

IMPORTANCE OF DAIRY FARMING



Pic. Courtesy: State Cattle Breeding Farm, Aliba

IMPORTANCE OF DAIRYING

- ◆ According to FAO and OECD, consumption of milk and milk by-products is consequently expected to increase by 20% or more.
- ◆ Dairy production and dairy processing are industries of utmost importance in contributing to the global challenge of food security today and for decades to come.
- ◆ Milk and dairy products are rich sources protein and minerals such as of calcium, magnesium and phosphorus, which are essential in a healthy and balanced diet.
- ◆ Dairying can be practised at a small scale generating additional income for the poor and provide additional cash income daily or weekly.
- ◆ Studies have shown that dairying in rural areas surpassed crop production in terms of profit in marginal, small and medium-sized holdings.
- ◆ Dairy farming and its allied industries can create jobs for a large section of unemployed educated youth.
- ◆ Dairy entrepreneurs can create market opportunities for indigenous dairy products through product diversification and innovative marketing.
- ◆ Reduce poverty and malnutrition through dairy development (Increase income and equity).

ADVANTAGES OF DAIRYING

1. An important Human food, milk is palatable, easy to digest and highly nutritious.
2. Milk is a nearly perfect food. It contains fat, milk sugar, proteins, minerals and liberal source of many vitamins.
3. Can be a source of meat (animal protein) to the population.
4. Source of draft power for various agricultural operations.
5. Provide organic manure which is the best means of maintaining soil fertility and organic farming.
6. Dairying under Indian conditions fits well with agriculture as mixed farming and provides protective and balanced farming.
7. Utilization of agriculture waste by-products like rice bran, paddy straw, rice polish, wheat bran, oil-cakes, etc, as feeds.
8. Dairying offers opportunity of getting income round the year.



FEEDING MANAGEMENT OF CATTLES

- ✓ In order to get the most out of livestock you must always give animals enough good feed and clean water.
- ✓ If an animal does not get enough feed it cannot grow properly, loses weight, milk production drops and affects fertility.
- ✓ Lack of minerals in feed results in such problems as failing to come into heat, poor bone growth and loss of hair.

TYPES OF FEED GIVEN TO CATTLES :

- ✓ Roughage – They are bulky and low in energy-giving carbohydrates. Examples of such feeds are grasses, maize stalks and sweet potato tops.
- ✓ Concentrates – They are feeds which are rich in proteins and carbohydrates, e.g. Soyabeans, peanuts, sunflower seeds, etc.

FEEDING IN DRY SEASON :

- ✓ In the dry season grass becomes scarce and is low in nutrients.
- ✓ When grass is plentiful in the wet growing season you can cut grass, and store it until it is needed in the dry season.
- ✓ The grass can be stored as :
 1. Hay – It is dried grasses. Cut the grass and leave it to dry in the sun for several days turning it over to make sure it is completely dry. Do not try to make hay in the rainy season.
 2. Silage - It is grass or other plants which are cut while green and stored without air. To make silage you will need an airtight container or pit to store it in

FODDER TREES :

- ✓ The leaves and branches of the trees can be cut through the year and used as animal feed.
- ✓ Using these trees for feed is beneficial because:

- The leaves of the trees provide good feed for animals all through the year.
- The rotting leaves provide a mineral rich mulch (natural fertilizer) for other crops.
- The trees provide fuel wood, timber and shelter from the wind.
- The trees stop soil erosion and improve the fertility of the soil.

WATER :

- ✓ Animals need plenty of fresh clean water every day.
- ✓ Always give water before feeding animals and allow them to drink at least three times a day.
- ✓ Do not allow animals to stand in the water at the drinking place. This can cause disease to spread.
- ✓ A pinch of salt can be added to the drinking water to provide minerals.

CARE OF A NEWBORN CALF

- ✓ From birth the young animal is vulnerable to disease.
- ✓ It is completely dependent on the mother for food.
- ✓ Operations such as castration must be done at an early age to avoid unnecessary risks and stress to the animal.

CHECKING THE NAVEL CORD AFTER BIRTH :

- ✓ Ideally the navel cord of the newborn animal should be dipped in tincture of iodine or Dettol immediately after birth.
- ✓ This should be repeated 2 to 3 days later.
- ✓ After 1 week the cord should have dried and dropped off.

FEEDING CALVES :

- ✓ The stomach of the calf needs time to develop fully and become able to digest plants.
- ✓ At first it can only digest milk.
- ✓ Make sure to feed the calf enough milk/colostrum for the first 3 three days after birth.
- ✓ A 2-month-old calf will drink 4 to 6 litres of milk daily.
- ✓ The calf should be allowed to take all the milk it needs from his mother for the first two months of its life.
- ✓ From 3 weeks of age a calf will begin to eat a little grass.
- ✓ By 3 months of age a calf can eat plants and ruminate.



MILKING OF COWS

It is a key activity in a dairy farm. The income and success of a dairy farm depends on it. Key points to remember while milking is :

- ✓ Milking should be done gently, quietly, quickly and completely.
- ✓ The milking area should be kept clean and thoroughly washed regularly.
- ✓ The milking area should always be cleaned before milking starts.
- ✓ No dusty feed should be given to the cow during milking.
- ✓ The cow should be given a thorough wash before milking if the animal is dirty.
- ✓ The udder should also be cleaned with a cloth dipped in a weak anti-septic solution.
- ✓ The milker should wash his hands with soap before milking and between each milking.
- ✓ The milking bucket should always be cleaned before and after milking has been completed.
- ✓ While milking habits such as spitting, blowing nose, etc should be avoided.



HEALTH CONTROL MEASURES

1. Vaccination : Vaccination is one of the most effective ways of preventing specific diseases. Important points to be noted for a successful vaccination are :

- ✓ Vaccinate only healthy animals.
- ✓ Cows in advanced stage of pregnancy should never be vaccinated.
- ✓ Keep all vaccines in refrigerator until it is time for use.
- ✓ Strictly follow the manufacturer's directions.
- ✓ Destroy all unused vaccines which could not be used within its validity period.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect all equipments and clothing after vaccination.



2. Deworming: Deworming is very essential in keeping the animals at their optimum health and productivity. Some important points to be kept in mind while deworming are :

- ✓ Adult animals should be dewormed twice a year before monsoon and during monsoon
- ✓ It should be carried out every 3 months in areas of high parasitic load.
- ✓ The most suitable time for deworming is the early stages when worm load is less.
- ✓ It is good to deworm cows after giving birth.

3. Good sanitation and hygiene practices:

Proper hygiene and sanitation practices prevents occurrence and spread of diseases in a farm. Steps for good sanitation and hygiene are :

- ✓ Always give clean water to the animals.
- ✓ Feeding trough should be clean and free of faeces and urine.
- ✓ Proper and regular disposal of dung and other dirts from the farm should be done.
- ✓ Stagnant water pools or ponds around the farm should be filled/removed.
- ✓ Other domestic or wild animals/birds should be avoided entry into the farm.
- ✓ All dead animals/carcasses should be buried or burned properly.
- ✓ Farm workers should enter the animal shed in clean clothes & footwears to prevent spread of diseases.



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