



Management of Livestock During Rainy Season

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Article ID: 101

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Introduction

Livestock have become an important part of the agricultural sector. Many farmers in India rear Cattle, Buffalo, Goat, Sheep and Horse. It requires proper care and protection from rough or unpleasant weather like heavy rainfall, wind and hailstorm. Aberrant weather conditions like cold weather and rainy days makes animals to feel stress, which leads to affect productivity, efficiency and health of livestock therefore, protection of livestock or farm animals from inclement weather conditions is very important as it will give economic benefits to the owners through maintenance of production of farm & will lead to the comfort of the animals.

Some of important should be done for the animals during rainy season:

Leaking shed roofs:

If there is any leakage in the animal shelter then it will be affect the comfort of your animals. If shed is not clean, it will leads to increasing the ammonia level in the shed which will cause eye infection and respiratory disorders in animals. For e.g. coccidiosis can take upper hand in water logged shelter. Livestock farmer needs to keep their goats away from water to avoid hoof rotting disease. Provide proper shelter and bedding material to the animals during rainy season.

More moisture, more bacteria

The moisture present on the surface develops certain bacteria that can cause diseases. The most common of them are worms. In rainy season, farmers should stock a wide range of dewormers and it to be done before onset of rainy season and it can also be continue throughout the season. If worms are not treated timely then it will affect the animal's general performance.

Feeding

Feeding livestock during rainy season is most important Because grass grow in the rainy season have lots of water as well as fiber, while consuming water fills up the stomach and therefore, it is virtually -useless. This leads the animals to pass watery dung in the wet season. So, we have to feed the quantity of green fodder and dry fodder to animals. Feeds should content essential nutrients which helps to produce more energy to their body and helps to adjust for weather conditions and maintain a balanced energy. Increase the feed amount during this period leads to generated heat to survive in the cold weather.



Tick problem

Tick infestation spread more rapidly in the rainy season. If ticks and flies are more in the animal's shelter, leads to haemoprotozoan diseases in the animals like trypanosomosis, theileriosis, babesiosis, anaplasmosis and east coast fever. So farmer must take the animals to the nearest veterinary hospital.

Udder diseases

Unhygienic management or dirty animal shelter which is more prone to cause the mastitis in the animals. By this dirty shed fibrosis of udder will be appear and there will be flakes in the milk.

Bedding

Prepare dry bed. It is very difficult to availability of dry fodder during rainy season. You can option for dry straw or animal mattresses.

Drinking water

The rainy season doesn't imply sufficiency drinking water. Animals must be adequately provided with clean and potable water to avert a reduction in consumption of feed. However, you must ensure that water you supply is not to clod or at a freezing temperature.

Mouldy feeds

If the feeds become wet because of leakage of rain water from broken roof, then it will develop moulds. providing mouldy feed to the animals leads to cancer. In addition you need to keep a check on slippery floor & floor with pebbles as the stones get lodged between the hooves of the cattle.

Taking care of milking animals in rainy season

- After the onset of the rainy season, cattle and buffaloes should be deworm against the nematodes, trematodes and cestodes. Buffaloes should be vaccinated against hemorrhagic septicemia (HS) in rainy season. For cattle and calves vaccinate against the black quarter (BQ).
- Avoid grazing during rainy season. Degree of milk is a problem due to the high water content in the young grass.
- Provide clean water for drinking.
- Provide green fodder along with dry fodder to animals to gives high milk yield.
- Starting of rainy season farmer doesn't allow animals to drink red water which is stagnant in the field that will cause the severe cold; diarrhea, black quarter (BQ) and many other disease will spread through this water.



Rising of bullock during the rainy season

After the onset of the rainy season the bullock should be deworm with broad spectrum anti-helminthics and also the vaccinate against the black quarter disease.

- Do not allow to work in the yard when it rains and avoid grazing at the time of raining.
- There should be no more than 1 kg of chunni mix per day during sowing. Giving a strong mixture of chunni may trigger stomach issues such as bloat occurring in bullock.
- .The issue of yokes gall and limping in bullocks is more common during the rainy season. This should not be ignored by the farmer at any cost by attending the nearest veterinary hospital for better healthcare and supplying the animals with adequate rest.

Care of calves in the rainy season

The calves should not leave outside during the rainy days calves should be provide proper heat, and also feed the little bit more amount of milk to the calves to generate the heat. Above 3 months of age should be given the dewormer. The calves over six months should be vaccinated against the BQ and HS disease.

Rearing of sheep and goats in the rainy season

- After the onset of the rainy season, sheep and goats should be fed with dewormer, and after one week then vaccinated against Peste des petits Ruminants (PPR) disease. After one month we have to vaccinate against Enterotoxemia (ET) disease.
- During rainy season we should not shearing the wool of the sheep.
- Sheep and goats should not be grazed during rainy season.
- Do not graze on herbicide sprayed fields.
- During the rainy season sheep and goats are having trouble with the hoof, so it should not be carried in mud.
- Getting rid of lime twice a week in the barn can reduce the problem of hoof ulcers.
- Sheep tracks in flowing water need not be an adventure. In the case of a dense black cloud, shepherds must move with their animals to safe areas.

Preventive measures required during rainy season

- Live stocks shed should be leak- proof and clean
- Live stocks farmer must maintain the dry fodder before monsoon starts.
- Deworming must be done beginning of the rainy season because worm multiply at a greater rate during this period
- Farmer must spray ectoparasites on the body of animals.
- Farm must be disinfected using a disinfectant regularly.



- Make sure you have kept or stored the feeds in a dry place.

Black Quarter

It is an acute infectious and highly fatal, bacterial disease of cattle. Buffaloes, sheep and goats are also affected. Young cattle between 6-24 months of age, in good body condition are mostly affected. It is soil-borne infection which generally occurs during rainy season. In India, the disease is sporadic (1-2 animal) in nature.

Symptoms:

Fever (106-108°F), Loss of appetite, Depression, dullness, Suspended rumination, Rapid pulse and heart rates, Difficult breathing (dyspnoea), Lameness in affected leg, Crepitation swelling over hip, back & shoulder, Swelling is hot & painful in early stages whereas cold and painless inter, Recumbency (prostration) followed by death within 12-48 hrs.

Hemorrhagic Septicaemia:

It is an actual infectious disease of cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat. It distances transportation. In India, the disease is enzootic in nature. Etiology environmental conditions, malnutrition and long distance transportation. In India, the disease is enzootic in nature.

Symptoms:

High fever (106 - 107°F), Loss of appetite, Suspended rumination, Dullness and depression, Rapid pulse & heart rate, Profuse salivation and laceration, Profuse nasal discharge, Difficult/snoring respiration, Swelling of throat region (submandibular oedema), Death within 10-72 hours.