

PRENATAL AND POSTNATAL CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF COWS AND BUFFALOES

LPM-601 (Unit-III)



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OBJECTIVES

- To know the successful completion of pregnancy in dairy animals.
 - To know the birth of healthy and viable newborn with optimum birth weight.
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Care and management of prenatal cows and buffaloes

- Fast fetal development during last 3 months of pregnancy.
- Good care and management: Good calf and high milk yield during the successive lactation.
- Separation and transfer of pregnant animals in the calving pens two weeks before the expected date of calving.
- Calving pens: Thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.

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- Floor of the calving pens: Non-slippery and covered with soft bedding materials.
 - Avoid grazing and walking on uneven paths.
 - Drying off within 15 days after the 7th month of gestation.
 - Provide enough space for standing and sitting comfortably.

- Massaging of back and udder of animals.



- Do not allow to mix with aborted or brucellosis affected animals.

- Moderate exercise.



- Do not allow to fight and chased by dogs and other animals.

- Extra ration to meet the requirement of fast growing foetus and store energy for future lactation.
- Pregnancy Allowance: 1.25-1.75 kg extra concentrate mixture.
- Intravenous calcium supplementation to prevent milk fever in case of high yielder 2 weeks before calving .
- Fresh and clean drinking water.
- Partial removal of milk from swollen udder.



Daily feed requirements of a pregnant cows and buffaloes

Green fodder	15-20 kg
Dry fodder	4-5 kg
Cattle feed	2-3 kg
Oil cakes	1 kg
Mineral mixture	50 gm
Salt	30 gm

Care and management of postnatal cows and buffaloes

- Protection of calved animal and newborn from inclement weather.
- Vigilant watching of animal by attendant.
- Observe the signs of approaching parturition.
- Normal birth process takes place around two hours.



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- Consult veterinarian in case of difficulty or assistance in calving.
 - Manual removal of mucous discharges around nostrils and the body of calf if not cleaned by dam.
 - Clean external genitalia, flank and udder after calving.
 - Suckling of calf within half an hour after birth for good growth.



- Consult veterinarian if placental membranes not discharged within 2-4 hours after birth.
- Avoid ingestion of placenta by the cow.
- Provide light, palatable and mild laxative ration to cow for early expulsion of placenta.
- Provide tender green fodder and fresh water *ad lib*.

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- Extra concentrate at the rate of 1 kg for every 2 to 2.5 liters of milk along with Salt and mineral supplements.
 - Always treat them gently and with kindness.
 - Proper feeding and care to come into heat within 60 days of calving.
 - Shorter the calving interval, the more efficient the animal as a milk producer.
 - Individual feeding of animal according to its production.

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- Regularity of feeding.
 - Provide water at frequent intervals.
 - Regularity in milking.
 - Practice of full hand dry milking.





- Early weaning of calves.
- Protection of animals from high environmental temperature.
- Grooming of the cows and washing of the buffaloes before milking.
- Wallowing of buffaloes to be comfortable especially in summer.



THANKS

