI of 78 which will occur at 27°C and 80% relative humidity or at 31°C at 40% relative humidity (RH). At a THI of 89, the animal is on the verge of severe heat stress.
- The chart below gives an indication of THI indices and levels of heat stress.



HOW TO FIND RELATIVE HUMIDITY (RH)

1. A dry and wet bulb thermometer is needed.
2. Keep it in the cow shed.
3. Check the temperature reading on the dry bulb.
4. Check the temperature reading on the wet bulb.
5. Find the difference between the readings.
6. Find the RH from the chart using the procedure mentioned (See RH chart on next page).
7. Use the RH and dry bulb temperature to measure heat stress levels.



Different types of dry and wet bulb thermometers

Source: Dr Frank Wiersama (1990) Dept. of Ag Eng, The University of Arizona, Tuscon, Arizona



Knowing heat stress indices help to identify the issue early

Relative Humidity Table

Dry Bulb Temperature		Wet Bulb reads °C lower than Dry Bulb														
°C		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	14	16	18	20
2	>>>>	84	68	52	37	22	8									
4	>>>>	85	70	56	42	29	26	3								
6	>>>>	86	73	60	47	34	22	11								
8	>>>>	87	75	63	51	39	28	18	7							
10	>>>>	88	76	65	54	44	33	23	14	4						
12	>>>>	89	78	67	57	47	38	29	20	11	3					
14	>>>>	89	79	69	60	51	42	33	25	17	9					
16	>>>>	90	80	71	62	54	45	37	29	22	14					
18	>>>>	91	81	73	64	56	48	41	33	26	19	6				
20	>>>>	91	82	74	66	58	51	44	37	30	24	11				
22	>>>>	91	83	75	68	60	53	46	40	34	27	16	5			
24	>>>>	92	84	76	69	62	55	49	43	37	31	20	9			
26	>>>>	92	85	77	70	64	57	51	45	39	34	23	14	4		
28	>>>>	92	85	78	72	65	59	53	47	42	37	26	17	8		
30	>>>>	93	86	79	73	67	61	55	49	44	39	29	20	12	4	
32	>>>>	93	86	80	74	68	62	56	51	46	41	32	23	15	8	1
34	>>>>	93	87	81	75	69	63	58	53	48	43	34	26	18	11	5
36	>>>>	93	87	81	75	70	64	59	54	50	45	36	28	21	14	8
38	>>>>	94	88	82	76	71	65	60	56	51	47	38	31	23	17	11
40	>>>>	94	88	82	77	72	66	62	57	52	48	40	33	26	19	13
42	>>>>	94	88	83	77	72	67	63	58	54	50	42	34	28	21	16
44	>>>>	94	89	82	78	73	68	64	59	55	51	43	36	29	23	18

Procedure for taking the reading mentioned on the previous page

E. MANAGING HEAT STRESS

- Ensure adequate water availability to animals. A healthy normal cow needs about 100 liters of water to manage heat.
- Drinking water should be provided under shade to ensure cooling by evaporation.
- Ensure shade over the animals. If trees are not available thatched roof of a minimum height of 9 feet should be constructed. Agri-nets with 20% perforation could also be useful. In desert like situations, community shades could be introduced.
- Misting of water over the body of animals at least thrice in an hour is useful. Auto sprinklers with mini pumps and cyclic timers should be preferred.
- Air circulation in covered sheds should be increased. Ensure one ventilator of 3 x 1 feet per cow. Use ceiling fans or blowers wherever power is available.
- Create barriers against hot wind. Thatched wall should be preferred. Wet gunny cloth is another option.
- Feed the animals during morning, evening & night time.
- Prefer grazing during early morning & evening hours.
- Shave the hair coat (remove hair).
- Ration to be changed so as to provide same nutrients at reduced dry matter intake.
- Potassium rich mineral mixture should be preferred.

Managing heat stress can save your animal during summers

PART III

INFORMATION NETWORK FOR BETTER PRODUCTIVITY

The important facets of animal health, breeding and nutrition mentioned in the previous sections should be supported by an information system for recording the activities in the field so that a rich database is created which would be beneficial both to the farmers and policy makers.

NDDDB has created such a system called the Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health (INAPH) which is being presently used in the field for recording various interventions in animal health, breeding and nutrition. A brief description of the information system and the benefits to the farmers are mentioned in the following sections:

Section I. Animal Identification

Section II. Animal Health

Section III. Animal Breeding

Section IV. Animal Nutrition (Ration Balancing Programme)



SECTION I

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

- The process of uniquely identifying an animal using a marking on the body of the animal is known as animal identification.
- Identification of an animal is very important while recording any interventions on it for creation of a reliable and rich database.
- The GoI has already passed a Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals (PCICDA) Act, 2009 which makes identification of the animal compulsory.
- This Act has been passed by the GoI so that adequate measures are taken to be in line with international policies.
- There are various methods for identification like tattooing, branding , eartagging etc.
- Ear tagging is the most common method of identification and uses a unique number with a check digit. There are no chances of the number being duplicated.
- If applied correctly, it does not cause any problems and remains for many years on the ear of the animal.
- INPAH is able to record the ear tag of each animal registered with it along with all the details of the animal (breed, age, whether pregnant, milk yield, owner's details, village name etc.) so that a permanent passport of the animal is created which can be transferred or traced to any location in the country.



Ear tag



Ear tag applicator



Ear tag applied correctly

SECTION II

INAPH AND ANIMAL HEALTH

- The information system on animal health is able to record all the interventions carried out in animal health like deworming, vaccination, treatment, disease testing, outbreak management, infertility camps etc.
- The recordings can be made both at individual animal level where an identification number is required, or at a mass level (like in mass vaccination, deworming or infertility camps) where only village-wise numbers of animals are recorded which does not require individual identification numbers.

The farmer is benefitted in the following ways:

1. All information of the animal is available just by entering the tag number in the system.
2. The farmer gets timely SMS alerts on his registered mobile on the services due on his animal like deworming, vaccination (for each disease), disease testing etc.
3. A health card of the animal detailing all the interventions carried out on the animal can be generated for reference just by entering the tag no. of the animal.
4. The farmer is alerted through SMS if any disease outbreaks occur in neighbouring villages so that timely preventive measures can be taken.



SECTION III

INAPH AND ANIMAL BREEDING

- The information system on animal breeding is able to record all the interventions carried out in breeding like AI done, Pregnancy Diagnosis, Calving, Milk Recording, Typing etc.
- The recordings can be made only at individual animal level where an identification number is required. The data is used to select the elite cows and for production of high genetic merit bulls through Progeny Testing (See chapter F in Section XIII in Part I)

The farmer is benefitted in the following ways:

1. All information on the milk yield of the animal in various lactations are available in the system.
2. The farmer gets timely SMS alerts on his registered mobile on the breeding services due on his animal like next heat due, pregnancy diagnosis date, calving date etc.
3. The data helps to identify the best milking animals and bulls in the country which would be used to increase the milk production of the future generations of dairy cattle and buffalo.

SECTION IV

INAPH AND ANIMAL NUTRITION

Ration Balancing is a component of INAPH pertaining to Animal Nutrition. The ration balancing software consist of nutrient masters for nutritional requirements of various categories of dairy animals along with feed library comprising of nutritive value of feed and fodder available in various parts of the country.

Using this software, balanced ration for given animal can be formulated based on production and other physiological parameters with available feed resources at least cost.

Balanced ration formulation can be made both at individual animal level and at a herd level for group of animals having similar physiological and production profiles and such ration is recommended to the farmers.

The farmers feeding balanced ration to their animals are benefitted in the following ways:

1. The farmer gets a clear picture on the present cost of production per litre of milk.
2. The farmer understands the deficiencies or excesses in the present feeding regime especially with respect to availability of protein, total digestible nutrients, calcium and phosphorous.
3. The farmer is provided with a formula of a balanced ration based on the production and physiological status of the animal by re-adjusting the proportions of the feed being fed to the animal and/or by incorporating unconventional feed resources that may be available with him/in the village.
4. The feed costs are optimized for the present levels of production.
5. Improvement in productivity, reproductive efficiency and general health of animals, resulting in to increased profitability to the farmers.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS– ANIMAL HEALTH

Question: Should we allow animals to be vaccinated if the vaccinator does not bring vaccine in ice box?

Answer: Never, vaccines get spoiled in ambient temperature and is unable to provide protection to animals.

Question: Which animals cannot be vaccinated?

Answer: Sick animals, just calved animals (up to 3-4 weeks after calving) & calves till they attain 3-4 months of age should not be vaccinated.

Question: Can a pregnant animal be vaccinated?

Answer: Yes, there is no harm in vaccinating a pregnant animal. However, one should avoid vaccinating animals in the last month of pregnancy, as the animal as well as the fetus could be injured during restraining.

Question: Should we vaccinate unaffected animals during FMD outbreak in a village?

Answer: In an FMD affected village, it is not advisable to vaccinate animals not showing symptoms of FMD since it may already be in various stages of incubation even before any symptoms are seen. However, ring vaccination starting from 2-3 km away from the infected village and moving inward from periphery to the point of infection is very important in limiting the spread of the disease. Strict control on movement of animals, feed, fodder and people from infected areas are also equally important in controlling the outbreak.

Question: Can an animal be vaccinated against several diseases at a time?

Answer: Yes, in human beings and dogs, combined vaccines for multiple diseases are already in use for a long time. Now combined vaccines against FMD, HS and BQ are available for cattle and buffaloes also.

Question: What should we do if a rabid dog bites an animal?

Answer: Wash the wound immediately under running tap water for 5-10 minutes. In absence of a tap, pour clean water from a vessel. Clean the wound with ordinary bath soap gently. Apply tincture iodine and take the animal to the nearest Veterinary Officer.

Question: What should we do if a snake bites an animal?

Answer: Tie a tourniquet 3-4 inches above the site of the bite. Give a small incision at the site with clean blade and allow the wound to bleed. Wash the wound with detergent. Call the Veterinarian immediately.

Question: What should we do to treat tympany/bloat?

Answer: Feeding of lush green leafy fodder like Berseem, lucerne may result in formation and accumulation of gases in the rumen causing distension of rumen. In such cases, don't allow the animal to sit and do not provide water to drink. Give the animal a mixture containing 100 gm of rock salt, 30 gms of asafoetida, 100 ml turpentine oil and 500 ml linseed / vegetable oil and then consult a Veterinary officer immediately.

Question: Is there any harm if we consume milk from a cow suffering from subclinical mastitis?

Answer: Milk from cows having subclinical mastitis may contain toxins of certain bacteria that are not destroyed even by boiling. The toxins may produce diarrhoea or throat infection in humans.

Question: Is oxytocin injection given for letdown of milk harmful to animal or milk consumers?

Answer: Use of oxytocin injection is not recommended for milk let down except when used by a veterinarian for treating animals for some diseases.

Question: Should colostrum need to be fed to a new born calf?

Answer: Colostrum should be fed as early as possible to a new born calf in adequate quantities (minimum 1/10th of the body weight).

Question: Can we deworm pregnant animals?

Answer: Pregnant animals should be dewormed near the time of calving and again 6-7 weeks after calving after consultation with a veterinarian.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS– ANIMAL NUTRITION

Question: What is ration balancing?

Answer: All species require balanced ration for optimal growth, ration balancing is a process to balance the level of various nutrients of an animal, from the available resources, to meet its nutrient requirements for maintenance and production.

Question: Can we incorporate gram chuni, wheat bran, banana stem, bamboo leaf etc. and other home grown produce while balancing ration?

Answer: Yes, home grown produce, tree leaves etc. which are normally fed to animals can be incorporated while balancing ration. In fact the objective of ration balancing is to produce an optimum quantity of milk at the least cost from milch animals by readjusting, wherever required, the proportion of locally available dietary feed ingredients, so as to provide adequate amount of proteins, minerals, vitamins as well as energy.

Question: In case UMB is being offered to the animal for licking, how much quantity of urea treated straw should be fed to animal?

Answer: UMB and urea treated straw both should not be fed to animal at a time. If UMB is not given, we can offer urea treated straw to animal to the extent it eats.

Question: Is cattle feed required if we feed urea treated straw to the animal?

Answer: In case animal is neither pregnant nor lactating and is getting sufficient urea treated straw or ordinary straw along with UMB lick, cattle feed is not required. But for lactating and pregnant animals, cattle feed/bypass protein feed should also be fed along with urea treated straw as per recommendation made earlier in this booklet.

Question: Do we need to provide extra mineral mixture when we are feeding balanced cattle feed to animals?

Answer: As balanced cattle feed contains mineral mixture, we can reduce the recommended quantity of mineral mixture to 50%.

Question: What should we do if the animal does not lick urea molasses block?

Answer: To make the animal habituated to licking UMB, sprinkle flour, bran or cattle feed on the block for few days. Animal will start relishing it gradually.

Question: For how many days does one urea molasses block last?

Answer: One urea molasses block weighing 3 kg lasts for 5-7 days for one animal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS– ANIMAL BREEDING

Question: Why is improvement of indigenous breeds important? What are important indigenous breeds and where are they available?

Answer: Indigenous breeds are well adapted to our agro-climatic conditions and are resistant to many tropical diseases and can survive and produce milk on poor feed and fodder resources. Some of these breeds are well known for their high milk and fat production. However, the production potential of these animals has deteriorated over a period of time due to lack of selection. The high producing exotic breeds do not have the above characteristics and are very difficult to manage in tropical Indian scenario. Hence, indigenous breeds should be improved. Please see the inside covers for the various indigenous milch breeds of cattle & buffalo and their native breeding tracts.

Question: Which is most suitable animal for Dairying – indigenous cattle, crossbred cattle or buffalo?

Answer: Choice of breed or breed combination primarily depends on resource availability, climatic conditions, availability of required inputs (feed and healthcare facilities), availability of market for milk, criteria for milk pricing etc. In resource poor situations, indigenous cattle and/or buffaloes could be preferred while with moderate to good resources crossbred cow could be preferred. Places where fat % is the price criteria, buffaloes may be preferred.



Question: What is an economic animal?

Answer: Economic animal is one which produces one calf in a year, resistant to diseases; produce maximum milk with minimum input cost i.e. minimal per litre milk production cost.

Question: What is a state breeding policy? Why should it be followed?

Answer: Every state has defined its own breeding policy based on geographical and climatic conditions of the state and distribution of different breeds in the state. Breeding policy is a guideline to indicate what breed and breed combination or exotic blood level is most suitable in the given agro climatic condition of the state. It should be followed to get the optimum output from your animals and to conserve the native breed available in the state.

Question: What type of semen should be used to breed different type of animals? Whether AI Technician (AIT) carries semen doses of all breeds of semen so that I can choose the best option for my animal? What is sire directory? Is it available with every AIT?

Answer: Semen procured only from A and B graded semen stations should be used. The semen used should be in accordance with the breeding policy of the state. The semen doses must be carried in cryocan (not in any other container).

All AITs may not always carry the semen as per the breeding policy of the state so being an aware and progressive farmer one should be vigilant and should insist to know the breed, exotic blood level and pedigree details of the bull, the semen of which is being used to breed your animal.

Sire directory contains pedigree details of all bulls in the semen station. Ideally it should be available with AI technician if not, then the farmer may ask the AIT to obtain it from the semen station.

Question: Is Artificial Insemination (AI) a treatment for infertility/ repeat breeding?

Answer: No, AI is not a treatment for infertility or repeat breeding. It is an artificial method to inseminate an animal with semen of disease free High Genetic Merit (HGM) bull. If an animal is not able to conceive through natural service due to infertility then it won't conceive even through artificial insemination.

Question: Is there any advantage of using more than one dose of semen in one heat?

Answer: If done at correct time of heat using good quality semen and using correct AI technique following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) one dose of semen is sufficient for successful conception. However, in a few cases, if the heat period is extended beyond normal duration; ovulation is also delayed and in such cases, second insemination may be required.

Question: Should I take the animal to a bull after AI?

Answer: No, the animal should never be taken to a bull after AI.

Question: What is the ideal success rate of AI?

Answer: Success rate of 40% and above will be appropriate.

Question: Is AI successful in buffaloes?

Answer: Yes, AI in buffaloes is as successful as in cows. However, proper care should be taken for detection of heat and timely insemination of buffaloes for higher conception. The only problem one encounters with buffalo is silent heat where in animals do not exhibit heat symptoms overtly and duration of heat is also reduced.

Question: Does AI produce only male calves or weak calves or, reduce milk yield of the dam?

Answer: Analysing large number of observations has revealed that there is no adverse effect of AI on male: female ratio, calf birth weight or milk production of dam. These are superstitions or myths which are propagated by vested interests without any scientific evidence.

Question: Which bull semen is most suitable for breeding a non-descript Indian cow to get better milk from its progeny?

Answer: Use of semen from indigenous bulls like Sahiwal/Gir/Red Sindhi etc. is most suitable depending on resources or breeding policy of the state. If the farmer has resources to maintain a crossbred animal and the state breeding policy permits it, he can use pure HF/Jersey semen for production of a crossbred progeny.

Question: How does milk recording help the farmer in general?

Answer: Milk recording helps the farmer to get a complete lactation record of his animal. He also gets an idea of performance of his animal as compared to the performance of other animal in his herd or village. This information helps him to take a decision on managing the animal, whether to retain it, cull it or use it for production of progenies for herd replacement.

Question: Why are different traits such as body conformation, milk components and growth rate being measured?

Answer: Milk yield is not the sole criteria for judging the performance of the animal. Milk should also be tested for other milk components like fat, protein and lactose content as these parameters decide the market price of milk. Body confirmation and growth rate are highly and positively correlated to production and reproduction traits.

Question: Why are my animals being tested for diseases under bull production programmes (PT & PS)?

Answer: To ensure production of disease free semen, it is necessary that they are free from diseases which may be transmitted through semen. Therefore, whenever HGM bulls are produced, the bull calf as well its mother is tested to confirm their disease free status.

Question: What is sexed semen? Where it is available? What is the cost? Is it available with all AITs? How to verify whether sexed semen has been used on my animal? Is it available for all breeds and for buffaloes also? What are the advantages of using sexed semen over conventional semen? What is the success rate?

Answer: Semen having sperms to produce more progenies of a desired sex (with about 80-90% accuracy) is known as sexed semen. Currently no agency is producing sexed semen in India so it has to be imported.

Sexed semen is available at the rate of Rs.1,500 to 2,000 per dose. However, some states are making it available at a subsidized rate. Sexed semen is not available with all AITs.

To verify whether sexed semen has been used or not, the straw can be checked for the details of sexed semen and reliability of the source. Sexed semen is not available for all breeds of cattle and buffalo in India, presently it is available for only HF and Jersey breeds.

As sexed semen is imported, approval from state AH department is required to use it and keeping complete records of progeny born out of imported semen is mandatory.

It is reported that use of sexed semen gives 80-90% accuracy as compared to conventional semen straws where male: female ratio is about 50:50. However, as sperm concentration in sexed semen straw is far less than the conventional semen straw and the sorting procedure itself damages the sexed sperm, conception rate is 10 to 20 % less with sexed semen as compared to normal semen.

Question: What is embryo transfer (ET)? Is it an alternative to AI to get my cow/buffalo conceived? My cow/buffalo is not getting conceived in spite of repeated AI, can I use ET to get it conceived? Who can provide me ET services? What is the cost? Can I have a choice of sex of calf through ET?

Answer: In ET technique, the embryos produced out of elite cow and buffalo is transferred to a recipient animal which acts as a surrogate mother and carries the embryo to full term. ET is a technique to increase the reproduction rate of genetically superior females – to get more calves in a life time than possible through normal reproduction. For ET one needs reproductively healthy animals.

No, ET is not an alternative to AI to get the animal conceived.

ET services cannot be provided at farmer's level on individual basis. However ET is being carried out by a few organisations in India namely, SAG, Bidaj (Gujarat), PBGSBS, Haringhata (West Bengal), PLDB, Chandigarh, (Punjab), ULDB, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) and BAIF, Pune (Maharashtra) to produce HGM bulls for semen production.

No, ET does not provide a choice on the sex of the calf.

An embryo cannot be transferred using an AI gun and requires specialized skills and transfer equipment. Therefore do not believe if a person claims to have an embryo and proposes to transfer it into your animal. Check his antecedents properly.



BREEDS OF BUFFALO

BULLS



Murrah

Native tract: Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Jind districts of Haryana



Jaffarabadi

Native tract: Junagadh, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Porbandar & Amreli districts of Gujarat



Nili Ravi

Native tract: Originally from Pakistan, found in bordering districts of Ferozpur and Amritsar in Punjab



Pandharpuri

Native tract: Solapur, Sangli and Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra



Mahesani

Native tract: Mahesana, Banaskantha & Sabarkantha districts of Gujarat



Surti

Native tract: Anand, Kheda and Baroda districts of Gujarat

COWS





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