8. LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

In India Agriculture means for the sustenance of the family and the local community together with the services of blacksmith, carpenter, washerman, tailor, cobbler, and livestock etc.

Man’s agricultural life is incomplete without the role of domestic animals like cows and buffaloes, bullocks, sheep and goat, poultry, ducks and other birds, asses, horses, camels, etc., swine, rabbits and the like to fulfill his everyday needs like:

- Milk and milk products
- Protein-full foods from animals
- Very good manure to grow his crops
- Draught power for his agricultural activities
- Many utilitarian products like, blankets (kumbals-made of sheep wool) and several other items made from the skins of dead animals.

In the rural agriculture, the most commonly employed farm power apart from manual labour, invariably comes from Cattle which distinctly stand out from other farm animals. Efficient use of these animals in turn depends on their feeding, maintenance of their health and fitness and training them to adopt to different kinds of work has a definite say in successful agriculture.
Similar explanation hold good for milch animals and the animals that would provide us various other protein-full foods, which calls for appropriate management of these livestock to get the best out of them in different utilitarian directions. Ergo, it calls for a very good management efficiency on the part of the farmers in order to achieve the desired goal.

In this perspective, the Indian farmers over time, out of his fruitful journey along with his animals to establish a meaningful relationship with them in their efficient management, has come out with various indigenous findings which are really amazing and makes even a sophisticated modern technician raise his eyebrows on getting to know his unparallel efficiency in managing his livestock. Listed hereunder are very few of them to which many more can be added by Farmer-Scientists in the field:

It is strongly believed in Ancient Indian Agriculture that without “Gomuthram” (Cow urine), agriculture has no meaning at all. It is not a blind faith, but Indian farmer’s well-knit experience that the depleted soil due to continuous cropping for his livelihood gets replenished by addition of cattle urine and dung in the proper manner.
1. **Feeding green bamboo leaves for release of placenta**
   In course of giving birth to a calf, sometimes, a cow does not release placenta immediately. It causes many complications. Feeding 4-5 Kg of green leaves of bamboo in its raw form to the cow, it is found that placenta comes out just after half an hour of bamboo feeding.

2. **Control of intestinal worms in calves**
   Dried ginger 50 gm and tender leaves of guava (*Psodium guajava*) 500gm, are to be macerated together and made into balls and administered to 5 or 6 calves at a time. This will be very effective
for yellow colour diarrhea in the young calves caused due to intestinal worms. This can be repeated depending upon the severity of disease.

3. **Tick/ Mites control in Cows:**

One kg of *Albizia* leaves (*Albizia amara*) and half-kilo neem leaves (*Azadirachta indica*) leaves are to be grinded well. It should be mixed with 2 kg of tank silt or soil from ant hills and made into a slurry after pouring with adequate quantity of water. This slurry has to be smeared all over the body of the animal. Then the animal can
be allowed to stand in sunlight for few hours, followed by bathing the animal. This practice has to be repeated once after a week. This will increase the lustre of skin, and driving away the sucking pets from its body.
4. **Refusal to feed / Fever / Giddiness / Cough In Cattle:**
Take an earthen part and fill with Charcoal fuel upto its quarter portion. To this add a few barks of matured neem tree, seed husks of neem (10 gm), and tender leaves at 25 gm each of *Pongamia*, *Cardiospermum* and *Leucas aspera*. To facilitate fumigation apply a pinch of *Sambrani* (Incense powder). The animal is made to inhale these fumes till sweating is noticed in its nostril region. During this treatment the animal has to be fed with 250 gm of coriander leaves and 500 gm of rhizomes of radish twice a day.
5. Preventive herbal healing against Foot and Mouth disease:

a. Daily cleaning of foot and mouth portions of the animal with hot water (boiled with a pinch of common salt and bark of neem tree).

b. Administer leaf juice extract of Tulsi (*Ocimum sanctum*) for oral intake. About ½ kg of tulsi leaves residue may be used for smearing the foot and mouth portions of the cattle. This quantity is sufficient for 4 animals. This should be done once daily for a period of 3 days continuously.
6. **Mastitis in cattle:**
Handful of Henna leaves (*Lawsonia inermis*) and *Albizia* (*Albizia amare*) are ground well and boiled. To this add lemon juice from one fruit; with a pinch of powdered camphor. Apply this over the udder and teats for 3 days.

As a preventive measure, 100-200 ml of lime water are to be administrated twice a week. Limewater can be prepared by putting 2 kg of lime stones (Calcium carbonate) in 5 liters of water. The supernatant layer of water at 100 to 200 ml has to be (free from sedimentation) mixed with drinking water and fed to the animal.

7. **Infertility in Milk Animals:**
   a) Administer two succulent leaves of *Aloe vera* in empty stomach orally for the first three days. Subsequently feed with one kg of sprouted Bajra (*Pennisetum americanum*) grains, which has to continued for six days. On the seventh day the cow exhibits the symptoms of heat. Before taking the animal for natural crossing, administer 200 ml of neem oil orally.
b) The same result can be expected by feeding the animal with 5 kg of brinjal with 1 kg of curry leaves.

8. Urinary blockage
When animals suffer from kidney stones, it causes acute pain and inflammation of the urinary tract. This leads to blockage of the urinary passage. By feeding fruits of bitter apple (*Citrullus colocynthis*) along with regular feed for three days. This has to be administered twice a day (morning and evening), which clears the blockage.

9. Stomach Ache In Animals
If an animal suffers from stomach ache or gastric trouble or refuses to feed, then administer with 50 to 100 g of Asafoetida plus 250g of garlic and 100g of charcoal ground to a paste with water. This treatment relieves the animal from constipation.

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