

CARE OF PREGNANT ANIMALS

- The good care and management practices given to pregnant animal will give good calf and also high milk yield during the successive lactation.
- Extra concentrate mix of 1.25 to 1.75 kgs should be provided for pregnant animal and also feed good quality of leguminous fodder.
- The animal should not be fat in condition.
- Provide clean drinking water and protection from thermal stress.
- Do not allow them to mix with other animals that have aborted or that are suffering from or carriers of diseases.

- Allow moderate exercise, which helps in calving normally.
- Do not allow them to fight with other animals .
- Avoid slippery flooring conditions, which causes the animal to fall which will leads to fractures, dislocation etc.
- If accurate breeding records are available, calculate the expected date of calving. Separate it one or 2 weeks before and shifted to individual parturition pens.
- These pens are thoroughly cleaned and fresh bedding may be provided.
- Feed one kg extra concentrates during last 8 weeks of gestation.

- Feed laxative about 3 - 5 days before and after calving (Wheat bran 3 kgs + 0.5 gms of Groundnut cake + 100 gms of mineral mixture of salt).
- Symptoms of delivery may be observed i.e. swelling of external genitalia, swelling of udder.
- If there is any difficulty, provide veterinary help.
- After parturition external genitalia, flank should be cleaned with proper care.
- Placenta will normally leave the cow within 2 - 4 hours after calving. If not, takes the help of a veterinarian.
- Take care of the animal before calving from milk fever. Give calcium supplement.
- Sometimes the udder will be swollen just before calving, such cases remove the milk partially.
- Provide always free access to drinking water.

Before Parturition

- **Turning cow into a loose box** : To isolate from other animals, animal of advance pregnancy must be separated into calving box which must be cleaned and properly disinfected, bedded with clean, soft & absorbent litter.
- **Guarding Against Milk Fever**
 - In advanced pregnancy stage high yielding & first calves are susceptible to Milk fever.
 - To avoid it, provide enough minerals especially calcium by bone meal in daily diet.
 - Give large doses of Vitamin D about a week period to calving.

- **Avoid Milking** : Prior to parturition this is likely to delay parturition by few hours.
- **Watch for parturition signs** : Signs to know primary stage of parturition which are udder become large and distended, depressed or hollow appearance on either side of tail head, vulva enlarged in size, thick mucus discharge from vulva, and uneasiness of the animal.
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During Parturition

- In normal case, period is of **2-3 hrs** while in first calving 4-5 hrs or more.
- Pregnant animals should be watched carefully, particularly during the last stages of pregnancy to avoid abortion due to fights or other physical trauma.
- Special care should be taken regarding mineral and vitamin deficiencies because they can have a serious adverse effect on the new-borns calf.

- A good calving environment reduces the exposure of cows and newborn calves to infectious disease. A clean and comfortable area that provides cows with good footing minimizes the potential for injuries.
- After removal of calf, milk animal it will help in removal of placenta. Placenta is normally expelled within 2 to 6 hours after calving.

Care with regards to feeding

- Types of feeds provided - milk laxative, palatable &c nutritious.
- Suitable feeds - Wheat bran, oats, and linseed oil seeds.
- Succulent green, palatable fodders containing 50-60% legumes are suitable while amount concentrates should be increased gradually in three weeks.
- Warm water and some wheat bran should be offered after calving

CARE OF NEW BORN YOUNGONES

Care of the newborn animal

- From birth the young animal is vulnerable to disease. It is completely dependent on the mother for food. Operations such as castration, cutting the tail and disbudding the horns must be done at a very early age to avoid unnecessary risks.

- **Checking the navel cord**

- Ideally the navel cord of the newborn animal should be dressed with 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. If infection has developed, treat it as a wound.



- **Checking for extra teats**

- Some female ruminants are born with one or more extra teats. This is especially the case with calves. The extra teat(s) can be removed by:
 - Restrain the animal firmly.
 - Identify the extra teat(s) for removal.
 - Use a pair of clean, sharp scissors to cut off the teat flush with the skin.
 - Dress the wound with tincture of iodine or antibiotic powder.
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