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## SENIOR FIVE TERM 2

### CONSTRUCT: ANIMAL PRODUCTION

#### TOPIC 2/2: Livestock Management and Rearing Practices

**Competency:** The learner applies evidence-based livestock management and rearing practices to ensure optimal quality production.

#### Business model canvas

The Business Model Canvas (BMC) is a strategic management tool that visually maps out the nine key building blocks of a business model, showing how an organization creates, delivers, and captures value. It helps entrepreneurs and managers simplify complex ideas into a single-page framework.

#### Definition

The Business Model Canvas was developed by Alexander Osterwalder and Yves Pigneur. It provides a **high-level overview** of a business by breaking it down into essential components such as customers, value propositions, revenue, and resources.

## The Nine Building Blocks

Block	Description
Customer Segments	Defines the groups of people or organizations the business serves.
Value Proposition	Explains what makes the product/service attractive and how it solves customer problems.
Channels	Outlines how products/services are delivered to customers (sales, distribution, marketing).
Customer Relationships	Describes how the business interacts with and retains customers.
Revenue Streams	Shows how the business earns money from each customer segment.
Key Resources	Lists the assets needed to deliver the value proposition (people, capital, technology, land).
Key Activities	Identifies the most important actions the business must take to operate successfully.
Key Partners	Highlights external organizations or individuals that help the business succeed (suppliers, cooperatives).
Cost Structure	Details the major costs involved in operating the business.

## Why It Matters

- **Clarity:** Summarizes the entire business model on one page.
- **Flexibility:** Easy to adapt and update as conditions change.
- **Collaboration:** Helps teams brainstorm and align strategies.
- **Decision-making:** Identifies strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities quickly.

In short, the Business Model Canvas is a practical blueprint for understanding and designing how a business works.

## Example Business Model Canvas for Rearing a Cow

Here's a structured **Business Model Canvas (BMC)** for small-scale cow rearing, focusing on milk and meat production is given below

## Business Model Canvas for rearing a cow (s)

	Block	Example for Cow Rearing
1.	<b>Customer Segments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local households buying fresh milk</li> <li>- Dairy processors and cooperatives</li> <li>- Butchers and meat retailers</li> <li>- Restaurants and hotels</li> <li>- Farmers seeking breeding stock</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Value Proposition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fresh, high-quality milk daily</li> <li>- Nutritious beef for local markets</li> <li>- Manure for organic farming/ Low-carbon footprint manure management.</li> <li>- Breeding services (heifers, bulls)</li> <li>- Reliable supply chain for processors</li> <li>- <b>High-Quality Produce:</b> Organic/hormone-free milk or premium marbled beef.</li> <li>- <b>Traceability:</b> Detailed health and origin records.</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Channels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Direct farm sales</li> <li>- Local markets and shops</li> <li>- Dairy collection centers</li> <li>- Contracts with hotels/restaurants</li> <li>- Farmer cooperatives milk hub</li> <li>- Digital Platforms: (WhatsApp/Social Media marketing.)</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Customer Relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trust through consistent quality</li> <li>- Personalized service (home delivery of milk)</li> <li>- Long-term contracts with processors</li> <li>- Community engagement via farmer groups</li> <li>- Reliable supply for hotels or processors.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Revenue Streams</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sale of milk (daily cash flow)</li> <li>- Sale of meat (periodic income)</li> <li>- Sale of calves/breeding stock</li> <li>- Sale of manure</li> <li>- Leasing bulls for breeding</li> </ul>

## Business Model Canvas for rearing a cow (s), continued

6	<b>Key Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Healthy cow(s) {High-yielding breeds (e.g., Friesian for milk, Boran for beef)}.</li> <li>- Land for grazing, housing or zero-grazing sheds</li> <li>- Feed (pasture, silage, concentrates)</li> <li>- Veterinary services</li> <li>- Labor (family or hired)</li> <li>- Water supply (Consistent clean supply.)</li> <li>- Infrastructure: Milking parlor, sheds, and cooling units.</li> </ul>
7.	<b>Key Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animal Husbandry (feeding, watering cleaning, grooming)</li> <li>- Health management (vaccination, deworming, monitoring)</li> <li>- Milking and milk handling (if dairy)</li> <li>- weight tracking (if beef)</li> <li>- Breeding management (improvement/selection)</li> <li>- Marketing and distribution</li> </ul>
8.	<b>Key Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Veterinary doctors</li> <li>- Feed suppliers</li> <li>- Dairy cooperatives</li> <li>- Financial institutions (loans/credit)</li> <li>- Extension services (government/NGOs)</li> <li>- AI (Artificial Insemination) Technicians</li> <li>- Ag-Tech providers (tracking collars/sensors)</li> </ul>
9.	<b>Cost Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase of cow(s)</li> <li>- Feed and supplements</li> <li>- Housing and equipment (sheds, milking cans)</li> <li>- Veterinary care</li> <li>- Labor costs</li> <li>- Transport and marketing expenses</li> </ul>

### Key Takeaway

- (i) This example shows how cow rearing can be structured as a **business model**: balancing **costs (feed, health, housing)** with **revenues (milk, meat, calves, manure)**, while building strong customer relationships and partnerships.
- (ii) The building blocks of Business Model Canvas need not to be in order given above

## Animal Husbandry Practices for Rearing a Dairy Cow (for example)

Rearing a dairy cow requires **systematic animal husbandry practices** to ensure good health, high milk yield, and long-term productivity. These practices combine feeding, housing, health care, and management.

### (i) Feeding and Nutrition

- **Balanced diet:** Provide adequate forage (pasture, hay, silage) and concentrates (maize bran, cottonseed cake, sunflower cake).
- **Mineral supplements:** Essential for milk production and bone health.
- **Clean water:** Dairy cows need plenty of fresh water daily (up to 60 liters).
- **Feeding schedule:** Regular feeding times improve digestion and milk yield.

### (ii) Housing and Shelter

- **Well-ventilated sheds:** Protect cows from extreme heat, rain, and cold.
- **Clean environment:** Regular removal of dung and urine prevents disease.
- **Comfortable bedding:** Dry straw or sawdust reduces stress and improves rest.
- **Space:** Adequate room for movement prevents injuries and promotes health.

### (iii) Health and Disease Management

- **Vaccination:** Protect against diseases like foot-and-mouth, anthrax, and brucellosis.
- **Deworming:** Regular control of internal parasites.
- **Tick control:** Spraying or dipping to prevent tick-borne diseases.
- **Veterinary check-ups:** Early detection and treatment of illnesses.

### (iv) Milking Management

- **Hygienic milking:** Wash udder and hands before milking.
- **Regular milking times:** Twice daily at consistent intervals.
- **Clean equipment:** Prevents contamination of milk.
- **Gentle handling:** Reduces stress and improves milk let-down.

### (v) Breeding and Reproduction

- **Heat detection:** Observe signs of estrus (restlessness, mounting behavior).
- **Artificial insemination or natural service:** Ensure timely breeding.
- **Pregnancy monitoring:** Veterinary checks to confirm conception.
- **Calf management:** Provide colostrum within 6 hours of birth for immunity.

## (vi) General Management

- **Record keeping:** Track milk yield, breeding dates, health treatments.
- **Manure management:** Use dung for biogas or as organic fertilizer.
- **Training and care:** Gentle handling improves cow temperament and productivity.

## Key Takeaway

Proper animal husbandry practices—**feeding, housing, health care, milking, and breeding management**—are essential for rearing a dairy cow. These practices ensure **high milk yield, healthy calves, and sustainable income** for farmers.

## Occupational Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Practices in Dairy Cow Rearing

Rearing dairy cows is not only about productivity—it also requires **safe working practices and environmental protection** to ensure the well-being of farmers, animals, and the community.

### Occupational Health and Safety Practices

- (i) **Protective clothing:** Use gumboots, gloves, overalls, and masks when handling cows, manure, or chemicals.
- (ii) **Safe handling of animals:** Train cows to be calm during milking; avoid sudden movements to prevent kicks or injuries.
- (iii) **Proper milking hygiene:** Wash hands and udders before milking to prevent zoonotic infections.
- (iv) **Chemical safety:** Handle disinfectants, tick sprays, and veterinary drugs carefully; store them away from food and water.
- (v) **Injury prevention:** Use secure cow housing and crushes when restraining animals for treatment.
- (vi) **Training and awareness:** Farmers should be trained in first aid, safe animal handling, and emergency procedures.

### Environmental Protection Practices

- (i) **Manure management:** Collect and compost manure to reduce pollution and use it as organic fertilizer.
- (ii) **Wastewater control:** Prevent effluent from cow sheds and milking areas from contaminating rivers or wells.
- (iii) **Proper disposal of veterinary waste:** Safely dispose of syringes, bottles, and expired drugs.
- (iv) **Sustainable feeding:** Avoid overgrazing; practice rotational grazing to protect soil and pasture.
- (v) **Biogas production:** Use cow dung for renewable energy, reducing reliance on firewood and protecting forests.

(vi) **Water conservation:** Use clean water efficiently for cows and cleaning sheds.

### Animal Welfare (Linked to Safety & Environment)

- (i) **Adequate housing:** Provide shelter with good ventilation and drainage to reduce disease risks.
- (ii) **Disease prevention:** Vaccinate and deworm regularly to protect both animals and humans.
- (iii) **Stress-free handling:** Gentle treatment reduces accidents and improves milk yield.

### Summary Table

Area	Practices
Occupational Health	Protective clothing, safe handling, milking hygiene, chemical safety, injury prevention
Safety	Training, secure housing, first aid readiness
Environmental Protection	Manure composting, wastewater control, proper waste disposal, rotational grazing, biogas use, water conservation
Animal Welfare	Adequate housing, disease prevention, stress-free handling

### Key Takeaway

Safe and sustainable dairy cow rearing requires **protecting farmers (health & safety), animals (welfare), and the environment (pollution control, conservation)**. These practices not only prevent accidents and diseases but also improve productivity and ensure long-term sustainability.

### Note to stakeholders including teachers, school managers and assessors

- a) Educators, teachers and school managers should establish a strong relationship and build trust with the local community as a foundation of community engagement in animal and crop production. This will enable them use community resources for teaching.
- b) Choice of livestock to rear as you teach animal production. Select the livestock to rear from any one of the following categories according to resources you have:
  - (i) **Ruminants:** Cattle, sheep, goats, deer, giraffes, camels, and buffalos
  - (ii) **Non-Ruminants:** Fowls, horses, dogs, rabbits, crocodiles, elephants, donkeys, pigs, cats
  - (iii) **PISCES:** Tilapia, Nile perch, silverfish, cat fish, lung fish, tiger fish

## Revision Exercise 1

Practice preparation of Business Model Canvas(es) for different animal(s) from the choices given above.

### Husbandry practices and their importance

Husbandry practices are essential for the effective management and care of domesticated animals. These practices include selecting good breeds, feeding, providing shelter, and ensuring their health through disease control measures. They are essential for improving livestock productivity, ensuring food security, and supporting rural economies. They balance traditional wisdom with modern techniques to promote sustainable agriculture.

#### Key Husbandry Practices

- (i) **Breeding management:** Selecting good breeds to improve traits like milk yield, meat quality, or disease resistance.
- (ii) **Feeding and nutrition:** Providing balanced diets to enhance growth, reproduction, and immunity.
- (iii) **Healthcare practices:** Vaccination, disease prevention, and veterinary care to reduce mortality and improve productivity.
- (iv) **Shelter and housing:** Ensuring animals have clean, safe, and comfortable environments to reduce stress and disease.
- (v) **Waste management:** Proper disposal of manure and waste to maintain hygiene and prevent environmental pollution.
- (vi) **Record keeping:** Tracking breeding cycles, milk yields, and health treatments for better farm management.

#### Importance of Husbandry Practices

- (i) **Food security:** Livestock provides milk, meat, eggs, and other products vital for nutrition.
- (ii) **Economic support:** Animal husbandry sustains rural livelihoods and contributes to national economies.
- (iii) **Sustainability:** Integrating traditional and modern practices ensures long-term productivity without harming the environment.
- (iv) **Quality improvement:** Systematic care enhances the quality of livestock products like wool, leather, and dairy.
- (v) **Disease control:** Preventive healthcare reduces outbreaks that could devastate communities.
- (vi) **Cultural and social value:** Animals often play roles in traditions, labor, and companionship.

## Overall Importance of Husbandry Practices

- **Food Security and Nutrition:** Husbandry provides a stable and high-quality source of protein and other essential nutrients for a growing global population.
- **Economic Benefits:** It provides livelihoods and employment opportunities for millions of farmers, contributes to national economies, and helps diversify income sources for rural communities.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Integrated crop-livestock systems, a core aspect of sustainable husbandry, enhance soil fertility and nutrient cycling, reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers.
- **Animal Welfare:** Modern good husbandry practices prioritize the well-being of animals, ensuring they are free from hunger, discomfort, pain, injury, and disease, which leads to better productivity and ethical production.

## Livestock management Practices

Livestock includes all animals kept on a farm for economic purposes e.g. pigs, cattle, goats, sheep, camel, chicken, ducks; bees, pigeons, turkeys etc.

### Importance of Livestock

- It's a source of income more especially when the animals are sold wholly by the farm.
- The livestock industry provides market to the agro chemical industry through the sale of drugs and feeds.
- Livestock are a good source of proteins for man in form of eggs, milk, meat e.t.c
- The livestock industry provides employment both directly to people working in leather turning industries and milk processing plants.
- Livestock provides manure which is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus to be used in crop gardens.
- Livestock have found a place in cultural and traditional ceremonies where they are being used as sacrifices.
- Some animals like the cattle, donkeys and the horses are being used as a source of Labor in transporting farm produce and ploughing.
- On the national level, livestock products like hides and skins are a good source of foreign exchange for the country which improves the economy.
- The livestock industry is a source of government revenue when taxes are levied on livestock and their products.

### Factors determining the type and breed of livestock to be kept

- **Climate:** The high temperatures of the day tend to discourage most of the exotic animals of European origin and such animals are limited to particular areas of Uganda with favorable environmental. Conditions
- **Pests:** The presence of pests like ticks and tsetse flies has limited the rearing of exotic animals since they are more prone to tick borne-diseases like: East Coast fever, Red water, etc.
- 
- **Availability of Feeds:** Animals like pigs require high protein feeds which are expensive for most of the farmers. This may discourage the rearing of such animals where feeds are not available.
- **Diseases:** Like swine fever in pigs, coccidiosis and new castle in poultry tend to limit the distribution of livestock in many parts of Uganda.
- **Risk bearing capacity of the farmers**

Most farmers in Uganda are peasants with low income. This means that such farmers cannot easily take high risks of looking after high value exotic animals like Friesian cattle.

- **A low level of skills and education among farmers:** Most farmers in Uganda are illiterate and have little knowledge on how to manage livestock to look after. This will affect their choice of livestock and hence distribution.
- **The expected additional function of the animals:** Animals that have many functions will always be liked and their distribution in an area is high e.g. cattle. Cattle can provide meat, milk, manure and labor which other animals may not.
- **Religion and traditional beliefs:** Some animals are viewed as unclean by certain religion and traditions e.g. the pigs among the Muslims. This meant that such people can't look after the pigs.
- **Capital:** In the presence of enough capital, a farmer can look after the highly productive exotic animals with less problems since he can raise all the necessary infrastructure like dips, perimeter fences, spray races etc.
- **Government policy:** Enabling policy has led to an increase in the distribution of livestock in some places e.g. restocking of cattle some areas in Uganda like Teso with cattle.
- **Market:** The availability of market for certain livestock or their product in a particular area will increase their distribution and vice versa.

#### Characteristics of the livestock industry in Uganda

- The number of animals kept is unrestricted with most farmers preferring quantity to quality.
- There is very little attention given to the improvement of the pastures since they are grazed communally.
- The grazing time is limited as the animals are taken out to graze during the day and brought in the kraal at night.
- There is little planned mixed farming i.e. crop and animal units are rarely integrated.
- Breeding is rarely controlled e.g. animals mate when they are still very young and there is a lot of inbreeding.
- The watering places are very far away from the grazing places and animals spend a lot of energy walking.
- Generally the standard of livestock management in Uganda is very poor with no records kept at farms.

#### Problems of the livestock industry in Uganda

- **Pests and diseases:** The tropical conditions favor the multiplication of the pests like tsetse flies and internal worms. These have caused a lot to farmers.
- **Lack of enough capital:** Most farmers in Uganda are poor and therefore can't afford expensive inputs like drugs, animal feeds etc.
- **Breeding:** In Uganda most animals are mated when they are still young and there is a lot of inbreeding which will affect the quality and quantity of livestock products.

- **Poor Housing:** There is no proper housing for livestock in Uganda and the animals are left to sleep outside where they are exposed to advanced environmental conditions which will affect their products.
- **Poor Record Keeping:** Most farms in Uganda lack records of individual animals and the farms in general. This makes selection for breeding and culling difficult (removal of unproductive animals in the farm)
- **Limited Extension Services:** Most farmers do not receive enough information on livestock management from extension staff. This is because extension workers are far and are not well facilitated.
- **Poor Marketing System:** The markets for livestock and their products are still few and scattered with fluctuating prices which discourage the farmers.
- **Poor Pastures:** Most of the pastures graded by the animals are of poor quality which lowers animal production
- **Insecurity and cattle rustling:** Some places in Uganda are politically insecure which leads to loss of life and property hence discouraging livestock production.
- **Harsh climate:** Long drought leads to inadequate water and pasture which lower animal production

### Solutions to the livestock problems in Uganda

- Extension workers should be facilitated so that they can give services to the farmers more especially those who are in remote areas.
- Provision of loans, farmers should be provided with loans more especially soft loans so that they have enough capital to improve on their infrastructures like fences, dips etc.
- Artificial insemination should be encouraged so that farmers can maintain high quality animals which are more productive through the importation of semen.
- Marketing of livestock and their products should be organized so that farmers can easily get the information through the internet, newspapers and farmers journals about the markets and the available prices.
- Settled grazing should be encouraged so that more attention is given to the animals for better production.
- The land ownership laws should be improved so that farmers can get access to land easily at low cost involved. Proper land ownership also encourages the development of that particular land.
- The paddock system of grazing animals should be introduced so that animals can be controlled to reduce over grazing, encourage mixed farming and improvement of the pastures.
- Routine vaccination of animals against killer diseases e.g. rinder pest, ant swine fever, foot and mouth diseases. N.B: should be done by the Government to reduce the incidence of such diseases.
- Government should endeavor to subsidize agricultural inputs so that the farmer can enjoy a higher profit margin that can encourage them to develop their farms.

- Security should be maintained in all areas so that livestock farmers are encouraged by reducing risks of property and life loss
- Valley dams should be constructed so as to solve the problem of inadequate water during drought

## Stocking rate

**Stocking rate** is defined as the **number of animals grazing on a given amount of land over a certain period of time.**

## Carrying capacity

It is the maximum number of organisms that an ecosystem can sustainably support.

### Factors that influence the carrying capacity/stocking rate of pasture include

- **Size of pasture land:** the bigger the size of pasture land, the higher the carrying capacity
- **Absence of pests and diseases** lead to high carrying capacity
- **Forage production:** The amount of forage available in the pasture.
- **Rate of growth of pasture plant:** high rate of growth of pasture plants support high stocking rate
- **Availability of supplements:** e.g. silage, hay support high stocking rate
- **Composition of pasture:** mixed pasture have high stocking rate than pure strand
- **Forage quality:** The nutritional value of the forage.
- **Grazing system:** The type of grazing system employed on the pasture.
- **Soil fertility:** The nutrient content in the soil.
- **Climate and weather conditions:** The environmental factors affecting pasture growth.
- **Animal species and class:** different animals (cattle, sheep, goats etc.) and their specific classes (e.g. dry cow, lactating cow, bull) have varying forage requirements.
- **Rainfall and climate:** the amount, timing and dependability of rainfall, as well as overall climate conditions affect growth and availability of pasture grass
- **Topography and soil characteristics:** determine the amount of forage produced
- **Availability of water:** the quality, quantity and distribution of water source for the livestock are essential for determining how many animals the pasture can support
- **Management goals and practices:** such as grazing methods and maintenance of animal health.

### Conditions which indicate that a natural pasture requires improvement

- Patchy or bare spots: reduce the amount of pasture harvested
- Weeds taking over: reduce the quality of pasture
- Reduced forage production: reduce the amount of pasture harvested
- Change in pasture density: reduce the amount of pasture harvested
- Reduced ground cover: reduce the amount of pasture harvested

### **Factors that predispose/expose animals to diseases**

- **Age:** young and old animals are at risk of getting diseases because young animals have underdeveloped immune system while old animals have worn out immune system.
- **Climate:** very cold weather and humid conditions expose animals to respiratory infections such as pneumonia.
- Pollution. Air and water pollution exposes animals to infections and poisoning.
- Inheritance. Some diseases are associated with genetic of an animal.
- Poor hygiene encourages infection
- Injuries skin injuries exposes the animal to infection
- Presence of vectors and parasites that transmit diseases in the environment
- Poor nutrition leads to deficient disease.

### **Ways are pathogens transmitted to farm animals**

- By contact with sick animals
- Through contaminated water.
- Transmitted by vectors such as ticks and tsetse flies
- Through air such air borne diseases
- Through contaminated feeds
- Through contaminated clothes of the farmer or visitors
- Through contaminated excreta
- Through mating with infected animals e.g. venereal diseases
- From contaminated soil e.g. anthrax

### **Ways of caring for sick animals.**

- Give proper veterinary services
- Keep sick animal clean and in hygienic environment
- Provide nutritious food
- Provide beneficial bedding
- Provide adequate clean water
- Allow them to rest
- Keep animal in well ventilated places
- Sick animal should be isolated

## Cattle

### Diagram of a cow



### Classification of cattle

**Phylum;** Chordata

**Class;** Mammalia

**Order;** Artiodactyla

**Genus;** Bos

**Species;** *indicus* (humped cattle)

*taurus* (hump less cattle)

- The immigrant cattle (long horned and short horned) are considered as ancestors of ***Bos taurus*** (European type of cattle) and the ***Bos indicus*** (zebu) type.
- These mixed at different times in different ways to create the sanga cattle which is the predominant type of cattle today.
- In East Africa, the sanga have been displaced by the zebu.

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN *Bos taurus* AND *Bos indicus* CATTLE

<i>Bos taurus</i> /Exotic	<i>Bos indicus</i> / Indigenous
Don't have a prominent hump.	Have a prominent hump.
Rounded ears held at right angles with the head.	Have long dropping pointed ears.
Have a short and wide head.	Have long and comparatively narrow head.
Relatively large with the bull weighing up to 1000kgs	Relatively small with the bull rarely weighing exceeding 700kg.
The dewlap, umbilical cord and the brisket are small or absent.	Dewlap and brisket are extensively developed.
Have thick skin which is relatively tight.	Have a thin and loose skin.
Have large amounts of subcutaneous fat.	Have small amounts of subcutaneous fat.
Hair tends to be relatively long and rough	Hair is relatively short and smooth.
Legs tend to be short and are slow moving.	Legs are long and fast moving.
Mature more easily and reach full maturity at 4 years.	Slow maturity and reach full growth at 5½ years
Back line is straight	Backline is high at the shoulders, low behind the hump and higher over the pin bones.

### Indigenous cattle

These are humped cattle of tropical origin. Examples are; Zebu, Brahmin, Sanga, Nkole and Boran

#### Characteristics of indigenous cattle

1. They are resistant to adverse climate like high temperatures and drought
2. They can walk for long distances without losing condition
3. They easily convert poor pastures into milk and meat
4. They are tolerant to tick borne diseases like east coast fever
5. They have few problems of reproduction
6. They are cheap to buy and maintain
7. They are less productive in terms of milk and meat

The indigenous cattle are being kept for meat and milk by the communities in Uganda. Improvement of these animals is being carried out through upgrading with exotic cattle.

### **Exotic cattle**

These do not have humps cattle that have been imported into east Africa from European countries. They are kept for milk and meat or both

- Examples of exotic dairy breeds; Friesian, Jersey, Guernsey and Ayrshire
- Examples of exotic Beef breeds; Galloway, Hereford, Charolais, Sussex, Aberdeen Angus, Lincoln Red, etc.
- Examples of dual purpose exotic breeds; Red Poll, Dexter, Short horn, South Devon and Welsh Black

### **Characteristics of exotic cattle**

1. They have a high growth rate
2. They are not resistant to tick borne diseases
3. They have high rate reproductive problems
4. They cannot tolerate high temperatures and drought
5. They require high quality feeds for high production
6. They lose condition after walking for long distances
7. They require a high level of management
8. They are highly productive in terms of milk and meat

### **Management of cattle**

This is the care given to cattle to improve and maintain a high production.

A stockman is the person entrusted with the work of caring for livestock on a farm

### **Qualities of a good stock man**

- a) Should be kind to the animals by avoiding rough treatment that can cause injury and death to animals
- b) Should know well the monthly or routine operations on the farm like drenching, vaccination to reduce risks of disease and death of animals
- c) Should have a high ability of identifying sick animals and those on heat for prompt action.
- d) Should be able to identify and remove dangerous objects from the farm to reduce injury to livestock
- e) Must be able to keep good up to date records for reference purposes
- f) Should be able to take correct decisions as and when required to reduce losses on the farm
- g) Should be honest to reduce losses to the farm
- h) Should be healthy and energetic so as to carry out work as and when required
- i) Should be highly knowledgeable in livestock management to ensure high animal production
- j) Should be able to do work on the farm under minimum supervision from the high officers

## Management practices in cattle

These are operations done on cattle to ensure high production. They include the following:

- Feeding.
- Branding
- identification
- Housing.
- Castration
- Dehorning.
- Grooming
- Casting / putting animals down
- Vaccination
- Hoof trimming
- Drenching / dehorning
- Restraining

### 1. Dehorning



This is the removal or suppression of horns on animals. Suppressing horn growth at an early stage is called **Disbudding**

#### Importance of dehorning

- To make the handling of the animal move easy especially during drenching, castrating, ploughing etc.
- To allow more animals to fit in space during transportation of the animals and even in kraals.
- To reduce injury which is may be caused by horned cattle to others.
- To prevent the destruction of farm structure like fences by animals those are horned.
- To beautify animals hence making them more appealing.
- It introduces uniformity in a herd
- Makes animals to grow faster as nutrients meant for horn development are used in growth

## **Methods of dehorning**

The method used will depend on the age of the animal, farmer's skill and to some extent capital. Methods used in dehorning are;

- Use of caustic pencils or chemical dehorning
- Use of hot iron
- Use of dehorning saw
- Use of a rubber ring
- Use of dehorning wire
- Use of dehorning clippers

### **(a) Chemical Method:**

This is where caustic pencils or sticks are used in suppressing horns by rubbing it against the horn buds. It's done to young animals between 3-14 days of age.

#### **Procedure**

- i. Restrain the calf using ropes and cast it down
- ii. Clip the hair around the horn bud to expose it
- iii. Rub the caustic sticks or pencils against the horn bud until bleeding occurs
- iv. Apply fly repellants and antibiotics on the wound created
- v. Release the calf after the operation
- vi. Do not allow the calf into rain for a few days for faster healing of the wounds.

### **(b) Hot iron method:**

This is where a hot iron is applied on the horn bud to burn and kill the growing cells.

#### **Procedure**

- i. Restrain the calf using ropes and cast it down
- ii. Heat the iron in fire or gas until it is red hot.
- iii. Apply the hot iron around the horn bud for about 10 seconds to burn the growing cells.
- iv. Care should be taken not to go deep as it can damage the brain
- v. Apply fly repellants on the wound created to keep away flies and stop the wound from becoming septic respectively
- vi. The animal should be released after the operation
- vii. Monitor the animal to ensure that it does not go under rain

### **(c) Use of a rubber ring;**

A rubber ring is placed at the bottom of the horn bud which will stop blood supply to the horn and cut it off with in three to six weeks depending on the size of the horn. It is done on small horns at early age

**Procedure**

- i. Restrain the animal in a crush or using ropes
- ii. Use an elastrator to stretch out the rubber ring
- iii. Place the rubber ring at the base of the horn and remove the elastrator to release the rubber ring
- iv. Release the animal after the operation

**(d) Use of dehorning saws:**

This is used where the horns have grown up and is long enough. The horns are cut off near the base after restraining the animal.

**Procedure**

- i. Restrain the animal using ropes and cast it down
- ii. Administer a localized pain killer in the skin surrounding the horn
- iii. Tie a piece of thin rope around the base of the two horns to control bleeding
- iv. Cut off the horn at the base using a dehorning saw
- v. Repeat the same procedure to remove the second horn
- vi. Use a hot iron to seal the wound to stop bleeding.
- vii. Apply insect repellants and antibiotics on the wound
- viii. Release the animal after the operation and closely monitor it to assess the healing process
- ix. Remove the ropes around the base after two days

**(e) Use of dehorning wire**

This where a brittle wire is stretched and rubbed against a horn until it is cut off. The animal is restrained and the operation carried out

**(f) Use of dehorning clippers**

Dehorning clippers are tools with open blades that remove horns by cutting. They are used in the removal of large horns

**2. Castration**

It's the practice of rendering male animals sexually nonfunctional. In female animals, the practice is referred to as **spaying**

### **Reasons for castration:**

- To prevent the bad smell especially in the Billy goats.
- To prevent undesirable males from breeding.
- To make the animal docile and easy to work.
- Castrated animals grow faster and produce quality meat.
- Castration increases the quality of wool in sheep as more nutrients are channeled to the development of the wool.
- It helps in the control of venereal diseases like contagious abortion.
- It controls in breeding on the farm when males born on the farm are castrated.

### **Methods of Castration**

There are two main methods of castration namely:

- Open operation/ castration.
- Closed castration

#### **(a) Open castration:**

This is where the scrotum is opened to remove the testicles. It can also be referred to as surgical operation.

This requires a sharp knife or blade to split the scrotum vertically up to the bottom for better bleeding.

#### **Advantages of open castration**

- Ensures complete castration of the animal
- It's a cheaper method of castration since can be done using local implements like the knife

#### **Disadvantages of open castration**

- It requires a lot of skill to be carried out
- There is a high risk of infection due to the wound created
- It is slow to be carried out
- There is risk of over bleeding more especially in mature bulls

#### **Procedure of carrying out open castration:**

- The animal should be restrained first using ropes.
- Wash your hands using clean water and soap or wear clean gloves.
- The scrotum of the animals should be washed and disinfected using clean warm water and soap
- Dry the scrotum using a clean hand towel
- Apply a localized anesthesia around the scrotum to reduce pain
- Pull and squeeze the scrotum to locate the testes
- Use a clean blade or knife to cut the scrotum vertically in order to remove the testes.

- Pull the spermatic cords out and tie it using a clean string
- Cut the spermatic cord just below the knot to release the testis
- Repeat the same procedure to remove the second testis
- Seal the wound to stop bleeding by using a hot iron
- Apply fly repellants on the wound to keep away flies
- Apply antibiotic cream to stop the wound from becoming septic
- Release the animal and keep it in reach for easy supervision

### **(b) Closed castration;**

This is a type of castration which is done without opening the scrotum. It can be done using the burdizzo/**burdizzo method** or using a rubber ring/ **rubber ring method**

A burdizzo is an instrument with handles which exerts pressure on closing its jaws while a rubber ring is a thick round rubber which is stretched using an **elastator** before being placed on the “neck” of the scrotum.

#### **Advantages of closed castration**

- It's a fast method of castration
- Does not require a lot of skill
- No bleeding experienced
- Less risk of infection since no open wound is created

#### **Disadvantages of closed castration**

- Chances of a failed castration are common
- It is expensive to buy a burdizzo
- Castration using a rubber ring is very painful

#### **Castration using a burdizzo**

##### **Burdizzo**



The **Burdizzo** is the name brand of a company that makes castration device which employs a large clamp designed to break the blood vessels leading into the testicles. Once the blood supply to the testicles is lost, testicular necrosis occurs, and the testicles shrink, soften, and eventually deteriorate completely.

- Restrain the animal using ropes and cast it down
- Pull the scrotum down wards to locate the spermatic cords, ducts and nerves
- Open the jaws of the burdizzo by pressing the handles out wards
- Place the burdizzo at the “neck” of the scrotum

- Press the handles of the burdizzo in wards to lock the jaws and crush the spermatic cords, ducts and nerves
- Open the jaws of the burdizzo and remove it from the crushed area
- Release the animal after the operation
- Keep the animal within reach for easy supervision

#### **Castration using a rubber ring:**

Here a strong rubber band is straightened using an **elastator** and fixed around the “neck” of the scrotum. This cuts off blood supply to the scrotum and the testes which eventually degenerate and fall off after sometime. It’s the most painful method of castration though very effective. The farmer doesn’t expect any development of the scrotum for a life time.

### **3. Identification of animal**

This is done in order to:

- Enable a farmer to recognize his animal in case it’s lost or theft.
- Helps to monitor and manage health of an animal such as vaccination records
- Helps in selecting animals for breeding by keeping track of their genetic traits and performance
- To facilitate record keeping for each animal such as birth date, health history, etc.
- It makes easier to identify unproductive or sick animal for culling
- For regulatory compliance

#### **Guidelines for identification of animals**

- (i) Choose the appropriate method of identification for a given species and purpose
- (ii) Use unique symbols (code, number, letter or combination of numbers and letters) for each animal to avoid confusion
- (iii) Keep detailed record of each animal’s identification number , sex, date of birth, breeding and/or production record.
- (iv) Follow local and national regulations regarding animals identification
- (v) Make regular updates of records to reflect any changes, such as new births, sale or death.
- (vi) Train staff in identification methods and protocol
- (vii) Consider using electronic identification system for easier tracking and data management

#### **Methods of identification of animals**

The main methods of identification are:

- Branding
- Ear tagging
- Tattooing
- Ear notching
- Naming

**(a) Branding**



This involves sealing numbers, letters, designs or a combination of this on the skin of the animal.

**Methods of branding**

These include:

- Hot iron branding
- Chemical branding
- Freeze branding

**(i) Hot Iron branding**

This is done using a **branding iron** which is heated and stamped on the animal skin to leave marks for identification. Branding is done on the less valuable part of a hide like lower part of the thigh, jaw and hump

**Procedure of hot iron branding**

- Restrain the animal in a crush
- Heat the branding iron in fire or gas until red hot
- Stamp the hot iron on a less valuable part of the animal to burn the skin and leave marks
- Remove the iron from the skin after a few seconds
- Release the animal from the crush

**(ii) Chemical branding**

In this method, corrosive chemicals are applied on the skin causing leaving marks on the skin.

- Restrain the animal in a crush
- Clean the area to be banded
- Dip the branding equipment in the branding chemical
- Apply the chemical to the less valuable parts of the hide.
- Release the animal from the crush

**(iii) Freeze Branding**

This involves applying liquid nitrogen to the skin which freezes the hair follicles so that they die and stop hair growth in that area.

A branding iron can be dipped in liquid nitrogen and then applied on the skin. The method is good since the skin / hide is not damaged and hence can be applied to any part of the animal.

#### **Precautions for branding**

- The body of the animal should be dry
- Hot iron should be pressed for a short time to prevent damage to animal
- The marks should be put on least valuable part of the skin

#### **(b) Ear tags**



They are made of light metals or strong plastics written on with different numbers, letters or designs.

The ear tags are of two types.

- piercing (self – piercing tags)
- non-piercing

The self-fixing tags will be fixed on to the ear with force while a non – piercing ear tag, a hole must be made where it is fixed. An ear **tag applicator** can be used in stapling piercing ear tags on the ear

#### **(c) Ear notching**



This involves cutting V – shaped notches on the edge of the ear using sharp scissors or pincers. This method is popular in pigs because of their soft skin. The number and location of notches on the ear can be used for identification

#### **(d) Tattooing**



A special ink is used to inflict marks on the skin of the animal more especially inside the ear. The hair must be removed from that place before tattooing.

#### **(e) Naming**

Animal are given specific names for identification depending on a number of things like origin, coat color, etc.

### **4. Restraining**

This is the hindering of movements of animals by physical force. It's done so as to perform operations on the animals like: dehorning, castration, de-worming, identification, vaccination and drenching with minimum disturbance.

The amount of force applied during restraining depends on the temper, size and type of the animals. Cattle are not restrained in the same way as goats.

### **5. Casting**

This is a practice of putting animals down and it's done when animals are to be controlled for a long time during operations like castration, dehorning and identification.

### **6. Grooming animals**

This involves brushing off loose hair, dung, dirt and lice from the skin of an animal

#### **Reasons for grooming animals**

- To stimulate blood and lymph circulation in the body of the animal
- To remove loose hair, lice and other external parasites
- To facilitate mating in animals
- For cleanliness and good appearance for the animals
- For production of clean milk in lactating animals

## 7. Foot trimming

This involves removing overgrown parts of the foot which impairs movement of the animal. It controls lameness in animals

## 8. Culling

This involves removing unproductive and sick animals from the herd for slaughtering / selling.

It controls disease spread and wastage of feeds on the farm

## 9. Vaccination

This is done in order to control highly infectious diseases in livestock e.g. Swine fever, foot and mouth disease, Newcastle, rabies etc.

## 10. Drenching

This involves administering oral treatment as supposed to animals. It's done using a drenching gun/bottle to control internal parasites like liver flukes, round worms, tape worms, and hook worms.

## 11. Rounding up

This is done in beef animals and it involves bringing all animals on ranch in the centre of the kraal for the following reasons:

- Castrate and vaccinate animals
- Physical assessment of the animals
- To separate animals according to age, sex, type etc.
- To cull and market unproductive animals
- To wean calves of at the right age
- To carry out pregnancy diagnosis

## 12. Housing

The main reasons why animals are housed are

- To protect animals from bad weather condition mostly young ones
- To provide animals with a good opportunity of being fed well
- To provide an area for special handling of the animals e.g. Crushes, dips, spray etc.
- To provide a conducive environment for production and temporary storage for milk (quality milk)
- To provide conducive working conditions for the farmer

### Qualities of a good animal house

- (i) Provide an adequate floor space to avoid overcrowding
- (ii) Should be water proof to avoid damp conditions that breed pathogens

- (iii) Should have a concrete floor which is easy to clean
- (iv) Should provide adequate light since it affects the productivity and behavior of animals
- (v) Should have adequate ventilation to control respiratory infections
- (vi) The floor surface should have a gentle slope to allow urine to drain off easily
- (vii) Should be built in such a way that animals can easily see each other

## Livestock breeding

This is the mating of selected animals in a planned manner

### Aims/objectives of animal breeding

1. To maintain desirable qualities in animals like increased number of eggs produced in chicken, high number of off springs born per animal,
2. Produce animals with a high mothering ability i.e. low temperament and high milk production
3. Produce highly fertile animals that can produce twins or many offspring
4. Produce animals with a high growth rate
5. Produce animals that can give a lot products like milk and eggs
6. To come up with breeds that produce high quality meat, wool, milk and egg
7. To produce breeds of animals that are resistant to parasites and diseases
8. Produce animals with high feed conversion ratio.
9. To produce animals with a high resistance to harsh environmental conditions
10. To produce animals that can provide products for a long period of time

### Terms used in animal breeding

- a) **Allele:** These are different forms of a gene at a particular locus e.g. Tt
- b) **Back Cross:** This is a cross between an animal offspring and one of the parents
- c) A **breed:** This is a large group of animals developed by the efforts of man having a common ancestry and possessing similar morphological, physiological and economic characteristics.
- d) **Breeding:** This is a technique involved in mating selected animals because of their desirable characteristics.
- e) **Chiasma:** This is a place of connection between two chromosomes seen during prophase I of meiosis.
- f) **Cloning** is the production of an offspring which represents the identical genes as its parent.
- g) **Crossing over:** This is the process of exchange of genetic information between two homologous chromosomes during meiosis.
- h) **Diploid:** It's an individual cell having 2 complete sets of chromosomes.
- i) **Epistasis:** This is where a gene masks the effect of another. The gene which masks is called epistatic gene. The masked gene is called a hypostatic gene.

- j) **Dominant gene:** Its one which can express itself phenotypically in both homozygous and heterozygous states e.g. a gene for tallness (TT) in a garden pea.
- k) **Inheritance:** It's a mechanism by which characteristics are passed on from parents to offsprings. If a character is 20% heritable. It means that the 20% is determined by the genes while the 80% depends on the environment.
- l) A **hybrid:** These are the offspring resulting from a cross between two parents of different breed or stock.
- m) **Hybrid Vigor:** (heterosis) this is an unusual growth and healthiness (better performance) of organisms resulting from the cross between two different parents or better performance of a hybrid beyond that of parents
- n) **Inbreeding:** This is the mating of closely related animals
- o) **Locus:** This is the physical position of the gene on a chromosome
- p) **Linkage:** This is the tendency of genes located on the same chromosome to be inherited together in a successive generation
- q) **Out Breeding:** This is the mating of unrelated animals and is sometimes called crossing
- r) **Pedigree:** It's a chart showing the ancestry history of an individual
- s) **Progeny:** These are offspring resulting from a mating
- t) **Recessive Gene:** A gene whose expression is only seen when in a homozygous state only.
- u) **Heterozygous:** It's a situation where an organism has two different alleles e.g. Tt
- v) **Homozygous:** It's a situation where an organism has two like alleles e.g. TT or tt
- w) **Sex chromosomes:** These are chromosomes that determine the sex of organisms e.g. X and Y chromosomes in animals.

## Selection

This is a practice of allowing some animals to be parents of future generations while depriving others of that privilege.

### Types of animals selection

There are mainly two types of selections i.e. **natural selection** and **artificial selection**

#### Natural Selection

This is one which always takes place through random mating and it's influenced by natural forces e.g. the ability of one individual to survive and reproduce in a certain environment.

In such a selection only the fittest animals are able to survive hence survival of the fittest in the struggle for existence.

#### Artificial Selection

This is the type of selection controlled by man and doesn't allow random mating but mating is based on desired characteristics

Methods used in artificial selection

- Individual / mass selection
- Pedigree selection
- Collateral relatives selection
- Progeny tests
- Tandem selection
- Independent culling
- Selection index

### **Individual Selection**

- This is done basing on the information about the animals performance as well as the performance of its progeny. It measures the likelihood of a trait being passed onto the next generation.
- A comparison of animals based on their own individual performance is called the **performance test**. It's used for traits of high heritability such as growth rate, fertility, mothering ability and feed conversion efficiency.

### **Pedigree Selection**

- Here animals are selected basing on the performance of their ancestors. This method is used for traits that can't be measured in life e.g. quality of beef.
- This method is not highly recommended because it can be easily manipulated by leaders and farm managers.

### **Collateral relatives Selection**

This is selection done basing on performance records of close relatives like brothers, sisters, half-brothers etc.

The transmission of traits (characteristics) with known importance between relatives can be measured using subtests.

The accuracy of sub testing depends on;

- Family size
- Heritability of a character i.e. the ability of a trait to be transmitted from one generation to another
- Intra family genetic relationships

### **Progeny tests**

This is where selection is made basing on the performance of an animal's offspring (progeny)

It determines the value of an animal breed and performance reflected in the following

- Milk and butter fat production in case of dairy animals
- Carcass quality in beef animals
- Belly length in pigs

### **Advantages of progeny tests**

- Weakly inherited traits are easily noted and decisions made
- It's easy to know practically the productive qualities for both the bull and the cow
- It's more suitable for traits which are exposed after slaughter such as the carcass quality.

### **Disadvantages progeny tests**

- It's a very expensive method of selection because it involves a lot of consideration before reaching the final judgment
- It needs a lot of time hence its time wasting

### **Tandem selection**

This where a desired trait is selected among many and improved before going for another

### **Independent culling**

The breeder lays down a minimum standard for several traits and any animal that does not measure up to standard is culled

### **Selection index**

Here, numerical values are given to potential parents basing on their characters and one with the highest value is selected

### **Factors considered in selecting animals for breeding**

- Adaptability of the animal to environmental conditions
- Availability of the breed with in the environment
- Availability of market for animal products for the animal being bred
- Animal temperament should be low for easy handling
- Animal resistance to pests and diseases should be high
- Animal body conformity should confirm the breed and type
- History of success of the breed in the environment
- Feed conversion ratio of the breed i.e. should have a high ability of converting feeds into products like milk , meat and eggs
- Growth rate of the breed
- Availability of quality feeds for the animals

- Fertility of the animal being considered
- Productivity of the animal in terms of milk, meat and eggs

### Breeding methods

This refers to those methods which deal with how the breeds that have been selected as parents for the next generation are mated.

Breeding methods are classified into two broad groups namely:

- **Close breeding**
- **Out breeding/ cross breeding**

#### Close Breeding

This is the mating of related animals e.g. a daughter and a father, a son and a mother, brother and a sister, grandparents and grand offspring.

Close breeding involves **inbreeding** and **line breeding**

#### Inbreeding

This is that mating of closely related animals like brother and sister, son and mother, etc.

#### Advantages of in breeding

- It helps to maintain a high relationship with the desirable ancestor.
- It increases the degree of uniformity in the herd
- The less desirable recessive genes are easily brought to light and therefore culled.
- The good qualities of a particular breed can be easily maintained

#### Disadvantages

- It requires a lot of skill in making planned mating and rigid selection
- It leads to a reduction in survival chances of offsprings
- Leads to a reduction in the fertility of animals
- The offsprings got are usually of poor size

#### Line Breeding

- This can be defined as the mating of animals of the same breed or distant relatives e.g. cousin, grandson and grandmother
- It's actually practiced in order to conserve the good traits of a certain outstanding sire or dam.

### Out breeding /out crossing

- This is the mating of unrelated animals. Sometimes such animals can be of the same breed but show no close relationship in the first four generations
- Out breeding results in the production of offspring that are of better performance than the parents i.e. hybrid vigor.
- Crossing can be done between breeds, species and lines. Examples of crosses between species are;

Male **lion** and female **tiger** results in a **Liger**

Male **donkey** and female **Zebra** results in an **Asbra**

Male **Horse** and female **Zebra** results in a **Zebroid**

Male **horse** and female **Donkey** results in a **Mule**

**Bull** and female **buffalo** results in a **Beefalo**

### Grading Up

This is a system whereby pure exotic sires are mated with the local animals to improve the characteristics of local animals e.g.

	Local female	x	100% pure sire/ male
F <sub>1</sub>	50% pure female	x	100% pure sire/ male
F <sub>2</sub>	75% pure female	x	100% pure sire/ male
F <sub>3</sub>	87% pure female	x	100% pure sire/ male
F <sub>4</sub>	93.7% pure female	x	100% pure male

### Breeding efficiency

This is the ability with which the herd is able to reproduce and multiply. It covers the entire period of breeding i.e. mating, conception, gestation and calving.

It measures the following;

1. **Calving interval:** This is the period between calving. Normally it is about 12 -13 months. In order to get a good calving interval, a rest period of 60 days should be given for the animal.
2. **Age of heifer at first calving** which should be 24 months. A higher age indicates a low breeding efficiency
3. **Services per conception.** The ideal ratio should be 1.6-1.8 and is measured by Number of services

4. Number of animals that conceive in a herd
5. **Percentage of cows that calve within a year.** A high percentage indicates a high breeding efficiency
6. **Number of days a cow is pregnant in a year.** The more the days, the higher the breeding efficiency
7. **The percentage of non-returns.** Non-returns arise when the service is done and pregnancy does not occur. A low percentage of non indicates a high breeding efficiency and vice versa

### **Maintaining a high animal breeding efficiency**

1. **Good feeding:** Breeding animals should be fed well but excessive fattening should be avoided as it may reduce the fertility.
2. **Observing the rest period:** Animals should be given a rest period of about 60 days to allow the uterus to return to normal
3. **Insemination at the right time:** In case of artificial insemination, the cow should be inseminated towards the middle and late part of heat period as ovulation occurs 14 hours after the beginning of estrus.
4. **Observation of animals on heat:** This should be done as early as possible more especially where artificial insemination is being used to avoid the animal missing service.
5. **Veterinary Attention:** Animals that fail to conceive should be identified and examined to find out the causes and treated if possible.
6. **Pregnancy diagnosis:** Animals should be diagnosed to find out whether they have conceived or not so that appropriate measures can be taken in time.
7. **Keep accurate breeding records** for the herd to be used as reference were necessary
8. Use **teaser bulls** for early detection of heat in farm animals for early service
9. **Maintain a good ratio of bulls to females to avoid** over working the bulls which lowers fertility
10. **Use correct techniques of artificial insemination** to ensure successful fertilization hence high breeding efficiency
11. **Females with abnormal discharges** should be examined and treated early enough
12. **Know a complete breeding** history of the animals before buying it into the farm

### **Mating animals**

Animals can be mated using two main methods i.e. **natural service** and **artificial insemination**

#### **Natural service**

This is where a male mates with the female directly. It is the most common method of service in Uganda

### **Advantages of natural service**

1. Less costly since collection and processing of semen is not involved
2. Best methods serving animals with silent heat
3. Conception rate is higher than artificial insemination
4. It's a quick method of service
5. Does not require special skills and training

### **Disadvantages of nature**

1. Reproductive diseases can be easily spread
2. It's difficult to practice controlled breeding under this method
3. Heavy bulls can easily injure weak females
4. Wastes semen on one female that would otherwise serve 100 female
5. Breeding records are difficult to keep

### **Artificial insemination**

- It's a method of breeding in which semen is obtained from the male and introduced into the female reproductive tract by means of an instrument without direct contact between the males.

### **Procedure of collecting and process semen for breeding purposes**

- Semen are collected through clean artificial vagina
- Semen are taken the laboratory for analysis for color, volume, sperm concentration, live /dead ratio and progressive motility of sperm
- If found acceptable, Semen extenders are added to the semen; these protect sperm from cold shock, toxins and provide nutrients to the sperms
- Semen is then processed as liquid extended semen packaged in straws or frozen semen stored in liquid nitrogen, frozen and stored indefinitely.

### **Advantages**

- It's easier and cheaper to transport semen from distant places than transporting a bull
- Semen from good males may be stored for use in future years even after the death of such animals
- This enables controlled seasonal and planned breeding on farms
- It's easy to keep accurate breeding records since the time of service is always known
- It's easy to control venereal diseases e.g. contagious abortion and trichomoniasis in a herd since semen used is first examined
- Poor breeds or bulls can be easily eliminated from the breeding program giving room for better sires
- Semen from lame bulls and those that are dead but of good quality can be easily used in the breeding program.
- Injury to small and weak females by heavy bulls can be controlled using artificial insemination.
- It reduces the cost and the risk of keeping a bull on the farm since bulls are usually aggressive.

- Semen from good sires can be easily made available to farmers in rural areas through artificial insemination.
- Artificial insemination is economical since one ejaculation can serve over 100 cows after dilution.

#### **Problems of artificial insemination (A.I)**

- Silent heat :Some female animals do not show signs of heat hence it's very difficult to carry out A.I on such animals
- The method of communal grazing in Uganda does not easily allow A.I since poor bulls from different herds can mount animals.
- There is a danger of disease outbreak more especially if contaminated semen is used.
- Special skills are required to carry out artificial insemination which may be lacking among the farmers
- Semen requires special equipment and conditions for storage which may not be easily available to the rural farmers.
- Poor roads in rural areas make the transportation of semen to such places difficult and expensive.

#### **Methods of carrying out**

There are two main methods of artificial insemination i.e. **recto-vaginal** method and **speculum** method

#### **Recto-vaginal method**

This is where the rectum and vaginal are manipulated in order to have successful insemination. The hand is pushed in the rectum to remove dung and locate the cervix at the end of the vagina

#### **Procedure**

- Restrain the animal in a crush to restrict its movement during the operation
- Wash your hands with clean water and soap to reduce infection
- Put on clean gloves
- Thaw the semen in a basin of water at room temperature to reactivate the sperms
- Sterilize all the equipment to be used
- Insert the semen straw in the inseminating syringe
- Lift the animal's tail and insert one of the hands into the rectum to remove dung
- Clean the anus and vulva using clean water and soap
- Insert the hand in the rectum to locate the cervix in the reproductive system
- Insert the inseminating syringe through the vagina and gently direct it to the cervix
- Release the semen to the cervix
- Massage the cervix after releasing semen so that it can be sucked into the uterus
- Gently remove the inseminating syringe from the vagina and the hand from the rectum
- Release the animal from the crush and monitor it for 21 days to ensure that it has conceived

## Speculum method

This is where special equipment called a **speculum** is used in locating the cervix by inserting it in the vagina.

### Procedure

- Restrain the animal on heat in a crush
- Wash your hands using clean water and soap and dry it with a hand towel
- Sterilize all the equipment to be used in inseminating
- Thaw the semen in a basin of water at room temperature
- Insert the semen straw in the inseminating syringe
- Wash the vulva with clean water and soap
- Wear clean gloves
- Insert the speculum into the vagina to locate the cervix
- Insert the inseminating syringe into the speculum and release the semen
- Gently remove the inseminating syringe from the speculum
- Remove the speculum gently from the vagina
- Release the animal from the crush

### The factors that determine the success of artificial insemination

- Age –younger individuals generally have higher success rates since fertility tends to decline with ages
- Quality/health of sperms
- Proper timing of insemination with ovulation
- Proper introduction of semen into the female

## Reproduction in farm animals

This is a process that determines the existence of any animal species and the profitability of that animal. Reproduction is responsible for the number of organisms / animals which will lead to increased animal products, employment and diversification of the economy.

### Hormonal control of estrus

- Estrus is a period of high sexual desire in female farm animals. It is characterized by physiological and behavioral changes.

### The female estrus cycle

- The anterior pituitary gland secretes a hormone called follicle stimulating hormone (**F.S.H.**) which stimulates the growth of Graafian follicles in the ovary
- It also stimulates the ovary to secrete a female sex hormone – **estrogen**.
- **Estrogen** causes the signs of heat in females and also stimulates the anterior pituitary glands to produce another hormone called **Luteinizing hormone (LH)**.

- **Estrogen** makes the female animal more receptive to the male and increases sex urge in females.
- **Luteinizing hormone** causes the rupture of mature follicles to release the ova in the process of ovulation.
- After ovulation, luteinizing hormone stimulates the development of the yellow body (corpus luteum) from the remains of the follicles.
- The corpus luteum produces a hormone known as **progesterone** which stimulates the growth of the endometrium in preparation for implantation.
- Progesterone also inhibits the release of follicle stimulating hormone and luteinizing hormone from the anterior pituitary gland.
- After a successive fertilization, the progesterone stimulates the growth and improves blood supply to the endometrium for successful implantation.
- After implantation, the **corpus luteum** degenerates and the placenta becomes the new source of **progesterone**.

### Multiple Ovulation and Embryo Transfer (MOET)

This is the ability to make female animal simultaneously produce several ova which are fertilized to form embryos

#### Objectives of MOET

1. Increases the number of offspring in the life time of a female farm animal
2. Makes cows with good traits produce more offspring for breeding beyond they natural capacity
3. Can be used in preserving endangered species since multiplication of offspring is high
4. It is easier to transport embryos than a live animal
5. Enables offspring to acquire better immunity from surrogate mothers
6. Weak and sick females can participate in the breeding program

#### Limitations of MOET

1. It is very expensive to carry out
2. It requires a lot of skill to be carried out
3. Success rate is very low

### Important reproductive events in farm animals

Animal	Age at puberty in months	Length of heat in hours	Length of heat cycle in days	On set of heat after giving birth In days	Length of pregnancy in days
<b>Cow</b>	9-18	18-24	21	30-60	280
<b>Ewe</b>	7-8	24-48	21	17	147
<b>Sow</b>	5-6	48-72	21	7-56	110-118
<b>Nanny/ female goat</b>	7-10	48-72	21	Next season	150
<b>Dog</b>	7-9	18-25 days	6 months	6 months	63
<b>Horse</b>	12-36	2-12 days	18-28	5-15	335
<b>Rabbit</b>	3-7				31
<b>Buffalo</b>	10-20	2-24	11-30	40-60	320
<b>Camel</b>	24-36	3-6 days	20-28	20	390

### Signs of heat in cattle

- The vulva swells and becomes red in color
- The animal urinates frequently
- An animal on heat mounts other animals and allows others also to mount on it.
- There is a reduction in milk yield for lactating cows
- The animal becomes restless i.e. moves up and down in search for the male
- It sniffs the vagina of another cow
- Licking and rubbing of each other has also been noted amongst animals on heat.
- There is less feeding as more time is spent in walking
- There is a slight rise in the body temperature
- There is mucus discharge from the vagina
- The animal will stand still to be mounted by a bull (standing heat)
- Makes noise

**Note:** Production of bloody mucus from the vagina means that heat has been missed.

### Signs of heat in sheep

- The female pays close attention to the male
- The female wags its tail more vigorously
- It stands still when mounted by the male but it's hard for it to mount others.

### Signs of heat in pigs

- There is an intense search for the male by the female
- The female pays little attention to food
- The vulva becomes congested and swollen
- The sow emits short grunts
- It stands still when pressure is applied to the back
- There is reddening of the vulva more especially in the white breeds
- The sow can mount others and also allows others to do so.

### Infertility in farm animals

This is a temporary failure of an animal to reproduce which can be corrected

**Sterility** is a permanent and irreversible failure of an animal to reproduce

### Causes of infertility in cattle

- **Inheritance:** some families of animals inherit low fertility from their parents.
- **Twining in cattle:** Although it's rare in cattle, but when it happens, heifers born co-twin with males (free martins) can be sterile.
- **White heifer's disease:** This is infertility which is caused when the hymen is too strong and thus preventing natural mating or artificial service of the cow.
- **Cryptorchidism:** This is when the male animals are born with both testes retained in the abdominal cavity making it unable to produce sperms.
- **Retained corpus luteum:** this prevents the development of the eggs in the ovary by continuous production of progesterone (maintains pregnancy)
- **Cystic ovaries:** This is when follicles fail to rupture in order to release the ova causing a condition called **Nymphomania** (excessive desire for sex) and the cow is set on prolonged heat.
- **Nutritional deficiency :** Lack of vitamin A which is responsible for the formation and maintenance of membranes in the reproductive system lowers the fertility of cattle
- **Excessive conditioning (fattening) animals:** Heavy fat deposits on the ovary affects its functioning and cause low fertility / infertility.
- **Management:** Mating the animal too soon after calving, too early or late after onset of heat and failure to recognize heat signs will lead to infertility.
- Venereal diseases like brucellosis and Trichomoniasis can also cause low fertility in farm animals.

- Unfavorable conditions in the reproductive tract of a female can cause infertility
- Use of defective sperms during service lowers animal fertility

### **Signs of pregnancy in cattle**

- Failure of the animals to have heat after 21 days.
- Increase in the size of the belly more especially on the right hand side.
- A higher concentration of progesterone in milk and plasma 21 – 24 days after conception
- The cervix opening is sealed and closed by a gelatinous and tough secretion
- Udder tissues develop and enlarge especially in heifers at the 6<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy
- At the later stage, the signs of life in the fetus can be felt after applying slight pressure on the right hand side of the belly
- Laboratory analysis of blood shows a higher level of progesterone in it

### **Care for a pregnant cow**

1. Provide clean water to the animal without any restriction
2. Carry out pregnancy diagnosis two month after service to confirm pregnancy
3. Dry off the animal at the 7<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy to prepare it for the next lactation
4. After drying carry out dry cow therapy to control mastitis
5. Regularly deworm the animal to control internal parasites that may affect the unborn calf
6. Provide adequate feeds throughout the period to cater for high nutrient demands
7. Steam up in the last 2 month of pregnancy to prepare the animal for lactation
8. Regularly control external parasites by spraying at least twice a week
9. Vaccinate the animal against killer diseases so as to protect the unborn calf
10. Isolate the animal in the last 2 month from the general herd in put it in a nurse paddock
11. Provide a clean dry calving pen for the cow
12. During calving, assist the animal with difficulties
13. Milk the animal a little to reduce the udder pressure
14. If the after birth is retained, call in a vet for help

### **Steaming Up**

This is the practice of giving extra nutritious feed to a pregnant cow two months prior to calving.

### **Importance of steaming up**

1. It prevents nutritional disorders associated with milk secretion like milk fever
2. It allows the heifer to get used to the milking place when steamed in a milking parlour.
3. Replaces the nutrients that have been used in the development of the foetus
4. It prepares the cow/ heifer physiologically for the next lactation period.
5. Allows the animal to put on weight in preparation for calving

6. Makes a heifer get used to feeding on concentrates
7. Stimulates the development of mammary glands for milk production
8. Encourages the production of high quality colostrums for the calf at birth
9. For proper growth of the foetus

### **Signs of calving**

1. The cow / heifer stay away from the general herd and lies down rather than standing.
2. The udder becomes extended as well as the teats
3. The cow becomes increasingly uneasy
4. Loss of appetite
5. The vulva becomes flabby (becomes soft and loose)
6. There is frequent urination
7. Repeated arching of the back and raising of the tail

### **Care of the cow at calving**

1. The animal should be taken to the calving paddock or stall
2. The place where the cow is to calve should be clean and free from sharp objects
3. The animal should be left to deliver by itself for at least 1 hour
4. In case of failure, the veterinary officer should be called in for help.
5. Remove the after birth as soon as possible

### **Care after calving**

1. The calf should be left with the mother so that it can clean it by licking.
2. Normally, the calf removes the mucus membrane from the nostrils by sneezing
3. In case the calf fails to breath, artificial respiration should be initiated by:
  - mouth to mouth respiration
  - handling the calf with the hind legs and lifting it up then releasing it gently
  - tickling the nostrils with a piece of straw to initiate sneezing
4. Give the cow warm water to drink so as to assist in the digestive system
5. Disinfect the naval cord of the calf with iodine to reduce infections

6. Milk the cow a little to release the pressure in the udder
7. Allow the calf to stay with the mother for 2 – 3 days to ensure that it takes colostrum.

### Management of calves from birth to weaning

1. Clean the calf by removing the mucus membranes from the calf in case the mother fails
2. Disinfect the umbilical cord using Dettol and tie it to stop tetanus infection
3. In case the calf fails to breath normally, artificial respiration should be initiated
4. Leave the calf with the mother to ensure that it takes colostrum
5. In case of artificial rearing, the calf should be trained to drink from the bucket within two days after birth
6. Feed the calf on clean milk at least twice a day
7. Provide plenty of clean drinking water at all times of the day
8. Provide roughage to the calf at the age of about 2 weeks to facilitate rumen development
9. Towards weaning, introduce milk replacers to save milk for the market
10. Carry out identification of the calf at least 2 weeks after birth
11. Male calves that are not going to participate in the breeding program should be castrated in the 4<sup>th</sup> week from birth
12. Calves should be dehorned using the hot iron method in the second week
13. Deworm calves regularly to control internal worms that affect growth
14. Vaccinate calves against killer diseases to reduce mortality
15. Clean the pen regularly by removing dirty litter so as to reduce infections
16. Wean the calves at about 2 month after attaining the right weight

### Major causes of calf mortality

1. Calf scours characterized by diarrhea with a foul smell
2. **Calf pneumonia**; this caused by poor housing conditions
3. **Navel infection**; this caused by bacterial attack of the navel creating septic conditions
4. Internal **worm infections** resulting into stunted growth and diarrhea
5. **Calf coccidiosis** characterized by faeces with foul smell. It is caused by bacteria
6. **East Coast Fever** which is transmitted by ticks and caused by protozoa. It is the leading cause of death in exotic calves. It is characterized by swollen lymph nodes of the parotid and diarrhea

### Feeding calves

After calving, the calf should not be removed from the mother for the first 2 – 3 days in order to ensure colostrum intake.

### **Colostrum:**

This is the milk produced by a cow for the first 3 – 4 days after calving. It is different from normal milk in the following ways:

- i) It contains very high antibody content about 5 times more than normal milk.
- ii) It has a high protein and vitamin content

### **Reasons for giving the calf colostrum**

1. Contains antibodies which help the calf to fight disease
2. Removes sticky materials from the alimentary canal of the calf
3. It contains a lot of nutrients which are needed highly by the calf.

### **Methods of feeding / rearing the calves**

1. Natural rearing/Suckling: This includes single suckling (natural suckling), restricted suckling and foster mothering (multiple suckling)
2. Artificial rearing / bucket feeding

### **Single Suckling**

This is where a calf is left to suckle from the mother without any restriction until it is weaned at about 4 – 6 months. This method is restricted to beef production and places where there is little market for milk.

### **Advantages of single suckling**

1. It is the simplest and best way of producing large healthy calves
2. It is a suitable method for the beef farmers who have a little interest in milk but more in the beef of the animals.
3. It is labor saving as compared to the artificial rearing
4. Diseases due to unhygienic conditions e.g. Calf scours observed in bucket feeding are rare in this system.
5. Calves get milk at the normal body temperature which enhances proper digestion
6. This is the most suitable method of raising calves in places with low market for milk.
7. There is low mortality rate under this method of raising calves.

### **Disadvantages of single suckling**

1. It is very difficult to keep feeding records in this system since the amount of milk taken by the calf is not known.
2. Injury to the teats is common as the calves suckle

### **Restricted suckling**

The calves are allowed to suckle at certain periods of the day e.g. after the morning and evening /afternoon milking. Supplementary feeds can be easily introduced.

### **Advantages**

1. Well grown calves can be realized with proper management
2. There is a tendency of getting a high milk yield from the dam as it is milked in the presence of the calf.
3. There is low mortality rate since calves get clean milk at the right temperatures
4. Less cases of mastitis are noted under this method
5. It saves both labor and time.
6. Provision of supplementary feeds to calves would greatly improve their growth.

### **Foster mothering**

In this method, a substitute mother is used in providing milk to the calves. The calf is first allowed colostrum for three days then allocated to the foster mother.

### **Advantages**

1. The dam will give more milk when the calves are left to suckle it.
2. The method gives good calves as compared with bucket feeding.
3. The method uses less labor since supervision is little
4. The calves are able to get the milk at the normal body temperatures
5. There are fewer cases of calf scours
7. Case of mastitis in cows is rare
8. Milk from other dams can be saved for the market

### **Disadvantages**

1. In case of an infectious disease, a farmer may lose a good number of calves.
2. Weak calves are denied a chance of suckling at most times by the strong aggressive calves.
3. Injury to teats caused by the calves is more common
4. It is very difficult to keep feeding records in this system.

### **Artificial rearing (bucket feeding) in cattle**

In this method, calves are removed from the dams three days after birth and reared by feeding them on milk or milk substitutes from a bucket.

### **Training the calf to drink from the bucket**

1. The calf should be removed from the dam three days after birth to ensure colostrum intake.
2. Immediately after milking, the bucket with the milk should be presented to the calf for training.
3. Wash your hands with clean water and soap and dry it using a clean hand towel
4. The trainer should dip the index and middle fingers in the milk and later place it in the calf's mouth to suckle.
5. The calf suckles the fingers as the trainer lowers the hand in the bucket containing milk.
6. As the mouth of the calf approaches the milk in the bucket containing milk, the fingers are removed slowly to allow the calf to drink milk.
7. The calf begins slowly to drink the milk
9. Training can be repeated until the animal learns

### **Precautions for bucket feeding**

- The calf should not be allowed to drink in large quantities at ago as the milk can choke it or enter the undeveloped rumen where it would ferment causing digestive disturbances.
- The calf should be fed from a clean bucket to avoid infection
- Milk should be at the body temperature to avoid digestive disorders
- Calf should be fed on regular interval with appropriate amount for proper growth.
- The trainer's fingers should be clean to avoid infections

### **Advantages of bucket feeding**

- It is easy to keep feeding records that can be referred to in any case since the amount of milk taken is known
- Calves are rationed according to their body weight and healthy status
- Reduces risk of transmission of diseases from dam to calf.
- The farmer can introduce milk substitutes easily and therefore save milk for market.
- The method permits early weaning which can save milk
- The dam will give milk even when the calf dies
- Drugs to calf can easily be given through milk in the bucket.

### **Disadvantages**

1. The mortality rate in this system is high since in most cases calves are given less or dirty milk.
2. Calves are more prone to diseases due to unhygienic conditions associated with feeding the calves
3. The method requires more labor and attention which are expensive to the farmer.
4. In case of an infectious disease, the farmer may lose a good number of calves.

### **Dairy cattle**

These are cattle reared specifically for milk production.

Examples of exotic dairy breeds

Friesian, Ayrshire, Jersey, Guernsey and Kerry

### **Characteristics of a good dairy cattle breed**

- a) Should be a high milk yielder
- b) Should be resistant to pests and diseases
- c) Should have a high fertility
- d) Should be docile hence easy to be milked
- e) Should have a large udder
- f) Should be able calve easily
- g) Should have a big milk vein
- h) Should be able calve regularly for a long time
- i) Should have a well suspended udder with four functional teats
- j) Should have a long lactation which ensures continuous milk production
- k) Should have strong hind legs for supporting a big udder

### **Factors to consider before establishing a dairy cattle herd**

1. **Capital:** This is the amount of money needed in the construction of farm structures, purchase of land and the animals.
2. **Land:** There should be enough land to accommodate farm buildings and paddocks where animals can graze from
3. **Labor** Both skilled and unskilled labor is required for performing specialized work and manual labor respectively.
4. **Reliable source of water:** Water is needed by the animals for drinking and also in other farm operations like cleaning and mixing of drugs.
5. There should be a ready market for milk and milk products which is easily accessible to reduce the costs incurred in looking for market.
6. **Pastures:** The place in consideration should have good pastures since the production of the animals is greatly affected by the quality of what they eat.
7. There must be reliable transport so that the farmer can easily move farm products to the market and bring back inputs.
8. The breed selected should fit the market demand and the Climatical conditions of the place in consideration.
9. **Security** is a very important factor for any business since insecurity results into loss of property and life
10. **Government policy** in place should be encouraging dairy farming through the provision of good breeds of cattle
11. **Climate** in the area should be good for dairy farming.

### **Importance of Dairy farming**

- a) Provides income to the farmer all year round since animals produce at any given period of the year
- b) They can provide dung used for making farm yard manure
- c) Can provide quality meat at the end of milk cycle after fattening
- d) Provide food to the farmer in form of milk
- e) Provide market for industrial products like meat
- f) They are good converters of inedible pastures into milk

### **Strength of the dairy industry in Uganda**

- a) High demand for dairy products in Uganda
- b) Integrated farming practices can accommodate dairying
- c) Suitable climate in most areas of Uganda that favors animal production
- d) Availability of quality fresh pastures throughout the year
- e) Improved infrastructure that make transportation of milk to the market easy

- f) Increased research and development in dairy farming
- g) Improved extension services in dairy farming
- h) Historical factors like a long history of cattle keeping among tribes in Uganda

### **Introducing exotic dairy cattle in an area**

- a) Fence off the whole grazing area to keep out intruders and pests
- b) Partition the grazing land into paddocks for easy pasture management
- c) Remove all weeds and injurious objects from the grazing land
- d) Install water points in all paddocks for the animals
- e) Introduce bait animals to the paddock to control ticks 3-6 months before bringing in the exotic animals
- f) Spay or dip the bait animals regularly over the whole period
- g) Remove the bait animals after a specified period and introduce the exotic animals
- h) Regularly spray or dip the exotic animals to control external parasites

### **Management of dairy cattle**

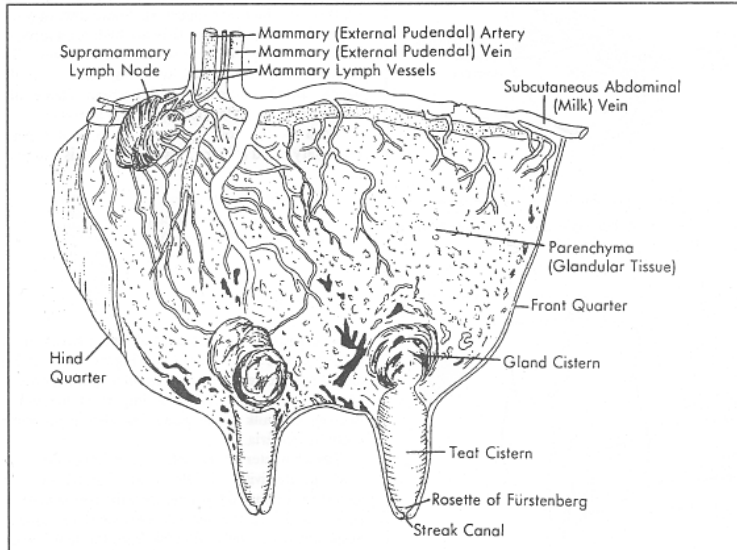
1. **Regularity of care:** The operations done on these animals should be performed regularly without abrupt interruptions as those may affect the production of animals.
2. **Kindness to animals:** Rough handling of animals like beating reduces the productivity and can even cause injuries that may be expensive to treat.
3. **Exercise:** Animals need light exercise for good health but long distances of movement should be avoided as these require a lot of energy lowering animal production.
4. **Grooming :** Keeping hind quarters of animals off dung, loose hair and any dirt by brushing and dipping leads to production of high quality milk.
5. **Hoof trimming:** Overgrown hoofs should be trimmed to avoid difficulty in movement and lameness
6. **Dehorning:** Apart from introducing uniformity in the herd, handling of dehorned animals is easy and less risky
7. **Identification:** For record purposes, dairy animals should be identified by ear tagging notching, branding and tattooing.
8. **Provision of adequate water;** Animals need enough water since the biggest percentage of their body is water. Excessive loss of water from the body reduces milk produced.
9. **Breeding:** A farmer should aim at breeding of his herd to increase animal number and productivity by incorporating good breeds in the breeding program.

10. **Proper feeding;** dairy animals should be given enough and highly nutritious feeds to improve and maintain a high level of production

### Milk science

This is the way how milk is harvested from a cow.

#### Structure of the udder



#### Milk secretion in cattle

1. Milk is secreted by the secretory cells called **alveoli secretory cells** in the udder under the influence of **prolactin** hormone from the anterior pituitary gland
2. Milk is made from the nutrients eaten by the animal like blood sugar, amino acids and fatty acids
3. Vitamins and minerals can be added to milk from blood
4. The manufactured milk can be stored in cavities of the alveoli and small ducts

#### Milk composition

Component	Percentage
Fat (Butter fat)	3.7
Sugar (Lactose)	4.8
Protein (Casein)	3.2
Mineral	0.7
Water	86.6
Solids	1.0

## **Milk let down**

This is down flow of milk from the udder to the lowest part of the teat or it is process by which milk is removed from the alveoli and small duct systems to the lower part of the udder i.e. gland cistern and teat canal.

### **Process of milk let down**

1. When the udder is stimulated, by **washing with warm water** or **suckling** by the calf, a message is sent to the **anterior** part of the brain through the **spinal cord**.
2. A hormone called **oxytocin** is released in the blood stream from the anterior pituitary gland.
3. When the hormone reaches the udders it causes contraction of muscles surrounding the **alveoli**
4. The squeezing action forces the milk into the **gland and teat cisterns**
5. The action of suckling / milking will bring the milk outside.

### **Ways of stimulating milk let down in cattle**

1. Taking the cow to the milking parlor
2. Massaging the udder or washing it with warm water
3. Noise or rattling of milk buckets
4. Feeding of the on concentrates cow in the milking parlor
5. Approach of milking time
6. Presence of the calf at the milking place

### **Rules of good milking**

1. Avoid exciting the animal before and during milking
2. Prepare and assemble the milking equipment before hand
3. Milking tie should never be interrupted
4. Milk at the same time every day
5. Prepare the cow for milk letdown by washing the udder with warm water
6. Use a strip cup to test for mastitis
7. Begin milking soon after preparing the cow to utilize short period of milk letdown

## **Milk hold up**

This is the opposite of milk let down where the cow holds up milk due to the production of adrenaline. Adrenaline limits blood supply to the udder therefore preventing oxytocin from reaching the muscles surrounding the alveoli. Adrenaline is produced when:

1. Presence of strangers around the milking parlor like dogs and cats
2. Rough handling of the animal by beating
3. Too much noise at the milking parlor
4. Improper dressing and change of the milking person
5. Pain during the milking process caused by mastitis or injury to the teats.

### **Milking Procedure**

1. Assemble all milking equipment like buckets, cans and milking strainer in the parlour to avoid time wastage.
2. The cow to be milked should be restrained while in the parlour by tying the hind legs with a milking rope.
4. Wash the udder with warm water and soap and dry it using a hand towel.
5. Milking salve should be smeared on the teats to reduce friction and injury to teats
6. A strip cup should be used to test milk from each teat for mastitis
7. Cows suspected of mastitis should be milked last and the milk poured away
8. Follow the right milking technique of applying pressure to the outside of the teat while holding the it between the index finger and thumb.
9. Weigh and record milk from each cow immediately after milking
10. Milk should be filtered using a milking strainer before being put in the can for cooling to remove all dirt and any foreign material like hair.
11. All the milking equipment should be washed after milking and hanged upside down in the sun to dry.

**Note:** The milking should be done in seven minutes to utilize the time for milk let down.

### **Guidelines to clean milk production**

**Milk is said to be clean if:**

1. It is free from dirt and any other visible matter
2. Has normal composition
3. Has desirable flavor
4. Free from harmful bacteria

### **In order to produce clean milk, the following points are important**

1. Clean, healthy cows must be maintained free of brucellosis and tuberculosis
2. Regular grooming and washing of animal is important for removal; of dirt and loose hair that can contaminate milk.
3. All the equipment used during milking must be kept sterile by washing and drying.
4. The milking parlor should be kept spotlessly clean to reduce contamination of milk by microbes
5. Personnel handling milk should be clean by having clean clothes, short hair and finger nails
6. Milk should always be covered when in containers to stop foreign material from entering it.
7. The person milking should not be suffering from any contagious disease e.g. Tuberculosis.
8. Cows suffering from mastitis should be milked last and the milk poured away to reduce the spread of the disease.
9. Regular tests for tuberculosis in the herd should be carried out regularly and animals found with tuberculosis should be cull
10. Before milking, the milker should wash his hands thoroughly and dry it with a hand towel to reduce contamination of the milk with dirt.
11. The milking parlor should be far away from poultry houses, piggeries, manure pits and latrines which may pollute the air and provide a breeding ground for flies.
12. The milking parlor should be built on a high ground to permit good drainage
13. Wild plants which have an odor that can taint milk should be removed from the milking place.
14. Milk should be cooled from the normal temperature of 37°C to 4°C to reduce bacteria multiplication.
15. Proper milking techniques should be followed to reduce injury to teats and contamination of the milk.

### **Factor affecting the quality (composition) and quantity (yield) of milk**

1. **Breed:** Friesians produce large amounts of milk but of low butter fat while the indigenous produce less milk of high butter fat.
2. **Age:** older cows produce more milk than the young. However, the butterfat of the milk produced by the older cows is lower than that of the young cows.

3. **Period of lactation:** milk yield increases until the 7<sup>th</sup> week then it starts declining up to drying off.
4. **Animal Health:** sick animals give less milk which may also contain antibodies and drugs more especially after treatment.
5. **Animal Temperament:** quiet animals are the best milkers while nervous cows which kick about give less milk.
6. **Water Supply:** water is needed for the health of the cow and also in the manufacture of milk since it is 87% water. Provision of enough water increases milk yield
7. **Food eaten:** animals fed on concentrates will produce more milk which is of better quality than those feed on the ration full of roughages.
8. **Season of the year:** during the rainy season cows produce milk with high butter fat content. The quantity of milk is also high due to the abundant pastures and water.
9. **Heat Period:** Oestrus causes a slight decline in milk production which may be due to the reduced feed intake. The butterfat content of the milk can also fluctuate by 1% above / below normal.
10. **Temperature:** high temperatures reduce milk yield due to the increased evaporation of water of water from the animal's body.
11. **Management:** proper feeding of animal and better handling during milking will increase the quality and quantity of milk produced. Rough handling leads to the increase of adrenalin and hence milk hold up.
12. **Milking Interval:** the greater the number of milking times, the higher the amount of milk produced. However, morning milking produces milk with higher butter fat content.

### **Methods of milking**

There two main methods of milking

1. hand milking
2. machine milking

### **Procedure for hand milking**

#### **(i) Gather Your Equipment:**

- Clean stainless steel bucket
- Clean rags
- Milking stool
- Iodine teat dip
- Warm water and anti-bacterial soap
- Nitrile or latex gloves (optional)

#### **(ii) Position the Cow:**

- Tie the cow securely to prevent movement.

- Ensure the cow is comfortable and calm.
- Clean the Teats:
- Wash the teats with warm water and anti-bacterial soap.
- Dry the teats with clean rags.

**(iii) Start Milking:**

- Sit on the milking stool beside the cow.
- Grasp the teat with your thumb and forefinger, then gently squeeze and pull down to express the milk.
- Continue this motion, alternating between teats, until the udder is empty.

**(iv) Post-Milking Care:**

- Dip the teats in iodine solution to disinfect them.
- Strain the milk through a clean cloth or filter into a storage container.
- Refrigerate the milk promptly.

**Hand milking**

**Advantages**

1. Spread of mastitis is limited as compared to machine milking where mastitis is easily spread through the teat cups.
2. Hand milking has a low initial capital and therefore peasants can afford it.
3. It cannot be limited by power therefore more applicable to rural areas with no power.
4. Injury to teats is not common as witnessed in machine milking due to faulty machines.

**Disadvantages**

1. It is very slow in operation and therefore can not cope with large herds.
2. Efficiency declines with increase in the time worked
3. It is difficult to produce clean milk under this method
4. It is difficult to have complete milking hence a farmer stands to lose.
5. It increases labor costs as more people are employed.

**Procedure for machine milking**

**(i) Preparation**

- Clean and sanitize all equipment before use
- Wear clean gloves

**(ii) Pre-milking**

- Observe the cow for any sign of illness or mastitis
- Fore strip each teat by hand check for abnormalities and stimulate milk-let down

**(iii) Cleaning the teats**

- Dip the teats in approved disinfectant for about 30seconds
- Wipe the teats dry with a clean, single-use towel

**(iv) Attaching the milk unit**

- Attach the milking unit within 60-120s after initial stimulation to maximize milk let down
- Ensure the teat-cups are aligned properly to avoid slipping

**(v) Milking**

- Monitor the milking and adjust the unit as needed to ensure efficient milking
- The milking process takes about 4 – 7 minutes per cow

**(vi) Post – milking**

- Shut of the vacuum before removing the milking unit to prevent injury
- Dip the teats in a disinfectant to protect against infection

**(vii) Clean up**

- Clean and sanitize all equipment after use to maintain hygiene and prevent mastitis.

**Advantages of machine milking**

1. It produces clean milk more easily than hand milking
2. Complete milking is easily achieved
3. There is reduction of labor cost since one person can handle more than 1000 cows in a short time.
4. It is faster in its operation hence saving time for animals to graze.
5. Can easily cope up with a large piece of work without getting tired.

**Disadvantages**

1. Needs skilled labor to operate the machine which may be difficult to attain.
2. Its limited by power supply and cannot work in places with no power.
3. Faulty machines can cause injury to teats
4. Diseases like mastitis are easily spread since the animals share the same teat cups
5. The initial cost of buying and installing the machine is high for most of the farmers in Uganda
6. It is only economical on farms with very large numbers of lactating animals.

### Stages in the processing of fluid milk for marketing.

- (i) milk is collected and transported to the processing plant
- (ii) at the processing plant milk is received and test for quality and safety
- (iii) milk clarified by filtering to remove solid impurities
- (iv) milk is standardized i.e. the fat content of the milk is adjusted to create different types of milk (e.g., whole, skim, low-fat).
- (v) Milk is pasteurized to kill bacteria without affecting nutritional value.
- (vi) Milk is homogenized or fat molecules are broken down so that they remain evenly distributed and cream is prevented from separating out
- (vii) **Fortification:** Vitamins and minerals, such as vitamin D, are added to enhance the nutritional value of the milk.
- (viii) Milk is cooled rapidly and stored in large refrigeration tanks until it is ready for packaging
- (ix) The milk is packaged into bottles, cartons and /or other containers in sterile environment to prevent contaminated
- (x) Packaged milk is sent to the market for sale

### Causes of the major off-flavors/bad odors of milk

- Bacterial contamination
- Poor sanitation or use poorly cleaned milk containers
- Animal diet such as that which contains wild onion or garlic
- Environmental factors such as poor ventilation in the barn can lead to a 'barny' odor in milk. Actually milk has ability absorb flavors from the environment
- Metabolic disorders such as ketosis can cause the milk to have unusual smell, like acetone while milk that contain lipase easily become rancid
- Oxidation: exposure to light or metals can cause the milk to oxidize, leading to cardboard-like or metallic smell.
- Sulfur compounds: Milk contains small amounts of sulfur-containing compounds, like methionine and cysteine, which can produce a slightly sulfurous or "eggy" smell when broken down.
- Milk can get bad odor due to treatment with some drugs
- Physical contact of the animals with foreign materials like paraffin, perfumes, insecticides etc.
- Exposure of milk to direct sunlight causing the fats to become rancid.

### Milk products

- **Skimmed milk** is milk where fats have been removed
- **Dried/powdered milk** is milk is dried by evaporation to form a milk powder
- **Condensed and sweetened milk** is made by evaporation under controlled temperatures and sugar added to it
- **Cultured milk** is milk to which appropriate bacteria are added to produce a desired flavor.
- **Cream milk** is milk to which fats are added and allowed to settle on top

- **Fortified milk** is made by adding vitamins and lactose to increase its nutritive value e.g. Yoghurt.
- **UHT (Ultra heat treated)** is milk sterilized by heating between 130<sup>o</sup> – 135<sup>o</sup>C for 2 -3 seconds.
- **Yoghurt** is treated and coagulated milk processed in a factory

Procedure of making yoghurt

- o Skimmed milk is boiled up to 150<sup>o</sup>C and cooled to 45<sup>o</sup>C.
  - o Inoculated with streptococcus bacteria
  - o Incubate the milk and allow it to coagulate for 5- 10minutes until complete fermentation occurs.
  - o Stir it vigorously and add in flavours like sugar, salt, fruit juice.
  - o Put preservatives and store in a refrigerator.
- **Butter** is a solid fat made from milk cream

Procedure of making butter

- o Milk is placed in a bowl/container for 24 hours
  - o Cream collects on top and skimmed off, churned and inoculated with streptococcus bacteria
  - o The cream is then churned and fat globules collect in the middle
  - o Water is added into it and churning is done again
  - o Drain off the butter milk using cloth so as to leave only butter granules.
  - o Butter is then salted and cut into pieces
- **Ghee** is produced by heating butter. The nonfat solids settle at the bottom and is skimmed off.
  - **Cheese** is produced by heating of milk up to 78<sup>o</sup>C and cooled to 35<sup>o</sup>C. streptococcus bacteria and renin are added to coagulate/ curdle it. Excess water is drained off, salted and left to ripen

### Ways by which the quality of milk may be reduced

- Off flavors in milk
- Milking in dirty containers
- Poor storage
- Poor sanitary conditions
- Unhealthy milker can contaminate milk with flu and TB.
- Milking diseased animals with TB, mastitis etc.
- Poor transportation of milk that expose milk to atmospheric contaminant such as paraffin, oils, bad flavors

### Criteria for good milk

- Good taste
- Good flavor
- Specific gravity of 1.027 – 1.032 g per ml

### Test on milk whether it is good for human consumption

- Clot on boiling: when milk is boiled and coagulates then it is not fit for consumption
- Acidification test/litmus test: when fresh milk that develops a bad smell or turns blue litmus paper red when stored overnight is not fit for consumption
- Separation: milk that separates into layers is unfit for consumption
- Dye production test: milk that turns pink on addition of methyl blue is unfit for consumption.

### Diseases associated with lactating cows

#### 1. Mastitis

This is an inflammation of the udder caused by a number of bacteria and the most common are: - Streptococci and staphylococci

#### Types of mastitis

##### a) Acute Mastitis:

This is sudden in occurrence, marked with changes in the udder.

##### b) Chronic Mastitis:

This is slow in onset without obvious signs

#### Spread of Mastitis

Can be spread through:-

- The milkers' hands,
- Teat cups of milking machines
- Udder towels

#### Signs of mastitis

1. Blood stains in milk
2. Flakes and clots in milk
3. Discolored milk

#### Treatment of mastitis

Use intra mammaries which are antibiotics injected into the affected teats.

#### Control of mastitis

- The milker must ensure that his hands are clean before milking
- A strip up should be regularly used to test for mastitis

- Before milking, the udder should be washed with warm water and dried using a towel
- The farmer should pay more attention to soars on teats and prevent the plucking by using a milking salve
- The teat cups should be rinsed and disinfected immediately after milking each cow
- Animals suffering from mastitis should be treated promptly to stop the spread of the disease
- Infected animals should be milked last and the milk poured away.

### **Factors predisposing lactating animals to mastitis**

- Stage of lactation; it is more common at the beginning of lactation
- Age of cattle; older animals are more prone to mastitis due an ageing immune system
- Level of milk yield; high milk yielders are more prone to mastitis than the low yielders
- Injury to teat and udder; this makes animal more prone to mastitis
- Unhygienic practices; milking infected animals with health ones increases the chance of mastitis spread

## **2. Milk Fever (Parturient Paresis/ Hypocalcaemia)**

It affects cattle, sheep and occasionally goats

### **Causes**

- Low blood calcium and phosphorus level with an increase in magnesium concentration. The normal ratio of calcium phosphorus should not be above or below 2:1.
- Too much calcium in the ration

### **Symptoms of milk fever**

- It occurs in high milk producing cows soon after calving
- Loss of appetite
- Constipation and general depression
- Muscular spasms (convulsions )
- Uncoordinated movement and inability to stand
- Nervousness is experienced by the animal
- Paralysis and turning of the head back

### **Prevention of milk fever**

- Feed the cow on a ration containing 0.5 – 0.7% calcium and 0.3 – 0.4% phosphorus
- Calcium shock treatment; feed the pregnant animal 10 – 14 days before calving on a calcium deficient ration to activate the animals calcium mobilizing mechanism.
- The pregnant animal should be fed on a ration with high vitamin D, six days before calving

### Treatment of milk fever

- The animal should be injected with calcium salts in form of calcium chloride, calcium lactate, and calcium gluconate.

### Drying a cow

**Drying off** in dairy cattle management refers to the intentional cessation of milking a lactating cow. The dry period should be for at least 60 days.

#### Reasons for observing the dry period

- Allow the cow to restore udder tissues before getting back to lactation
- Allow the cow to replace the minerals depleted during lactation
- To give the fetus enough time to develop and also enough nutrients
- To maintain a high future milk yield in the next lactation
- Enable the cow to gain weight before delivering
- To ensure high quality colostrum at birth
- To enable treatment of sick cow
- To prevent and control spread of diseases
- To treat mastitis

#### Procedure of drying a cow

- **Incomplete milking:** this involves milking the cow half way its production capacity so that the remaining milk in the udder exerts pressure on the milk secreting cells which will stop secreting milk.
- **Intermittent milking:** the cow is milked at intervals of days and later left completely after 5 days or more.
- **Cessation Milking:** this is when milking stopped once for all. It causes a lot of pain to the animal and can easily result into mastitis
- **Dry cow therapy:** Here antibiotics are included in feeds which will control mastitis.

### Beef production

The main objective of beef production is to produce healthy young stocks, fatten them and sell for slaughter as meat.

#### Breeds of beef cattle in East Africa

The main indigenous breeds are the boran and small short horned zebu

The exotic breeds are Hereford, Aberdeen Angus, charlolais short horn and Galloway

### Characteristics of a good beef breed

- Should have a high ability to mature early
- Should have a high ability to grow fast i.e. put on weight quickly
- Should have thick muscles to increase the quantity of beef produced (have a deep body)
- It should be able to breed regularly so as to increase the herd
- Should have a high ability of converting herbage into beef
- Should have a high resistance to pests and diseases common in the environment
- Should be able to survive long drought periods without losing excessive weight
- Should show a high degree of tolerance to heat

### Factors limiting beef production in Uganda

1. **Climate:** long droughts that are rampant in many places of Uganda have led to the scarcity of pastures and water hence decreasing animal productivity.
2. **Poor Soils:** potential areas for beef production have poor soils which cannot support quality pastures for the animal.
3. **Diseases:** there are a number of diseases which attack livestock in Uganda. The most notable diseases are those transmitted by the vectors e.g. ticks and tsetse flies.
4. **Inadequate Extension Services:** most farmers live in rural areas which are difficult to reach by the extension staff. This denies them an opportunity of acquiring knowledge about beef production.
5. **Conservation:** Most pastoral communities in East Africa look at cattle number rather than the quality hence low production from the large number of poor quality animals in terms of beef.
6. **Poor Markets:** Animal markets are poor and far from the production areas making transport to be difficult and expensive.
7. **Poor Animal Breeding:** Animals are mated while young and little time is spent on selecting the right breeds that are productive.
8. **Poor Management:** This can be reflected in the way records are kept and referred to if necessary. Most farmers do not keep update records and therefore animal production is difficult to judge.
9. **Inadequate land:** most areas do not have enough grazing land due to competition between crops and animal production

### Factors determining animal productivity

- **Breeding type/inheritance:** genetic composition of beef animal determines its growth rate, feed efficiency and reproductive performance that contributed to overall productivity.
- **Age of the animal:** productivity of livestock increases with age and then diminishes with time
- **Proper and regular feeding** on balanced diet promotes high productivity in beef animals
- **Climate conditions,** including temperature, humidity, and access to clean water, affect cattle well-being and productivity.

- **Health status:** Healthy animals are more productive.
- **Health care** such as regular vaccinations, parasite control, and disease prevention programs are critical.
- **Effective management:** including proper housing, handling, and record-keeping, contributes to productivity.
- **Parasites:** A part from transmitting pathogens, animal parasites can extract a lot of nutrients that are supposed to be used by the animals' body.

### **Factors to consider before establishing a beef herd**

Beef cattle may be raised under the farm herd system similar to having a dairy farm, or under the range / ranch cattle system. Under any of these systems, when establishing a beef herd there are a number of factors a farmer may need to consider.

### **Type of stock**

- (i) Uniformity
- (ii) Size of the herd
- (iii) Health
- (iv) Condition
- (v) Age and longevity
- (vi) Productivity / fertility
- (vii) Size of cattle
- (viii) Adaptability

### **Systems of beef production**

There are a number of systems for beef production requiring different levels of skill and management and some of the systems serve different purposes

### **Breeding pure bred animals**

This is a specialized undertaking and requires great skill and experience in breeding and selection of animals. The purpose is to provide pure breed bulls / replacement stock to other breeders.

### **Cow and calf systems**

Calves are left with their dams until weaning and the cows are not milked . It requires plentiful pasture and little supplementary feeding except in severe dry seasons.

## **Growing Stockers**

Stockers are mainly steers and heifers or thin animals. They are only kept for one year and are fed on pasture. Progressive farmers and ranchers can adequately manage the undertaking. The purposes are to recondition steers and prepare them for fattening and heifers are conditioned for breeding.

## **Baby Beef Production**

This is the production of tender meat from young stock. It involves breeding, rearing and fattening all done on the same farm.

At 4 – 6 months, all the calves are fed on concentrates.

The cows need full feeding in order to produce good calves.

The purpose is to finish the baby beef animals when they are 12 – 18 months old.

## **Fattening or growing**

This involves the fattening of bought in animals after being fed on high energy feeds before selling

## **Aims of ranch management**

- To decrease the animal fluctuations in stocking numbers
- To reduce the seasonal fluctuation in live weight of stock
- To minimize reproductive performance towards the ideal of one calf per cow per year.
- To minimize calf mortality and losses due to diseases
- To maintain and improve breeding efficiency.

## **Factors that determine the size of the herd**

- **The type of pasture species;** high nutritive value of pastures therefore high carrying capacity
- **The productivity of the pasture species;** high rate of dry matter or forage for grazing means high number of stock
- **The type of stock** e.g. hardy types which can survive well in drier conditions and scarce pasture can be kept in large numbers.
- **Availability of reserve feeds** which enable a large herd to be carried through dry periods when pasture is scarce.
- **Economic considerations** which are usually of a long term nature e.g. Whether the farmer requires cash immediately and the cost of keeping a large number of animals.

- **Topography of the land** where over – stocking in hilly areas could result into a serious case of soil erosion.
- **Availability of water** , sufficient and available at all times
- **The presence of poisonous plants** and trees that should render portions of the ranch useless.

### **Beef cattle health**

#### **a) The Buildings**

- The buildings should be big enough to avoid over crowding
- Should be well ventilated to avoid respiratory infections.
- The floor should be made of concrete which is easy to clean.
- All buildings should be kept clean and be washed out regularly control disease.
- The calf pens should have adequate bedding which should be changed regularly.
- Flies and lice can be controlled by spraying / dusting.

#### **b) The Grazing Area**

All shrubs and trees which hinder good growth of grass of which could Harbor tsetse flies should be removed.

#### **c) Water Troughs**

These should be cleaned out twice a week. Murrum should be put around them to avoid muddy conditions that would encourage foot rot.

#### **d) Breeding**

Cows should be serviced by healthy bulls to control diseases which can be transmitted by breeding or A.I should be used.

#### **e) Dispensary**

This is mainly for animal drugs that should be kept at hand although some should not be kept by qualified veterinary personnel.

### ***Drugs equipment and material that need to be kept at hand in the ranch dispensary include:***

- Healing oil which can be applied on wounds i.e. after castration and dehorning
- Cotton wool for dressing wounds
- Syringes for injecting drug in the bodies of animals
- Sulphur drugs such as sulphurdimidine which is a general drug for oral treatment or injection
- Stilboestrol used in injections on cows after calving, if the after birth is retained and has to be removed.
- Spirit for cleaning wounds and sterilization of instruments

- Terramycin spray for skin wounds
- Terramycin injectable solution which has a wide spectrum and can be used as a general drug against bacterial infections
- Chlorohexidine for disinfecting e.g. cow's udders

## Butchery

### Procedure of slaughtering an animal

- a) **Before Slaughter** The animals should at all times be handled humanly, rested and starved for 24 hours.
- This allows emptying of the gut and reduces spoilage and contamination of meat.
  - The resting also conserves stored body glycogen. After slaughter, glycogen is converted into lactic acid which has a preserving effect on the meat.
  - **feed withdrawal leads to increased ease of evisceration and reduces the incidence of intestinal tract rupture during evisceration**
  - Starving /Fasting pigs before slaughter reduces mortality during transport to the abattoir.
  - Inspection of the animal to check for any disease, deformities, injuries, sex etc. is done at this stage.
- b) **Stunning**  
This renders the animals senseless just before slaughter to reduce pain. Painless killing of animals is human and it is strongly recommended.
- Stunning can be achieved either by use of a hammer gun or electric shock or carbon dioxide
- c) **Slaughter**  
The neck of the animal is cut and it's allowed to bleed by hoisting it up. Adequate bleeding is essential to reduce meat spoilage. Skinning is then followed by **evisceration** which is the cutting open of the carcass to remove the internal organs.
- d) Hoisting mean to raise (something) by means of ropes and pulleys: The cattle hoist is mainly used to lift the cattle that have been turned down from cattle killing box to the upper rail for assassination and bloodletting.
- e) **Inspection**  
This is the postmortem inspection for infection by tuberculosis, cysts etc.
- The carcass has to be passed for public consumption. Condemned carcasses are buried / burnt.
- f) **Grading**  
The products looked for are fat, degree of marbling, texture of meat and color. A pale color indicates poor quality

### Factors leading to poor quality of meat from animals

1. Poor feeding of animals leading to disease and nutritional deficiencies
2. Poor meat preservation causing putrefaction
3. Diseases in animals that contaminate meat
4. Parasitic infection in animals causing cysts and eggs in meat
5. Age of animals i.e. very young and old animals produce poor quality
6. Poor animal breed that may produce poor quality meat
7. Chemical poisoning of meat by drugs administered shortly before slaughter
8. Harsh treatment of the animal before slaughter through beating

### Hides and skins

#### Uses of hide and skins

- Used in the leather tanning industry for making shoes, belts, bags etc.
- Source of government revenue when the government taxes the products.
- Making musical equipment e.g. drums
- Decorations in cultural centers
- Used as clothing for traditional ceremonies.
- Sources of food in some communities e.g. the karamajong

#### Preparation of hides and skins

- (i) **Flaying** is a method of slow and painful torture and/or execution in which skin is removed from the body.
- (ii) **Washing:** this is done in running water to remove dung, dirt and blood
- (iii) **Draining:** the hides and skins are hanged over poles to remove water and some blood after washing
- (iv) **Fleshing:** this involves the removal of fat and meat from the hide using a knife or scrapper
- (v) **Drying**
- (vi) **Trimming:** here, odd flaps at the edge of the hide / skin are removal with an aim of making a regular in shape.
- (vii) **Curing Preserving:** this can be done by wet/dry salting or hanging them in frames using ropes to dry.
- (viii) **Tanning:** this is the process of soaking hides and skins in chemicals such as tannic acid to soften and turn them into leather.

#### Sources of damage to hides and skins

- a) **During the animals life:**
  - i) Injuries / wounds that may be caused by rough handling and sharp objects such as barbed wire.

- ii) Some parasites like ticks can cause wounds which will eventually lower the quality of the hide or skin
- iii) Diseases like ringworms in cattle and goats can also damage their skins by causing open wounds
- iv) Bad branding more especially at the thigh and back will lower the quality of hides and skins
- v) Bad roping can cause calluses and wounds which will eventually lower the quality of hides and skins

**b) During slaughter**

- i) Incomplete bleeding which causes blood to remain in a hide or skin attracting microbes that may lead to putrefaction.
- ii) Dragging carcass on the floor or over sharp objects can damage the hide

**c) During Flaying**

- i) Delay in flaying after killing the animal will make the whole process more difficult hence prone to more mistakes during flaying
- ii) Use of pointed knives which may accidentally make holes in the hide/skin
- iii) Mixing the hide with dung or blood during the process of flaying the carcass attracting microbe that speed up putrefaction
- iv) Failure to wash and dry the skin immediately after flaying can encourage rapid decomposition hence reduction in quality.
- v) The fresh skin should not be folded with the hair inside as these create anaerobic conditions that speeds up putrefaction
- vi) An even removal of flesh from the hide causes distortion and damage of the pattern during flaying.

**d) Drying of the skin on the ground can cause the following**

- a) Causes flaking due to over drying since temperatures are high on the ground
- b) The fat on the skin/hide will melt and spread all over increasing chances of microbial attack.
- c) Rain drops can collect on the hide/skin which may easily encourage decomposition and hence loss in quality
- d) The outside of the hide/skin is hard while the inside is soft i.e. there is uneven drying
- e) There is putrefaction of the hide/skin more especially in spots which touch the ground

**e) Damage during transportation**

- i) Bad packing causes the hide/skin to rub against each other which may lead to damage
- ii) During transportation, rain can soak the hides/skin encouraging microbial action on them

**f) Damage during storage**

- (i) Pests like the rodents and insects can attack the hides while in store more especially if stored in poor houses
- (ii) Moisture from leaking stores can soak the hide/skins thus speeding up decomposition

### **Small ruminant production**

Small ruminant are kept for milk, meat and skins. The main animals here are sheep and goats

#### **Systems of small ruminant production**

In East Africa, there are two main systems i.e. **tethering** and **open grazing** though zero grazing is also being practiced in the breeding stock.

##### **Tethering**

Here, sheep or goats are tethered using ropes of about 3m long that allows grazing in a limited area.

The animals can be given green supplements on top of tethering.



##### **Open Grazing**

The small ruminants are allowed to graze freely in uncultivated land or a garden with crop residues. This system is common in arid and semi-arid areas with low human population.



#### **Breeds of goats in Uganda**

1. Small East African Goats:



This is the largest breed in Uganda making up to 42% of the total goat population.

### Characteristics

- i) they are small in size
- ii) they mature early reaching a live weight of about 23 – 30kg
- iii) they reach sexual maturity at about 4 months
- iv) they have a fine hair coat with various color
- v) Most of them are horned and they are mainly kept for meat.

## 2. Mubende Goat



This is found in areas of North and North West of Lake Victoria.

### Characteristics

- i) It is a larger breed than the small East African goat.
- ii) The mature live weight ranges between 30 – 35 kg for males and 25 – 30kg for the females
- iii) It has straight and short hairs
- iv) it is predominantly black in color though black and white are other color.

- v) It has a long neck
- vi) The body conformation of the female is angular

### 3. Kigezi goats



This is usually found in the highlands of south Western Uganda

#### Characteristics

- i) it has a thicker hairy coat than the other two breeds
- ii) it has spaced long hair around the hind quarters
- iii) It is small, more compact with short legs.
- iv) They have black and grey hair coat
- v) At maturity, they can weigh between 25 – 30kg

### Sheep



The main breeds of sheep reared in Uganda are:

- i) Red Masai sheep
- ii) East African black head sheep
- iii) East African long tailed sheep

#### Advantages of rearing small ruminants

- They require small initial capital so poor people can easily start such a venture without much external financial assistance.
- Their reproduction turnover is high i.e. they have short gestation period and frequently deliver twins
- They can be easily managed by family labor i.e. women and children
- They can be easily kept in mountainous and dry areas where cattle can't do well
- They can be combined with beef cattle utilizing the same land and farm facilities with less competition for food
- Indigenous breeds of these small ruminants are resistant to the number of diseases which affect cattle including East coast Fever.
- They have a big genetic variation giving room for improvement by selection
- There is ready market for their product more especially meat locally and for export.
- It is safer to keep small ruminants in areas with cattle rustlers since little interest is accorded to them.
- They can tolerate contamination of drinking water
- Can survive in a wide range of environmental temperatures
- Need limited land for grazing hence good for densely populated areas

#### **Constraints to small ruminant production in Uganda**

- Lack of sound breeding males and defective breeding practices
- Most farmers in Uganda have poor management skills
- The animals are attacked by internal parasites which are difficult to control
- The indigenous breeds are being threatened by neglect in preference for the highly productive exotic breeds
- Inadequate extension services amongst farmers limiting information about small ruminants
- The marketing system in Uganda is still poor where animal prices are determined by their size rather than actual weight.

## Poultry

These are birds that have been selected and domesticated by man, e.g. Domestic fowl, chicken, ducks, Turkey, geese, guineas fowl.



### Importance of poultry

- Provide meat and eggs that are of high nutritive value to the human diet.
- They are a source of income when sold wholly or after selling the eggs.
- Some poultry add beauty to places and therefore are kept for environmental purposes e.g. pigeon. Parrots.
- They provide market for industrial products like feeds, drugs etc.
- They are used for various traditional functions and ceremonies.
- They give quick returns since they grow fast and reach productive stage early.
- Poultry products serve as raw materials for industries e.g. feathers are used in feeling pillows and sofa sets.
- Some poultry especially the chicken provide entertainment in the old game with which fighting practiced in Asia.

### Advantages of Poultry over other enterprises

- Poultry does not require a lot of land as compared to cattle.
- It gives faster returns e.g. broilers mature in about 8 weeks and layers in 24 -21 weeks
- Provides many areas of specialization such as egg selling, old chick selling, broiler production etc.
- Chicken meat has low cholesterol and is highly nutritious.
- Poultry are highly prolific
- Poultry farming requires less initial capital

## Challenges to poultry farming in Uganda

- Inadequate capital needed for raising farm structures
- Lack of reliable source of poultry feeds
- Poor poultry housing in relation to environmental conditions
- Inadequate market for poultry products
- Inadequate skills in poultry management
- Poor breeds of poultry being kept
- Presence of pests and diseases that reduce bird production
- thieves

## Commercial poultry farming

There are more than 300 breeds of chicken in the world. Commercial breeds can be divided into 3 groups.

### 1. Egg producers e.g. leg horn.

These have the following characteristics:-

- consume less feeds
- produce more eggs
- Produce white eggs mainly.
- They do not go broody

### 2. Duo-purpose breeds

- They have characteristics
- They produce brown eggs
- Consume more feeds than egg producers
- They are better meat producers than the white leghorn.

Example Rhode Island Red, New Hampshire.

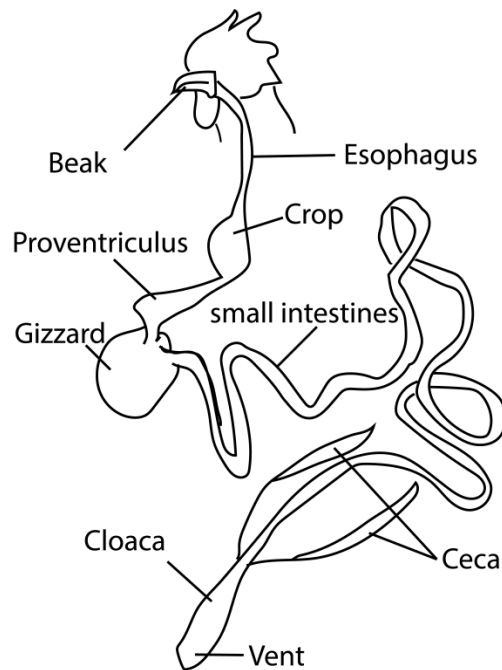
### 3. Meat producers

#### Characteristics

- They have a low egg production capacity.
- They show much broodiness than the other two.
- Produce fast growing chicks
- Have a high weight at maturity

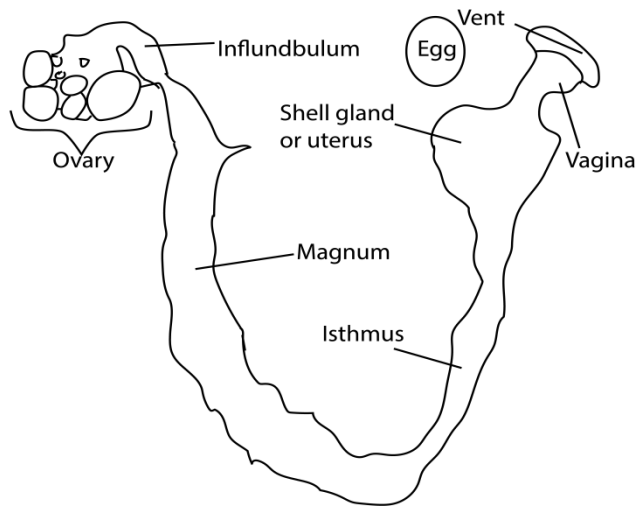
Examples white Cornish, white Plymouth.

## The digestive system of chicken



1. **Beak:** it's composed of two horny parts i.e. the upper and lower beak. It picks food and passes it to the crop via the gullet.
2. **Esophagus/Gullet:** conducts food from the mouth to the crop.
3. **Crop:** stores food before proceeding to the glandular stomach. It also softens the food.
4. **Glandular stomach:** This is an enlarged part just before the gizzard. Its wall contains many glands that secrete hydrochloric acid. It's also referred to as the first stomach.
5. **Gizzard / muscular stomach:** this is the real stomach of the chicken with very muscular walls. It grinds down the feeds to increase action by gastric juice enzyme. It contains grease which is taken up with food.
6. **Small intestines:** the 1<sup>st</sup> part forms the duodenal loop where most of the digestion takes place. It's about 1.5 long in an adult chicken. Digestion of fats, proteins and carbohydrates takes place here.
7. **Caeca:** this lies between the small and large intestines and it's also called the blind gut. Digestion of crude fibre takes place here due to the presence of bacteria.
8. **Large intestines / colon:** it's relatively short of [about 1cm] and it's where absorption of moisture takes place.
9. **Vent / cloaca / Common sewer:** the digestive, urinary, and reproductive tract empty here their products.

## Reproductive system of chicken



It comprises of the following: infundibulum, magnum, uterus, vagina, and isthmus.

- **Infundibulum:** it's where fertilization takes place and also the formation of yolk sac takes place here. The egg takes about  $\frac{1}{4}$  an hour while here.
- **Magnum:** this is where 45% of the albumen and the chalazae are formed. The egg takes about 3 hrs here.
- **Isthmus:** this is where 10% of the egg white is added. The egg membranes are also formed here and the egg takes between  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr while here.
- **Uterus / shell gland:** in this place the outer calcium shell is added to the egg and 45% of the albumen is also added. The egg spends 18-22hrs while here.
- **Vagina:** the egg is inverted in this place and vaginal fluid is secreted to reduce friction. The egg spends about one minute before moving to the cloaca.

### Abnormalities that occur in eggs during formation

- Meat spots:** a piece of tissue is torn off the ovary during ovulation. It comes down with the yolk resulting into a blood spot
- Blood spots:** a drop of blood is shed off the ovary during ovulation and comes along with the yolk resulting into blood spot.
- Double yolk:** two ova are shed at ago by the ovary later being enclosed in the same shell.
- Shell less eggs:** nutritional imbalances and defects in the shell gland cause failure of the shell to be deposited on the egg during formation.
- Thin shell:** disease and nutritional imbalances lead to the laying of eggs with thin shells.
- Deformed eggs:** eggs with abnormal shapes due to defects in the isthmus where the shape of the egg is determined.

- (vii) **Eggs with rough surface:** uneven deposition of the shell on the egg leads to the formation of such eggs.
- (viii) **Soft shelled eggs:** failure of shell gland to deposit a hard shell due to inadequate calcium in the diet or other defects.
- (ix) **Small sized eggs:** these may be due to poor feeding or hormonal imbalances.
- (x) **Abnormal** smell of the yolk: it may be due to diseases of poor feeds eaten.

#### **Factors that determine the level of laying in birds**

1. Level of feeding: giving adequate amount of feeds leads to high level of laying
2. Quality of feeds give: well-balanced ration ensure high production of eggs
3. Health of birds: sick birds will lay less eggs of poor quality
4. Pest attack: pests cause stress in birds which lowers egg production
5. Temperature in poultry house: high temperature reduce feed and water intake which will lower egg production
6. Breed: high laying breed produce more eggs than the meat producers
7. Provision of enough water: giving less water affects body metabolism which may lower egg production
8. Ventilation: poor ventilation in the poultry causes stress which reduces egg production

#### **Importance of housing in poultry production**

- Protects bird from thieves
- Protects bird bad weather conditions
- Protects birds from predators
- Reduces egg loss
- Limit movement and spreading of diseases
- Enables accumulation and collection of manure easy
- Enables easy record keeping and management
- Reduces wastage of feeds

#### **Characteristics of a good poultry house**

- It should be water proof to avoid damp conditions in the house that can easily invite pathogens.
- It should have proper ventilation to control respiratory infections.
- It should have a concrete floor which is easy to clean.
- Should be rodent and wild bird proof to avoid spread of diseases.
- Should be located within outer of the owner for security
- House should be well sheltered from direct sunshine and strong winds.
- The place where the house is to be constructed should be well drained.

- Should be an accessible place so that birds and eggs are easily removed when necessary and taken to the market.
- Should have enough laying boxes in case of layers to reduce rises specifically egg eating.
- Should have enough litter in relation to the bird population.

### **Systems of poultry production**

They can be divided into three major groups i.e. extensive system, [free range], semi intensive [fold system and poultry run] and Intensive system [cage and deep litter system]

#### **(a) Extensive system**



In this system the birds are allowed to move freely over large area of grass land where they experience nearly natural or wild conditions.

The birds are not confined and during bad weather the birds can find shelter under natural covers like trees.

#### **Advantages of free range**

- Manure is spread all over the field or in any place where the birds eat from.
- The system is less expensive as compared to the deep litter and battery system since it requires little initial capital
- Birds will be able to get enough exercise which is good for their health as they move all over the place.
- Birds get almost all the nutrients required in their diet from the environment more especially vitamins.
- Vices are not common in this system as observed in deep litter system.
- It's a good system for the management of the breeding stock because it enables the birds to become hardy and strong
- Birds are able to get vitamin A and D from the environment.
- Requires less Labor which reduces operational costs hence increasing profits

### Disadvantages of free range

- Birds can easily be attacked by wild animals
- It's very difficult to collect the eggs since sometimes they are laid in bushes.
- The birds are more prone to parasitic attack from the environment.
- It's very difficult to keep feeding and production records under this system since birds cannot be easily monitored.
- Birds can easily get diseases from others of a different stock in the neighborhood.
- The production from these birds is low since they spend a lot of energy meant for production in movement.
- The system cannot easily support exotic birds that cannot tolerate harsh conditions.

### (b) Poultry run



In this system birds are rotated in paddocks for a particular period of time during day. They are later confined at night.

### Advantages

- It requires far less land than the free range system
- It's suitable for commercial egg production as compared to the free range since clean eggs are easily produced.
- It doesn't require expensive equipment therefore has a low initial capital.
- Birds are protected against thieves and wild animals.
- Spread of diseases from outside stocks is under control.

### Disadvantages

- There is a high risk of disease as land becomes contaminated with parasites.
- The eggs may be dirty and therefore of low quality.
- Costs are high in terms of feeding, fencing, and housing.

## Fold system



A fold unit is the system whereby a **small portable house with a run attached is used** so that the birds can make use of the run during the day and the house at night. The fold unit is systematically moved daily over an area and therefore must be of size and weight which is easily moved.

### Advantages

- It's easy to inspect birds and isolate sick ones.
- Manure is distributed evenly on the farm
- Birds are well protected against predators and thieves.
- The system can be used for commercial egg production.
- It's a more ideal system of raising breeding stock since birds are exposed to natural conditions that makes them hardy.
- Production is higher than the free range since birds spend less energy.

### Disadvantages

- It may not be used easily on a ground which is not flat because the unit may be difficult to move.
- The system can accommodate a few birds so as to allow easy movement of the unit.
- The unit is quite expensive therefore may not be affordable to peasants.
- Birds' performance is affected by change in the environment.

## Battery / cage system poultry farming



This is an intensive system of poultry production where birds are kept in individual cages indoors of about 0.14m<sup>2</sup>.

Feeders and drinkers are arranged at one side.

The wire making up the floor is slanted to allow eggs roll to one side for easy collection.

Food and water may be mechanically provided or using computerized system.

The floor beneath the cages is made of concrete slanting at one side for easy drainage and cleaning

#### **Advantages of cage poultry system**

- Reduce chances of vices like cannibalism since birds are confined in individual cages.
- Feed and water contamination with droppings is reduced since water and feed troughs are located higher at one end.
- Clean eggs can be easily produced.
- It is easy to keep individual feeding and egg production records.
- Disease spread easily controlled since birds are confined.
- Bullying amongst birds is easily controlled since birds are under confinement.
- It requires less labor for management of large flocks.
- A large number of birds can be kept on a small piece of land
- Bird production is high since they spend less energy in movement.
- Culling out of birds is to carry out since they are in close observation

#### **Disadvantages of cage poultry system**

- It requires a high initial capital for installing cages and other equipment.
- Birds lack exercise which may affect their health
- It may require skilled labor to run the system

- There is a danger of concentrating parasites in the poultry unit
- Birds may not get vitamins like D from the environment

### Deep litter system of poultry farming



This is the most common and popular modern system of keeping commercial poultry. Birds are confined in a house on litter of about 20cm deep which has to absorb moisture from the droppings. Materials used for litter are coffee husks, woods and having chopped straw and rice husks.

Litter is turned frequently to mix it with droppings thoroughly and more materials added.

#### Advantages of deep litter system of poultry farming

- It requires a small area of land to raise large number of birds.
- It's easy to control birds since they are confined in one place
- Birds are protected from predators and thieves.
- It gives comfort to both attendant and the birds since there is little wastage energy and time in feeding and collection of eggs.
- Birds are protected from bad weather
- Manure obtained under this system is of high quality
- Easy to identify and cull unproductive birds
- Records of stock and egg production are easy to keep under this system.
- It's easy to observe sick birds in the flock hence easy to cull out such birds.
- Spread of disease from the neighborhood is easily controlled since birds are confined.

#### Disadvantages of deep litter system of poultry farming

- The system encourages the buildup of parasites in the litter unless turned, treated and replaced regularly.

- It may require more labor in terms of feeding and collection of eggs as compared to the free range system.
- It's difficult to control diseases in case of an outbreak within the deep litter house.
- Birds easily develop vices more especially due to overcrowding within the deep litter house.
- It's difficult to keep individual production records.
- It's expensive to establish since money is needed for the construction of houses and purchase of the necessary equipment.
- Feeders, water container, and nesting boxes are easily contaminated with litter and droppings which may lead to disease.
- Comfortable litter in poultry house may induce birds to go broody.

### **Requirements of a good litter poultry house**

- It should strong walls and shutters to protect from thieves
- It should be water proof to avoid damp conditions in the house that can easily invite pathogens.
- It should have proper ventilation to control respiratory infections.
- It should have a impervious floor with litter.
- Should be rodent and wild bird proof to avoid spread of diseases.
- Should be located within outer of the owner for security
- House should be well sheltered from direct sunshine and strong winds.
- The place where the house is to be constructed should be well drained.
- Should be an accessible place so that birds and eggs are easily removed when necessary and taken to the market.
- Should have enough laying boxes in case of layers to reduce chances specifically egg eating.
- Should have enough litter in relation to the bird population.
- Should have resting patches

### **Importance of litter in poultry house**

- It absorbs moisture and keeps the house dry.
- Dry up dropping.
- Keeps birds scratching and dusting themselves which reduces boredom and stress.
- Soft litter prevents breakage of eggs.
- Keeps the house warm.
- Prevent birds from harming self

### **Management of layers in a deep litter house**

- Provide enough space in the house to control overcrowding that result into vices and disease outbreak
- Keep the litter dry by continuous raking and removal of wet spots to control dampness that encourages disease outbreak
- Provide enough perches for the birds and they should be well spaced
- Provide enough water and feed troughs to reduce overcrowding at the feeding and drinking place which increase feed and water contamination
- Provide clean drinking water at all times for proper bird health and high production
- Keep feeders and drinkers clean to reduce disease outbreaks due unhygienic conditions
- Provide adequate feeds to birds to maintain a high production level
- Collect the eggs regularly to reduce chances of breaking and occurrence of egg eating vice
- Supply grit in feeds to help birds to digest grains in the feeds provided
- Cull poor layers and diseased birds to reduce wastage of feeds and disease spread in poultry
- Vaccinate birds against killer diseases in time to reduce losses
- Spray birds with pesticides to control external parasites like mites and ticks that may lower production
- Avoid stressing factors that may affect bird production
- Repair equipment and house to reduce accidents
- Provide enough feeds to ensure high production from birds
- Isolate and treat sick birds to reduce disease spread in poultry
- Keep proper records for easy management of poultry
- Promptly dispose of dead birds by burying or burning to reduce disease spread and vices
- Maintain a disinfectant at the door for anybody entering the poultry house to disinfect him.

### **Causes of disease outbreak in poultry houses**

- Introduction of sick birds in poultry house
- Mating between sick and health birds
- Contaminated vaccination equipment
- Contaminated water and feeds given to birds
- Poor disposal of dead birds
- Visitors and attendants who move from one farm to another
- Introduction of disease carriers to the poultry farm
- Direct contact between health and diseased birds
- Through infected eggs to chicks

- Vectors and wild birds that may come into contact with poultry
- Through contaminated drinkers and feeders
- Overcrowding in poultry house
- Poor ventilation in the house leading to respiratory infections

### **Control of disease outbreaks in poultry houses**

- Regular vaccination of birds to control killer diseases
- Provision of coccidiostats in feeds to control coccidiosis
- Providing clean feeds and water
- Regular deworming to control internal parasites
- Provide enough high quality litter for to control respiratory infections
- Do not mix young and old birds since the former are more prone to disease
- Avoid unnecessary visitors in the poultry houses
- Provide a disinfectant at the door way
- Dead birds should properly disposed
- Isolate the sick birds to control disease spread
- Raise feeders and drinkers to reduce contamination by litter
- Regular cleaning of feeders and drinkers
- Buy birds from reliable sources that show less instance of disease
- Provide a balanced diet to control nutritional deficiency diseases
- Keep proper records on vaccinations
- Provide adequate feeds to birds

### **Maintenance of good litter in a poultry house**

- Turn the litter daily to keep it loose and dry to prevent caking
- The perches should be evenly distributed throughout the poultry house to avoid accumulation of droppings in localized areas.
- Litter should be protected from rain to protected it from deterioration
- Manage drinkers so that the litter is kept dry
- Use enough litter to effectively absorb moisture from droppings
- Remove over stayed litter from the poultry house
- Provide adequate ventilation to keep the litter dry
- Regularly disinfect the litter
- Regularly dry the litter in the sunshine
- Maintain the right number of birds to prevent excessive fouling of litter.

### Characteristics of good litter

- ✓ It should not cake up
- ✓ Should be cheap to the farmers to afford
- ✓ It should not be dusty
- ✓ Should not be poisonous to the birds
- ✓ Should be pest free
- ✓ Should not be bulky
- ✓ Should be a good moisture absorber
- ✓ Should not be too dry

### Causes of wetness in litter

1. Drinking water that may splash over the litter as birds drink it
2. Moisture from chicken droppings
3. Rain water from leaking roof
4. Capillary water from underground in poorly drained places
5. Rain water through the windows during storms due to a short overhang of the poultry house
6. Flooding of the site
7. Overcrowding of birds that increases humidity
8. Accumulation of bird droppings
9. Poor ventilation that increases humidity

### Vices in poultry

A vice is a bad behavior practiced by birds e.g. egg eating feather pecking, cannibalism.

### Causes of poultry vices

- (i) **Heredity:** some line of birds show more vices like cannibalism than others.
- (ii) **overcrowding** in the poultry houses can cause vices like cannibalism as birds become more close to each other
- (iii) Introduction of new birds in a flock with unique characters of the body and size may cause cannibalism and feather pecking.
- (iv) Exposure of wounds and smell of blood can cause cannibalism
- (v) Lack of enough laying boxes which causes breakage of eggs and exposes eggs to the birds can easily result into egg eating.
- (vi) Improper feeding of the birds that encourages mineral deficiency can lead to cannibalism
- (vii) Bright light in the poultry house can stimulate feather and toe pecking.
- (viii) Insufficient drinking and eating place may also lead to pecking as birds struggle to get near to feeds and water.

- (ix) Irritation of the skin through direct sunlight and lice infection can result into cannibalism and pecking.
- (x) **Diseases** like gumboro can easily cause cloaca pecking since the droppings usually stick in that area.
- (xi) Introduction of birds that are moulting (shedding feathers) in a flock can easily encourage cannibalism due to exposure of bare skin to other birds.

### **Control of poultry vices**

- (i) The farmer should provide enough laying boxes that should be placed in easy to reach dark places.
- (ii) The birds should be debeaked between 9 – 12 weeks in order to control egg eating.
- (iii) Give the birds balanced feeds to reduce the laying of soft shelled eggs that easily break and cause egg eating.
- (iv) Overcrowding of the birds in the poultry house should be avoided by reducing the stocking rate.
- (v) Greens to be fed to the birds should be hanged over their heads so that birds are kept busy.
- (vi) Sick birds and weak ones should be isolated from the general flock to control cannibalism.
- (vii) The farmer should remove all the slow moulting birds from the general flock since such birds encourage cannibalism.
- (viii) The breeding stock should be selected from the birds that do not show any sign of vices.
- (ix) The nests should be enough and must be well positioned to reduce accidents that can cause breaking of the eggs resulting into egg eating.
- (x) There should be enough feeds and water troughs for the birds.
- (xi) Birds with lice infection and gumboro disease should be culled.
- (xii) The farmer should treat external parasites and prevent diseases in the flock through vaccination.

### **Stress in birds**

This is the response of birds to a situation that troubles it

#### **Causes of stress in birds**

- (i) Change of feeds i.e. from layers mash to growers mash
- (ii) Change of feeding routine
- (iii) Starving birds or inadequate feeding
- (iv) Vaccination of birds leading to pain
- (v) Debeaking birds
- (vi) High temperatures in the poultry house
- (vii) Presence of parasites on the birds

- (viii) Overcrowding in poultry house
- (ix) Change of the environment around the birds i.e. moving birds to a new place
- (x) Noise of predators around the poultry house

**Effects of stress in poultry**

- (i) Reduce egg production in birds
- (ii) Reduce bird appetite
- (iii) May cause disease in birds
- (iv) can reduce growth rate in young birds

**Characteristics of a good laying bird:**

	<b>Good layer</b>	<b>Bad layer</b>
<b>Comb / wattle</b>	They are large, red in colour and full	They are dry pale and scaly
<b>Eyes</b>	They are keen and sparkling	They are sunken and dull
<b>Beak</b>	It is short and colourless in most cases	Beak is long and yellow
<b>Distance between the pelvic bone</b>	3 -4 fingers can fit in the space	It narrow allowing between 1 -2 fingers
<b>Skin</b>	Its smooth and warm	Hard and dry
<b>Cloaca / vent</b>	It is oval, large and moist	It is round small and dry
<b>Weight</b>	Normal in accordance with breed	Too heavy because of too much fat and light due to illness
<b>Belly</b>	Normal size, soft and smooth	To big or too small

## Ways of ensuring egg quality

- (i) Keep nest clean. Maintaining clean nesting material will reduce microbial exposure when the egg is first laid.
- (ii) Collect eggs regularly at least daily and preferably twice a day to prevent breakage and possible contamination from fecal material and dirt.
- (iii) Clean dirty with water and dried immediately
- (iv) Store eggs in clean packaging materials.
- (v) Storage conditions temperature 4 – 8<sup>0</sup>C and humidity 60 – 80%
- (vi) Feed layers on proper feed rations
- (vii) Sell first laid egg first
- (viii) Cushion the nest box to prevent egg breakage
- (ix) Sell/eat before spoiled
- (x) Proper handling to prevent them from breaking.

## Selection of eggs for hatching/incubation

- (i) Eggs selected should be fertilized therefore to ensure this a hen should stay with a cock for at least a week before laying at a ratio of 1 cock -12 hens.
- (ii) Eggs of uniform size and shape should be selected for uniform distribution of heat during incubation.
- (iii) Ensure that you select clean eggs.
- (iv) Ensure that eggs selected have thick shells with no cracks to prevent breakage during turning and attack by microbes.
- (v) Eggs with abnormalities like meat and blood spots should not be selected.
- (vi) Hands handling those eggs should be clean to avoid transmission of diseases.
- (vii) Eggs should be from healthy birds [i.e. not from infected birds with coccidiosis, bacillary white diarrhea] which can easily be transmitted.

## Incubation of eggs

This is the provision of warmth and optimal humidity to allow embryonic development of fertilized egg into a chick. The period varies between different birds.

### Methods of incubation

There are two main methods of incubating eggs i.e.

Natural incubation

Artificial incubation

## Natural incubation



This is where a broody hen seats on a clutch of eggs to provide conditions suitable for hatching to occur. Like humidity optimum temperature and adequate air supply.

### In order to achieve the above conditions the hen does the following:-

- (i) It changes / turns her eggs using its beak so that all the sides of the egg get the same temperature.
- (ii) 2. The hen moves out quite often to allow the eggs cool down when the temperature rises and also to allow air circulate around the eggs.
- (iii) 3. The hen may sunbath and may get its chest wet so that when it goes back it can give the required humidity to the eggs.

### Improvement of natural incubation

- (i) Make a good nest for the hen to guard against egg breaking.
- (ii) Place the nest in a quiet corner at ground level for easy reach.
- (iii) Provide plenty of clean water and enough food so that the hen does not spend much time looking for them
- (iv) Protect the hen from parasites like mites and vermin by dusting the nest with doom or any other pesticides.
- (v) Dump the nest daily during drought to provide the required humidity.
- (vi) Ensure that the hen is with the cock during and before laying time to ensure that the eggs laid are fertilized.
- (vii) Remove oversized and undersized eggs or these with abnormalities before the hen starts incubating.

## Artificial incubation

Under the modern machine called an incubator is used in the incubation of eggs.

## Factors essential for incubation and proper hatching of eggs:

1. **Temperature:** this has to be effectively controlled between 32.2°C – 37.2°C. Higher temperatures can cause death of embryos especially from the 19<sup>th</sup> day of incubation onwards. Chicks hatched from high temperatures are smaller, lack alertness, have crooked toes, and necks. While low temperatures cause late and poor hatchability of eggs.
2. **Humidity:** chicken eggs require humidity of 60% during the first 18 days, then 70% later. Low humidity causes excessive loss of moisture from eggs resulting into small and hard chicks. High humidity may result into large chicks and may delay hatching.
3. **Air supply:** 21% oxygen is required in the incubator to allow adequate gas exchange between the embryo and out side
4. **Turning of eggs:** Eggs should be turned for the first 18 days of incubation once every 3hrs. After 18 days there must be no turning. This prevents embryos from sticking to one side
5. Egg must not have any defects like cracks and double yolks since such may not hatch
6. Providing a good nesting place to avoid breakage of eggs
7. Ensuring that the place of incubation is free from pests and vermin
8. Providing a balanced diet for the broody hen in natural incubation

## Management in a hatchery

Hatchery sanitation is required to prevent infection in younger chicks. Diseases

that can affect chicks in mismanagement hatcheries are new castle, Coccidiosis and other respiratory diseases. It's advisable to do the following:-

- (i) Clean and fumigate the incubator / hatchery before setting in eggs.
- (ii) Select clean eggs and fumigate them before incubation.
- (iii) The hatchery should be located far away from any nearby poultry farm.
- (iv) Have the incubator in a separate from where you meet people.
- (v) Do not allow visitors in the hatchery except the hatchery attendant.
- (vi) Vaccinate chicks against new castle immediately after hatching.

## Sexing of chicks

Sexing is the grouping of chicks according to their sex.

### Methods of sexing chicks

- (i) **Vent method:** This is based on observation of the vent where the male chicks have three protuberances (round part that sticks out) from the vent while the female have only two.
- (ii) **Chick – sexing machine:** The machine uses magnifying lenses to see through the vent of the chicks in order to determine their sex by observing the internal reproduction systems.

- (iii) **Auto-sexing method:** this takes advantage of the sex linked genes that depict the external traits of the offspring according to sex. E.g. the cross between a light Sussex hen [white] and a brown Rhode Island cock will produce brown females and white males in F<sub>1</sub> generation.

## Brooding

It's the provision of warmth for growing chicks. A brooder is a structure where chicks are reared from day old up to 6 or 8 weeks of age.

### Types of brooders

1. Warm floor brooder
2. Infrared brooder.
3. Tier brooder
4. Hot-room brooding.
5. Cold-room brooding.

### Preparation to receive day old chicks

#### a. A week before arrival.

- (i) Clean and disinfect the house thoroughly
- (ii) Install all necessary equipment after cleaning has been done e.g. water troughs, food, litter etc.
- (iii) Prepare the disinfected bath at the entrance
- (iv) Keep rats, mice and other pests out of the house by sealing off all entrances.
- (v) The brooder house should be made wild bird proof to reduce spread of diseases.
- (vi) Reduce air flow into the house by placing curtains or mats in the windows.
- (vii) The house should be locked to keep out any intruder.

#### 24 hours before arrival of chicks.

- (i) Ensure that the temperatures are not below 28<sup>o</sup>C by providing a heat source.
- (ii) Set up a brood guard around the heat source to protect chicks from the heat source.
- (iii) Hung a thermometer in each brooder guard to monitor the temperatures of the heat source.
- (iv) Check all bulbs to ensure that they are in good order to provide light intensity of about 4W/M<sup>2</sup> of floor area.
- (i) The bulbs should be hanged at least 2m high so that they can give enough light over a wide area.

- (ii) Put / lay down mold free litter to a minimum depth of 5cm and cover it with paper.
- (iii) Put clean feeders around the brooder guard like spokes of a wheel.
- (iv) Provide 2 – 3 drinkers for every hundred chicks depending on the type.
- (v) The bird population per brooder preferably shouldn't exceed 200 as management becomes very difficult.

#### **Arrival of chicks up to 1<sup>st</sup> week**

- (i) Observe strict sanitation during the unloading of the chicks.
- (ii) Chicks should be removed from boxes as promptly as possible to reduce mortality.
- (iii) Put filled drinkers in space so that the chicks can start drinking water mixed with glucose.
- (iv) Chicks should be given good quality starter mash ration.
- (v) The temperatures of the brooder should be maintained between 33<sup>o</sup>C and 34<sup>o</sup>C.
- (vi) Seal off all cavities around the brooder and corners to prevent chicks from crowding there.
- (vii) Clean water should be provided continuously throughout the day and night.
- (viii) Provide grit [chick size] from 2<sup>nd</sup> day onwards to help in digestion.
- (ix) Relative humidity in the brooder should range from 60 – 80%
- (x) Gradually expand the brooder area as the chicks grow.
- (xi) Room temperatures should be maintained at 32<sup>o</sup>C within the 1<sup>st</sup> week.
- (xii) Check whether there are chicks soiled with feces on the vent area and remove such to prevent constipation.
- (xiii) Dead chicks should be removed as soon as the possible to control vices and spread diseases.
- (xiv) Paper covering the litter should be removed as soon as chicks learn to identify the feeds.

#### **Second week**

- (i) Room temperatures should be gradually reduced to about 30<sup>o</sup>C as chicks develop feathers.
- (ii) Remove the brooder guards completely.
- (iii) Start ventilation at a low rate when atmospheric conditions are favorable.
- (iv) Put in additional feeders and locate them far away from the heat source.
- (v) If mortality is higher than normal, a specialist should be called in for advice.
- (vi) The mats in the windows should be removed gradually and the farmer should be aware of dust storms, strong winds and cold.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> week**

- (i) The room temperature should be lowered to about 28<sup>o</sup>C or even lower than this up to 25<sup>o</sup>C.

- (ii) Change to automatic feeders and drinkers must be done gradually.
- (iii) Reduce light intensity to about 2.8W m<sup>2</sup> of floor area.
- (iv) Provide plenty of clean fresh drinking water for the birds.
- (v) All birds with deformities / abnormalities should be culled at this level.
- (vi) Ensure that there is no left over food in the troughs overnight.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> week**

- (i) Light intensity should be reduced to 2W/M<sup>2</sup> of floor area and should be followed strictly.
- (ii) Weight of the birds should be taken in order to determine the growth rate.
- (iii) Make a change from starter mash to growers mash gradually.
- (iv) Adopt an established feeding program and stick to it for economic purposes.
- (v) Should cannibalism occur, try to stop it by debeaking the birds.

#### **5 – 10 weeks**

- (i) The stocking rate of the poultry house should be 9 – 12 birds per meter squared of floor space depending on the housing system.
- (ii) Switch over from chick size grit to grower size.
- (iii) Select the breeder birds for meat production.
- (iv) Ensure that the feeding space per bird is 10cm and the drinking space is 2cm per bird.
- (v) Debeaking should be done for birds kept in cages.
- (vi) Compare the bird's weight record with standard body weight for the same age.

#### **Qualities of a good chicken breeding stock**

- (i) Should be free from defects like lameness etc.
- (ii) It should be of good color.
- (iii) It should be able to mature sexually early.
- (iv) It should have a high laying rate.
- (v) It should not have pauses in egg laying.
- (vi) It should be non-broodiness.
- (vii) It should produce eggs with no abnormalities.
- (viii) It should be able to lay eggs for a long period of time.
- (ix) Should be able to produce good quality chicks.
- (x) Should have a good body size incase broilers
- (xi) Should have a rapid growth rate.
- (xii) Eggs produced should have high hatchability.
- (xiii) It should produce chicks with low mortality
- (xiv) It should be early feathering to reduce the chances of cannibalism.

## Vaccination of chicken

It is the act of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce protection from a specific disease.

### Immunization:

It is a process by which an individual becomes protected against a disease through vaccination.

### Factors to consider when planning a vaccination program for birds.

- (i) **Age of the bird:** Some vaccines are administered to a day old chicks e.g. new cattle diseases or after a week.
- (ii) **Genetic resistance of the flock:** If a flock is resistant to a certain disease naturally then vaccination may not be needed.
- (iii) **Health status of the bird:** Vaccines should be administered to healthy birds not sick ones since it may not serve the purpose.
- (iv) Feeding and management practices followed.
- (v) Methods of administration of the vaccine.
- (vi) Methods of storage and available facilities.

### Precautions to take during vaccination of birds/poultry

- (i) Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding the use of vaccines.
- (ii) Avoid exposing vaccines to high temperatures during transit.
- (iii) Store vaccines in a deep freezer before use.
- (iv) Do not vaccinate birds when they are under stress.
- (v) Do not mix two vaccines together while administering
- (vi) Use distilled water in case you want to reconstitute the vaccine.
- (vii) Anti-stress medicine like antibiotics and vitamins should be given to birds before vaccination.
- (viii) All birds in the poultry house should be vaccinated at one time.
- (ix) Vaccination should be carried out in the cool hours of the day.
- (x) The equipment to be used in the vaccination process should be disinfected.

## Pig production



### Terms used

1. **Sow:** this is a female pig, which has already farrowed
2. **Boar:** it's a male mature pig.
3. **Gilt:** a young female pig, which has not yet farrowed.
4. **Piglet:** the young of a pig [newly born pigs]
5. **Farrowing:** the act of giving birth in pigs.
6. **Runt:** the last born among piglets.
7. **Farrowing pen:** this is a special place where pigs farrow from
8. **Pigsty:** this is a house where pigs stay
9. **Pork:** fresh meat from pigs.
10. **Bacon:** this is meat taken from sides and back of the pig and cured in the factory.

### Systems of pig rearing

- **Intensive system;** this is where the pigs are confined in houses throughout their life.
- **Semi-intensive system;** this is where the pigs are confined in houses at most period of the day and allowed out for a short time.
- **Extensive system;** pigs are allowed roam the place in search for water and feeds

### **Advantages of rearing pigs or reasons for the popularity pig rearing in Uganda**

- (i) Pigs require a small area since they can be confined under the intensive system of management and do not require a large area of grazing as ruminants do.
- (ii) Little initial capital is required as compared to dairying and fish farming.
- (iii) They consume most of the food remains reducing wastage of feeds on the farm and lowering feed costs.
- (iv) Pigs provide high returns fast
- (v) It is adapted to specialized and diversified farming system
- (vi) They produce high quality manure which can be used in the gardens.
- (vii) Pig rearing creates extra employment for the family and the population especially in places with established pig industries.
- (viii) Pigs produce hard fat that can be used in the manufacture of soap.
- (ix) Pork is easily marketable
- (x) Pigs are highly prolific which increases profits faster
- (xi) Pigs tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions
- (xii) Pig provide enjoyed and nutritious meat

### **Factors to consider before starting a pig enterprise**

- (i) **Type of breed:** the breed chosen should be the one needed in the market and one adopted with the environment
- (ii) **Food supply:** a constant supply of feeds is necessary since pigs quickly respond to inadequate feeding.
- (iii) **Capital:** this is needed for purchasing the breeding stock, constructing pig houses, buying feeds etc.
- (iv) **Labor:** skilled labor is required for proper carrying out of management practices like feeding pregnancy diagnosis and gilt, removing chick.
- (v) **Housing:** good housing improves pig production hence it should be put into consideration.
- (vi) **Transport facilities:** there must be reliable transport in the area from breeding centres to the market
- (vii) **Market:** there must be ready market for the animals and their product to reduce losses.
- (viii) **Economy of production:** large scale production requires high initial capital therefore a farmer must be ready to meet it.
- (ix) **Pest and diseases:** The history of pests and diseases in a particular place should be considered since some diseases like swine fever can cause a lot of losses.

### Problems facing the pig industry in Uganda

- (i) **Diseases:** a serious disease like swine fever / hog cholera has caused serious losses to farmers in the pig industry.
- (ii) Pigs are non-ruminant hence **complete with man for the little food available.**
- (iii) *Social beliefs:* a number of societies in Uganda look down at a pig as unclean animal therefore they cannot rear or eat products from the animal.
- (iv) Pigs have a **vice of uprooting plants and destroying farm structures** which makes their rearing expensive.
- (v) Pig production requires a special kind of fence which may be expensive for most farmers.
- (vi) **Inadequate organized market:** most of the pork / pig butchers are located in restricted places which makes marketing difficult.
- (vii) **Poor breeds of pigs:** most of the breeds being kept are of poor quality and hence they are of low production.
- (viii) **Poor management:** Most of the farmers have little knowledge about pig management. This reduces growth rates hence a low level of production.

### Pig breeds in Uganda

1. Large black
2. Large white / Yorkshire
3. Land race
4. Saddle back.

### Selection of breeding pigs

1. **Boars**
  - It should be vigorous and healthy
  - It should have well developed feet
  - It should be free from defects that can be transmitted to off springs.
  - Should have a long, deep and strong body.
  - It should be easy to handle i.e. should have good temperament.
  - They should be able to weigh about 100kg at six months of age.
  - The appearance and condition of the pig /boar should confirm the breed type.
  - It should be able to mature sexually early.
  - It should be able to produce large quantities of viable sperm

### Qualities of good gilt

- Should have well developed feet to enable her feed the litter even when standing.
- It should have good mothering quality i.e. a low temperament.
- It should be healthy and having a vigorous build
- The appearance should be in conformity with the breed
- It should have at least 12 functional teats to enable her raise a large number of litter.
- It should be able to farrow without any problem
- Should have a high ability to utilize feeds efficiently.
- Should be able to produce at least 8 piglets per farrow
- Should produce piglets with a high growth rate.

### Care for a pregnant sow

- Feeding: the sow of gilt should be given a feeds/ sow and weaner meal which is 2% of its weight per day.
- Individual feeding troughs should be encouraged to reduce competition between the pregnant animals.
- In the 1<sup>st</sup> month of pregnancy give about 2.4 – 3.5 kg of sow and weaner meal per day.
- Do not over feed the animal during pregnancy to avoid over feeding and stocking of the udder which causes mastitis.
- During the second and 3<sup>rd</sup> month sow and weaner feeds should be reduced to about 1.5 per sow per day.
- Bulky feeds like sweet potatoes and cassava should be given to make a balanced diet and improve digestion.
- Clean fresh water must be made available at all times which can be mixed with feeds or given after eating.
- The pregnant animal should be dewormed before farrowing to control internal worms e.g. tape worm.
- Minerals and vitamins should be given in correct amounts e.g some vitamins which are important in embryo development.
- A sow should be taken in a clean farrowing pen two weeks to farrowing.
- Supply 10-15kgs of dry grass to the farrowing pen which can be used by a pregnant animal uses a nest.
- Administer an iron injection to the pregnant animal to control anemia in the piglets about to be born.

- The gilt also should be washed especially the udder with clean water and soap a few minutes to farrowing to remove dirt and worm eggs.

### Signs of farrowing

- (i) The sow/ gilt becomes restless
- (ii) Presence of milk with in teats 12 – 24 hrs before farrowing
- (iii) Enlarged teats of the gilt or sow.
- (iv) The vulva becomes swollen and enlarged.
- (v) Muscles on either side of the tail slacken
- (vi) The sow prepares a nest from the dry grass.
- (vii) Arching of the sow's back.

### Preparation for farrowing

- (i) Clean and disinfect the farrowing pen
- (ii) Wash and disinfect the pregnant animal
- (iii) Treat the animal against internal parasites
- (iv) Move the animal to the farrowing pen
- (v) Secure the animals feed a day before farrowing
- (vi) Provide heat in the farrowing creep area
- (vii) Provide clean beddings

### Management of piglets in the first week



- (i) Remove them from the birth place to a safe place in a sty and check whether they are fine.
- (ii) Provide them with warmth
- (iii) Label, Weigh and record the weight and sex of each
- (iv) Take care and treat the umbilical cord
- (v) Allow the piglet to suckle colostrum from the sow

- (vi) Clip the needle teeth of the piglet using teeth clippers as they tend to damage the sows' teats.
- (vii) Around 2<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> days provide iron to the piglets either as injection or orally in form of iron pill.
- (viii) Dock of the tails to prevent tail biting in future.
- (ix) Castrate the male piglets at the end of the week.
- (x) Vaccinate the piglets against common diseases
- (xi) Provide guard rails in the sty to protect piglets from accidental damage by the sow

### Management of piglets from one week to weaning

#### 1. Feeding

- i. Piglets should be left with the mother to ensure that they take colostrum which is important to their bodies.
  - ii. They should be provided with feeds rich in proteins and carbohydrates [creep feed] in a special place only accessible by piglets [creep]
  - iii. Clean water should be provided to the piglets at all times.
2. **Control of piglet's anaemia:** Piglets should be given an iron injection or anthill soil rich in iron.
  3. **Identification:** two main methods are used in the identification i.e. ear notching and ear tattooing.
  4. **Teeth clipping/ removal of cheek teeth:** the sharp canines should be removed since they become dangerous at a later stage to the managers
  5. **Deworming:** the piglets are more prone to internal worms like liver-fluke, tape worms and round worms. They should be dewormed early to ensure fast growth.
  6. **Castration:** the male piglets that are not going to participate in breeding should be castrated at about 2 weeks of age
  7. **Vaccination:** the piglets can be vaccinated against killer diseases like foot and mouth etc.
  8. **Weaning:** the piglets are weaned at about six weeks after delivery and thereafter they should be fed normally on concentrate feeds

### Management of gilts from weaning to farrowing

- Feed the gilt on at least 3kg of sow and weaner meal every day
- Provide clean water without any restriction
- Vaccinate the gilts against killer disease regularly
- Control external parasites like lice by spraying or washing using pesticides
- Sick gilts should be treated immediately to avoid loss
- The gilt should be mated at about 12 months after attaining 45 kg.

- Flush the animal 3-4 weeks before mating to increase rate of ovulation and successful fertilization
- Keep the pen clean to reduce disease outbreaks by regular washing
- Once ready, the gilt should be taken to the boar and left there for 12 hours
- Observe the gilt to ensure that it has conceived if not, take it back for service
- Steaming up should be done 1 month to farrowing
- Wash the gilt prior to calving to remove worm eggs from the teats

### Methods of feeding pigs

- **Ad-lib:** this is where pigs are allowed to eat as much as they want since feeds are always available.
- **Semi adlib feeding:** this involves feeding pigs 3 times a day by hand as much as each would eat in 20 – 30 minutes
- **Restricted feeding:** pigs are fed once or twice a day.

### Systems of feeding pigs

1. **Automatic feeders:** This is where feeds are provided to pigs in their stores by a computerized system
2. **Trough feeding:** here feeds are given in troughs.
3. **On floor feeding:** here feeds are poured on the floor more especially the dry feeds for pigs to eat.

### Advantages of feeding pastures to pigs

1. Improve functioning of the digestive system
2. They are the cheapest source of animal feeds
3. They are a good source of minerals and vitamins for grazing animals
4. They easily satisfy the animal's appetite since they are abundant and taken in large quantities.
5. They protect and restore fertility in the soil.

## Livestock diseases

### (a) Anthrax

Cause: bacteria (bacillus anthracis)

Mode of transmission: contact with tissues/ fluids of infected animals

Symptoms

- High fever
- Dysentery
- Brown up/swollen stomach
- Blood oozes from all the body openings after death
- Loss of appetite
- Absence of rigor mortis in dead animal
- Sudden death within 24 hours
- Blood stained feces

Control

- Early treatment with antibiotics
- Vaccination annually
- Dispose of dead animals completely
- Never open up carcass that show symptoms of anthrax
- Report suspected cases to veterinary department
- Exercise quarantine
- Do not eat carcass

### (b) Trypanosomiasis (Nagana)

**Cause:** protozoa

Mode of transmission: vector is tsetse fly

**Symptoms**

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Anemia and may lick soil
- Running nose
- Emaciation
- Death after several weeks
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Dullness

**Control**

- Clear bushes
- Treat with drugs
- Spraying tsetse fly
- Trap tsetse flies
- vaccinate

### (c) Newcastle

**Cause:** virus (myxovirus)

**Mode of transmission:**

- contact with diseased animals
- contaminated feeds and water
- airborne droplets

**Symptoms**

- loss of appetite
- bending of neck
- sudden death
- watery yellowish green diarrhea
- marked drop in egg production
- thick mucus discharge from the mouth
- difficult breathing/sneezing/ rattling sound
- staggering/paralysis with drooping wings

**Control**

- kill the whole flock and disinfect the house
- vaccinate every six months
- avoid contact with infected birds
- avoid introducing new birds to the flock
- restrict visitors
- exercise quarantine

**(d) Mastitis**

**Cause:** bacteria

**Mode of transmission:** contact with milk from infected animal

**Symptoms**

- Pus or blood in milk
- Drop in milk production
- Swollen udder and teats/inflammation
- Animal reject suckling or milking
- Hardened quarters/udder/tissue

**Control**

- Treat with antibiotics
- Strict hygiene
- Use of right milking technique

**(e) Contagious abortion or brucellosis**

**Cause:** bacteria (Brucella)

**Mode of transmission:** ingestion of contaminate food and water

**Symptoms**

- Cows experience miscarriage between the 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> months of pregnancy
- Yellowish brown slimy discharge from valve after normal calving
- Failure to expel the after birth

- Failure or delayed conception

#### **Control**

- Vaccinate
- Culling and slaughter of infected animal
- Treat with antibiotics

### **Viral Diseases**

#### **(a) Foot and mouth disease**

**Cause:** virus

**Mode of transmission:** contact with diseased animal

#### **Symptoms**

- Rise in body temperature
- Development of painful blister on the tongue, around the mouth and on the hooves
- Dripping of saliva
- Difficulty in eating
- Lameness or inability to walk
- Drop in milk production

#### **Prevention and control**

- Vaccinate
- Quarantine

#### **(b) Gumboro (infectious bursal disease)**

**Cause:** virus

**Mode of transmission:** contact with infected animal

#### **Symptoms**

- Depression
- Diarrhea
- Unsteady gait

#### **Prevention**

- Vaccinate day old chick
- Proper disposal of infected bird
- Prevent contact with infected animal

#### **(c) Rider pest**

**Cause:** virus

**Mode of transmission:** contact

#### **Symptoms**

- High temperature
- Ulcer in the mouth and vagina
- Diarrhea
- Nasal discharge
- Shedding of tears

## Prevention

- Annual vaccination
- Quarantine
- Slaughter affect animals

## Protozoan diseases

### (a) Coccidiosis

**Cause:** coccidian of Eimeria ssp. Affects poultry, calves, kids, lambs and rabbits

#### Symptoms

- Diarrhea
- Blood stained feces
- Emaciation
- Rough feathers
- Death

#### Control

- Proper hygiene
- Keep litter dry
- Disinfect the poultry house
- Treat the infected animals

## Tick borne disease

### (a) East coast fever (Theileriosis)

Caused by Theileria parva transmitted by tick

#### Symptoms

- Eyes become watery
- Fever
- Difficult breathing
- Weakness
- Frothing fro mouth
- Blood stained diarrhea
- emaciation

#### Control

- treatment with drugs
- control tick

### (b) Red water

**Caused:** by Babesia bigemina and transmitted by tick

#### Symptoms

- Fever

- Red urine
- Loss of appetite
- Anemia
- Weakness
- Depressed respiration

#### Control

- Treatment with recommended drugs
- Control tick
- Give antibiotics for secondary infection

#### (c) Heart water (Cowdriosis)

Caused: by *Ricketisia ruminantium*. It infects cattle and goats

#### Symptoms

- Circling (turning around)
- Muscle twitching
- Uncontrolled moving jaws
- Post mortem examination shows a yellowish brown fluid in the heart sac and body cavity

#### Control

- Control ticks
- Treatment

### **Tsetse fly borne disease**

#### **Nagana (trypanosomiasis)**

Caused by trypanosomes and transmitted by tsetse fly

#### Symptoms

- Fluctuating high body temperature for 2-3 days
- Anemia
- Progressive body weakness
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Loss of appetite
- Running eyes leading to blindness
- Emaciation
- Post mortem shows enlarged lymph gland and spleen

#### Control

- Treatment
- Control tsetse flies through spraying and clearing bushes

#### **Common external livestock parasites**

- Tick
- Mites

- Fleas
- Lice

#### Effects of external parasites on livestock management

- Reduce animal production
- Transmit diseases
- Suck blood and cause anamia
- Cause open wounds
- Cause irritation
- Inject toxins in the hosts

#### Control of external parasites

- Dipping
- Spraying
- Using disinfectants

### **Worm infestation**

#### **Common livestock worms infestation**

- Tapeworm
- Liver fluke
- Round worms

#### Symptoms of worm infestation

- Rough hair
- Potbelly stomach
- Coughing
- Diarrhea
- Anaemia
- Emaciation
- Constipation
- Presence of worm/their eggs in feces

#### Adaptations of worms to their way of life

- possesses suckers and hooks for attachment e.g. tape worm
- produces a lot of mucus that protects it from the host digestive enzyme e
- produces a large number of eggs to increase chance of finding a host
- has intermediate secondary host e.g. pig or cow.
- lack unnecessary organs to reduce on energy demands.
- its hermaphrodite to increase the rate of egg production.
- it survives in low oxygen area by using anaerobic respiration
- has resistant stage in the soil.
- its flat and long to increase absorptive surface.
- can regenerate

### Control of worm infestation

- proper hygiene
- Routine drenching with drugs that kill worm

### Revision exercise 3

- Which one of the following would be the most appropriate measure to take when birds in poultry house are observed coughing, breathing with difficulty and eventually dying
  - Treat them with antibiotic
  - Adding Sulphur to their drinking water
  - Culling all the birds and disinfect the poultry house
  - Fumigating the poultry house
- Which of the following is not required feature in a calf house?
  - Hard, easy to clean floor
  - High walls
  - Adequate ventilation
  - Spacious and drought free house
- Which of the following explains why milk is highly perishable?
  - has high water content
  - has high carbohydrates content
  - has ideal composition of nutrients for microbial growth
  - contains fats which go rancid
- Thawing of semen after refrigeration before use is intended to
  - activate the sperms
  - prolong life of sperms
  - dilute sperms
  - ease the insemination process
- The major reason for grooming cattle
  - Facilitate clean milk production
  - Facilitate mating
  - Keep the skin soft
  - Facilitate blood circulation
- Piggery is a more lucrative enterprise because they
  - Have a short gestation period
  - Are resistant to most diseases
  - Have multiple ovulation
  - Feed on anything
- During gestation, which one of the following produces progesterone that sustains pregnancy?
  - Corpus luteum
  - Ovary
  - Uterus
  - Posterior pituitary gland
- Milk secretion refers to the release of milk
  - from the blood vessels to alveoli
  - from alveoli to the canal
  - out of the teat canal
  - from alveoli to the gland cistern
- How long chicks should be kept in a brooder? About
  - 6 weeks

- B. 21 days
  - C. 2 months
  - D. 1week
10. An animal passes bloody urine and stool is most likely to be affected by;
- A. Anaplasmosis
  - B. Rider pest
  - C. Red water
  - D. East coast fever
11. Marbling ability of animals is best suited when selecting animals for
- A. Dairy products
  - B. Beef products
  - C. Dual purpose
  - D. Work animals
12. Milk appear white because it
- A. Is synthesized in mammary gland
  - B. Has plenty of calcium
  - C. Does not contain hemoglobin
  - D. Contain many nutrients
13. Which one of the following is a qualitative trait?
- A. Milk yield
  - B. Fat content of meat
  - C. Dropping ears
  - D. Size of the horns
14. Example of posterior pituitary hormones are
- A. FSH and LH
  - B. ADH and oxytocin
  - C. Prolactin and secretin
  - D. Prostaglandin and melatonin
15. The main disease which affects young chicks aged 2 – 6 weeks is
- A. Gumboro
  - B. Pullorum
  - C. Merk's disease
  - D. New castle
16. What is the name given to the activity of removing combs from one day old chicks?
- A. Pasting
  - B. Combing
  - C. Dubbing
  - D. Venting
17. How does soap disinfect the teats/udder of a cow?
- A. Denatures the protein of bacteria killing them
  - B. Removes bacteria that had attached themselves on the teat
  - C. Break the peptide bonds between bacteria and udder
  - D. Forms a foam that block the activity of bacteria

18. Which one of the following can cause birds to eggs with soft shell
  - A. New castle disease
  - B. Too much calcium in diet
  - C. Twin egg production
  - D. Hot weather
19. Which one of the following poultry diseases rarely affects the birds on a free-range system?
  - A. Fowl pox
  - B. Salmonellosis
  - C. Coccidiosis
  - D. colibacillosis
20. The orientation for a deep litter house would be
  - A. North- south to allow sun rays enter the house
  - B. East-west to avoid sun rays from entering the house
  - C. Slanting to the East to allow only afternoon sun rays to the south to avoid too much cold wind
  - D. Slanting to the south to avoid too much wind
21. How important is the coiling of epididymis in the male cattle to breeding? It
  - A. Preservatives semen diluent in semi-fold form so that sperms don't get re-absorbed
  - B. Helps in storage of sperms for later use
  - C. Is where sperms are produced and mature which takes a long time
  - D. Allows more testosterone to be added into the sperm
22. Variation on farms for breeder can be a despair because
  - A. It is hard to combine hereditary and environmental factors
  - B. An improved animal may carry inferior genes
  - C. It is a measurable difference of trait between individuals
  - D. It offer for selection
23. One of the following poultry diseases rarely attacks birds on a free- range system
  - A. Foul pox
  - B. Salmonellosis
  - C. Coccidiosis
  - D. colibacillosis
24. Which of the following hormones influence ovulation?
  - A. Follicle stimulating hormone
  - B. Luteinizing hormone
  - C. Lactogen
  - D. oxytocin
25. What is the main source of estrogen in pregnant cows?
  - A. Ovaries
  - B. Placenta
  - C. Adrenal cortex
  - D. Mammary glands
26. In auto-sexing the chicks
  - A. Character linked with sex chromosomes are considered
  - B. A machine inserted into the cloaca shows an enlarged sex organ
  - C. Three bean shaped protuberances are seen

- D. Chicks are left to grow about one month before segregation
27. In natural incubation, why do hens leave the eggs for about 15 minutes? To
- Look for food and water
  - Let eggs get ventilated
  - Exercise
  - Bathe in dust and dew
28. Why is milking salve not embraced in machine milking? It
- Reverses suction pressure
  - Increases suction pressure
  - Does not give a provision checking for mastitis
  - Is essential only for hand milking
- (**Milking Salve** is an anthelmintic, antifungal agent which is applied to the cow's udder prior to milking to help prevent sores and dry cracks on the teats.)
29. Which one of the following methods of identification is best for a dairy cattle herd
- Branding
  - Ear notching
  - Ear tattooing
  - Ear tagging
30. One advantage of using a spray race over a dip is that
- The acaricide can be applied to pregnant and sick animal
  - There is better wetting of animals with acaricide
  - It requires less attention from the operator
  - It is cheaper
31. Which of the following processes that occur in animals requires the least amount of energy?
- Reproduction
  - Fattening
  - Growth
  - Milk production
32. Which of the following statements is true about a fertilized egg of a hen
- The chalaza disappears immediately after fertilization
  - The embryo is suspended by the albumen
  - The shell softens immediately after fertilization
  - The yolk turns orange and the air space becomes prominent.
33. Which among these glands below is responsible for the production of oxytocin hormone that controls milk let down from the udder?
- Exocrine gland
  - Pituitary gland
  - Pancreatic gland
  - Adrenal gland
34. In farm animals, premature birth is sometimes caused due to insufficient amount of
- Progesterone
  - Oxytocin
  - Estrogen
  - Prolactin

35. Which one of the following does not affect the composition of milk
- A. Age of a cow
  - B. Breed of a cow
  - C. Type of feed
  - D. Time of milking
36. The dewlap achieves the cooling effect in cattle by
- A. Absorbing excessive heat from other parts of the body
  - B. Fanning the animal as it moves along
  - C. Releasing more sweat than any other part of the body
  - D. Increasing the surface area of the animal
37. In animal reproduction, the hormone produced by corpus luteum is responsible for
- A. Secondary sexual characteristics of the cow
  - B. Development of the duct system in the udder
  - C. Development of the udder
  - D. Maintenance of pregnancy
38. During milk let down, oxytocin hormone bring about the following except
- A. Contraction of muscles around alveoli cells
  - B. Relaxation of muscles around annular fold
  - C. Contraction of muscles around the annular fold
  - D. Relaxation of the muscles around the milk duct
39. Milk production in dairy cattle has an heritability of 25%. This means that
- A. It is easier to improve milk production by genetic method
  - B. Milk production depends more on environmental factors than on genetic factors
  - C. Only 25% of genes responsible for milk production are passed on during breeding
  - D. 75% of the genes responsible for milk production are recessive
40. A poultry bird is noticed with drooping wings, muscle paralysis and thick mucus discharge from its nostril. Which one of the following could the bird be suffering from?
- A. Fowl typhoid
  - B. Coccidiosis
  - C. Newcastle
  - D. Fowl pox
41. The hormone directly responsible for development of male secondary sexual characteristics in animals is
- A. Progesterone
  - B. Estrogen
  - C. Testosterone
  - D. Luteinizing hormone
42. The rate of meat spoilage is influenced by
- A. Amount of meat stored
  - B. Extent of bleeding the carcass
  - C. Age of animal
  - D. Treatment given to an animal before slaughter
43. Which one of the following is the function of chalaza in an egg?

- A. Conveying air to the germinal spot
  - B. Allowing rotation of the yolk
  - C. Maintaining the shape of the egg
  - D. Conveying excretory products from the germinal spot
44. The function of a milk separator on a dairy farm is to separate
- A. Cream from butter
  - B. Butter from milk
  - C. Cream from milk
  - D. Milk from butterfat
45. Mortality and fertility of a boar's sperm is reduced when;
- A. Boars are not used at all
  - B. Boars are used too often
  - C. Boars become fat
  - D. Boars become very thin due to poor feeding
46. A goat that died showed the following symptoms; dark watery blood discharge from mouth and anus, which one of the following is the cause of death?
- A. Pneumonia
  - B. Red water
  - C. Anthrax
  - D. Rabies
47. Which one of the following causes cows to abort their calves during pregnancy under exceptional cases?
- A. Contagious abortion
  - B. Vitamin A deficiency
  - C. Venereal disease
  - D. Manganese and iodine deficiency
48. Which of the following does not greatly change the concentration of acaricides in a dip?
- A. Flooding of dips in rainy season
  - B. Sedimentation and fouling
  - C. Downward drainage through cracks
  - D. Evaporation in hot water
49. The pastoralist usually retains within his herd, a bull whose ancestor has got desirable characteristics. This is an example of
- A. Inbreeding
  - B. Artificial insemination
  - C. Cross breeding
  - D. Artificial selection
50. Which of the following may be a result of inbreeding?
- A. Improved fertility
  - B. Accumulation of lethal genes
  - C. Polyploidy
  - D. Increased mutation rate
51. What is the role of luteinizing hormone? It promotes
- A. Release of ovum

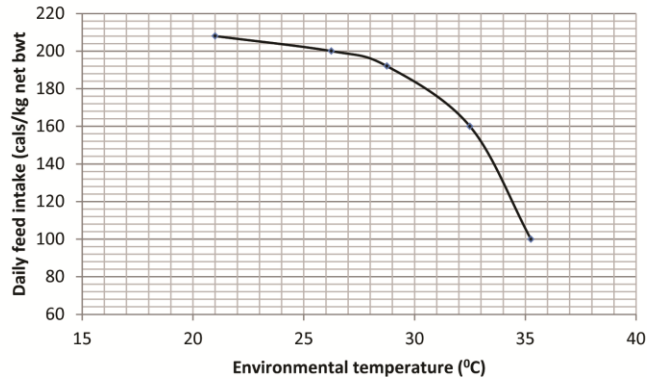
- B. Healing of uterine walls
  - C. Disintegration of ovum
  - D. Implantation of zygote
52. In most animals a high sperm count is maintained by
- A. Subjecting the animal to high temperature
  - B. Maintain the testes in the abdominal cavity
  - C. Insulating testes
  - D. Having scrotal sac outside the abdominal cavity
53. Early maturity is a desirable characteristic in beef cattle because it
- A. Reduces chances of disease attack in animals
  - B. Saves on the feeding cost
  - C. Results in better quality meat
  - D. Allow for early mating of animals
54. The animal disease which is vector borne is
- A. Anthrax
  - B. Foot and mouth
  - C. Rider pest
  - D. trypanosomiasis
55. one condition that may lead to anemia in piglets is
- A. lack of iron in the sow's feeds
  - B. a low level of iron in the sow's milk
  - C. feeding the sow on pasture plant only
  - D. feeding the sow on concentrates only
56. Which one of the following types of chemicals would be most appropriate for cleaning the animals testicles in preparation for open knife castration?
- A. Disinfectant
  - B. Acaricide
  - C. Antiseptic
  - D. Anthelmintic
57. Which one of the following is a vector of the Nairobi sheep disease?
- A. Mosquito
  - B. Tick
  - C. Tsetse fly
  - D. Snail
58. Which one of the following diseases occurs in both poultry and rabbits
- A. Newcastle
  - B. Coccidiosis
  - C. Proleptis
  - D. Vent gilt
59. Which one of the following is used as a disinfectant on a farm?
- A. Copper sulphate
  - B. Delnav
  - C. Terramycin
  - D. Dithane

60. Which one of the following compounds provide the major source of energy to ruminants
- Acetic acid
  - Glucose
  - Fats
  - Ammonia
61. Which one of the livestock diseases is a deficient disease?
- Milk fever
  - mastitis
  - Rift valley fever
  - Swine fever
62. Which of the following is a symptom of Newcastle disease of poultry?
- Blood stained diarrhea
  - Partial paralysis
  - Vesicle on wattle and comb
  - Drooping wings
63. Docking is a management practice in sheep rearing carried out to facilitate
- Mating
  - Shearing
  - Lambing
  - Disease control
64. Which of the following is a control measures for trypanosomiasis in cattle?
- Dipping
  - Spraying brushes with pesticide
  - Vaccination
  - Isolating sick animal
65. Which of the following may make a cow fail to show signs of estrus?
- Secretion of adrenalin
  - Persistent corpus luteum
  - Low level of progesterone
  - Absence of a bull

### Answers

1C	6C	11B	16C	21B	26A	31B	36D	41C	46B	51A	56C	61A
2B	7A	12B	17A	22B	27A	32B	37D	42B	47B	52D	57B	62B
3 C	8A	13C	18A	23C	28A	33B	38C	43B	48C	53B	58B	63A
4A	9A	14B	19C	24B	29D	34A	39B	44C	49D	54D	59A	64B
5A	10B	15A	20A	25B	30A	35D	40C	45B	50B	55B	60A	65B

66. The figure below shows the relationship between environmental temperature and daily feed intake by layers per unit of metabolic body weight. Use it to answer the questions that follow.



- (a) How does the environmental temperature affects the daily feed intake in layers  
Feed intake decreases ad the environmental temperature increases
- (b) Suggest explanation for the effect of environmental temperature on the daily feed intake in layers.  
When the environmental temperature rises the metabolic rate of the birds falls due to decrease in the rate of heat loss.
- (c) From the graph, what would be the consequences of high environmental temperature on the performance of layers?
- Egg laying would drop
  - Reduced feed intake
  - Increased water intake
  - Layers become stress/uncomfortable
- (d) (i) Birds are endotherms. What is importance of these characteristic?  
Maintenance of constant body temperature and activity over a wide range of temperature range.
- (ii) As endotherms, how do poultry react to high environmental temperatures?
- They pant or open their beaks to allow heat loss
  - They flap their wing
  - Seek shade
  - Bathe in sand
  - Become thirst and drink water
- (e) From the figure, suggest consideration to be taken in formulation of feeds and construction of houses for poultry bird in hot climate.
- Consideration of feed formulation
- Feed should be wholesome not to harm birds
  - Balance to cater for nutritional requirements of the layers
  - Easily digestible to provide nutrients easily
  - Palatable to attract the birds to eat it.
- Consideration of construction of houses for poultry birds in hot climate
- Ensure proper ventilation
  - Consider direction of sun rays to avoid over heating
  - The height of the roof should be high enough

- Use roofing material that reflect heat or are insulators to prevent heating of the house.
67. (a) What is a hormone
- Hormones** are chemical messengers that coordinate various functions in your body. They carry messages through your bloodstream to organs, skin, muscles, and other tissues, telling your body what to do and when to do it.
- (b) State two roles of follicle stimulating hormone in the reproductive cycle of a cow.**
- **Stimulated development and growth of follicles in the ovary**
  - **Responsible for secretion of estrogen**
  - **Stimulates spermatogenesis**
- (c) Give three effects of hormone in milk production**
- Hormones initiate milk secretion e.g. prolactin, ACTH, somatrophin (SHT) and thyrotropin (TSF)
  - Hormone control milk letdown e.g. oxytocin
  - Hormones control milk up hold e.g. adrenaline
- (d) Explain the causes of milk hold-up**
- Poor handling of animal prior to milking which induces the animal to produce adrenalin which cuts off blood supply to the udder and so causing milk hold up
  - Abrupt change in the milking time or place excites the animal causing release of adrenalin
  - Noise around or during milking cause release of adrenalin
  - Presence of a foreigner frighten the cow
68. (a) Explain how the following conditions cause infertility in animals
- (vii) Cryptorchidism: high temperature in the abdominal cavity destroy sperm producing epithelium since the testes fail to descend
- (ii) Over working male: produce semen with low sperm count while some immature
- (iii) Free martin: the male androgens prevent proper development of female reproductive tract
- (iv) White heifer disease: involuntary spasmodic contraction of the pelvis muscle prevent penile penetration hence sperms cannot enter the reproductive tract
- (b) How can a farmer maintain a high breeding efficiency in a herd
- Proper feed of the animal
  - Giving a resting period after calving to restore the uterus
  - Breeding animals at the right time
  - Proper observation of heat
  - Control diseases
  - Use of proven bull or semen
  - Proper record keeping
69. (a) Give reasons why animals are groomed
- To improve the look of animals during marketing and animal shows.
  - To remove parasites
  - To enable production of milk free of hairs/dirt
  - To remove dirt from animal's body
  - To stimulate blood circulation around the body of animals
  - To keep the animal skin loose and pliable
- (b) Explain the importance of keeping animal healthy
- to enable fast growth

- to produce high quality meat and milk
  - to increase resistance
  - to increase longevity of life
  - to enable regular and health breeding
  - to provide safe meat to the market
70. (a) Mention ways of determining a good layer bird in a breeding stock
- Check to find out whether the vent is large, oval and moist
  - For a good layer the crop should be large
  - For a good layer 3 fingers should fit between the pelvic bones
  - For good layer 4 figures should fit in between the pelvic bones and keel.
  - A good layer has soft and flexible
- (c) Briefly describe the functions of the reproductive system of a bird
- **Ovary: produces ova**
  - **Infundibulum:** it's where fertilization takes place and also the formation of yolk sac takes place here.
  - **Magnum:** this is where 45% of the albumen and the chalazae are formed.
  - **Isthmus:** this is where 10% of the egg white is added.
  - **Uterus / shell gland:** in this place the outer calcium shell is added to the egg and 45% of the albumen is also added.
  - **Vagina:** the egg is inverted in this place and vaginal fluid is secreted to reduce friction
71. (a) Give the importance of the following features on a farm building
- (i) Face board:
    - protects the rafter and purlins from insects and water damage.
    - Holds gutter for harvesting rain water
    - Protects the roof from wind damage
    - For decoration
  - (ii) Verandah:
    - Prevents the running water from damaging the building foundation and walls
    - For relaxation
  - (iii) Eave: protects the walls from the rain water
  - (iv) Purlins: used for the attachment of roofing materials
- (b) What are the features of a good pigsty?
- Have a permanent roof to protect the pigs from rain and sunshine
  - Strong smooth walls to avoid scratching the pigs or cause bruise
  - Adequate ventilators for maximum air circulation
  - Raised and slanted floor to allow wastage to drain away and ensure cleanness of the building.
  - Firm ground floor to enable easy cleaning
  - Well-constructed and positioned water and food troughs
  - A furrowing house or crate with guard rails on the walls to prevent the saw from crushing young piglets.
  - A creep area for piglets
  - Strong walls and floor to prevent escape of pigs

- Has a resting and exercise yard
  - A mature alley and a waste pit situated behind the building
  - A sprayer or a wallow area for the purpose of body temperature control.
72. Give five causes of egg abnormalities in poultry
- Genetical for example physiological defects of uterus
  - Harsh environmental conditions causing bird to breath too much reducing the available carbon dioxide for making the egg shell
  - Calcium deficiency in feeds
  - Diseases such as Newcastle lead eggs with thin shells
  - Stress that lead to loss of appetite
73. (a) Mention and explain the factors you would consider when selecting an animal for breeding purposes
- Adaptability of the animal to environmental conditions
  - Availability of the breed within the environment
  - Availability of market for animal products for the animal being bred
  - Animal temperament should be low for easy handling
  - Animal resistance to pests and diseases should be high
  - Animal body conformity should confirm the breed and type
  - History of success of the breed in the environment
  - Feed conversion ratio of the breed i.e. should have a high ability of converting feeds into products like milk , meat and eggs
  - Growth rate of the breed
  - Availability of quality feeds for the animals
  - Fertility of the animal being considered
  - Productivity of the animal in terms of milk, meat and eggs
- (b) Outline four problems that a farmer may face while keeping exotic cattle breeds
- They are susceptible to diseases especially tick borne disease
  - Are more labor intensive
  - Do not withstand drought
  - Need more land per animal
  - Problem with marketing since have high yield of meat and milk
  - Need better housing
74. (a) give the role of each of the following in animal reproduction
- i. Follicle stimulating hormone: stimulates the development follicles in ovary to produce eggs and in male it stimulates spermatogenesis
  - ii. Progesterone
    - Maintains pregnancy
    - Prevents ovulation
    - Causes development of the alveoli in the udder
    - It facilitates the secretion of uterine milk which the fetus feeds
  - iii. Prolactin
    - Stimulates production of milk

- Maintains milk production until dry up
- iv. Relaxin: causes relaxation of the pelvic girdle ligaments to enable birth
- (b) Mention causes of low breeding efficiency in farm animals
  - Inheritance or genetic factor
  - Infections and diseases
  - Due to physiological disturbances e.g. cryptorchidism
  - White heifer disease or abnormalities in female reproductive organ.
  - Poor nutrition
  - Poor management such as failure to detect heat in female.
- 75. (a) Explain effect of high temperatures on animal production
  - High temperature stresses animals and reduces feed intake hence low production
  - Stress caused by high temperature influences the protein and fat composition of milk
  - High temperature promote growth of parasites and some disease causative organism thereby decreasing animal production
  - High temperature cause high water losses from animals causing increased water intake
  - Libido is encouraged in female animals at high temperature
  - High temperature reduce spermatogenesis and low production
  - Power output is reduced in work animals due to stress at high temperature
- (b) Outline ways in which farm animals adapt to high temperature
  - Vasodilation and sweating
  - Take a lot of water
  - Reducing metabolic rate
  - Reduced activity
  - Seek shade
  - Hair lowered
  - Sheep have light colored hide to reflect heat
  - Possession of dewlap to increase surface area for heat loss
  - Birds play in dew/bathe in sand
- 76. (a) Suggest the factors that have made local breed of cattle to be able to live in tropic without much care
  - They are resistant to high temperature
  - They are resistant to pest and disease
  - Can walk long distances in search of water and pasture
  - Have few reproductive problems
- (b) What steps would you advise the government to promote beef production in Uganda?
  - Introduction of quality beef breed
  - Upgrading local breeds through cross breeding
  - Improved veterinary extension services
  - Education of the farmer on livestock management
  - Supplementing local feeds
  - Increasing water access in the grazing/dry areas
  - Reducing insecurity in the country
  - Providing cheap agricultural credit
  - Promoting research

77. (a) Explain three reasons why is it important to give feed during the lactation period of dairy cow.
- to obtain high milk production
  - To avoid acetonaemia condition from arising which may be followed by delayed oestrus and conception.
  - To obtain quality milk.
- (b) Define the term flushing and give reasons for flushing ewes  
Flushing refers to the giving of improved quality feeds to ewe about 14 – 21 days before mating, this is to stimulate the ovary to produce many eggs which increases the chances of getting twins.
- (c) List five factors that may make meat unfit for human consumption
- Infection by foreign bodies like e.g. tapeworm; such meat can infect the consumer
  - If animal died from a poison may poison the consumer
  - Animal died from a contagious disease such as anthrax
  - Meat went stale by bacteria
  - meat contaminated by dirt
78. Explain the precaution taken during the dipping of animals
- Do not dip thirsty animal as it may be tempted to drink the Acaricide
  - Animals should not be wetted before dipping not to dilute the Acaricide
  - Make a record of all animals dipped to ensure that all animals are dipped
  - Do not allow rain into the dipping tank to avoid dilution of Acaricide
  - The foot bath entrance race and drainage pen should be cleaned after every dipping session to avoid contamination
  - Do not dip pregnant animal for their safety
  - Use a long T-shaped stick to push the parts of the animal into the dip for complete immersion
  - Ensure that the wash level is correct
  - Attendant should be available to rescue animals that experience difficult
79. (a) Describe the procedure of training a calf to feed from a bucket (08marks)  
(b) Outline the precautions that must be taken in bucket feeding  
(c) Explain the advantages of bucket feeding
80. (a) Describe management practices carried out on a piglet during the first week of its life (14marks)  
(c) Give reasons for popularity of pig rearing in Uganda (06marks)
81. (a) Explain why housing is important in poultry production (06marks)  
(b) Describe the requirement of a good deep litter house (09marks)  
(c) Outline the importance of having litter in a poultry house (05marks)
82. (a) Distinguish between inbreeding and outbreeding as used in animal production (02marks)  
(b) Outline the objectives of livestock management (08marks)  
(c) Explain measures that can be taken to maintain a high breeding efficiency in a herd (10marks)
83. (a) Outline the objectives of livestock breeding (06marks)  
(b) Describe each of the following methods of livestock breeding and each case give the importance of the method
- (i) inbreeding (3 ½ marks)
  - (ii) cross-breeding (3 1/2 marks)

- (iii) Grading up (3 ½ marks)
- (iv) outbreeding (3 ½ marks)
84. (a) Give reasons for the popularity of the deep litter system among Ugandan commercial poultry farmers (12 marks)
- (b) Describe the management practice carried out in a deep litter house to ensure high egg production (08marks)
85. (a) Explain the measures that a farmer should take to ensure the production of good poultry eggs. (12marks)
- (b) Outline the conditions necessary for proper hatching of eggs. (08marks)
86. (a) What is meant by 'breeding efficiency of a herd?' (02marks)
- (b) Outline the criteria used in measuring breeding efficiency (03marks)
- number of offspring produced by an animal in life time
  - number of service per conception
  - percentage of non-return
  - percentage of pregnancy in a breedable herd
  - length of calving interval
- (c) Explain the management practices that can be used to improve the breeding efficiency of the herd. (15marks)
87. (a) Outline the objectives of breeding farm animals (12marks)
- To increase the yield of milk and meat of farm animals
  - To increase adaptability of farm animals to local environmental conditions.
  - Increase the growth rate and maturity in farm animal.
  - To increase animals' ability to respond to good animal management.
  - To increase animals' resistance to diseases
  - To multiply farm animals.
  - To improve fertility of farm animals
  - To enhance conversion efficiency in farm animal
  - To improve physical appearance of farm animals
  - To improve resilience, temperament, speed and traction in work animals.
- (b) How can a farmer maintain high breeding efficiency in dairy animals (08marks)
88. (a) Describe steps involved in slaughtering of animals in an abattoir (10marks)
- Putting animals in a holding yard and allowing them to rest in order to conserve glycogen in the body which at slaughter is converted to lactic acid that preserves meat
  - Starving the animal for 16 – 24 hours and given plenty of water to reduce the amount of undigested feed and feces from the digestive canal
  - Ante mortem inspection to find out whether the animal has any disease or deformity.
  - Stunning to render the animal senseless on to feel pain during slaughtering
  - Actual slaughter or cutting of head
  - Skinning or removal of skin
  - Evisceration/removal of bowel
  - Meat inspection for disease signs such as tuberculosis
  - Weighing
  - Grading: meat is graded according to amount of fat present

- Cooling to preserve meat
- Cleaning the slaughter house/place

(b) Discuss the criteria used to assess the quality of meat produced on the farm animals

- Appearance: fresh meat of good quality is transparent, reddish and with smooth muscle fibres
- Odor and flavor
- Juiciness
- Tenderness
- Freshness
- Absence of infection lesions
- Lack of contamination signs

(c) Outline the factors that influence the rate of meat spoilage

- Disease: diseased meat spoil faster
- Temperature: high temperature increase the rate of spoilage
- Handling conditions unhygienic handling increased the rate of spoilage
- Slaughter conditions: contamination in slaughter house promote meat spoilage
- Moisture content: high moisture content promote meat spoilage
- Level of breeding: incomplete breeding or leaving much blood in meat promote spoilage
- Preservative used: application of preservatives like salt prolong meat life
- Rumen contents at slaughter: if the rumen is full, its content will contaminate meat and promote meat spoilage

89. (a) Give reasons for castrating bull calves

- To increase rate of weight gain/growth
- Make bull docile
- Prevent inbreeding
- Improve quality of meat

(b) Describe methods used in castrating a bull calf

90. (a) Explain why identification of animals is important. (06marks)

- Enable a farmer to recognize his animal in case it's lost or theft.
- Helps to monitor and manage health of an animal such as vaccination records
- Helps in selecting animals for breeding by keeping track of their genetic traits and performance
- To facilitate record keeping for each animal such as birth date, health history, etc.
- It makes easier to identify unproductive or sick animal for culling
- For regulatory compliance

(b) What are the guidelines for proper identification of farm animals? (04marks)

- Choose the appropriate method of identification for a given species and purpose
- Use unique symbols (code, number, letter or combination of numbers and letters) for each animal to avoid confusion
- Keep detailed record of each animal's identification number, sex, date of birth, breeding and/or production record.
- Follow local and national regulations regarding animals identification

- (v) Make regular updates of records to reflect any changes, such as new births, sale or death.
- (vi) Train staff in identification methods and protocol
- (vii) Consider using electronic identification system for easier tracking and data management

(c) Describe the procedure to used and precautions to take when branding an animal using hot iron. (10marks)

Branding involves sealing numbers, letters, designs or a combination of this on the skin of the animal.

**Hot Iron branding** is done using a **branding iron** which is heated and stamped on the animal skin to leave marks for identification.

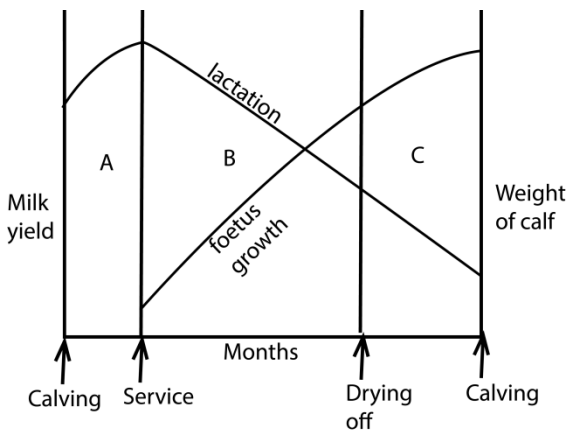
**Procedure of hot iron branding**

- Restrain the animal in a crush
- Heat the branding iron in fire or gas until red hot
- Stamp the hot iron on a less valuable part of the animal to burn the skin and leave marks
- Remove the iron from the skin after a few seconds
- Release the animal from the crush

**Precaution**

- The body of the animal should be dry
- Hot iron should be pressed for a short time to prevent damage to animal
- The marks should be put on least valuable part of the skin like lower part of the thigh, jaw and hump

91. Figure below shows lactation and foetus growth curves in a cow. Study it and answer the questions that follow.



(b) State what is happening to the lactation and foetus growth in Stage A, B and C

A (01mark)

Milk yield increases

B (02mark)

Foetus weight increase

Milk yield decreases

C(02marks)

Foetus weight increase

Milk yield decreases

(c) At which stages should a farmer provide supplementary feeding?

Give reasons for your answer in each case (05marks)

In A supplements such as calcium and proteins are required for milk production

In B supplements are required to promote milk production and foetal growth

At stage C: supplements are required to promote foetal growth

92. (a) Give four reasons why it is advisable to use calves reared on the same farm for stock replacement. (04marks)

- There is reduced risks of introducing new disease and parasite on the farm
- It is cheaper than purchasing animals from outside sources
- Calves born and raised on the farm are better adapted to the local climate, feed, and management practices.
- Enables maintenance and improvement of the genetic traits that are beneficial for the farm
- Enables control over the breeding and rearing process, allowing for better tracking of performance and productivity.

(b) Give six factors to consider when starting a dairy farm. (06marks)

- **Capital:** This is the amount of money needed in the construction of farm structures, purchase of land and the animals.
- **Land:** There should be enough land to accommodate farm buildings and paddocks where animals can graze from
- **Labor** Both skilled and unskilled labor is required for performing specialized work and manual labor respectively.
- **Reliable source of water:** Water is needed by the animals for drinking and also in other farm operations like cleaning and mixing of drugs.
- There should be a ready market for milk and milk products which is easily accessible to reduce the costs incurred in looking for market.
- **Pastures:** The place in consideration should have good pastures since milk production of the animals is greatly affected by the quality of what they eat.
- There must be reliable transport so that the farmer can easily move farm products to the market and bring back inputs.

- **Security is a very important factor for any business since insecurity results into loss of property and life**
- **Government policy in place should be encouraging dairy farming through the provision of good breeds of cattle**
- **Climate in the area should be good for dairy farming.**

93. (a) Explain the factors that determine the stocking rate of a pasture. (12 marks)

- **Size of pasture land:** the bigger the size of pasture land, the higher the carrying capacity
  - **Absence of pests and diseases** lead to high carrying capacity
  - **Forage production:** The amount of forage available in the pasture.
  - **Rate of growth of pasture plant:** high rate of growth of pasture plants support high stocking rate
  - **Availability of supplements:** e.g. silage, hay support high stocking rate
  - **Composition of pasture:** mixed pasture have high stocking rate than pure strand
  - **Forage quality:** The nutritional value of the forage.
  - **Grazing system:** The type of grazing system employed on the pasture.
  - **Soil fertility:** The nutrient content in the soil.
  - **Climate and weather conditions:** The environmental factors affecting pasture growth.
  - **Animal species and class:** different animals (cattle, sheep, goats etc.) and their specific classes (e.g. dry cow, lactating cow, bull) have varying forage requirements.
  - **Rainfall and climate:** the amount, timing and dependability of rainfall, as well as overall climate conditions affect growth and availability of pasture grass
  - **Topography and soil characteristics:** determine the amount of forage produced
  - **Availability of water:** the quality, quantity and distribution of water source for the livestock are essential for determining how many animals the pasture can support
  - **Management goals and practices:** such as grazing methods and maintenance of animal health.
- (b) Discuss the importance of forage feeding in livestock management. (08marks)

- Cheap source of feeds for livestock that significantly reduce the overall cost of feeding livestock.
- Forages, such as pasture grasses and legumes, provide essential nutrients that support the health and productivity of livestock
- High-quality forages contribute to better digestion and overall health of the animals.
- It can be conserved and stored for future use.
- Enhance high productivity.
- Fix nitrogen and improve soil fertility for sustainable use of soil

94. (a) Outline steps to be followed to prevent animals from possible sources of parasite infestations (08marks)

- Dipping and spraying animals with recommended acaricides and pesticides

- Hand dressing of the animals using pye grease on most important parts like udder, ear, underneath the tail etc.
- Practice rotation grazing break the life cycle of the parasites
- Controlled burning of old pasture in dry season to kill parasite such as ticks
- Hand picking and killing ticks
- Fencing keep away stray animals that may carry parasites
- Routine deworming with drugs
- Use of tsetse fly traps
- Providing animals with good quality water
- Proper hygiene and sanitation
- 

(b) Describe the general practices of preventing and controlling contagious diseases in farm animals. (12 marks)

- Restrict access to a farm to essential personnel only
- Restrict movement of animal in case of contagious disease outbreak
- Quarantine new animals for a given period before introducing it to the animal herd
- Practice proper sanitization: regularly clean
- Vaccination for instance Foot and mouth disease
- Monitor animals for signs of illness and ensure early treatment
- Ensuring personal hygiene like washing hands and use of protective clothes
- Regularly clean and disinfect tools and equipment after use to prevent cross contamination.
- Properly manage and dispose of animal waste to reduce risk of disease transmission
- Provide proper ventilation to animal to reduce risks of airborne diseases
- Education and training of farm workers about diseases prevention and control measure
- Sensitize visitor about biosecurity and ensure that they comply with the standard operating procedures.

95. (a) Describe the methods used to select farm animals for breeding. (08marks).

- **Individual Selection:** animals are selected basing on their performance or appearance (phenotype value)
- **Progeny testing:** selection is done basing on the performance of offspring of individual animals. For example, an animal to give birth to cow that produce a lot of milk
- **Pedigree Selection:** Here animals are selected basing on the performance of their ancestors. This method is used for traits that can't be measured in life e.g. quality of beef. The breeder assumes that the animal considered will show the same characteristics as the ancestors.
- **Family/Collateral relatives Selection:** here is selection done basing on performance records of close relatives like brothers, sisters, half-brothers etc. The transmission of traits (characteristics) with known importance between relatives can be measured using substests.

(b) Discuss the characteristics to be considered when selecting dairy animal for breeding. (12marks)

- Adaptability of the animal to environmental conditions
- Availability of the breed with in the environment
- Availability of market for animal products for the animal being bred
- Animal temperament should be low for easy handling
- Animal resistance to pests and diseases should be high
- Animal body conformity should confirm the breed and type
- History of success of the breed in the environment
- Feed conversion ratio of the breed i.e. should have a high ability of converting feeds into products like milk , meat and eggs
- Growth rate of the breed
- Availability of quality feeds for the animals
- Fertility of the animal being considered
- Productivity of the animal in terms of milk, meat and eggs

96. A cow produces milk after calving. It is then dried out before the next calving

(a) (i) Describe two methods by which drying-off is achieved

- **Incomplete milking:** this involves milking the cow half way its production capacity so that the remaining milk in the udder exerts pressure on the milk secreting cells which will stop secreting milk.
- **Intermittent milking:** the cow is milked at intervals of days and later left completely after 5 days or more.
- **Cessation Milking:** this is when milking stopped once for all. It causes a lot of pain to the animal and can easily result into mastitis
- **Dry cow therapy:** Here antibiotics are included in feeds which will control mastitis.

(ii) Explain how drying –off benefits the cow. (03marks)

- Allow the cow to restore udder tissues before getting back to lactation
- Allow the cow to replace the minerals depleted during lactation
- To maintain a high future milk yield in the next lactation
- Enable the cow to gain weight before delivering
- To ensure high quality colostrum at birth
- To enable treatment of sick cow

(b) Colostrum is produced by the cow for 3 to 4 days after calving.

(i) State two ways in which colostrum in the first few days differ from ordinary milk. (02marks)

- Colostrum is filled with immunoglobins to boost your baby's immune system and protect it from illness.
- Colostrum has two times as much protein.
- Colostrum has four times as much zinc.
- Colostrum is lower in fat and sugar so it's easier to digest.
- Colostrum is thicker and more yellow.

(ii) State two benefits to the calf of being given colostrum the first few days of its life. (02marks)

- Calves obtain passive immunity
- reduces chances of diseases
- Reduced death rates
- Better growth rates
- Improved lifetime productivity and fertility

## Pasture, animal feeds and nutritional disorder in agriculture

Terminologies

1. **Pasture** is land covered with grass and other low plants suitable for grazing animals, especially cattle or sheep.
2. **Fodder** is a grass or legume that is cut and carried to the stall for indoor feeding.
3. **Forage** is a plant grown primarily for feeding livestock.
4. **Hay** is feed produced by hydrating green forage to a moisture content of 15% or less.
5. **Silage** is type of fodder made from green foliage crop which have been preserved by fermentation to the point of acidification.
6. **Palatability** is the relative attractiveness of feed to an animal.
7. **Herbage** refers to leaves, stems and other succulent part of forage plant that animals can feed on.
8. **Stocking rate** is the number of animal grazing in unit area of pasture land irrespective of reliable or available herbage.
9. **Carrying capacity** is the number of animals a given pasture is able to support for a given period of time.

### *Types of pastures*

There are two main types of pasture i.e.

Natural pasture

Ley/temporary pasture

### *Natural pasture*

This is open area with a dense cover of native grasses and other plant species.

### *Advantages of natural pasture*

- forage plants found in natural pasture are well adapted to natural condition hence can survive even under poor management,
- Natural pasture contains a variety of forage plant needed in the animal diet.

- They are found in areas that are difficult to cultivate hence help in the utilization of such idle places.
- They can support a large population of local livestock species like goats, sheep, and cattle.
- They are cheap to maintain since they do not require a lot of care.
- They require fewer inputs during improvement.

### **Disadvantages of natural pasture**

- They are less productive in terms of herbage yields and nutritive value.
- The grasses mature very fast becoming stemy and coarse hence reducing palatability and nutritive value.
- They are usually grazed communally hence high chances of more livestock using it leading to overgrazing.
- Due to poor management of natural pasture livestock diseases spread very fast from herd to herd.

### **Signs that natural pasture need improvement**

- Presence of poor unproductive pasture plant
- Poor conditions of the livestock (emaciated) grazing on the pasture
- Presence of large and undecayed plant residues that prevent water entry
- Livestock hunting for palatable pasture
- Wet areas containing marshy plants e.g. nut grasses
- Over growth of pasture hence becoming fibrous
- The pasture become stunted
- Development of bare patches in pasture
- Accumulation of parasites in pastures.

### *Improvement of natural pastures*

- Fencing - The area should be fenced to exclude wild animals and intruders.
- Controlled grazing/Paddock to facilitate rotational grazing to encourage efficient forage utilized and reduces over grazing.
- Remove bushes and dense tree canopy so that the pasture grasses can receive enough light.
- Bush control by slashing to remove dense canopy and facilitate sprouting during rainy season
- Control pests, diseases and parasites
- Weeds control – Poisonous and notorious weeds should be removed.
- Provision of water to animals – Watering points should be well distributed to avoid over grazing and trampling on pastures in some places.
- Draining marshy areas to reduce water logging
- Erosion control – Stoloniferous grass spp should be planted on bare surface or in over grazed area to reduce soil erosion.

- Over sow – this is the introduction of improved forage spp more especially legumes in natural pasture to improve nutrient content.
- Establishing fodder bank that can be fed to animals when fresh herbage is scarce.
- Distribute salt licks evenly in a pasture to stop animals from creating small path in a pasture as they move to the point with the licks.
- Practice control burning so that all pasture with parasites are got rid of to give way for the young and nutritious forage.
- Spray the pasture with molasses to improve on their palatability.

#### *Management of an already established pasture*

- Control weed from the pasture
- Practice correct grazing management e.g. rotational grazing and zero grazing
- Maintain correct stocking rates (area of land per animal) to ensure proper utilization of pasture.
- Broadcast fertilizer especially nitrogenous fertilizer to enhance growth and nutritive value
- Over sow with legume to maintain balance between species
- Irrigate where necessary
- Carry out topping to ensure fresh growth
- Drain water logged areas
- Younger pasture should not be grazed to early after sowing

#### *Ley pasture*

These consist of improved grasses and legumes that provide high quality forage. Ley pastures are used for intensive farming and particularly for dairy cattle.

#### *Limitations of ley pasture*

1. High cost of establishment i.e. money is needed to prepare the land, buy seeds and fertilizers.
2. Lack of viable seeds – seeds are not readily available on a commercial basis for Ley pastures.
3. Poor quality animals – Most farmers rear poor quality animals which cannot give profitable returns to cover the cost of leys.
4. Poor managerial skills – Most farmers lack basic knowledge and skills of managing Ley so that they can be productive for a long period of time.
5. Poor soil – Most farmers are not willing to surrender their fertile soil for Ley pasture production.
6. Unreliable rainfall – Ley pasture production requires rainfall which is not less 800mm annually and must be well distributed.

#### *Importance of pastures*

1. They provide organic matter to the soil after rotting.
2. They provide a wide range of nutrients to grazing animals.

3. They help in utilizing idle land.
4. Deep rooted pasture plants recycle plant nutrients from deeper layer to soil surface for rooters to use.
5. They can break life cycle of pest when planted in a rotation with crops.
6. They can reduce water evaporation from the soil acting as a cover.
7. Pastures are the cheapest source of feeds for animals
8. The root of pasture plant will bind soil particles together hence reducing soil erosion.
9. Pasture plant, particularly legumes improves the soil fertility by fixing nitrogen into the soil.

### **Factors to consider before establishing a pasture**

- Type of soil (pH, drainage, fertility) – different pasture species survive on different soil type
- Topography – different pasture species prefer different topography
- Climate – drought resistant pasture are preferred
- Pest and disease resistance
- Presence of planting materials and/or seeds
- Cost of production – The farmer should make sure that the expense involved in pasture establishment can be met from the income of the animals.
- Grazing tolerance: it is important to select a species that can withstand the grazing habits of livestock
- Ability of species to survive winter conditions
- The type of livestock and their nutritional needs influence the choice of pasture
- Legume percentage in mix: including legumes in the pasture mix can improve soil nitrogen levels and provide a more balanced diet for livestock.
- Digestibility of pasture
- Palatability of the pasture species to intended livestock
- Ability to produce enough herbage

### **Characteristics of a good pasture species**

- (i) It should be easy to establish hence reducing cost involved in replacing the seeds that failed to establish.
- (ii) It should be able to provide herbage even in times of scarcity
- (iii) It should be drought resistant. In order to meet this deep rooted species are always preferred.
- (iv) It should be easy to manage i.e. easy to plant, weed and harvest.
- (v) It should be highly palatable so that the animals can take it.
- (vi) Should match with the nutrient requirement of animal.
- (vii) It should show a high resistance to grazing i.e. the species should be able to regenerate after grazing and persist for at least three years.
- (viii) It should be highly resistant to pest and diseases that can attack the pasture.
- (ix) Should be able to produce a large quantity of dry matter in a year for the animals to graze on.
- (x) It should have a suitable height from the ground to allow easy grazing by the animal.

- (xi) It must be a pasture that can be easily mixed with other pasture species without having any effect on them or being affected.
- (xii) It should have readily available seeds that can be used for propagation.

### *Types of pastures*

**Pasture is divided into two broad groups. i.e.**

- Pasture grasses
- Pasture legumes

#### **Examples of pasture grasses**

- Guinea grass - *Panicum maximum*
- Rhode grass - *Chloris gayana*
- Congo Signal grass - *Brachiaria ruziziensis*
- Elephant grass - *Pennisetum purpureum*
- Kikuyu grass - *Pennisetum clandestinum*
- Nandi grass - *Setaria anceps*
- Thatch grass - *Hyparrhenia rufa*
- Star grass - *Cynodon dactylon*

#### **Examples of common pasture legumes**

- Green leaf Desmodium - *Desmodium intortum*
- Silver leaf Desmodium - *Desmodium uncinatum*
- Stylo - *Stylosanthes gracilis*
- Glycine - *Glycine wightii*
- Centro - *Centrosema pubescens*
- Lucerne - *Medicago sativa*
- Clovers - *Trifolium spp*

### *Importance/Advantages of including legumes in a pasture*

- (i) They fix nitrogen into the soil hence improving soil fertility for other plant species.
- (ii) They show a high resistance to drought hence can be relied on during the dry season.
- (iii) They increase the palatability of the pasture since they are highly palatable.
- (iv) Since they are deep rooted, they help in recycling plant nutrients for use by other plant species.
- (v) They reduce cases of bloat in animals since they are not very succulent.
- (vi) A good number of them have broad leaves hence have the ability to control soil erosion.
- (vii) The legumes supply protein to the animals which supplement the grass.
- (viii) They give longer grazing period since they mature at different times.
- (ix) They produce better quality and quantity of foliage for the animals.

#### **Importance of grasses in a grass legume pasture mixture**

- Increase total herbage production.
- Ensure stability of production e.g. they respond to rain faster and thus provide herbage early after dry season

- Increases the energy value of the pasture, grasses provide the bulk energy ratio.
- Perennial grasses maintain a dense vegetation cover that reduces the chances of weed infestation

#### **Advantages of grass pasture mixture**

- There is faster coverage of the land surface
- Weeds are easily suppressed
- Water and nutrients are evenly removed from the soil since the pasture plants have roots at different layers
- The energy value of the pasture is improved
- Mixed pastures ensure a stable production of pasture and animals on the farm.
- They provide ample pasture

#### **Disadvantages of grass pasture mixture**

- There is undesirable competition for nutrients, moisture, light and space if wrong seed rates are used
- It is difficult to control weeds chemically
- It is difficult to collect weeds from a mixed pasture.

#### **Advantage of single strand pasture**

- It is easy to manage both at seeding and utilization stage
- Germination is uniform
- 

#### **Adaptation of forage plants to the environment**

- (i) They produce very many seeds which increases their chances of survival
- (ii) Their seeds are light hence can be easily dispersed by wind.
- (iii) they can withstand defoliation and regenerate quickly
- (iv) They have short life cycle hence able to utilize the shortest period of good conditions
- (v) some have thorns and hair which discourage animals from eating them
- (vi) Some species produce chemicals which keep off animals
- (vii) Some have underground stem (rhizomes) which will sprout when the leaves and stems are destroyed.
- (viii) Some grass seeds possess hard seed coat that cannot be destroyed by the animal digestive system.

#### *Conservation of herbage*

Herbage can be conserved into two major ways i.e.

- Hay
- Silage

#### *Hay*

##### *Characteristics of a good hay*

- Good hay should be leafy since leaves are richer in food value compared to other parts of the plant.
- Should be prepared out of herbage cut at the stage near flowering when the plant is highly nutritious.
- It should be green in colour since the green colour signifies the presence of Vit .A
- It should be free from dust and moulds which reduce palatability
- It should be soft and pliable for easy consumption by the animals.

- It should be free from weeds and poisonous plants.
- It should have a smell which is a characteristic of the plant from which it is made.
- The moisture content of hay should not exceed 15% since high moisture may cause rotting.

#### *Factors affecting the quality of hay*

- The species of grass – some grass species produce high quality hay since they can be easily turned and have nutrient content.
- Storage – Proper storage of hay by protecting it from rain and sunlight preserve the quality.
- Stage of cutting the grass – Grass cut before flowering produces high quality hay than that cut after flowering.
- Level of drying/moisture content – Poorly dried hay becomes moldy and over dried hay lacks Vit. A
- Method of drying or curing; those dried under shade are more nutritious than those dried in direct sunlight
- Degree of turning; properly and regularly turned hay during drying ensures uniform drying and hence high quality
- Handling to prevent loss of leaves

#### *Procedure of making hay*

- Select a suitable plant species with high nutrient to be used in the making of hay.
- Cultivate the plant species on a good soil where it can obtain the required nutrients.
- Harvest the plant species just before flowering when it contains a lot of nutrients.
- Dry the hay to a moisture content of about 15%
- Tie the hay in bales and prepare it for storage
- The hay should be stored in a place well protected from rain and sunlight to preserve the quality.

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#### *Silage*

This is the herbage cut before flowering and converted into succulent feed through the process of fermentation. It can be made from any succulent green material such as sweet potatoes vines, young maize, sunflower sorghum, young Guatemala grass and elephant grass.

N.B. High protein foliage mixed with starchy foliage in ratio 3:1 give well balanced silage.

#### **The process of ensiling (making silage)**

- Cut the grass when it is about to flower and in case of legumes when they have formed pods.
- Chop the grass into small pieces of about 4cm long that can be easily packed.
- Pack the material in the air tight chamber (silo) and compress it to exclude air.
- Add fermentable water soluble carbohydrates like **molasses** which provide energy to the microbe during fermentation process.

- (v) Add **urea** at a rate of 5Kg per ton so as to increase nitrogen content of the silage.
- (vi) When the silage chamber is full, seal it off from the atmosphere to exclude air and water.
- (vii) Allow the materials to ferment for at least three weeks
- (viii) Monitor the temperatures in the silo to ensure proper fermentation. When temperatures drop, molasses should be added to provide energy to the microbes carrying out fermentation.

#### *Fermentation process*

- (i) The material is under fermentation through the action of lactobacillus bacteria.
- (ii) Organic acids are produced and the major one being lactic acid
- (iii) Lactic acid gives silage a good flavor, kills off the harmful microbes and acts as the preservative for silage.
- (iv) The PH has to be low between 3.8 - 4.3 and the temperature must rise to about 37.8°C to encourage fermentation by lactobacillus.
- (v) If the temperatures are low, add more **molasses** into the silage.
- (vi) Add water to lower temperature in case they are high.

**N.B.** Low temperature can be avoided by:

1. Partial drying of the material before ensiling to reduce moisture in the silage.
2. Filling the silage chamber rapidly but compressing the material lightly.
3. Sealing the silo immediately after the final packing to exclude air as much as possible.

**N.B.** Forage crops contain other species of bacteria such as *clostridium ssp* which convert sugars and lactic acid to butyric acid.

Butyric acid gives silage a foul smell and makes it less palatable.

#### *Factors affecting the quality of silage*

- The type of grass and legume species ensiled
- The stage of growth of the species ensiled
- The speed of ensiling
- The type and amount of additive used.
- Consolidation to exclude air from ensilage.
- The moisture content of the material ensiled
- The degree to which the temperature rises during ensiling.

#### **Reasons for making silage**

- For getting money
- Increase total amount of herbage produced per unit area
- Get feeds for use during periods of forage scarcity
- Conserve forage in succulent form
- Avoid forage wastage in periods of planting and abundance
- Increase number of livestock that can be kept per unit area
- Enables animals eat plant materials that they would not eat when fresh.

#### **Advantages of silage.**

- In increases the animal's appetite since it is very palatable and so increases an animal's intake of a feed.

- It is easier to store than the same quantity of hay since it requires less space per unit weight to store.
- The losses incurred during ensiling are less than those incurred in making hay.
- Many species that the animal cannot eat in fresh form can be eaten when ensiled.
- Under proper storage, silage can stay for several years without losing quality.
- Because the materials retain succulence, fire outbreaks during storage are avoided unlike in the storage of hay.
- There is increased efficiency of feed use since the animal rejects very little of the feed.

### **Problems of using silage**

- Some nutrients are lost due to seepage in the process of silage.
- Its more laborious
- The plant materials are difficult to compact effectively and some rotting is inevitable.
- It is expensive in terms of preservatives used.
- It requires large quantities of materials for it to be economical
- Poorly fermented silage has a bad smell that it may be introduced into the animal products.

### **How to reduce losses during silage making**

- Careful harvesting of the material to reduce losses of leaves and contamination by soil.
- Proper sealing of the silos to prevent re-entry of air into the silo.
- Proper fermentation of the material to exclude oxygen and acid fermentation.
- Proper chopping of the material to ensure proper fermentation.
- Wilting of the material before ensiling to reduce the moisture content and reduce the possibility of rotting.
- Addition of additives to increase the energy supply for the bacteria and preservatives.
- Quick use of the material once the silo has been opened to reduce the chances of spoilage due to exposure to the environment.

### **How the quality of silage can be improved.**

- Use the right type of grass and legume species ensiled
- Cut grass at the right stage of growth of the species ensiled
- Ferment for at least three weeks or appropriate
- Use the right type and amount of additive such as urea
- Use appropriate temperature during fermentation.
- Careful harvesting of the material to reduce losses of leaves and contamination by soil.
- Proper sealing of the silos to prevent re-entry of air into the silo.
- Proper fermentation of the material to exclude oxygen and acid fermentation.
- Proper chopping of the material to ensure proper fermentation.
- Wilting of the material before ensiling to reduce the moisture content and reduce the possibility of rotting.
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### **Forage utilization method**

- Continuous grazing
- Rotational grazing
- Zero grazing
- Deferred grazing.
- Strip grazing

#### **a. Continuous grazing**

This is an extensive system of grazing in which livestock remain on the same pasture for prolonged period.

#### **Advantages of the system**

- i. Fencing costs are reduced or avoided completely.
- ii. It allows animals to have free access to any part of the pasture
- iii. No costs are involved in improving pastures.

#### **Disadvantages**

- i. It allows selective grazing which can lead to pasture wastage
- ii. It encourages the buildup of ticks and internal parasites within the grazing place.
- iii. It may result into under stocking or over stocking as plant growth and seasonal conditions change.
- iv. It's difficult to control / diseases amongst animals since the system encourages communal grazing
- v. Pasture improvement is extremely difficult as more people are involved in using the pasture.
- vi. May easily result into overgrazing and destruction of pastures

#### **b. Rotational grazing**

This is where pastures is divided into paddocks and animals are allowed to graze in one paddock at a time until the herbage is uniformly grazed to a given height then moved to another paddock. High producers like lactating animals are allowed first into paddocks for it to graze the more nutritious herbage.

#### **Advantages of rotational grazing:**

- (i) Provides a uniform developed pasture due to uniform grazing
- (ii) It allows maximum utilization of herbage by avoiding selective / spot grazing.

- (iii) Forage yield is potentially higher since pastures are allowed to regenerate than in other systems.
- (iv) Intervals between grazing allow for remediable practices like fertilizer application, weeding etc.
- (v) It's a good method used in the control of parasites like ticks, roundworms, liver fluke.
- (vi) It reduces instances of over grazing and under grazing hence controlling destruction of pastures
- (vii) It makes management practices easy as animals are confined in one place.
- (viii) It allows flexibility in the use of pasture land since crops can be planted in the idle paddocks.
- (ix) It can allow higher stocking rate of animals.
- (x) Controlled breeding is easy to practice since animals can be grouped according to sex

#### **Disadvantages of rotation grazing**

- (i) It requires a high initial cost of establishing fences on pasture land.
- (ii) Requires a high level of managerial skills in terms of repairing the fences, improving the pastures etc.
- (iii) Fences can easily injure animals.
- (iv) Over trampling on pastures by animals leads to wastage
- (v) May require a lot of Labour for repairing farm structures and managing animals

#### **Zero grazing**

This is where animals are confined in structures / stalls where they are fed on fresh forages cut on a daily basis.

#### **Advantages of zero grazing**

- (i) Animals are protected from adverse climatic conditions
- (ii) Feed taken in by each animal is easily known hence easy to keep feeding records.
- (iii) it's easy to identify sick animals since they are in close observation
- (iv) it's easy to collect manure from the animals since they are confined in one place.
- (v) Disease spread is reduced since animals are not in contact with others from another herd.
- (vi) There is high production since animals do not spend a lot of energy looking for pasture and water
- (vii) Selective grazing and trampling on pastures is effectively controlled since animals are fed on pastures cut from the field.

- (viii) it's easy to carryout management practices on animals under this system as animals are under confinement.
- (ix) The system permits high stocking rate since a large number of animals can be kept on a small piece of land

**Disadvantages of zero grazing:**

- (i) The method is capital intensive i.e. requires a lot of capital for constructing animal structures and feeding
- (ii) It requires a lot of Labor which can be used in collecting fodder, cleaning the stalls etc.
- (iii) It cannot support a large number of animals
- (iv) The system is applicable economically in places where market for milk is readily available to cover the costs involved easily.
- (v) It may lead to loss of soil fertility if manure is not taken back to the fodder garden.
- (vi) The animals lack exercise which can affect their health.

**d. Deferred grazing**

This is where a certain paddock is set aside to allow the accumulation of standing hay which can be grazed on during periods of pasture scarcity

**Advantage of deferred grazing**

- (i) Pasture seeds are dispersed for pasture stand improvement
- (ii) It provides herbage during periods of scarcity.
- (iii) It allows pastures to develop greater root and crown which is important for subsequent re-growth.
- (iv) The pasture can be used in the control of soil erosion.
- (v) It allows for natural establishment of pastures

**Disadvantages of deferred grazing**

- (i) The pasture is not as nutritious as the fresh pasture hence a need to supplement it.
- (ii) Requires a large piece of land for practicing deferred grazing
- (iii) Does not permit high stocking rates

**e. Strip grazing**

This is where strips of fresh pastures are made available each day to animals by moving an electric fence forward.

The grazed area is sealed off for regrowth and excess pastures conserved.

### **Advantages of strip**

- (i) The animals enjoy fresh grasses each day
- (ii) The grass is eaten at its highest nutritive value
- (iii) Allows intensive grazing hence utilizing pastures efficiently
- (iv) It is highly flexible since it may allow more than one activity on the land

### **Disadvantages of strip grazing**

- (i) Requires more Labor
- (ii) Requires more skills in using an electric fence
- (iii) Pastures may be destroyed as a result of overgrazing.
- (iv) Ground where animals pass is destroyed and lost since pastures may fail to grow there

### **Establishing a pasture**

- a) Clear the land to remove trees and bushes that may interfere with pasture growth
- b) Prepare a firm (for moisture conservation), fine (to bring small seeds in contact with soil) and weed free (reduce competition for nutrients) seedbed by burning, ploughing, and harrowing
- c) Apply fertilizers to the seed bed to improve soil fertility more especially phosphatic fertilizers for proper pasture establishment
- d) Select good quality seed for planting depending on the animal's needs and environment
- e) Treat the seeds to ensure uniform and proper germination by scarification, inoculation and pelleting
- f) Sow the seeds shortly after the rains so as to take advantage of soil nitrogen made available by mineralization. Methods of sowing are drilling, broadcasting and row planting
- g) Apply pesticides and fungicides to control pests and diseases in pastures

### **Principles of feeding animals**

### **Terminologies in animal nutrition**

- (i) **Digestibility**  
It is the proportion of the feed absorbed by the animal's body or the difference between the amount of feed ingested and amount of feces produced
- (ii) **Digestible energy**  
This is the portion of the total carbohydrate contained in the feed which an animal is capable of utilizing or the amount of energy in the feed minus the energy lost in feces.
- (iii) **Crude proteins**  
This the sum of total nitrogenous compounds contained in a feed.
- (iv) **Production ratio**  
It is the amount of feed an animal need to produce products such as milk, meat, eggs and offspring in addition to the maintenance ration required for basic functions.
- (v) **Digestible crude proteins (DCP)**  
It is the amount of proteins which can be digested or it is a measure of nitrogen in the feed consumed that is retained in the body of an animal after subtracting loses through feces.
- (vi) **Starch Equivalent (SE)**  
This is the measure of energy requirement which an animal can obtain from the food. Or it is the amount of pure starch which has the same energy as 100kg of a feed
- (vii) **Palatability of animal feed**  
Palatability refers to acceptability/preference of the feed by the animal,; it is associated with taste, odor, texture, appearance and temperature
- (viii) **Ration**  
A **ration** refers to the total amount of feed consumed by an animal within 24 hours. It comprises all the nutrients needed for the animal's well-being and provided for in sufficient amount.

#### **The characteristics of concentrate feeds**

- have low crude fiber content
- have high protein and carbohydrate contents
- are highly palatable to animals
- have high digestibility
- mainly derived from grain and their byproducts
- have low moisture contents
- have fairly constant food value

#### **The factors that should be considered when formulating a ration for farm animals**

- The nutrient requirement of for the animals whose ration is being formulated
- The palatability or acceptability of the final mixture of the feed
- Availability of ingredients and their cost
- Health status of the animal
- Nutrient composition of the final mixture
- Physical nature of feed
- The wholesomeness of the food stuff. The final mixture should not harmful to the animals
- Age of animal i.e. young animal requires high proportion of proteins
- Level of production for instance milk cattle and layer require high proportion of calcium.

- Type of animal for instance ruminant can digest cellulose

## **Water**

### **Importance of water to animal bodies**

- Help to remove wastage from the bodies
- Soften food in digestive tract
- Transports digested food to different parts of the body
- Medium for chemical reactions
- Reagent in chemical reactions
- Regulates body temperature

### **Source of water to animal bodies**

- Direct intake
- From feeds
- From respiration

### **Factors that influence the level of water intake by an animals**

- Type of food for instance salty food and protein rich food stimulate drinking water
- Ambient temperature: high atmospheric temperature induce thirst
- Low humidity increase water uptake
- Health status of an animal: health animals usual drink more water than sick animals
- Level of production of an animal: lactating animal need and take more water than dry animal
- Type of animal: for instance cattle take more water than goats
- Age of animal

### **Ways of ensuring safe water to animals**

- **Ensure animals drink from clean containers**
- **Protect nature source of water from contamination with dung, pesticides and herbicides**
- **Provide quality domestic water**
- **Provide water from boreholes**

## **Nutrition and metabolic disorders in livestock**

### **(a) Milk fever**

#### **Causes**

It is caused by insufficient calcium in the diet

### **Symptoms**

- Loss of appetite, poor GI tract movement, and cold extremities
- Excitability, nervousness, hypersensitivity, and tremors
- Weakness, weight shifting, and shuffling of hind feet
- Inability to stand
- Coma and death if not quickly treated.

### **Control and treatment**

- intravenous or subcutaneous injection of calcium gluconate
- giving calcium, vitamin D and phosphate supplements

### **(b) Grass tetany (grass stager/hypomagnesemia)**

Caused by magnesium deficiency

#### **Symptoms**

- The animal becomes nervous suddenly
- Twitching of muscles especially those around the head and the neck
- The head of animal is lifted high
- Accelerated respiration
- Over salivation followed by death

### **Treatment and control**

Provide magnesium in the diet

### **(c) Bloat**

#### **Causes**

Accumulation of gases in the rumen due to fast fermentation of young succulent grass with high moisture content especially in some animal susceptible to bloat

#### **Symptoms**

- Loss of appetite
- Distention of the abdomen,
- Feeling fullness, pressure, uncomfortable/distress
- Rectal protrusion.
- Difficulty breathing due to pressure on the diaphragm.
- The animals stands with its legs spread wide apart and its head extended forward
- The animal lies down and fails to stand up due to distress.

### **Control and treatment**

- control the amount of succulent feeds and younger pastures fed to the animals
- carry out drench using any vegetable oil
- use stomach tube to release gas from the stomach
- drenching using anti-bloat drugs, cooking oil or beer to stop production of acids
- use of trocar or cannula to puncture the lumen to allow escape of gases

- exercising the animal
- Use of broom stick method i.e. wooden rod is inserted across the mouth to keep the mouth open to allow escape of gases from the rumen
- avoid giving the animal cassava, excess grain and protein concentrate

**(d) Piglet anemia**

Caused by iron deficiency in mothers milk

Symptoms

- Ears and belly of piglets become pale
- Body weakness
- Pale mucus membrane
- Rapid breathing

Treatment

- Inject with iron solution after birth
- Give mineral supplements rich in iron/anthill soil to the mother **and piglet**

**(e) Ketosis (acetosemia /pregnancy toxemia)**

Caused by high production exceeding feeding capacity leading to low glucose levels in the blood

Symptoms

- Emaciation
- Hypoglycemia
- Drop in milk yield in lactating animals
- Walking in cycles
- Apparent blindness
- Increased keto acids in blood due to malfunctioning of the liver

**Prevention**

- Adequate and proper feeding

**(f) Curled toe paralysis ( peculiar lameness)**

This occurs in poultry due to insufficient vitamin B2 (riboflavin) in the diet

Symptoms

- Poor growth of feathers in chicks
- Retarded growth of chicks
- Diarrhea
- Poor hatchability

Control

Provide diet rich in vitamin B2

1. The difference between ruminant and non-ruminant

Ruminants	Non-ruminants
Saliva contains lipase	Saliva lacks lipase
Have four stomach compartments	Have one stomach compartment
Saliva lacks amylase	Saliva contains amylase
Chew cud	Do not chew cud
Fermentation is possible due to the presence of rumen	Fermentation not possible
Contain bacteria that digest cellulose	Contain no bacteria for digestion of cellulose
Depend on volatile fatty acids for energy	Depend on glucose for energy
Most digestion and absorption occurs in the rumen	Most absorptions occur in the small intestines
Do not produce enzymes for protein digestion	Produce enzymes for protein digestion
Take long to digest to digest plant materials.	Take relatively short time to digest their food
Premolars and molars move lateral directions	Premolar and molars move in vertical direction
Have two blunt canines	Have four sharp canines
Long digestive canals	Short digestive canals
Have larger liver	Have smaller liver
Regurgitate.	Do not regurgitate.
<b>Examples:</b> Herbivores (e.g., cattle, sheep, goats).	<b>Examples</b> Omnivores and carnivores (e.g., humans, dogs, swine).
<b>Produce a lot of fecal material</b>	<b>Produce little fecal material</b>

**Revision exercise 4**

1. Which of the following is the problem associated with feeding silage to cows during milking?
  - A. Attracts flies
  - B. Introduction of germs to the milk

- C. Tainting milk with bad odor
  - D. Disruption of milk let down
2. Which one of the following metabolic disorder is likely to occur in high yielding cattle fed on lush grass only
    - A. ketosis
    - B. grass tetany
    - C. pica
    - D. milk fever
  3. Why is the amount of proteins calculated and expressed as crude proteins?
    - A. Proteins consumed in excess is deaminated
    - B. Feeds with proteins are very expensive
    - C. The amount include substances like ammonia
    - D. Only the animal can purify it at apprehension
  4. In silage making, the material are chopped to facilitate
    - A. Palatability
    - B. Digestibility
    - C. Packing
    - D. fermentation
  5. Which of the following pH is best for fermentation of silage?
    - A. 7
    - B. 4
    - C. 10
    - D. 14
  6. The main source of energy in farm animals is
    - A. Lactic acid
    - B. Aceticacid
    - C. Butyric acid
    - D. Propionic acid
  7. What is the importance of deferred grassing?
    - A. Maintain soil fertility
    - B. Let perennial grass accumulate nutrients for the next season
    - C. Let annual grasses and legumes accumulate nutrients for the next season.
    - D. Control grazing so that a certain preferred species reaches a minimum
  8. Why should indigenous goats not be grazed on pasture early in the morning?
    - A. To enable them feed on feed concentrates and remains first
    - B. The morning dew can easily cause bloat
    - C. Goats don't browse on very soft pasture such as those in the morning
    - D. To avoid parasite infection
  9. Best hay is obtained by
    - A. Cutting grass at flowering stage
    - B. Complete drying of grass in the sun
    - C. Cutting grass at the stage of maximum growth
    - D. Balling grass immediately it is cut
  10. Which one of the following describes the word ration as used in animal feeding?

- A. The amount of food required to keep the animal alive
  - B. The palatability of the feed
  - C. A mixture of the feed that meets an animal's body requirement in a day
  - D. The amount of feed eaten by an animal in a day
11. A grazing system which leads to production of standing hay is known as
- A. Zero grazing
  - B. Wet and dry grazing
  - C. Deferred grazing
  - D. Continuous grazing
12. The quality of hay depends on the following factors except
- A. Season of the year
  - B. Method of drying pasture grass
  - C. Type of pasture
  - D. Stage of pasture growth
13. Ruminants animals are able to digest grass because of the
- A. Possession of the rumen that digest grass
  - B. Presence of microorganisms in rumen
  - C. Inability to utilize other forms of feed
  - D. Possession of teeth to digest grass
14. Which of the following best explains the reason for chopping grass before feeding to animals?
- A. Improve palatability
  - B. Improve nutritional value
  - C. Increase its intake
  - D. Increasing digestibility
15. Which of the following compounds provide the major source of energy to ruminants?
- A. Acetic acid
  - B. Glucose
  - C. Fats
  - D. ammonia
16. Well fermented silage will have a high proportion of
- A. Propionic acid
  - B. Acetic acid
  - C. Butyric acid
  - D. Lactic acid
17. Which of the following are products of microbial fermentation in the rumen?
- A. Fatty acids and glycerol
  - B. Volatile fatty acids and ammonia
  - C. Peptones and peptides
  - D. Glucose and alcohol
18. The limitation of feeding animals on concentrates is that concentrates
- A. Provide limited amount of nutrients
  - B. Are expensive
  - C. Increase water intake
  - D. Cannot be digested by all animals

19. Roughage in animals nutrition is essential because it;
  - A. Contains plenty of nutrients especially proteins
  - B. Eliminates possibility of constipation
  - C. Is easily digested by bacteria in the cecum
  - D. Stimulate the secretion of bile salts
20. Which one of the following best explains the reasons for chopping grass before feed to animal
  - A. Improving palatability
  - B. Improving its nutritional value
  - C. Increased feed intake
  - D. Increased digestibility of the feed
21. Well fermented silage will have a high proportions of
  - A. propionic acid
  - B. Acetic acid
  - C. butyric acid
  - D. Lactic acid
22. Silage is not recommended for feeding calves because
  - A. It is likely to be contaminated with harmful microorganisms
  - B. Calves cannot digest silage efficiently
  - C. It is not palatable to calves
  - D. It contains chemicals which are harmful
23. **Newly born calves are not grazed because**
  - A. **the rumen is not developed until 8 weeks**
  - B. **the rumen is still small and lacks the necessary micro-organisms**
  - C. **forage is not palatable to young calves**
  - D. **forage would reduce their appetite for colostrum**

#### Answers

- 1A. 3C 5B 7B 9A 11C 13B 15A 17B 19B 21D 23A  
 2B 4C 6B 8D 10 D 12A 14C 16D 18B 20C 22C

#### Other questions

24. (a) Give four effects of feeding animals on feeds lacking calcium
  - Rickets (weak bones) in young animals or osteomalacia in old animals
  - Milk fever in early lactating animals due to heavy drain of calcium in the milk
  - Poor acid-base balance of the body fluid such as blood
  - Lameness
  - Stiff legs

- Ruffled feathers
- A reduction in growth
- Leg bones appear rubbery
- Joints become enlarged.

b) State three observable symptoms of each of following nutritional disease

(i) Milk fever

- Loss of appetite, poor GI tract movement, and cold extremities
- Excitability, nervousness, hypersensitivity, and tremors
- Weakness, weight shifting, and shuffling of hind feet
- Lying down unable to stand, head in a tuck position, and unable to get up
- If untreated the cow become comatose and dies within a day after the first sign.

(ii) boat

- Loss of appetite
- Distention of the distention of the abdomen,
- Feeling fullness, pressure, uncomfortable/distress
- Rectal protrusion.
- Difficulty breathing due to pressure on the diaphragm.
- The animals stands with its legs spread wide apart and its head extended forward
- The animal lies down and fails to stand up due to distress.

25. (a) Explain the following terms as used in animal nutrition

(i) Digestibility

It is the proportion of the feed absorbed by the animal's body or the difference between the amount of feed ingested and amount of feces produced

(ii) Digestible energy

This is the portion of the total carbohydrate contained in the feed which an animal is capable of utilizing or the amount of energy in the feed minus the energy lost in feces.

(iii) Crude proteins

This the sum of total nitrogenous compounds contained in a feed.

(iv) Production ratio

It is the amount of feed an animal need to produce products such as milk, meat, eggs and offspring in addition to the maintenance ration required for basic functions.

(v) Digestible crude proteins (DCP)

It is the amount of proteins which can be digested or it is a measure of nitrogen in the feed consumed that is retained in the body of an animal after subtracting loses through feces.

(vi) Starch Equivalent (SE)

This is the measure of energy requirement which an animal can obtain from the food. Or it is the amount of pure starch which has the same energy as 100kg of a feed

(b) Give the characteristics of concentrate feeds

- have low crude fiber content

- have high protein and carbohydrate contents
- are highly palatable to animals
- have high digestibility
- mainly derived from grain and their byproducts
- have low moisture contents
- have fairly constant food value

(c) State one method of controlling each of the following nutritional disorder in farm animals

(i) Bloat

- control the amount of succulent feeds and younger pastures fed to the animals
- carry out drench using any vegetable oil
- use stomach tube to release gas from the stomach
- drenching using anti-bloat drugs, cooking oil or beer to stop production of acids
- use of trocar or cannula to puncture the lumen to allow escape of gases
- exercising the animal
- Use of broom stick method i.e. wooden rod is inserted across the mouth to keep the mouth open to allow escape of gases from the rumen
- avoid giving the animal cassava, excess grain and protein concentrate

(ii) Milk fever

- intravenous or subcutaneous injection of calcium gluconate
- giving calcium, vitamin D and phosphate supplements

(iii) Piglet anemia

- Give mineral supplements rich in iron

26. Give ways in which digestion in ruminants is more beneficial to the animal than digestion in non-ruminants

- Ruminants can upgrade protein through bacterial proteins
- Ruminants have bacteria that digest proteins.
- Ruminants synthesize vitamin K, C and B
- Microbial organism synthesize volatile fatty acids
- Ammonia gas is recycled and used to make proteins

27. Outline the importance of microbe in rumen of ruminants

- They digest cellulose in herbage into simple carbohydrates.
- Synthesize vitamins like K, C and B
- They build proteins from non-nitrogen substances such as ammonia gas and urea.
- They die and digested to absorbable nutrients

28. (a) State the factors that determine the amount of feed given to an animal per day

- Body weight/size; big animals consume more
- Health status of the animal
- Animal age; old animals consume more
- Physiological condition whether pregnant, sick etc.
- Level of production or the purpose for which the animal is kept.
- Previous feed eaten i.e. what is already in alimentary canal
- The form in which the feed is taken i.e. chopped or ground

- The palatability of the feed
- The ambient temperature
- Type of animal such goat or cow
- Type of feed whether grass or concentrate

(b) State the factors on which the choice of feed stuff to use depend on

- The cost of food stuff
- The physical nature of food stuff
- The nutritional composition
- The age of animal
- Availability of the food stuff
- Species of animal

29. (a) State the factors that should be considered when formulating a ration for farm animals

- The nutrient requirement of for the animals whose ration is being formulated
- The palatability or acceptability of the final mixture of the feed
- Availability of ingredients and their cost
- Health status of the animal
- Nutrient composition of the final mixture
- The wholesomeness of the food stuff. The final mixture should not harmful to the animals
- Age of animal i.e. young animal requires high proportion of proteins
- Level of production for instance milk cattle and layer require high proportion of calcium.
- Type of animal for instance ruminant can digest cellulose

(b) Give reasons for including feed additives in livestock feeds

- To improve palatability by enhancing taste and flavor
- To prevent deficiency diseases
- To treat deficiency diseases
- to promote proper growth

(c) Why should a farmer mix animal feeds on the farm instead of buying already mixed feeds from outside the farm

- to minimize cost
- to ensure that the nutrition requirements of his animals are cater for.
- To reduce the level of contamination
- To utilized the crops or byproducts on the farm

30. (a) What is digestibility

It is the measure of the extent of feed is digested

Or

It is the proportion of food absorbed by the animal's body

Or

It is the oral-fecal difference of the feed

(b) Explain factors that influence digestibility of feeds

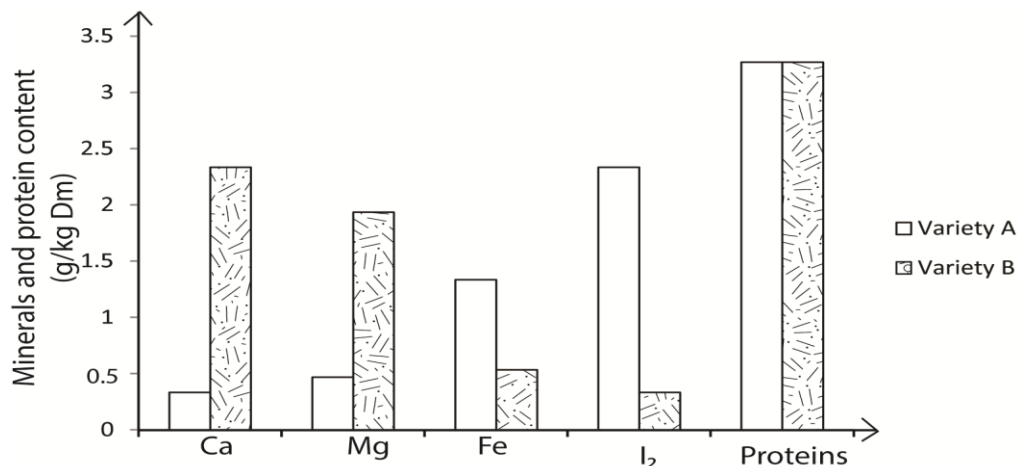
- the type and chemical composition of the feed for instance presence of trypsin inhibitor in soya bean.
- The level of processing subjected to the feed prior to serving. Highly processed feeds say by grinding increases digestibility.

- Health condition of the animal; healthy animals easily digest feed
- Type of animals; ruminants have advanced digestive system to digest and absorb food
- Physiological state of the animal; this affects nutrient requirements for example lactating mothers and laying birds there is high digestibility of feed with high protein content.
- Age of animals; feed digestibility increases with and later decreases with age due to increase and then decrease with nutrient requirements with age
- The animal species; ruminants have high digestibility for roughages
- The ratio of energy to protein in the feed
- Quantity of food in alimentary canal of the animal
- Amount of water consumed

(c) Explain why allowance is given for extra ingredient during feed formulation

- To cater for variation of nutrient composition of feed stuff
- To cater for nutrient losses during feed processing and prolonged storage
- To provide label guarantee
- To cater for animals that may require higher than average nutrient requirements
- To cater for losses due to feed spillage during serving and feeding.

31. A study was carried out on two varieties of elephant grass to determine the content of macro and micro nutrients and proteins in them. The two varieties were planted and harvested at the same time although grown in different fields. The results are shown in the figure below. The minimum required content of macro and micro nutrients is 1.5g/kgDm and 0.8g/kg Dm respectively



(a) What is the difference between macro and micro nutrients?

Macro elements are nutrients required by plants or animals in large quantities and if the supply is inadequate they produce deficiency symptoms while micro nutrients are required in small quantities and when supplied in excess produce toxic results.

(b) What observations and conclusions can be drawn from the result in the figure above

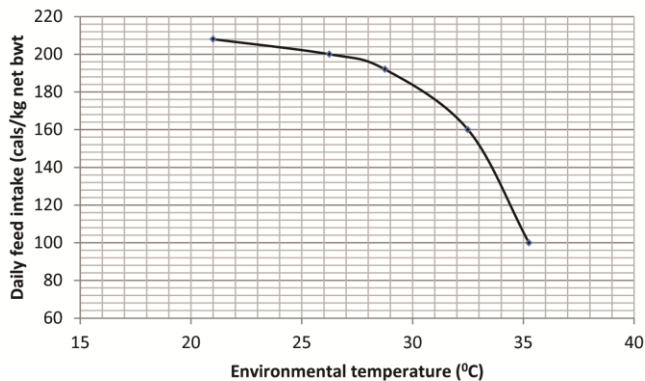
Observation

- Variety B contained more calcium and magnesium than variety A
- Variety A contained more iron and iodine compared to variety B
- Both varieties contained equal content of proteins

## Conclusion

- Both varieties A and B contain all nutrients but in varying quantities
- (c) Account for the difference in the mineral content of the two varieties
- Difference in the mineral contents of the two fields
  - Differences in genetic composition of the two varieties leading to difference in absorption and utilization of minerals.
- (d) What would be the effect of grazing dairy animals on variety A alone.  
It would result in deficiency disease due to calcium such as milk fever.
- (e) What is the best way of utilizing the two varieties of pasture?
- Mixing them before feeding to the animals
  - Add mineral supplements before using any of them.
- (f) Give three ways in which proteins are important in the bodies of animals
- Make up body structure
  - Make up hormones
  - Make up enzymes
  - Source of energy
  - Maintain blood pH

32. The figure below shows the relationship between environmental temperature and daily feed intake by layers per unit of metabolic body weight. Use it to answer the questions that follow.



- (f) How does the environmental temperature affects the daily feed intake in layers  
Feed intake decreases as the environmental temperature increases
- (g) Suggest explanation for the effect of environmental temperature on the daily feed intake in layers.  
When the environmental temperature rises the metabolic rate of the birds falls due to decrease in the rate of heat loss.
- (h) From the graph, what would be the consequences of high environmental temperature on the performance of layers?
- Egg laying would drop
  - Reduced feed intake
  - Increased water intake
  - Layers become stress/uncomfortable
- (i) (i) Birds are endotherms. What is importance of these characteristic?

Maintenance of constant body temperature and activity over a wide range of temperature range.

(ii) As endotherms, how do poultry react to high environmental temperatures?

- They pant or open their beaks to allow heat loss
- They flap their wing
- Seek shade
- Bathe in sand
- Become thirsty and drink water

(j) From the figure, suggest consideration to be taken in formulation of feeds and construction of houses for poultry bird in hot climate.

Consideration of feed formulation

- Feed should be wholesome not to harm birds
- Balance to cater for nutritional requirements of the layers
- Easily digestible to provide nutrients easily
- Palatable to attract the birds to eat it.

Consideration of construction of houses for poultry birds in hot climate

- Ensure proper ventilation
- Consider direction of sun rays to avoid over heating
- The height of the roof should be high enough
- Use roofing material that reflect heat or are insulators to prevent heating of the house.

33. (a) Describe the characteristics of a good pasture plant

- Should have high nutritional value
- Should not be poisonous
- Should grow fast
- Should be able to regenerate after the animal has eaten its parts
- Should be resistant to pest and disease
- Resistant to extreme weather conditions
- Should have broad leaves to be eaten in small number
- Should be easily digestible
- Should have suitable height to be reached by browsers
- Should be able to survive on poor soils

(b) Discuss the measures that could be taken to improve pastures for increased livestock production.

- Introduction beneficial species with high nutritional value
- Introduction of well adapted legumes
- Removal of toxic and dangerous species such as thorny plants
- Apply manure
- Irrigate in dry seasons
- Drain in case of floods
- Clear shrubs and trees that might be shading the pasture
- Provide drinking water in the pasture
- Fence the pasture to control grazing and pest and diseases

- Provide animal shades
34. (a) Describe the characteristics of a good pasture plant
- Should have high nutritional value
  - Should not be poisonous
  - Should grow fast
  - Should be able to regenerate after the animal has eaten its parts
  - Should be resistant to pest and disease
  - Resistant to extreme weather conditions
  - Should have broad leaves to be eaten in small number
  - Should be easily digestible
  - Should have suitable height to be reached by browsers
  - Should be able to survive on poor soils
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  - Apply manure
  - Irrigate in dry seasons
  - Drain in case of floods
  - Clear shrubs and trees that might be shading the pasture
  - Provide drinking water in the pasture
  - Fence the pasture to control grazing and pest and diseases
  - Provide animal shades
35. (a) Explain factors that affect utilization of feed by farm animal (12marks)
- The nutrient requirement of for the animals whose ration is being formulated
  - The palatability or acceptability of the final mixture of the feed
  - Availability of ingredients and their cost
  - Health status of the animal
  - Nutrient composition of the final mixture
  - The wholesomeness of the food stuff. The final mixture should not harmful to the animals
  - Age of animal i.e. young animal requires high proportion of proteins
  - Level of production for instance milk cattle and layer require high proportion of calcium.
  - Type of animal for instance ruminant can digest cellulose
- (b) What is the role of rumen microorganism in the digestive system of a ruminant? (04 marks)
- They produce enzymes that break down cellulose to simple carbohydrates such as acetic acids
  - Synthesize useful proteins from non-protein sources for the animals
  - Synthesize useful vitamins such as K, C and B complexes that are utilized by host animals
  - Protect ruminant against pathogens
- (c) Outline the conditions that favor multiplication of microbe in the rumen (04marks)

- Favorable pH (6.2 – 6.8) which maintained by saliva and continuous removal of volatile fatty acid.
- Low level of oxygen since most of these microbes are anaerobic.
- Enough moisture
- Macro minerals and some trace minerals in the rumen needed by microbe.
- Supply of readily fermentable carbohydrates such as sugar and starch
- Adequate supply of energy and nitrogen which enhances microbial activity

36. Table 1 shows yield in kilograms per hectare in a year, of two pasture species grown in pure and mixed stands. Study the information and answer the questions that follow.

Table 1

Types of stand	Pure	pure	Mixed	
Pasture plant species	Elephant grass	Lablab	Elephant grass	Lablab
Performance yield (kg/ha)	58,624	45,376	64,120	42,228

(a)(i) Compare the yield performance of each pasture plant species in pure and mixed stands. (02marks)

There are high yields of elephant grass in mixed stand than in pure stand while the yield lablab is higher in pure stand than in mixed stand.

(ii) Suggest explanation for the performance of each pure pasture plant species when grown in mixed stand. (7 ½ marks)

- In the mixed stands elephant grass produces higher yield because lablab fixes nitrogen to the soil and acts as cover crop that conserves soil moisture thereby promoting growth elephant grass.
- The yield of lablab decreases in mixed stand because competition for light, water, nutrients and space with elephant grass.

(b) What would be the effect on the nutritive value of each plant species when grown in a mixed stand? (4 ½ marks)

- The nutrition value of elephant grass increase due to added nitrogen in the soil by lablab
- The nutrition value of lablab decreases in the mixed stand due to competition for light and nutrients

(c) What would be effect of feeding livestock on both elephant grass and lablab? (06marks)

(xi) Nutritional balance i.e. proteins and vitamins from lablab and fibers from elephant grass

(xii) improved weight gain

(xiii) the combination improves the overall digestibility of the feeds, making it easier for animals to absorb nutrients

(xiv) Improved palatability: animals tend to consume more when lablab is mixed with elephant grass, leading to higher feed intake.

37. (a) Suggest possible causes of pasture deterioration. (09marks)

- Presence of poor unproductive pasture plant
- Presence of large and undecayed plant residues that prevent water entry

- Wet areas containing marshy plants e.g. nut grasses
- Over growth of pasture hence becoming fibrous
- The pasture become stunted
- Development of bare patches in pasture
- Accumulation of parasites in pastures.
- Accumulation of vector in the pasture
- Presence of weeds
- Overgrazing
- Adverse climate
- Overstocking
- Pollution e.g. with oil residue

(b) Explain the factors that influence food conversion ratio in animals. (06marks)

- Type of animal
- Age of animal: young animals have high conversion ratio
- Health status of an animal: health animals have higher food conversion ratio than sick animals
- Nature of feed and its nutrient composition.
- Level of production for instance milk cattle and layer have high food conversion ratio.
- Inheritance
- Temperature

(c) What consideration should be made when formulating rations for animals? (05marks)

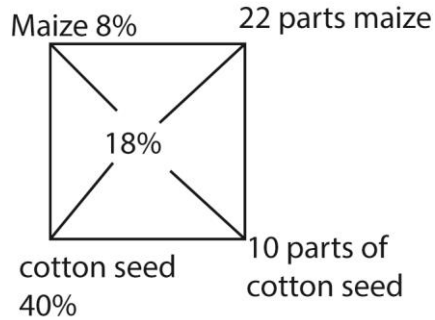
- The nutrient requirement of for the animals whose ration is being formulated
- The palatability or acceptability of the final mixture of the feed
- Availability of ingredients and their cost
- Health status of the animal
- Nutrient composition of the final mixture
- Physical nature of feed
- The wholesomeness of the food stuff. The final mixture should not harmful to the animals
- Age of animal i.e. young animal requires high proportion of proteins
- Level of production for instance milk cattle and layer require high proportion of calcium.
- Type of animal for instance ruminant can digest cellulose

38. (a) Outline five conditions which would encourage a farmer to mix animal feeds on the farm. (05marks)

- Nutrition tailored to the needs of specific animal(s)
- Reduce feeding cost such as of packaging,
- Reduction of wastage
- A farmer may get some of the inputs from the farm
- Ensure ingredient safety
- Mixing feeds in affordable quantities

(b) A farmer would like to mix a ration containing 18% CP using maize bran which is 8% CP and cotton cake which has 40% CP

(i) Using Pearson square, show the proportions of maize and cotton cake which would be mixed to make the ration. (03marks)



(i) Explain two ways by which the nutritive value of the ration in (b)(i) may be improved. (02marks)

- Add vitamins
- Add fibers

Thanks

Dr. Bbosa Science

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**Thank You**

**Dr. Bbosa Science**