

# DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

## *CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF PREGNANT & DRY ANIMAL*

# **INTRODUCTION**

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- The good care and management of pregnant cow is required for –
  - Better health of the cattle.
  - Good health of calf .
  - High milk yield during successive lactation.
- Latter 1/3 period of the gestation period is important period in view of care and management

# **GENERAL MANAGEMENT**

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1. FEEDING
2. HOUSING
3. DRYING OF COW
4. CARE AT EXPECTED DATE
5. OTHER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

# FEDDING MANAGEMENT

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- Feeding of balance ration as per nutrient requirement including concentrate & good quality fodder.
- Feeding constitute 60% of total farm production cost.
- Total dry matter requirement to cattle is around 2-3% of their body weight.
- The feeding should include both concentrate and roughage.

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Category	Quantity of green fodder
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1. 250 kg	25 kg
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2. 300 kg	30 kg
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3. 350 kg	35 kg
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- For non pregnant cow no concentrate feed is required.
- An additional quantity of 1.5 kg of concentrate is given to the pregnant cow from 7<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy.
- for dry cow allowance up to 1 kg concentrate is given if condition of cow is poor or fodder quality is poor.
- 1 kg concentrate should be given for every 2.5 kg of milk of average 4% fat .

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- In buffalo 1 kg of concentrate for every 2 kg of milk produced.
- **STEAMING UP:-**
  - Feeding in preparation to calving is called as steaming up.
  - Usually start with 1.5 kg concentrate per day before 6-8 week of calving & increase up to 4-5 kg, 2-3 day before parturition.
  - It increases the milk yield, length of lactation period, fat%, fetus growth & body development.

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## ➤ CHALLENGE FEEDING:-

- The cow with high milk production potential are to be fed increase quantity of concentrate to challenge them to produce maximum.
- Start 2 week before the expected date of calving.
- Two week before calving start feeding 500 gm concentrate.
- The quantity should be increase 300-400 gm daily until the cow consuming 500-1000 gm concentrate for per 100 kg body weight.

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- After calving the concentrate allowance should be increase by 500 gm/day in the first two week of lactation.
- This is continued until the cow achieve peak yield.
- In last 2 months of lactation when the animal is pregnant the cow should be fed 1.5 kg of concentrate in addition to their nutrition requirement for –
  - ✓ To replenish the condition loosed in early lactation .
  - ✓ Fetal growth.
  - ✓ Milk production & maintenance.





Photo courtesy of Adam Russell, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



# HOUSING MANAGEMENT

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- In early stage of pregnancy the animal may housed with other animals.
- Before 2-3 week of parturition animal should be shifted in a separate calving pen for better care & management .
- **CALVING PEN** :-
  - ✓ Space - 12 m<sup>2</sup> (3m × 4m).
  - ✓ Height - 1.25 m.
  - ✓ Slope - 1 in 40 .
  - ✓ Should be protected from outer animals.
  - ✓ Light and ventilation should be proper.
  - ✓ Should be located near the quarter of worker.
  - ✓ No of calving pen - 5-10% of total breedable stock.
  - ✓ The hygiene should be maintain to protect from any infection.



# DRYING OF THE COW

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- Dry period of ideally is about 60 days has to be provided to animal in late pregnancy.
- This will give rest to mammary gland which function during the entire lactation period & repair the wear and tear so caused.
- Result in significantly higher production during the succeeding lactation.
- Drying can be done by:-
  - ✓ Abrupt cessation of milking
  - ✓ Intermittent milking
  - ✓ Incomplete milking

# **CARE AT EXPECTED DATE**

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- To know expected date of calving is a must to take care at time of parturition.
- Careful watch should be kept close to expected date of parturition.
- Do not interfere the normal act of calving.
- If there is dystokia provide time & veterinarian help.

# **OTHER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

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- Regular checkup should be done.
- Maintaining hygiene to prevent any infection or condition of dystokia.
- Provide plenty of water.
- Regular exercise should be done.

# CONCLUSION

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- Better care and management of pregnant animal is important for –
  - Maintaining good health of animal.
  - Getting healthy calf.
  - Increase milk yield in successive lactation.
- Proper feeding should be provided to pregnant animal with proper nutrition.
- Regular health checkup is necessary.

THANK YOU