

Small-scale dairy farming manual

Volume 4

**Husbandry
Units 6 to 9**

**Regional Dairy Development and Training Team
for Asia and Pacific
Chiangmai, Thailand**

**Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Volume 4

Page

<u>Husbandry Unit 6.1 -</u>	<u>Artificial Insemination (A.I) In Dairy Buffalo and Cattle</u>	<u>i</u>
<u>Husbandry Unit 6.2 -</u>	<u>Breeding Calenders</u>	<u>49</u>

<u>Husbandry Unit 7.1 -</u>	<u>Physiology of Milk Production</u>	<u>87</u>
<u>Husbandry Unit 7.2 -</u>	<u>Milking and Handling of Milking Equipment</u>	<u>109</u>
<u>Husbandry Unit 7.3 -</u>	<u>Milk Recording</u>	<u>141</u>
<u>Husbandry Unit 8 -</u>	<u>Calving</u>	<u>161</u>
<u>Husbandry Unit 9 -</u>	<u>Calf Rearing</u>	<u>197</u>



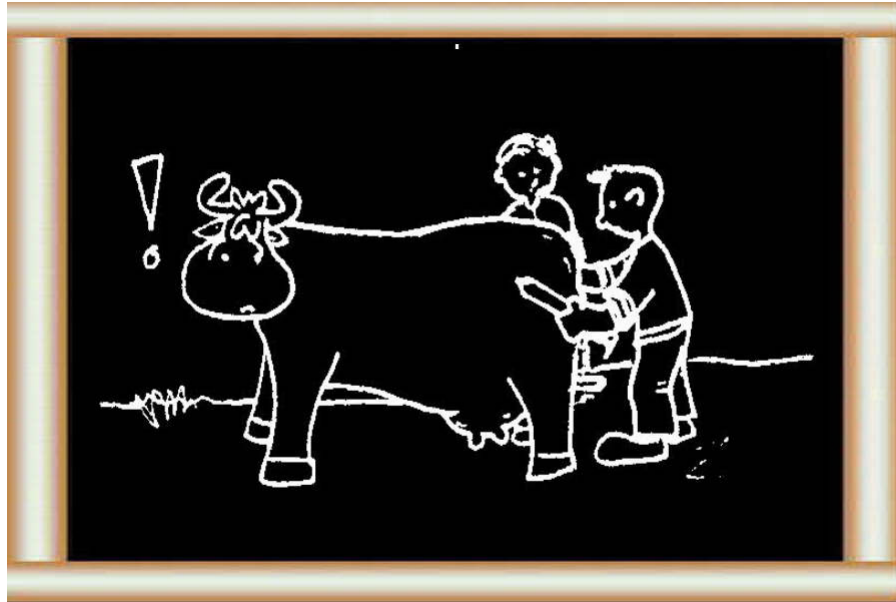
Small-Scale Dairy Farming Manual

Volume 4

Husbandry Unit 6.1

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION (A.I.) IN DAIRY BUFFALO AND CATTLE

page 1



ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION (A.I.) IN DAIRY CATTLE AND BUFFALO

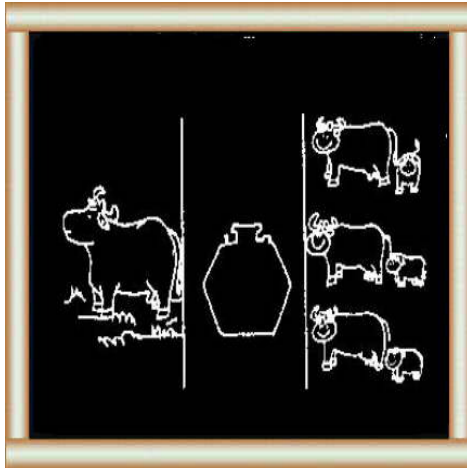
Husbandry Unit 1.1:

Technical Notes

Note: Numbers in brackets refer to illustrations in the Extension Materials.

Extension Materials

What should you know about A.I.?



What is A.I. and why use it? (5-20)

1 A.I.:

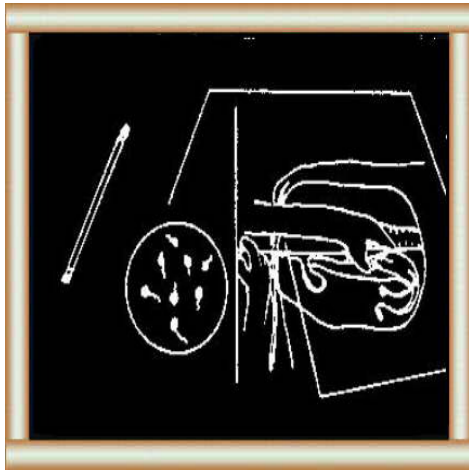
- passes semen from a bull to a cow without direct contact
- helps you get more calves from good bulls.

How does your cow show heat and how do the female reproductive organs work? (21-46)

2 You should know:

- all the heat signs**
- the names of the reproductive organs**
- what the reproductive organs do.**

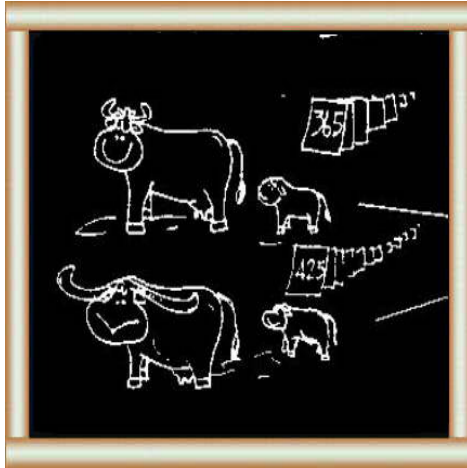




V2

How does the A.I. technician inseminate your cow? (47-56)

3 He prepares the semen and uses a breeding gun to inseminate your cow.



How often should your dairy cow calve and are there any differences for buffalo? (57-69)

4 Dairy cattle should calve every 365 days.

Buffalo should calve every 425 days.

What is A.I.? (5-8)

A.I. stands for "Artificial Insemination". A.I. is different from natural mating. In A.I. semen is collected artificially and deposited in the uterus of the cow. A.I. is widespread and used in many countries, especially for breeding dairy cattle.

page4

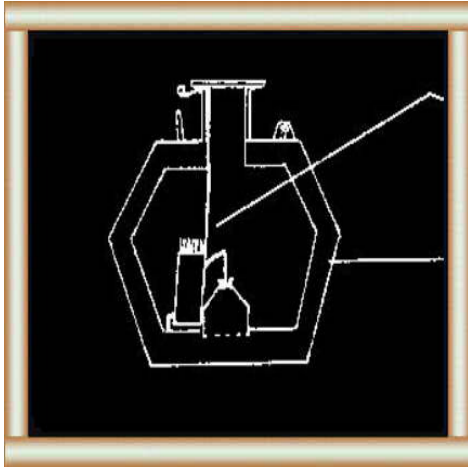
What is the difference between A.I. and natural mating?



5 In natural mating a bull mounts a cow and ejaculates his semen into her vagina.



6 In artificial insemination (A.I.) the A.I. technician collects semen from a bull in a bag called an artificial vagina.



7 He keeps the semen frozen in a special container until you need it for your cow.



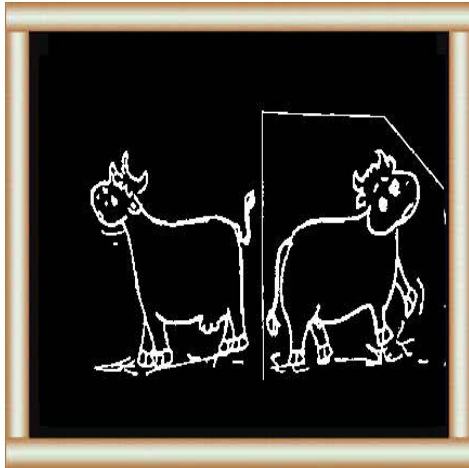
8 When the cow is in heat, the A.I. technician inseminates the cow with a breeding gun (insemination rod).

Why Use A.I.?

Important reasons for using A.I. are:

- No direct contact between bull and cow. This reduces the risk of transfer of disease and of injuries from natural mating. (9)**

- One portion of semen (ejaculate) from one bull can be divided into enough doses to inseminate 200-250 cows. In natural mating, one bull can serve only about 30 cows per year. A.I. transfers the genes from a good bull to a large number of offspring and breed improvement takes place much more quickly than in natural mating. (10-12)

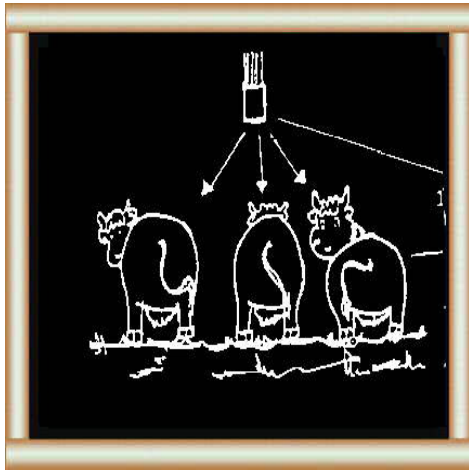


9 Artificial insemination of dairy buffalo and cattle has many advantages:

No direct contact between bull and cow.

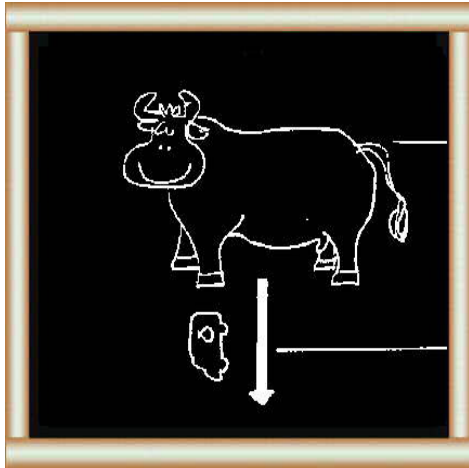
This means:

- less disease transferred**
- fewer injuries from mating.**

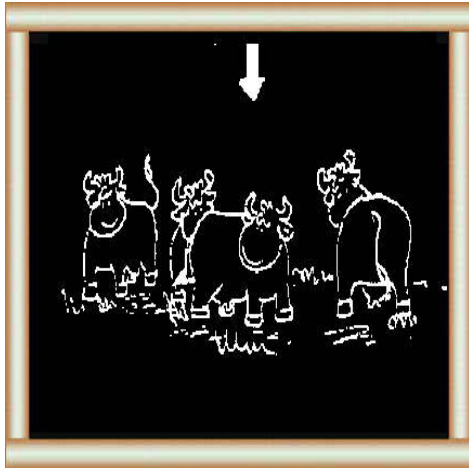


10 Semen from one bull can be used for inseminating many cows.

**This means:
- more calves from good bulls.**



11 You can take semen from a bull in one place



12 and transport it to cows in other places.

3. A.I. technicians use semen from different bulls even in small herds. This allows the farmer to choose his own breeding policy. (13)

4. Depending on local conditions, A.I. costs may be lower than the costs of keeping a herd bull. (14-15)

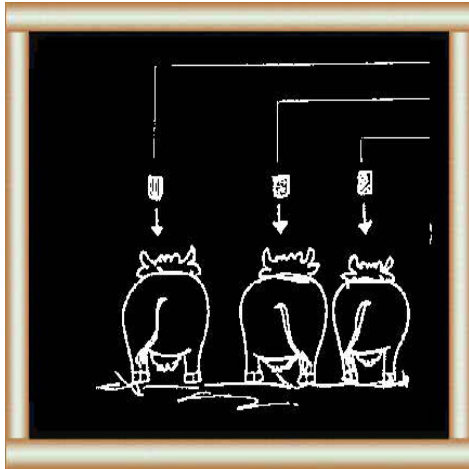
01/11/2011

V2

13 Even in small herds, you can use semen from different bulls.

This means:

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- you can produce the crossbreeds you want.



Remember:

Natural breeding

14 It is expensive to keep a herd bull.



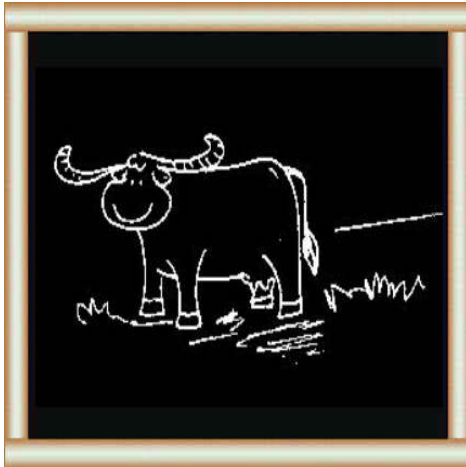
Artificial insemination
15 A.I. may be cheaper than keeping a herd bull.

page9

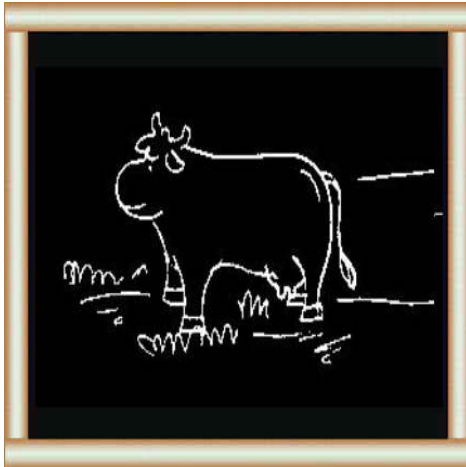
The use of A.I. for riverine (e.g. Nili-Ravi) and swamp buffalo is limited for two main reasons:

- 1. A.I. is not available.**
- 2. Faulty techniques for A.I.**

page10



16 As well as dairy cattle, A.I. is suitable for both Swamp buffalo



17 and River buffalo.

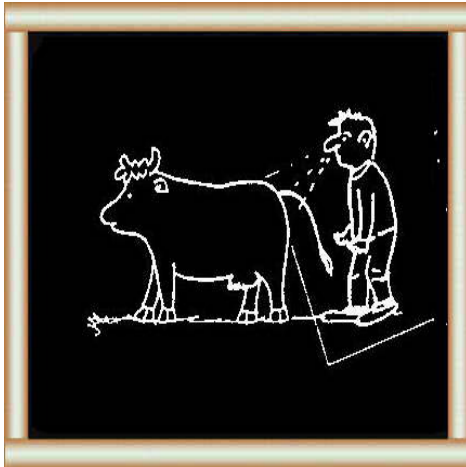
If you have difficulty:
- consult your A.I. worker
- make sure he is qualified.

Disadvantages of A.I.

- **The A.I. system will only work well if the management of the farms is efficient, in particular the farmers' ability to perform heat observation. (18)**
- **The regular use of A.I. in a certain area requires a well organized A.I. system with continuous recording and monitoring and well trained A.I. personnel (inseminators).**
- **Semen may transfer undesired heritable traits and infectious diseases. The A.I. technician must use only checked semen taken from a bull which has been tested not to transfer undesired traits and not to carry and diseases transferable by semen. (20)**

page12

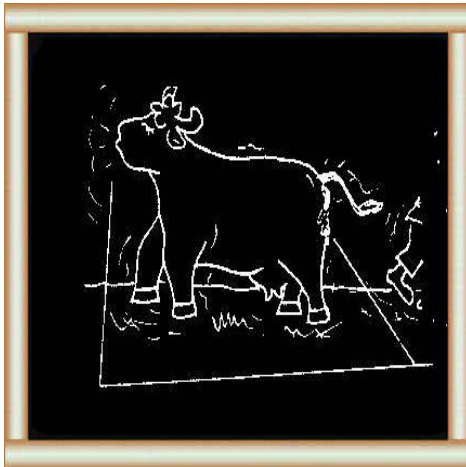
Things to remember in A.I.



Make sure:

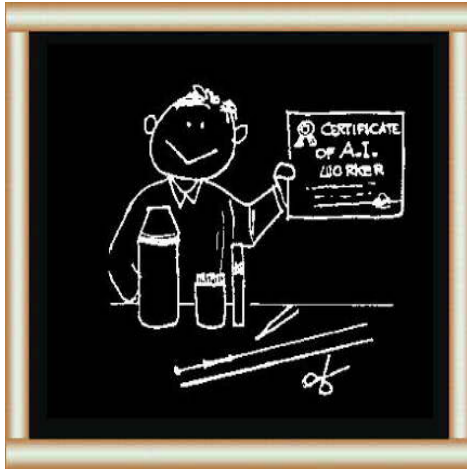
18

- you are able and ready to observe signs of heat in your cow



19

- you can call the A.I. technician quickly when your cow shows signs of heat



20

- you use an A.I. technician who is well trained.

page13

Heat observation

A non-pregnant cow with a normal oestrus cycle will release an egg and show heat about every 21 days (variation: 18-24 days).

The typical signs of heat are:

1. Restlessness, the cow separates from other cows when it is walking in the field. (21)

2. Some breeds bellow to attract the bull. Zebu (=native) cattle, however, normally do not bellow. (22-23)

3. Milk production and food intake may decrease. (24)

page14

How does your cow show heat?



21 About every 21 days non-pregnant cows are ready for breeding.

They show signs of heat.

The heat period lasts about 18-20 hours.

Signs of heat include restlessness and separation from other grazing cows.

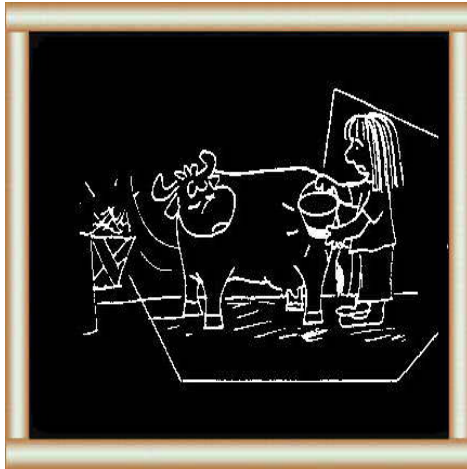


22 The cows of some breeds of dairy buffalo and cattle bellow to attract the bull.



23 Some cows of certain breeds of dairy cattle (e.g. Zebu) and dairy buffalo (e.g. Nili-Ravi) do not bellow.

They have silent heat.



24 Food intake and milk production may decrease.

page 15

4. The cow tries to mount other animals, sniffs at others, and other cows sniff at the cow in heat. (25-26)

5. Other cows try to mount the animal in heat and she stands and allows them to do so: standing heat. (25-26)

6. The lips of the vulva become red and swollen. (27)

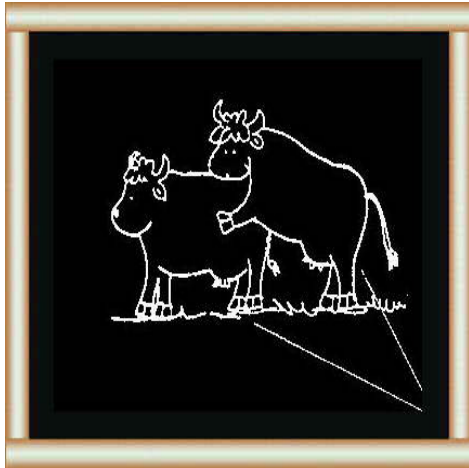
7. A thin, clear discharge from the vulva opening can be seen, sometimes sticking to the tail and skin surroundings. (27)

8. By rectal palpation increased uterus tonus can be felt.

**Extra care in heat observation needs to be taken with buffalo cows.
Many of them: (28-9)**

- **Show very poor signs of heat and may have silent heat.**
- **Come on heat late at night when the signs are more difficult to detect.**

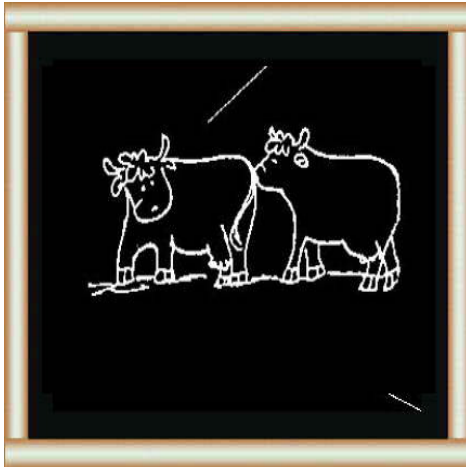
page16



25 The cow in heat tries to mount other cows.

The cow in heat allows other cows to mount her.

This is called standing heat and is important to notice.



26 Other cows sniff the cow in heat.



27 The lips of the vulva become red and swollen.

You may see a thin sticky clear discharge like egg white.

This runs from the vulva and may stick to the tail and skin.



28 Buffalo cows often show poor signs of heat and have silent heat.

You must observe carefully.



V2

29 Buffalo often show signs of heat late at night.

You should check them at this time.

page18

Normally, the farmer will not see all signs of heat at the same time. Some signs of heat may be absent or too weak to be observed. (31)

The standing heat period normally lasts 18-20 hours, but may be several hours shorter or longer. (33)

For the inseminator it is important not only to question the farmer about previous inseminations, treatments and proper heat signs but also to check by himself that the cow to be inseminated:

- 1. Really is in heat: insemination of cows not in heat easily causes infection of the uterus (metritis, pyometra).**
- 2. Has no reproductive disease (especially uterus infection), in which case insemination is not likely to succeed.**
- 3. Is not pregnant already: insemination of pregnant cows results in abortion.**

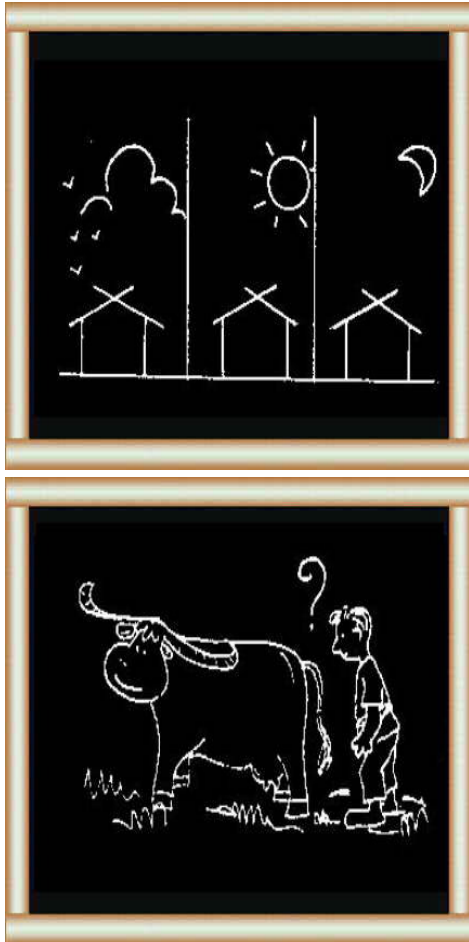
Timing of insemination

The best possibility for getting a cow pregnant is when insemination is done in the last half of the standing heat period or within 6-8 hours after the end of the standing heat period. (33-38)

page19

Important

30 The heat period is short.



Be ready to observe:

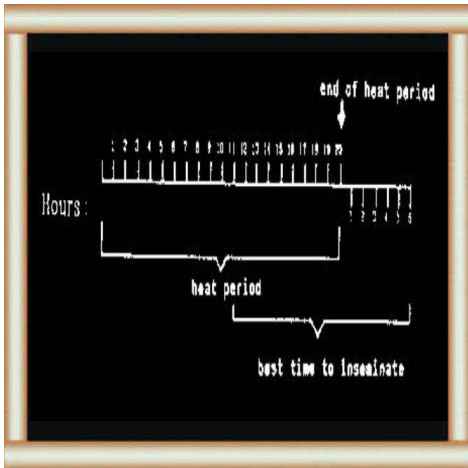
- early morning before milking
- afternoon before milking
- before going to bed.

31 You may not see some heat signs at all.



32 Look out for the typical discharge and for standing heat.

Your cow is in heat. When do you inseminate?



33 Inseminate the cow towards the end of the heat period or at latest within 6 hours of the end of the heat period.

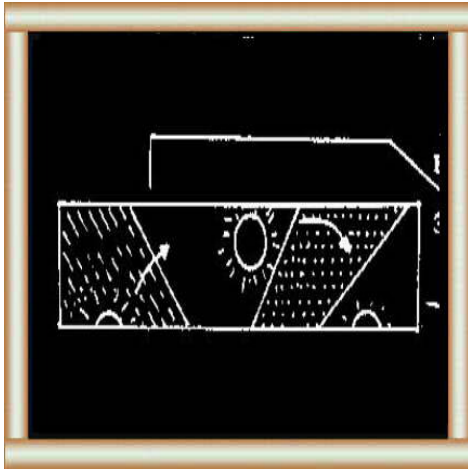
The normal working routine to follow is:

- 1. If the farmer observes heat early in the morning, inseminate in the afternoon of the same day. (34)**
- 2. If the farmer observes heat in the afternoon, inseminate early next morning. (35)**

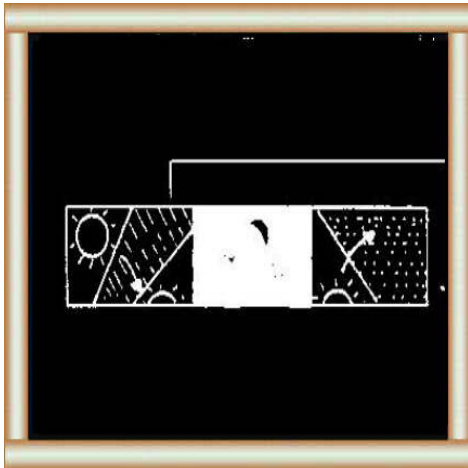
page21

Easy rule:

34 Heat signs early in the morning.



Inseminate in the afternoon - same day.



35 Heat signs in the afternoon.

Inseminate in the morning - next day.



Remember:
36 Look carefully for signs of heat.

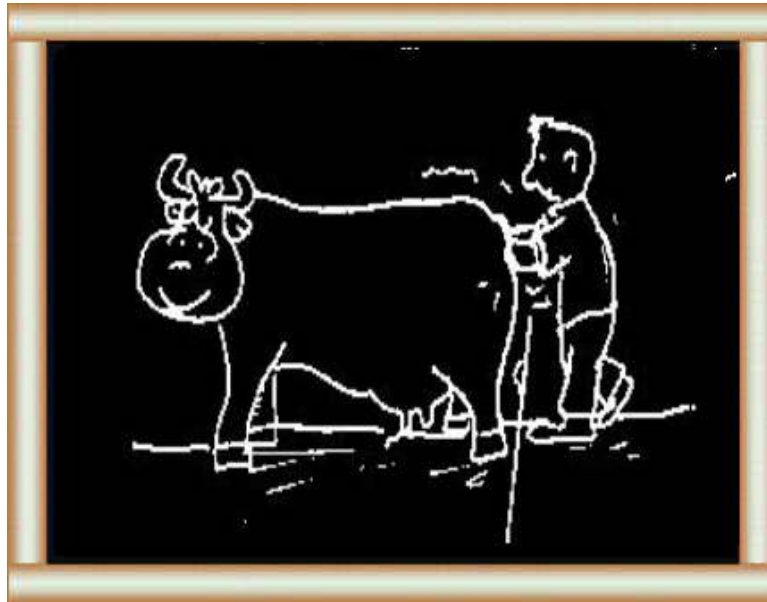


37 Inform the A.I. technician quickly, within 3-5 hours of observing heat.

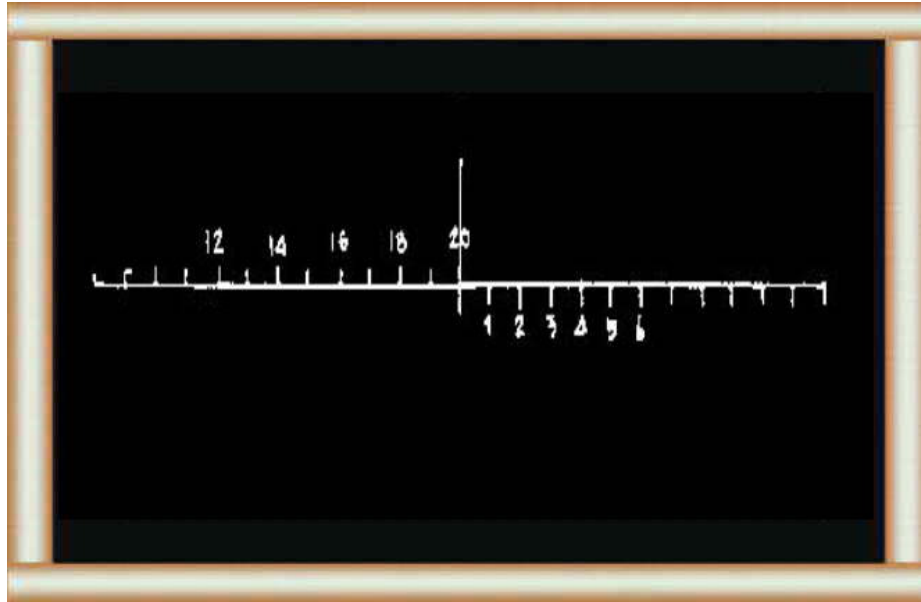
Fertilization, that is the combining of egg and sperm, takes place when the egg reaches the egg duct. If the A.I. technician performs the insemination too early, the sperm deposited in the cow dies before the egg reaches the egg duct. If he performs the insemination too late, the egg dies before the sperm is deposited. Therefore, neither too early and too late inseminations will result in pregnancy. (38)

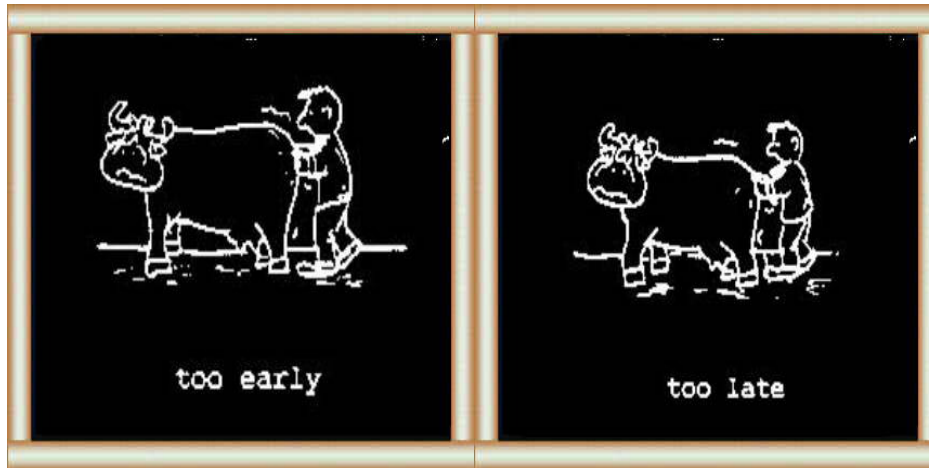
page23

38



**Inseminate at the right time:
at end of the heat period:
- your cow should get pregnant.**



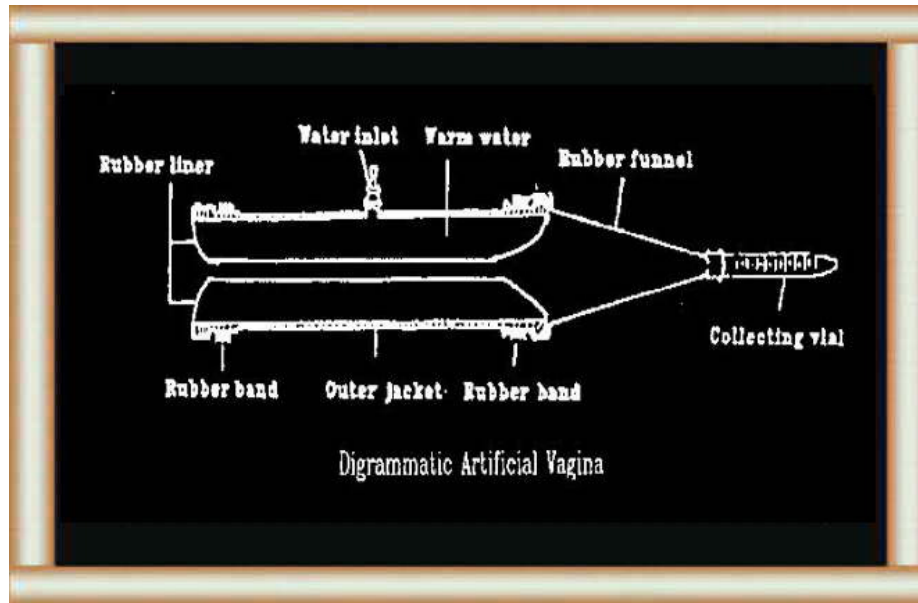


**Too early or too late:
- your cow will not get pregnant.**

page24

How do A.I. Technicians collect, process and handle semen?

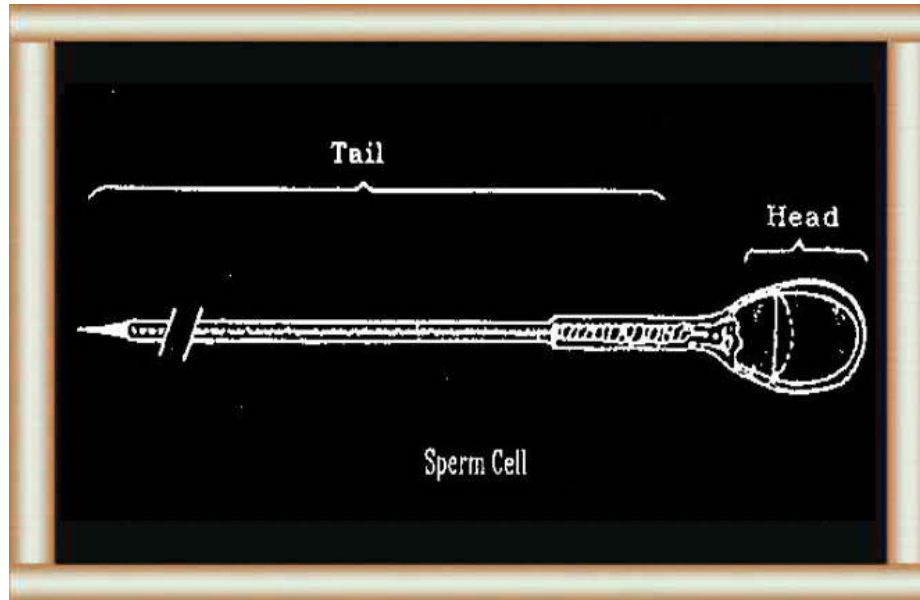
A.I. technicians collect semen only from tested sires, normally by using an artificial vagina. (39-42)



They clean and sterilize the artificial vagina every time it is used and store it in a clean and dustfree place. When in use, A.I. technicians keep the inner wall of the artificial vagina at 40-45 C.

The bull mounts a "teaser" animal or a "dummy", and ejaculates into the artificial vagina held by the A.I. technician who collects the semen in a vial. After collection, he judges the quality of the semen by looking at semen volume, colour, consistency, mass motility (that is: overall movement observed in the microscopy, "waves"), individual motility of sperm cells and semen morphology (that is:

normal/abnormal looking cells). (41)



A.I. technicians use only semen of good quality for further processing. This includes freezing in liquid nitrogen at -196 C in straws, marked for identification. They check the semen for quality again before distributing to the field.

How good is semen in A.I.?

39

Is the semen clean?

Yes, the semen is collected in an artificial vagina which is clean and free from germs.

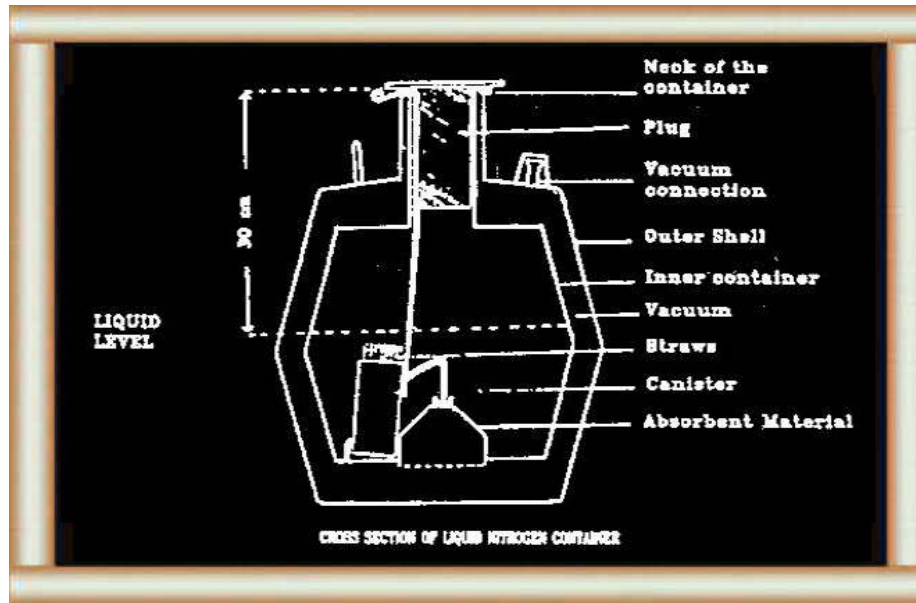
Is the semen free of disease and of good quality?

Yes, it is carefully tested for quality and taken only from healthy animals.

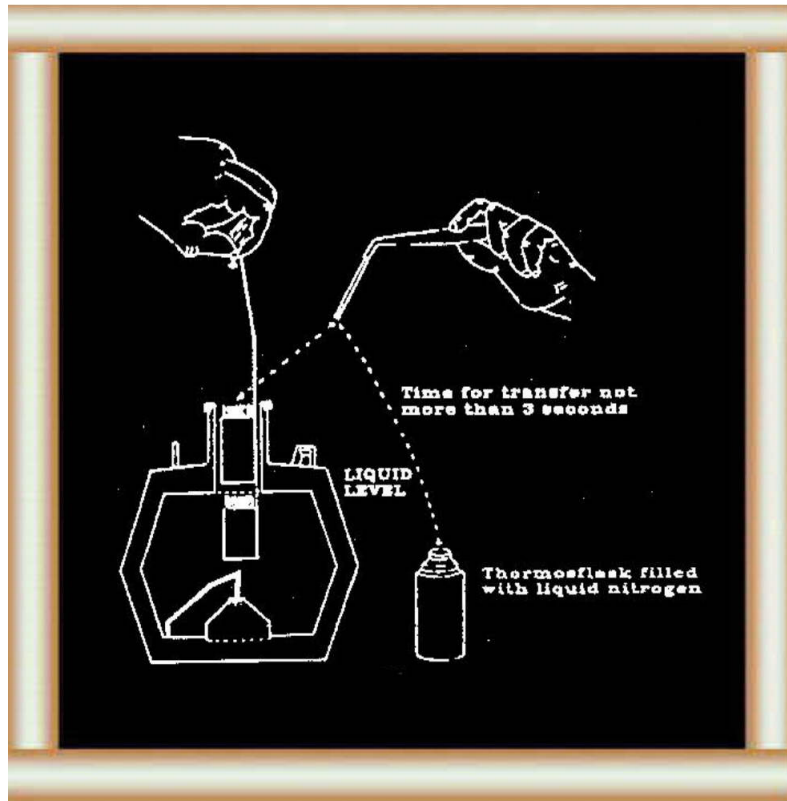
Is the semen still good after storage and transportation?

Yes, it is frozen and stored at - 196 C and kept in special containers.

In the A.I. centres, they keep the semen frozen in liquid nitrogen containers at -196 C.



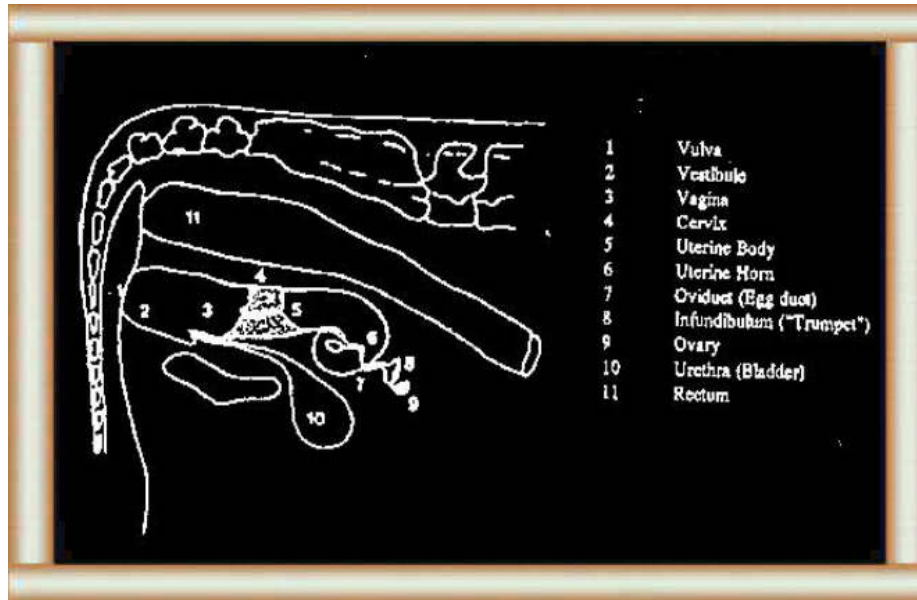
The A.I. technicians must keep the straws under the liquid level and must not lift them up into open air for checking number and colour, the temperature change will immediately destroy the semen cells.

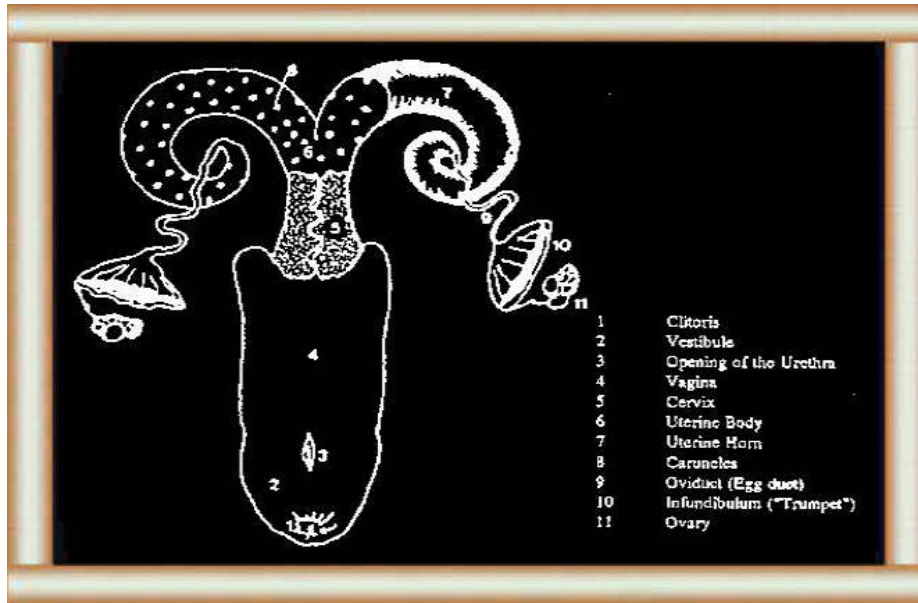


The inseminator transfers the straws as quickly as possible to a small liquid nitrogen container which he takes to the field. He uses long tweezers to reduce the time of transfer outside the nitrogen tank further.

The female reproductive organs of dairy buffalo and cattle

The illustrations below show the anatomy of the female reproductive organs of dairy buffalo and cattle.





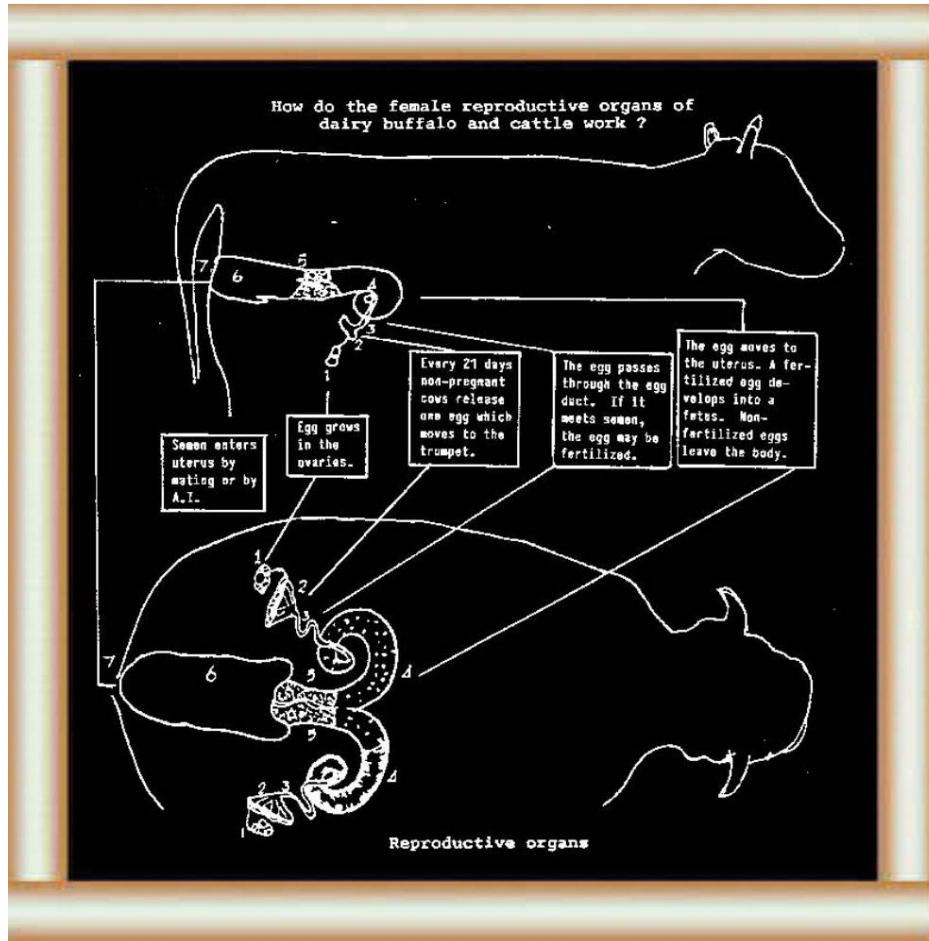
Hormones from the brain, the ovaries and uterus control the growth and release of eggs from the ovaries.

After release, the infundibulum or "trumpet" catches the egg and then it reaches the egg duct (oviduct). In mating or A.I., fertilization with a sperm cell takes place here. The fertilized egg moves to the uterus horn where it attaches to the wall and develops into a fetus.

Correct A.I. technique deposits the semen in the uterine body, not in one of the horns.

43

How do the female reproductive organs of dairy buffalo and cattle work?



Reproductive organs:

- 1. Ovary produces eggs**
- 2. Trumpet of egg duct catches the egg from the ovary**
- 3. Egg duct between trumpet and uterus, transports the egg**
- 4. Uterus hollow organ with horns, carries fetus in pregnancy**
- 5. Neck of uterus connects with vagina**
- 6. Vagina passage for semen, urine and birth**
- 7. Vulva outer opening of reproductive system.**

page28

The insemination procedure

Introduce the breeding gun (insemination rod) into the vagina. The plastic sheet over the breeding gun is sterile. Keep it as clean as possible during the insemination procedure.

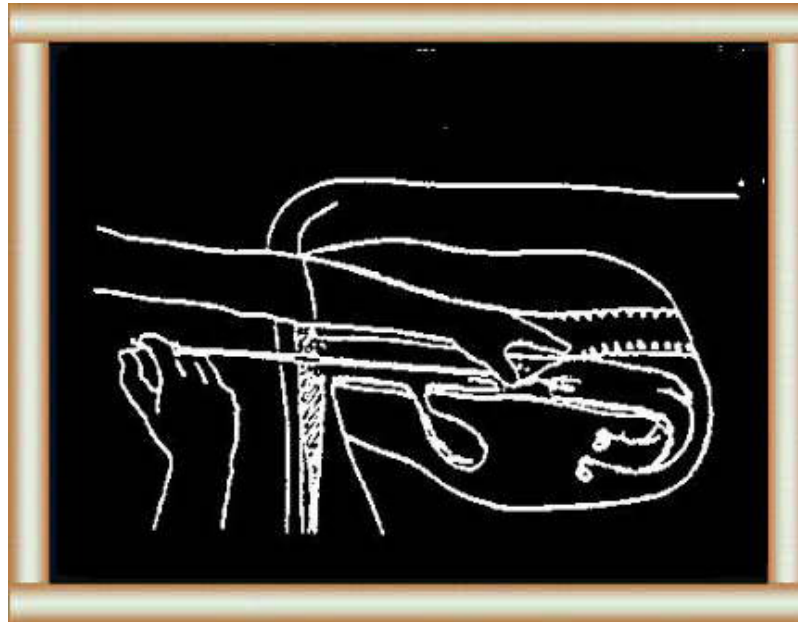
One way to do this is as follows: introduce the left arm into the rectum and exert a moderate pressure downwards to open the vulva. When the mucosa becomes visible, introduce the breeding gun without touching the skin. (52-53)

Introduce the breeding gun further along the upper wall of the vagina to avoid introduction into the blind saccule in front of the urethra or into the urinary bladder.

At this stage, check for possible non-heat, abnormal conditions or

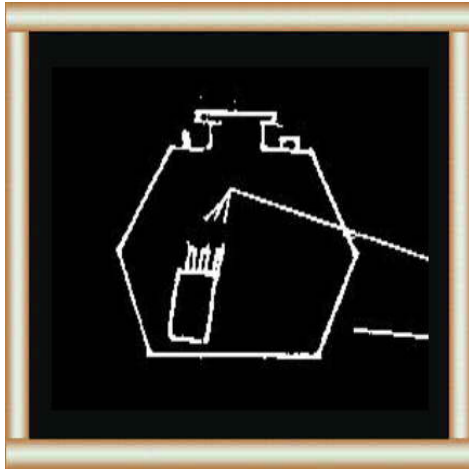
pregnancy by rectal palpation with the left hand.

If insemination is continued, press the vaginal part of the cervix forwards with forefinger, thumb and middle finger. Introduce the breeding gun to contact the fingers at the same time.



Breeding gun in position in front of the cervix

How does the A.I. technician inseminate your cow?



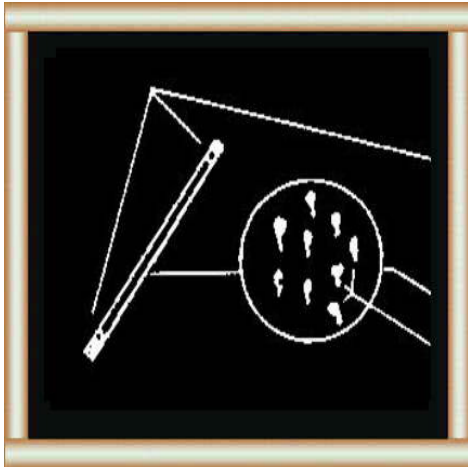
Preparing the semen

44 The A.I. technician freezes the semen and keeps it in straws in the special container.



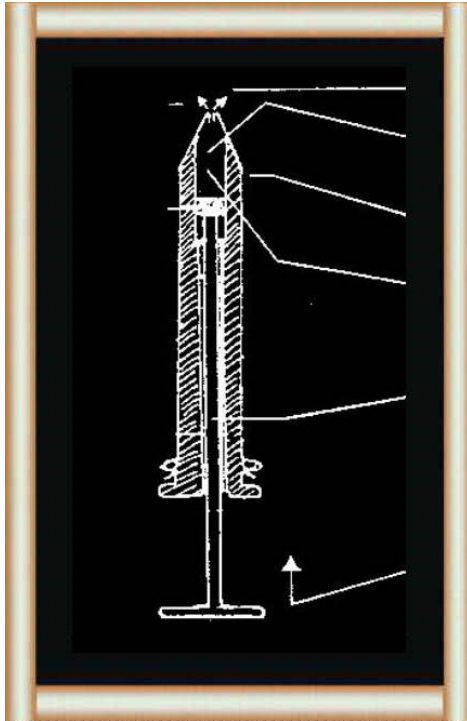
V2

45 He removes a straw and thaws it in water immediately before use.



46 The straw is sealed at both ends.

One straw contains 20 - 30 million sperms.



47 He places the

straw inside the breeding gun.

semen inside the straw

piston

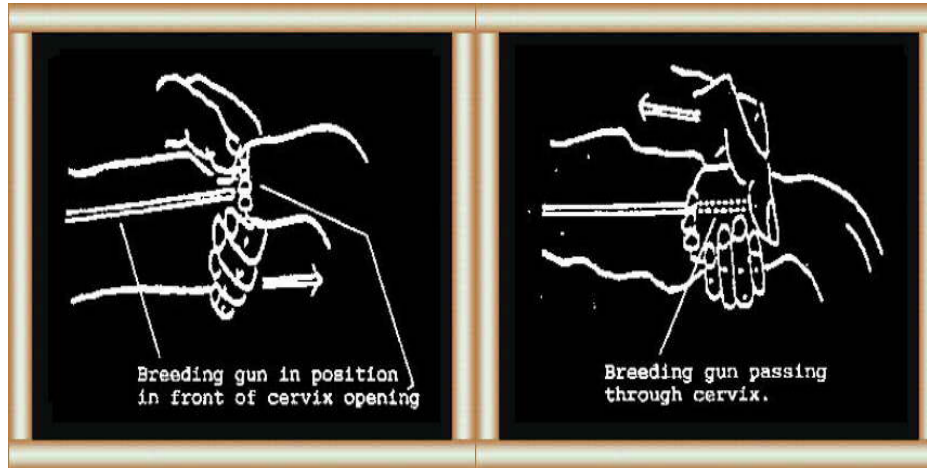
The semen comes out

when he pushes the piston.

page30

Breeding gun in position in front of cervix

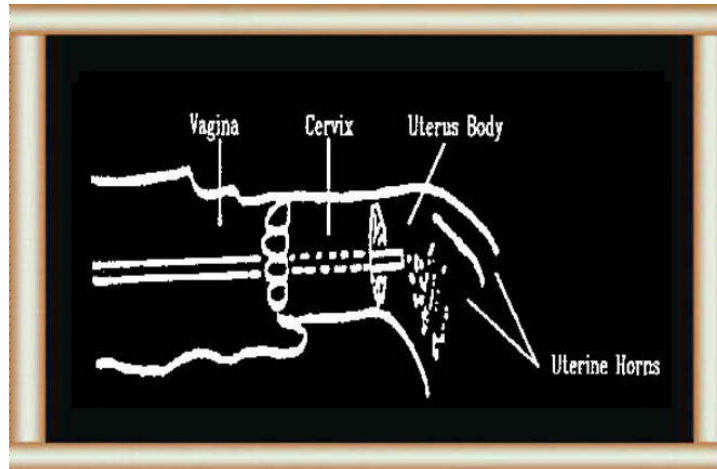
5. When the tip of the breeding gun is in position outside the cervix opening, gently try to push the breeding gun through the cervix, without using force.



**Breeding gun in position
in front of cervix opening**

**Breeding gun passing
through cervix**

6. With the tip of the forefinger you can feel when the tip of the breeding gun passes through the cervix into the uterus body. This is the correct place of deposit.



Correct deposit of semen before the breeding gun reaches one of the horns

Important things to remember:

- 1. Always work as cleanly as possible. If you introduce any dirt into the uterus, it may cause infection, especially if the cow is not in heat.**
- 2. Always check the cow for abnormal conditions such as abnormal discharge, different size of the two uterine horns, possible pregnancy or missing heat. If in doubt about insemination, wait and check later or ask a veterinarian to check.**
- 3. Follow a sensible routine when you inseminate. This makes the**

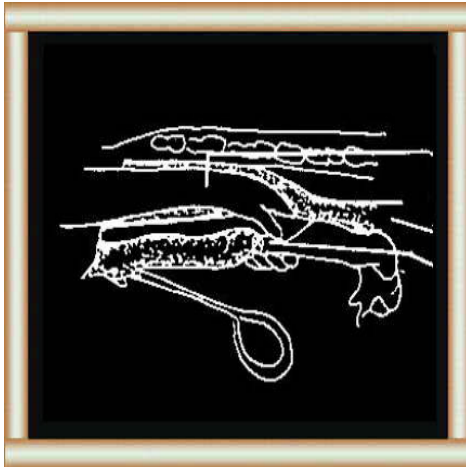
work quicker and ensures that you always use a hygienic procedure.

page 31

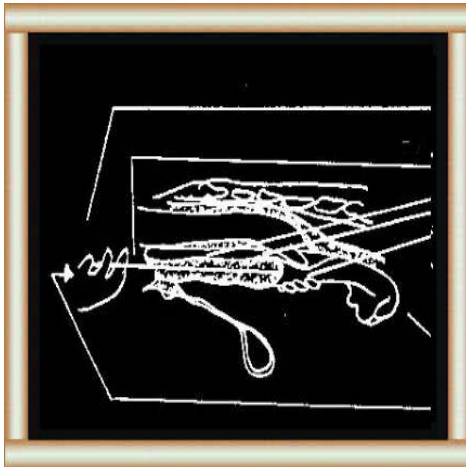
Inseminating your cow



**48 The farmer should stand beside the cow.
This keeps the cow calm.
The A.I. technician stands behind.**



49 The A.I. technician puts one arm into the gut (rectum) of the cow.
He fixes the neck of the uterus through the wall of the gut.



50 The other arm introduces the breeding gun through the vulva, vagina and the neck of the uterus.

When the breeding gun is in the right place, the A.I. technician pushes the piston and the semen enters the uterus.

page32

Pregnancy diagnosis

Sometimes the farmer does not know that his cow is pregnant and asks for insemination of a pregnant animal. Some cows may also show signs of heat even though they are pregnant already.

At the examination before A.I., it is possible for the inseminator to diagnose a possible pregnancy from day 60 after conception. A number of conditions indicate pregnancy, the most significant are as follows:

- Different size of the uterine horns. This may be due to pregnancy,

but may also come from inflammation or previous calving.

- Fluid content in one or both horns (may also be due to inflammation).

- Slip of fetal membranes when the inseminator lifts up the uterus wall.

- Palpation of placentomes, the size is about 1-2 cm diameter at 3 months pregnancy up to about 8 cm at 8 months pregnancy.

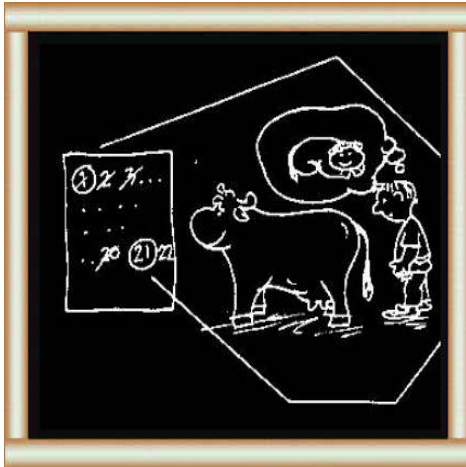
- From about 70 days after conception the inseminator can feel (part of) the fetus. Beware that the fetus may be out of reach at about 5-6 months pregnancy where it "drops" down on the abdominal wall.

- From about 90 days after conception, the inseminator can feel the increased size and pulsation of the middle uterine artery at the pelvic wall. The size of the artery is about 4-5 mm diameter in early pregnancy, becoming increasingly larger later in pregnancy.

If there is any doubt that the cow is pregnant, do not inseminate but wait and examine at a later stage.

page33

[Did your cow become pregnant after A.I.?](#)



51 After A.I. observe carefully for signs of heat.
No signs of heat 21 days after A.I. means that
your cow may be pregnant.



52 60 days after A.I., if there are no signs of
heat, call the A.I. technician or veterinarian to
check for pregnancy.

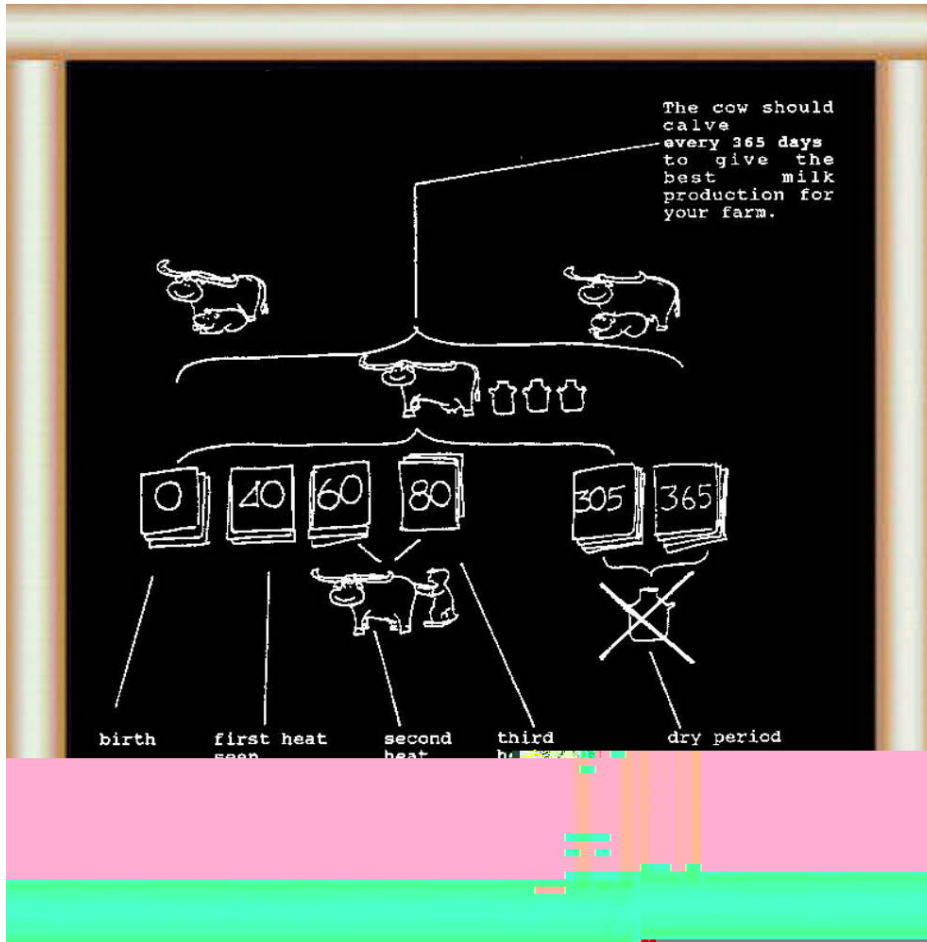


53 If there are signs of heat and the cow is not pregnant, repeat A.I.

page34

How often should your cow calve? (Dairy cattle)

54 Your cow should calve every 365 days to give the best milk production for your farm.



Birth **First heat seen** **Second heat** **Third heat**
Dry period

If your cow does not calve every 365 days:

- you will have fewer calves
- you will have fewer dairy cows
- you will have less milk.

page35

What to do about reproductive disorders

Repeat breeding

Some cows fail to come on heat, show signs of heat irregularly or do not become pregnant after insemination (repeat breeders). The reasons for this may be many and can depend on the cow (abnormal body function) as well as the management (for instance: wrong feeding, failure of the farmer to observe heat). After 3 inseminations not resulting in pregnancy, ask the veterinarian to investigate causes of infertility.

Infectious diseases

Abnormal vulva discharge, repeat breeding, abortion, retained placenta, dystocia and still born or abnormal calves may all be signs of infectious disease. Other animals can get these diseases. If any

of the above signs are present, isolate the sick cow from the rest of the herd and call the veterinarian at once. Man can catch some reproductive diseases (for instance: Brucellosis) and become seriously ill.

Metritis

Metritis is infection of the uterus and not uncommon after calving, especially with dystocia or retained placenta. Metritis may also be present after A.I. or mating. There is sometimes, but not always vaginal discharge. Other signs include reduced food intake, fever, general bad condition. The veterinarian can treat metritis and early treatment helps full recovery.

page36

[Why doesn't your cow calve every year?](#)

[58 You may be doing something wrong.](#)



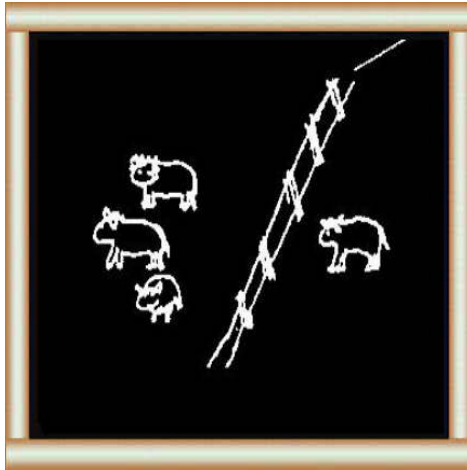
V2

Check:

- reproductive disorders
- feeding and management
- heat observation.

59 There may be something wrong with your animal.

Inform the veterinarian if your cow is not pregnant after 3 inseminations.



60 Separate your animal from the others and inform the veterinarian immediately if your cow shows signs of disease:

- abnormal vulva or nasal discharge
- abortion
- retained placenta
- still born calves
- fever
- blood in urine
- ropy milk
- poor appetite.

page37

Heat signs in buffalo (61)

In India, it has been observed that the manifestation of heat in buffaloes is weak and the heat is of shorter duration during summer. This necessitates close observation for different signs of heat at shorter intervals. It has further been observed that teaser bulls had poor libido during summer. For efficient heat detection, therefore, protection against climatic stress should be provided.

It has been observed that few buffaloes exhibit signs of oestrus

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Most activity occurs near sun rise and sun set. Hence the breeding time is either missed during the night or breeding services at that hour are not available.

Late sexual maturity (62-63)

Puberty refers to the state of the animal when she is physically fit for reproduction as indicated by regular exhibition of the oestrus cycle.

Sexual maturity has immense economic importance for successful buffalo dairy farming. Economically, early first calving will ensure smaller investment and quicker return of the capital. Genetically, it reduces the generation interval, resulting in larger annual genetic gain from selection.

The skeletal parts grow more rapidly after birth than other tissues. This rapid rate of skeletal growth decreases by about six months. Maximum muscular development occurs thereafter. The maximum growth rate is between 3 and 6 months and falls steeply after one year of age.

The young females when one year old are generally kept together with elder heifers and as such fail to get their share of nutrients. The problem appears to be one of management. On average, the age at first heat has been reported to be 30 months (range 26-62 months).

It has been indicated that the occurrence of first heat is more a function of weight than age. Most buffaloes generally start

exhibiting heat symptoms on attaining about 340 kg body weight. Hence breeding, feeding and management practices should be directed towards attaining this weight as early as possible.

Buffaloes heifers fed normal rations but under intensive management alone could calve at 36 months of age.

page38

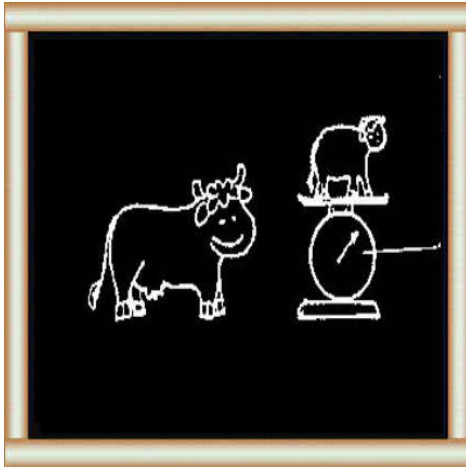
What are the main differences between dairy cattle and buffalo?



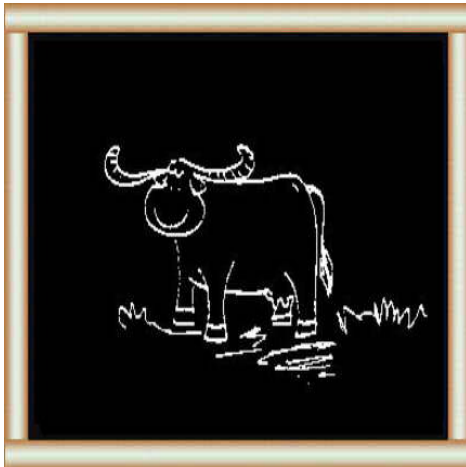
58 In buffalo, signs of heat:

- are often weak
- are often short, especially during summer
- often occur at night.

You must observe carefully.



59 The first heat in buffalo depends more on weight than on age and usually occurs about 340 kg body weight.



60 You should breed, feed and manage your buffaloes so they get to this weight as soon as possible.

What are the main differences between dairy buffalo and cattle?

Breeding behaviour (64-66)

Dairy farmers suffer economic losses due to low reproductive efficiency in seasons of high environmental temperature. Seasonality of calving in buffaloes has been much debated in the past. However, it is now quite well known that buffaloes breed and calve throughout the year but certain months and seasons are more favourable for breeding than others. Data regarding frequency distribution of oestruses and calving in Pakistan buffalo show that about 63 percent of the buffaloes came in oestrus during autumn (September to November) and winter (November to February). The distribution of calvings indicate that although the buffaloes calved throughout the year, the maximum calvings (39%) occurred during the humid - hot (July to September) season followed by 26% calvings during autumn (September to November). Spring calvers are very infrequent.

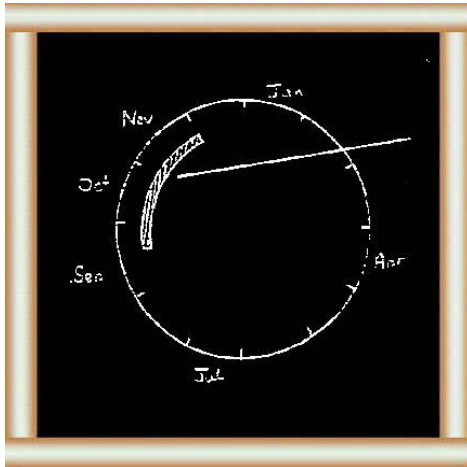
From the analysis of data on Nili-Ravi buffaloes in Pakistan under farming conditions, it was revealed that when teaser bulls were allowed access to buffaloes throughout the year, the frequency of calvings improved. The sexual activity of the males, during May and

June was minimum, the temperature was highest and buffalo often failed to come on heat. The animals started coming on heat from July to September (humid - hot season) and reached a peak during autumn when the day length was decreasing.

In another study it was observed that of all calvings, 60 percent occurred from July to October. It was concluded that calvings in this period were followed by 40 days earlier return to oestrus, 48 fewer days open (service period) and 47 days shorter calving interval than for calvings in other months.

page41

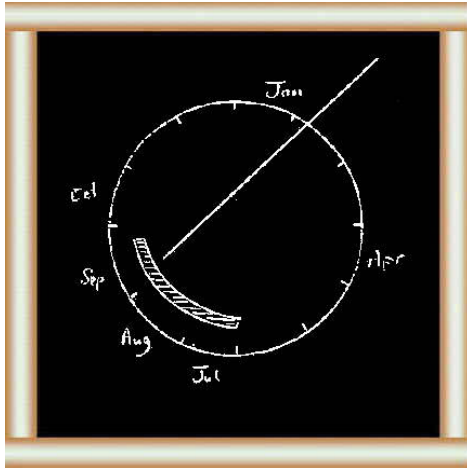
Breeding behaviour



61 Buffaloes are very seasonal animals.

Mid September to end November is the active breeding period.

This is the best time for breeding.



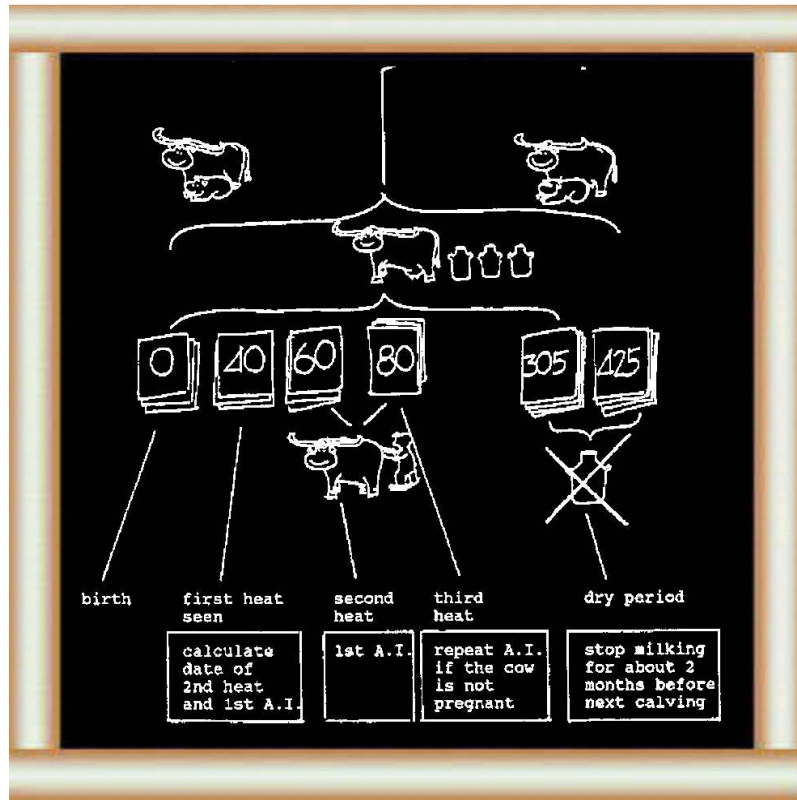
62 This shows the active calving period.

The highest number of calvings is the period from July to September.

page42

How often should your cow calve? (Dairy buffalo)

63 Your cow should calve every 425 days to give the best milk production for your farm.



Birth First heat seen Second heat Third heat Dry
period

If your cow does not calve every 425 days:

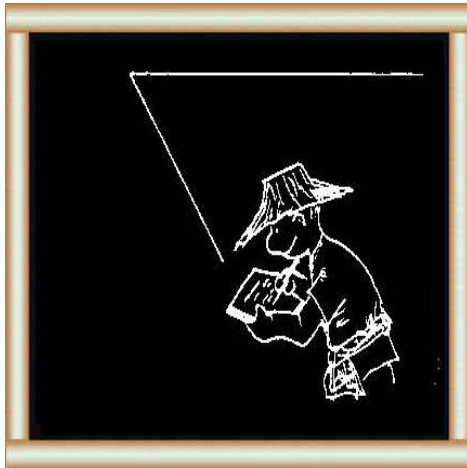
You should begin breeding at 45-60 days after calving to make the calving interval as short as possible.

page43

Why keep records?



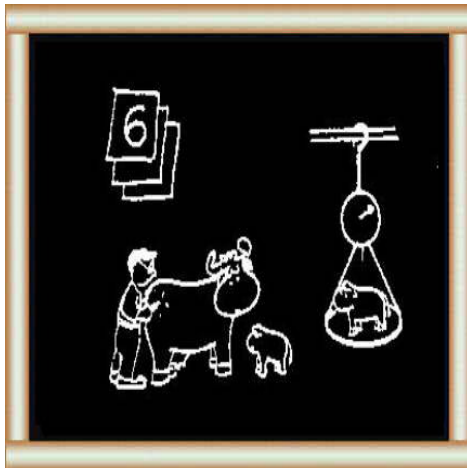
65 To keep your cow healthy and calving every year you need to record information to answer the questions of the A.I. technician and veterinarian.



V2

66 Keep records on a special card for each cow.

Write down important things about your cow.
Then it is easy to remember.



67 Keep records about:

- dates
- what happened: calving, vaccination, A.I., health etc
- the exact figures
- anything special.

Discuss the cow card with your A.I. technician or veterinarian.

68

**COW CARD:
BREEDING AND CALVING**

ANIMAL: Ear tag no: _____ Breed: _____ Birth date: _____
OWNER: Farm no: _____ Name: _____ Address: _____

INSEMINATIONS (A.I.) / NATURAL BREEDING

Year 1st Insemination (A.I.) Heat A.I. No Bull Date Date	Year 2nd Insemination (A.I.) Heat A.I. No Bull Date Date	Year 3rd Insemination (A.I.) Heat A.I. No Bull Date Date	Pregnancy Diagnosis Date	Remarks

--	--	--	--	--

CALVINGS

Year	Calving No	Calving Date	Sex	Calf Father	Birth Weight	Aid required at calving	Retained placenta Yes/no	Abnormal vaginal discharge	Remarks

TO BE KEPT IN THE BARN

What do you know about A.I.?

A.I. and reasons for using it

- 1 Differences between A.I. and natural mating** (5-8)
- 2 Reasons for using A.I.**
 - no direct contact between bull and cow (9)
 - can use semen from good bulls in other places (10-13)
 - A.I. may be cheaper than a herd bull (14-15)
 - A.I. suitable for dairy cattle, swamp and river buffalo (16-17)

Things to remember in A.I.

- 1 Be ready to observe heat signs, day or night** (18)
- 2 Call A.I. technician when heat signs observed** (19)
- 3 Use only well-trained A.I. technician** (20)

Heat signs

- 1 Restlessness and separation** (21)
- 2 Bellowing** (22-23)
- 3 Lower food intake and milk production** (24)
- 4 Sniffing and mounting other cows and being mounted** (25-26)
- 5 Discharge from vulva** (27)
- 6 Heat signs in buffalo** (28-29)

7 Important points in observing heat	(30-33)
When to inseminate	
Within 6 hours of the end of the heat period	(34-38)
Quality of semen	
1 Semen is carefully selected to be:	(39-41)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- clean- free of germs- free of disease	
2 Semen kept in good condition by freezing at -196^oC	(42)
The function of the reproductive organs	
Names of 7 major reproductive organs and their functions	(43)
Insemination	
1 Preparing semen:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- collecting- testing- freezing and storage- thawing- placing in breeding gun	(39) (41) (42,44) (45-46) (47)
2 Inseminating the cow:	

- position and keeping cow calm (48)
- introducing breeding gun (49)
- depositing semen (50)
- 3 Checking pregnancy after insemination:**
- no heat signs 21 days after A.I.
- pregnancy possible (51)
- no heat signs 60 days after A.I.
- call vet. to check (52)
- heat signs and cow not pregnant:
- repeat A.I. (53)
- Frequency of calving for dairy cattle (54)**
- Reasons for cows not calving every year**
- 1 Poor management or heat observation (58)**
- 2 Problem with cow**
- Isolate if signs of disease and inform vet**
- Main differences between dairy cattle and buffalo**
- 1 Weak heat signs in buffalo (58)**
- 2 Importance of weight in buffalo (59-60)**
- 3 Breeding behaviour (61-62)**
- Frequency of calving for dairy buffalo (63)**

Record keeping

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1 Reasons for record keeping | (65) |
| 2 What to keep records about | (66) |
| 3 Cow card for breeding and calving | (67) |

page46&47

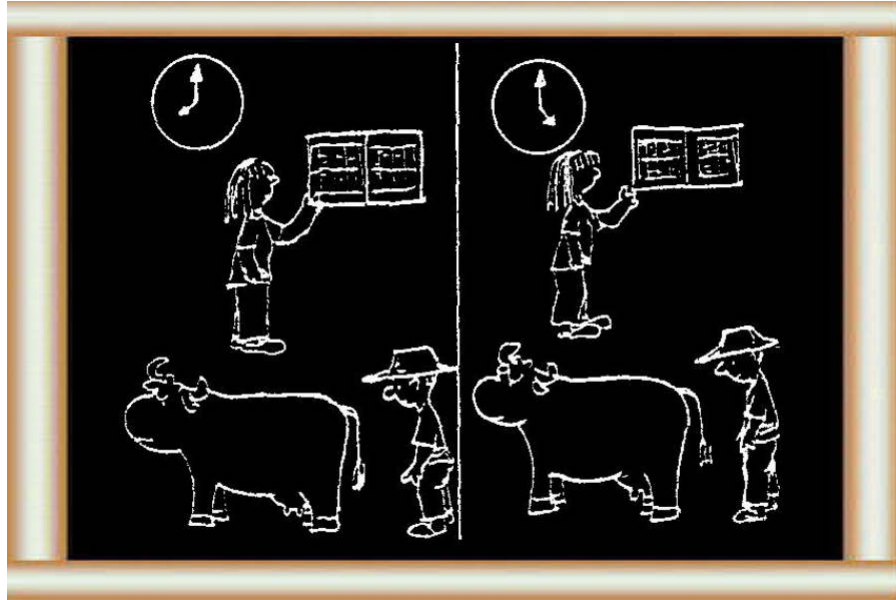


Small-Scale Dairy Farming Manual

Volume 4

Husbandry Unit 6.2

BREEDING CALENDARS



Extension Materials

What should you know about breeding calendars?



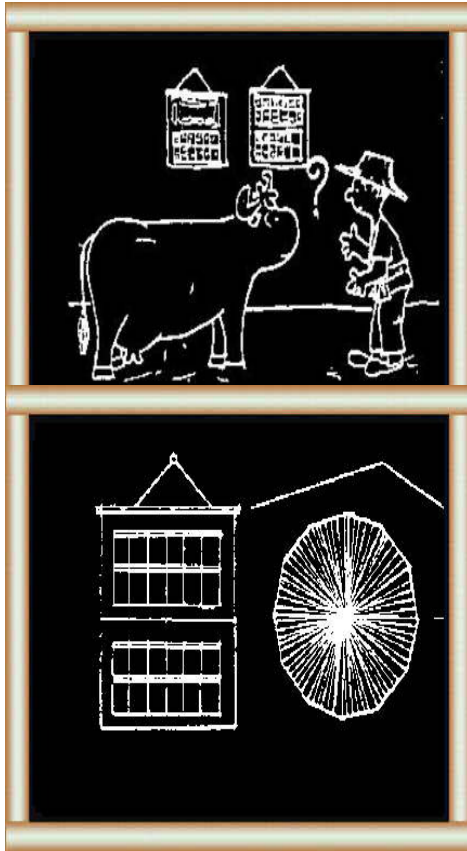
Why should you use a breeding calendar? (5-8)

1 A breeding calendar helps you to improve breeding in your herd.

You can write down important things about your cows on the calendar.

How can you make sure your cow calves every year? (9)

2 Check your breeding calendar every day to



V2

help you plan breeding.

You know:

- when your cow calves
- when your cow shows heat
- when your cow is bred
- when to dry off your cow.

How can you make your own breeding calendar?

- Breeding calendar 1 (11-19)
- Breeding calendar 2 (29-41)

3 You can easily learn to make two kinds of breeding calendar.



How can you use your breeding calendars?

- Breeding calendar 1 (20-28)
 - Breeding calendar 2 (42-49)
- 4 You can easily learn to use them to produce more calves

page 51

BREEDING CALENDARS

Husbandry Unit 6.2:

Technical Notes

Note: Numbers in brackets refer to illustrations in the Extension Materials.

Why use breeding calendars? (5-10)

For every dairy farmer the most important part of his job is to make

sure that his cows calve as often as possible.

This requires efficient observation of heat, insemination (A.I.) at the right time, drying off prior to calving and attention at calving time.

Information written down in note books, on loose sheets of paper and likewise tends to be irregular and forgotten.

A simple breeding calendar, kept in the barn, makes it easy to write down every important event for each cow in the herd. At the same time, it can be consulted every day and inform the farmer if he should be aware of heat, drying off, approaching calving etc. for any of his cows.

Even in the small herd, efficient breeding is the main problem. A breeding calendar can often improve breeding efficiency on the farm considerably, because it helps the farmer to do the right thing at the right time.

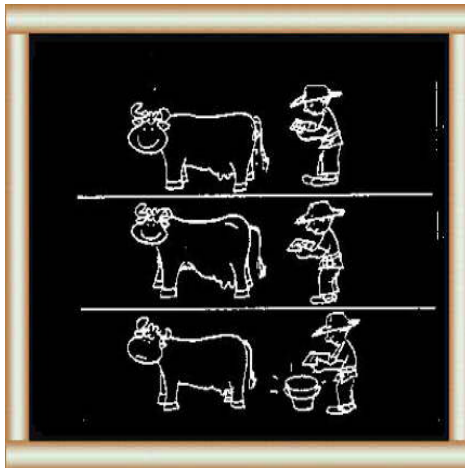
It should be emphasised, however, that cows should be observed daily for signs of heat, both morning and afternoon, because there can be irregularities in the breeding cycles, and cows may not show clear signs of heat especially in the 1st heat after calving. The breeding calendar should be used as a guide for closer observation.

page52

[Why should you use a breeding calendar?](#)



5 A calendar helps you to keep records.
It is easy to lose note books and pieces of paper.



6 The calendar tells you when to look for signs of:

- heat
 - calving
- and when to :
- breed your cow
 - dry her off.



7 It is:

- cheap to make
- easy to make
- easy to use.



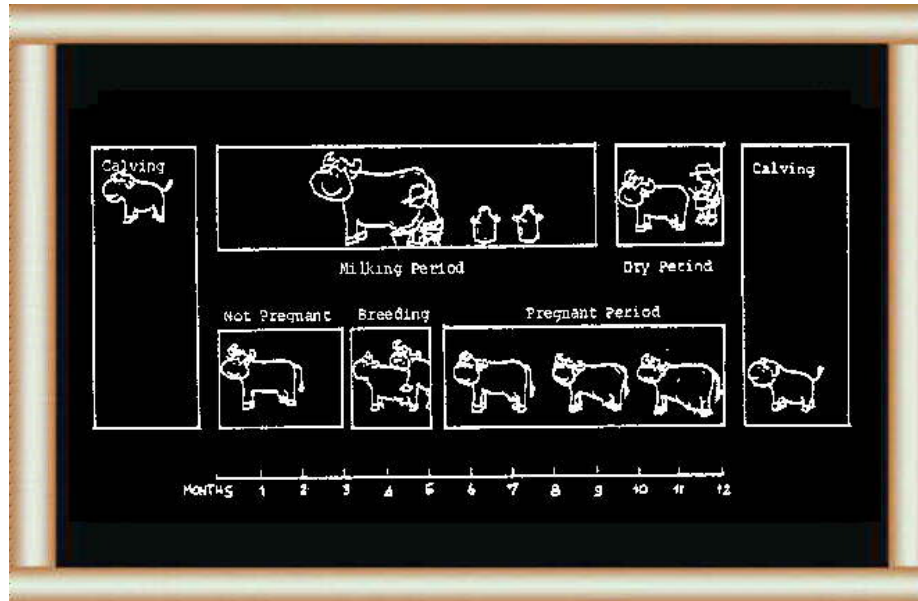
8 By doing the right thing at the right time you can improve breeding.

More calves mean more money.

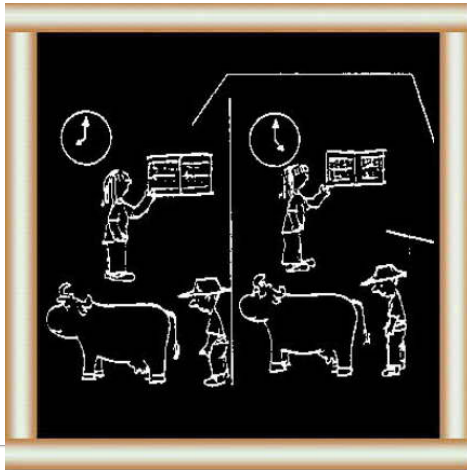
How can you make sure your cow calves every year?

You must understand the connection between calving - milking - breeding - drying off.

9 Study this farmer's cow over one year:



10 Your breeding calendar tells you when to



V2

do what so you can make sure your cow calves every year.

Important

Use your breeding calendar as a guide for close heat observation.

Observe heat morning and afternoon because:

- breeding cycles may not be regular
- heat signs may not be clear especially in the first heat.

page54

Can I make my own breeding calendar?

Given below are two examples of breeding calendars that can be produced by the farmer himself, both of which are comparatively cheap to make.

Breeding calendar 1

This breeding calendar is intended for the small herd (less than 5 cows), but in principle it can be used in bigger herds also.

The breeding calendar is: - easy to make

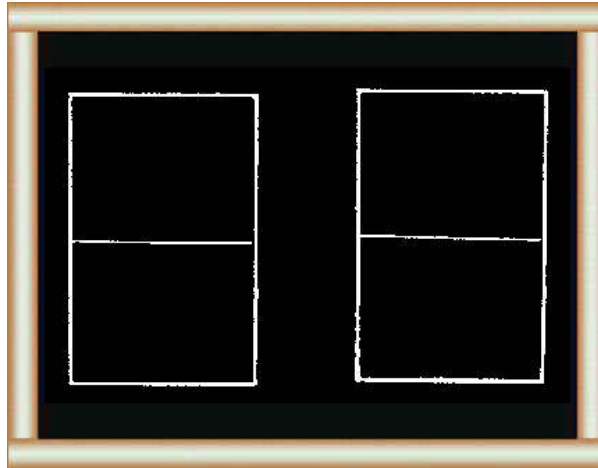
- easy to handle
- cheap to manufacture.

Principle

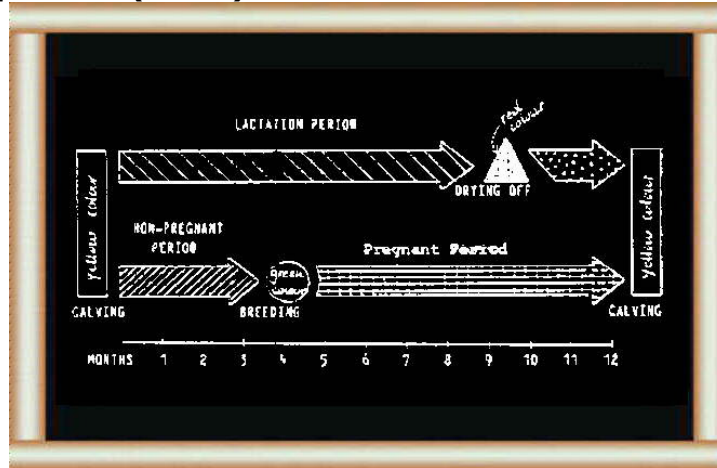
2 pieces of stiff, white card are required - recommended measurements: 80 cm x 110 cm (but bigger or smaller pieces can also be used). (11)

Divide both cards into two halves by drawing a line with a pencil. (12)

page55



3. On one of the cards, construct the key opposite (with a ball liner) on the upper half. (12-13)



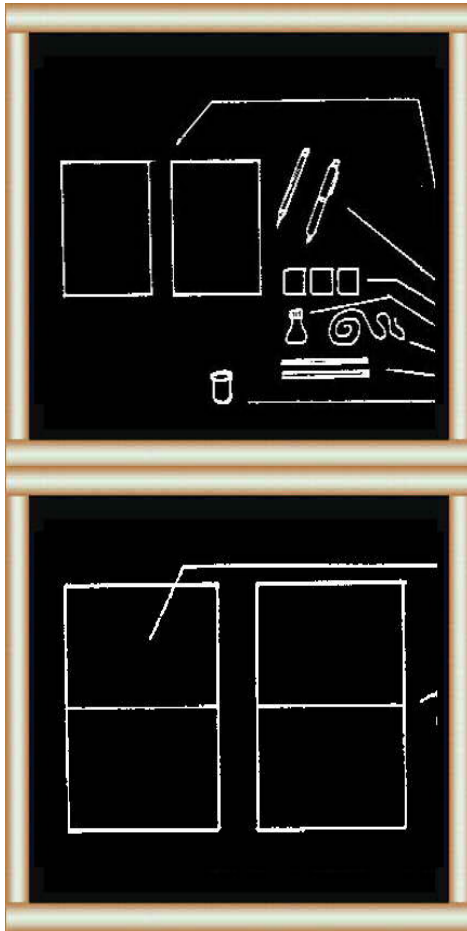
The key shows the relationship between:

Calving - lactation period - time of drying off - dry period
and

Calving - non-pregnant period - time of breeding - pregnancy period

page56

How can you make your own breeding calendar?

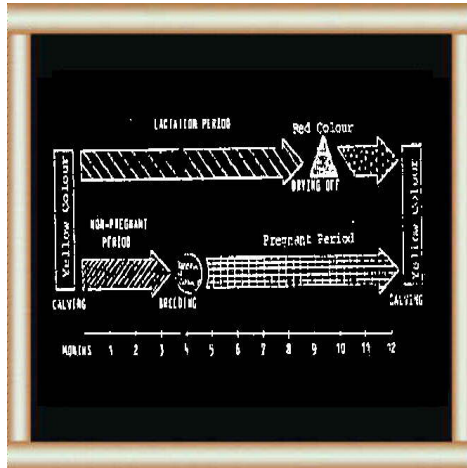


Breeding calendar 1

11 You need:

- 2 pieces of stiff white card about 80 X 100 cm.
- pen and pencil
- sticky, coloured paper
- glue and string
- sticks and small bag or container.

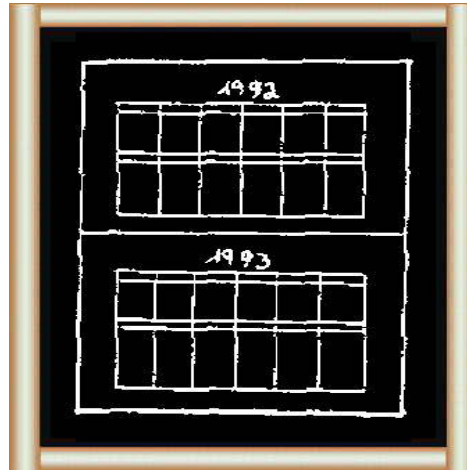
12 Divide both cards into halves by drawing lines.



13 On the top half of one card draw the following key:
This shows the times of milking and calving.

page57

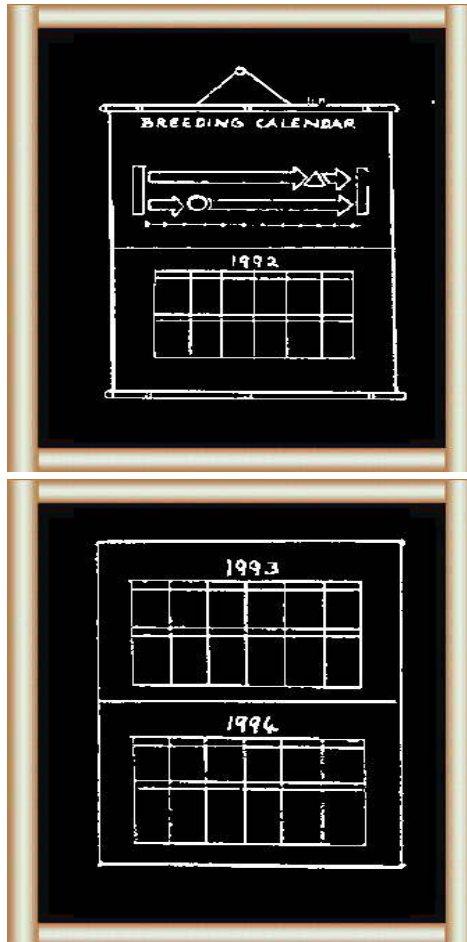
4. On the lower part of the card construct last year's calander. (14)



page58

14 On the bottom half of the same card, draw this year's calendar.

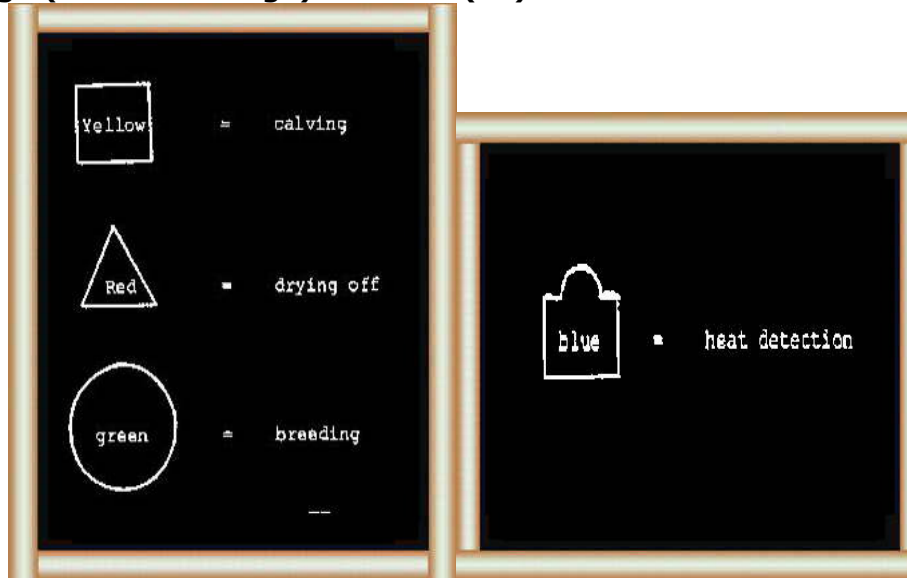
15 Your complete card should look like this.



16 On the second card:

- draw next year's calendar on the top half
- draw the year after next's calendar on the bottom half.

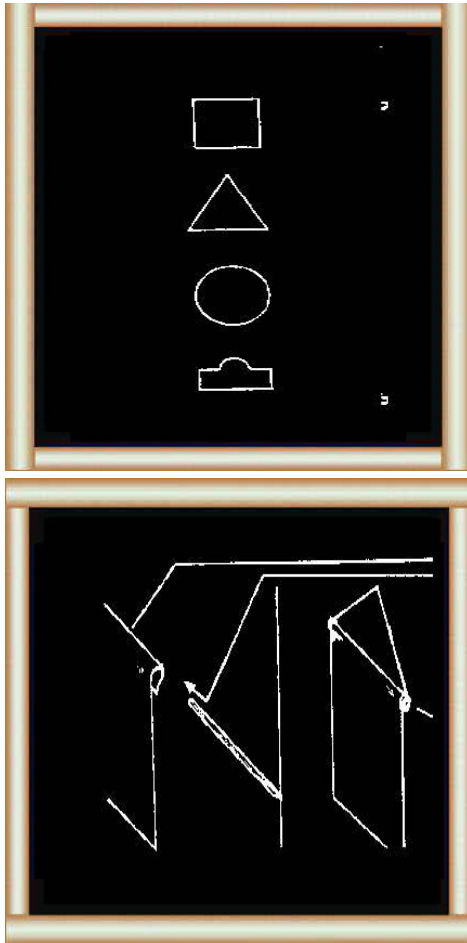
6. Using self-adhesive paper, produce a number of coloured paper sign (about 1 cm high) like this: (17)



These signs should be kept in a small bag or container close to the breeding calander.

7. Mount the cards with a stick (for instance bamboo - stick) at the top end and bottom end, and hang them beside each other on the wall in the barn. (18-19)





V2

17 Colours and shapes help to make your breeding calendar clear.
Use the sticky, coloured paper to make signs about 1 cm high.
? calving (yellow)
a drying off (red)
± breeding (green)
- heat detection (blue).

18 Fold over the top of your calendar and glue.
Put a thin stick through the fold.
Tie a piece of string to each end of the stick.



19 Hang up your calendars next to each other in the barn.

Keep the coloured signs in a small bag or container near your breeding calendar.

page61

How to use the breeding calendar?

When a cow has been bred (natural service or A.I.), the green breeding symbol marked with the number of the cow is placed at the day of breeding and the blue heat detection symbol marked with number of cow placed on the 21st day from the date of breeding. If the cow does not return to heat, the symbol is kept in this position. Should the cow return to heat and be bred again, the symbols are moved on to the new date. (20-24)

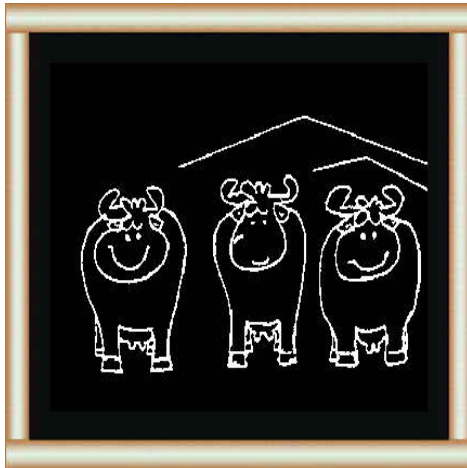
Example: Cow no. 4 was bred on the 20th October, 1986 and the following entries were made on the 1986 Calendar. If the cow does not show any signs of heat from about 10 November until it completes 45 days after breeding, i.e. till about 5 December, have it examined for pregnancy.

OCTOBER	
1	17
2	18
3	19
4	20 (4)
5	21
6	22
7	23
8	24
9	25
10	26
11	27
12	28
13	29
14	30
15	31
16	

BREEDING SYMBOL, (circled)
COW NO. 4

page62

How can you use breeding calendar 1?



20 Give each of your cows a number and add the numbers to your breeding signs.

(1) (2) (3)

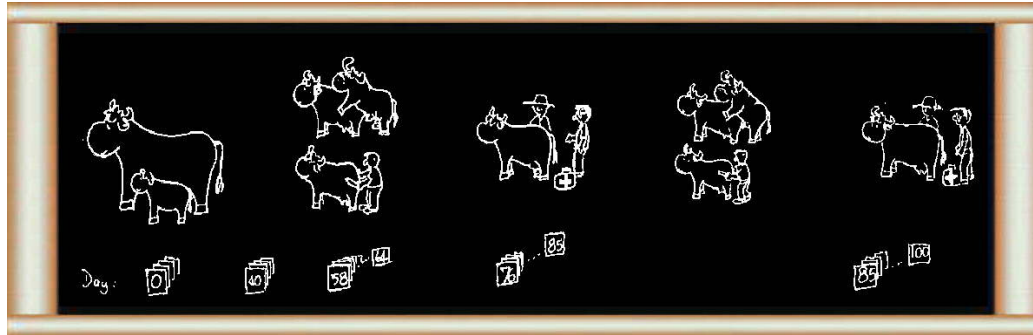


21 You need to add the breeding sign for each cow to your calendar

when she is bred by A.I. or by natural service (bull).

For example cow (3), see next page.

22



You know when cow 3 calved. Mark it with calving symbol 3

Look for heat after 40 days calving. When you observe heat, place breeding sign 3 - 18 to 24 days later. (1st breeding: 2nd heat after calving)

Look for heat again about day 56-64. If you observe heat, mate or inseminate. Move breeding sign to actual day of breeding.

Look for heat about 3 weeks after breeding. If no breeding ask the vet to check for pregnancy after 45 days. If heat repeat breeding.

If your cow continues to show heat after breeding 3 times, ask the vet to check for reproductive disorders.

Cows should become pregnant again 60-90 days after calving.



23 This farmer kept his breeding calendar for:

1988

1989

1990

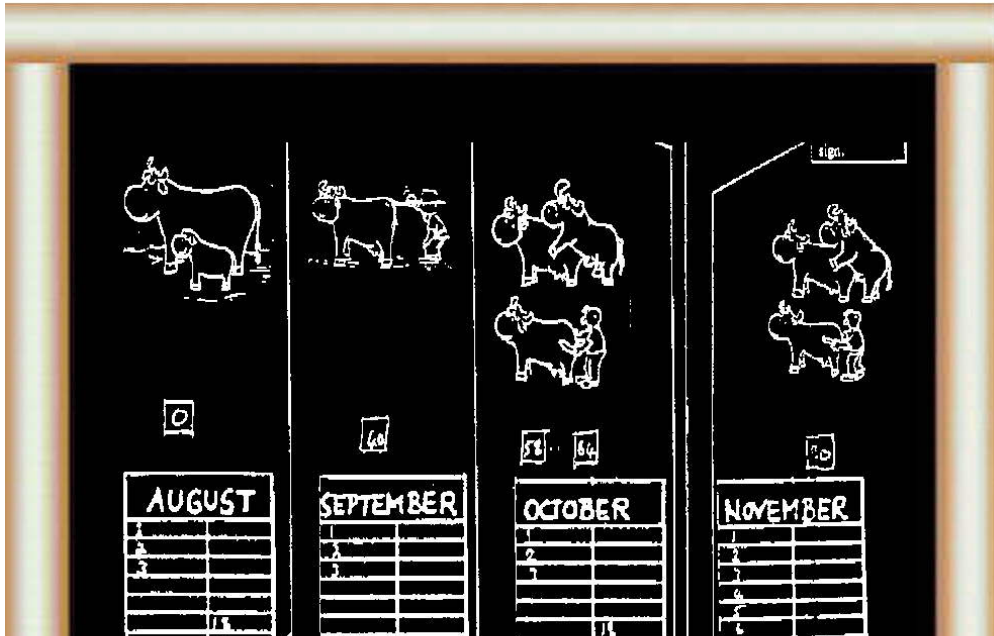
24

He repeats heat observation about 3 weeks after breeding, and breeds again if he observes heat. After 3 AI or matings he calls the vet to examine the cow for possible disease, if she did not get

01/11/2011

V2

pregnant.





page65

2. Expected calving date is about 9 months counted forward from the date of breeding, which is marked with a calving symbol at the expected date. Owing to individual variations, calving may take place some days sooner or later than expected. After calving the symbol is moved from the expected to the actual date. (25-26)

Example: Cow no. 4 mentioned above was expected to calve around the 20th July, 1987. The following entry was thus made on the 1987 calendar:


JULY	
1	17
2	18
3	19
4	20
5	21
6	22
7	23
8	24
9	25
10	26
11	27
12	28
13	29
14	30
15	31
16	

page66

3. From the calving date the drying off date can be calculated, counting forward the appropriate number of months. A drying off symbol, marked with the cow's number, can then be entered on the calendar. (27-28)

Example: Cow no. 4 mentioned above calved around the 20th July, 1987. At calving, the date of drying off was calculated to be around

20th May, 1988. The following entry was made on the 1988 calendar:

MAY	
1	17
2	18
3	19
4	20 
5	21
6	22
7	23
8	24
9	25
10	26
11	27
12	28
13	29
14	30
15	31
16	

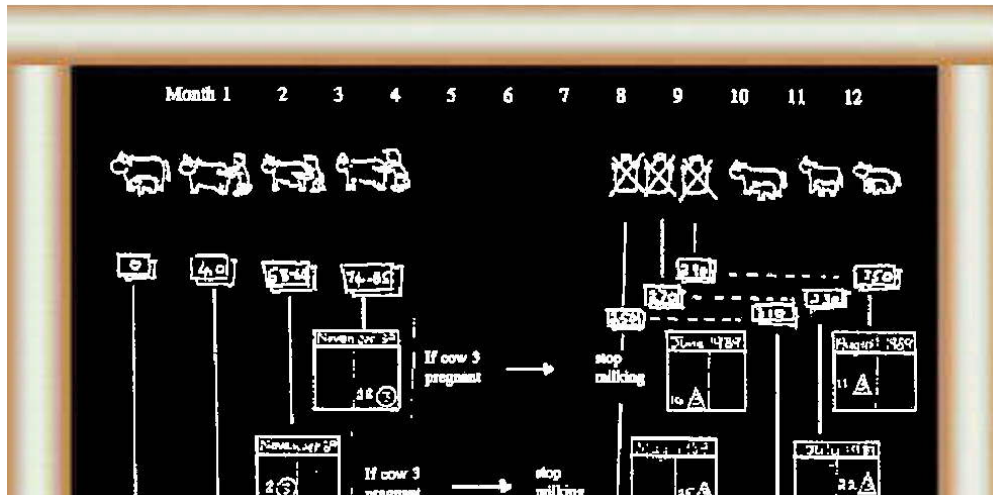
DRYING OFF SYMBOL, (red)
COM NO. 4

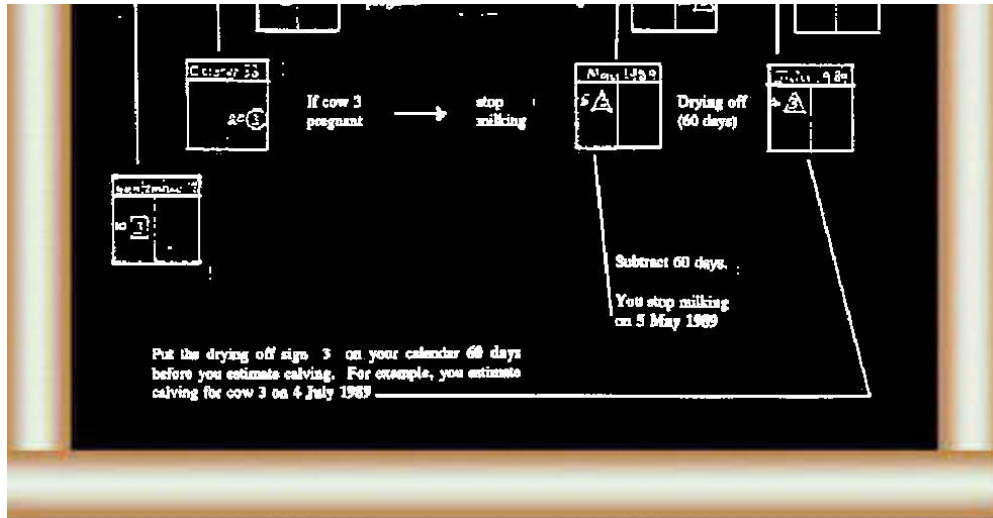
(Note: This may have to be changed subsequently, depending on the date of successful service because the requirement is to allow a two-month dry period before next calving).



27 You need to stop milking (dry off) your cow 60 days before estimated calving.

This makes sure your cow and the calf are strong at calving.





page68

Breeding calendar 2

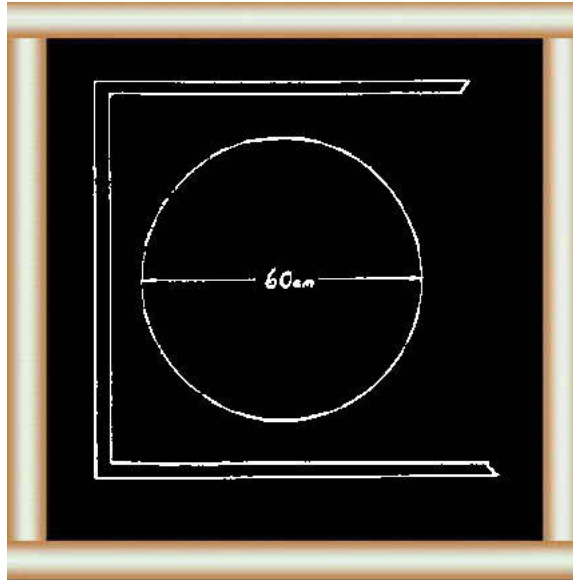
Principle

1. You need a soft, wooden board (recommended measurements: 110 cm x 80 cm) and a flannel cloth to cover the board. (about 120 cm x 90 cm).

Also you need 80 pins and string in 2 colours (about 20 m od each).

(29)

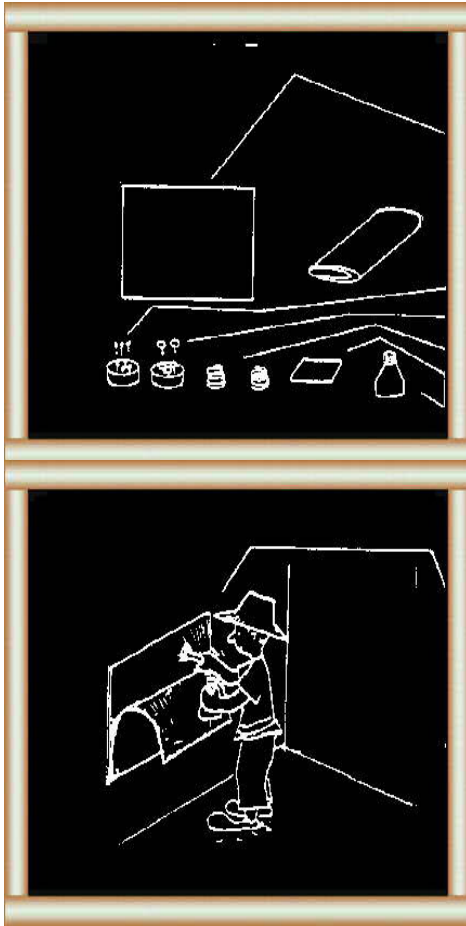
2. Glue the flannel on the board and draw circle of about 60 cm diameter. (30-31)



3. Divide the circle into 12 months by marking every 15.5 cm of the circle with a pin. Also put a pin in the centre of the circle. (32)

page69

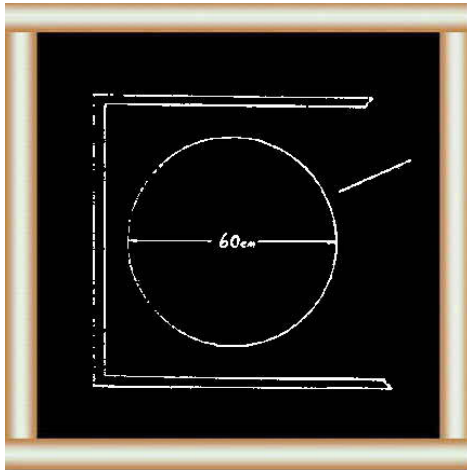
Breeding calendar 2



29. You need:

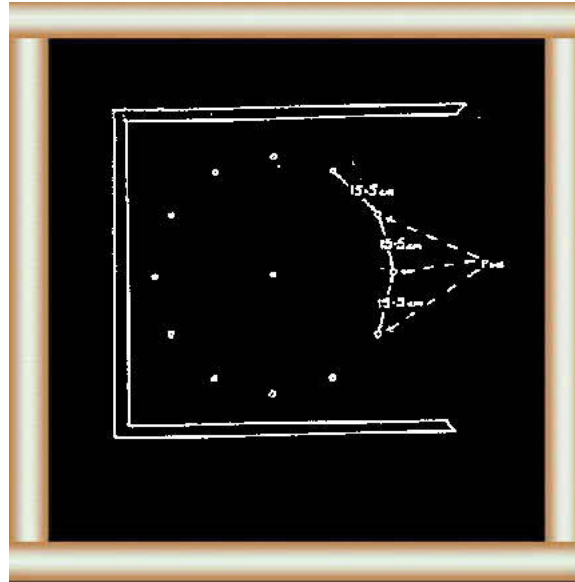
- a soft wooden board, about 80 x 110 cm
- a flannel cloth, about 90 x 120 cm
- 80 pins (plain)
- coloured pins (4 colours) 4 for each of your cows
- string (2 colours)
- sticky paper
- glue.

30. Glue the flannel cloth to the board.

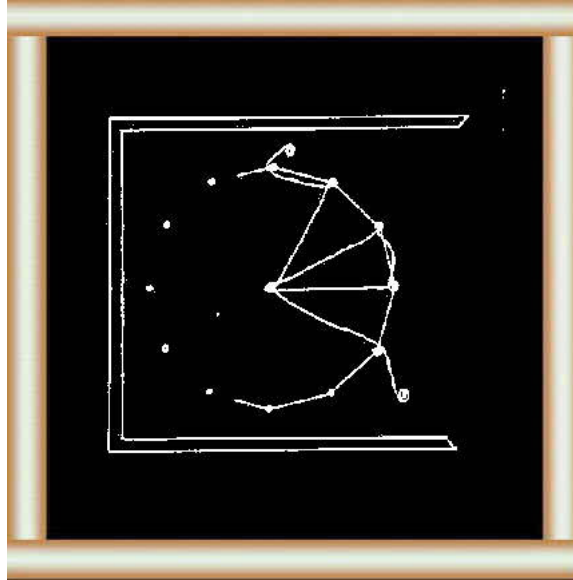


31. Draw a circle about 60 cm in diameter.

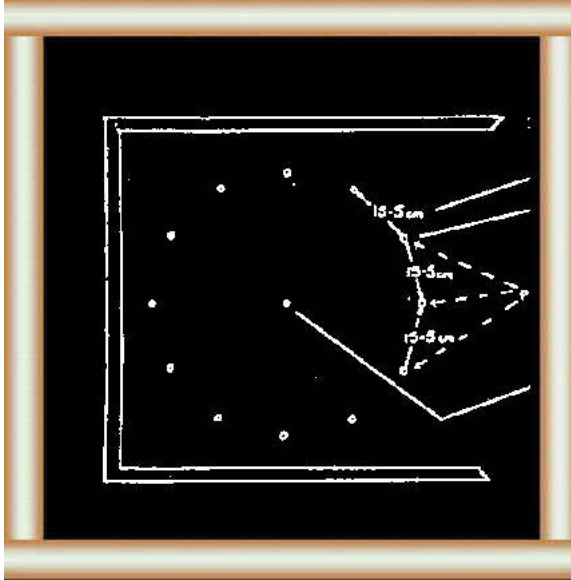
page70



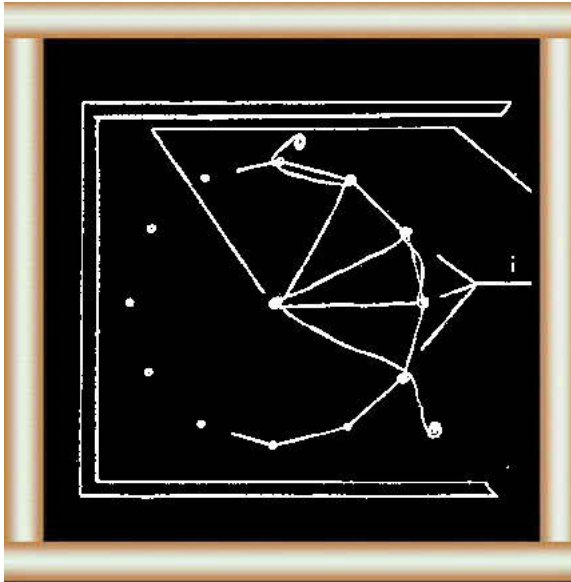
4. Tie a string (same colour) between the corner pins and also between each corner pin and the centre pin (33)



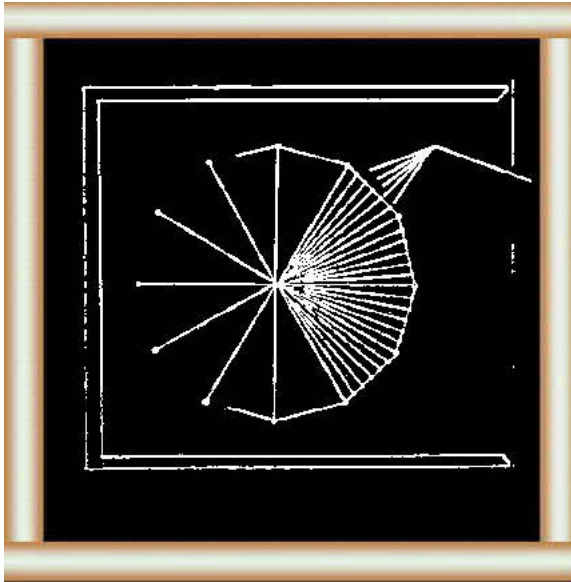
page71



32 Divide the circle into 12:
- make each length 15.5 cm
- mark each length with a pin.
Each length = 1 month.
Put a pin in the centre of the circle.



- 33 Tie a string of the same colour from:**
- the centre pin to
 - each of the 12 pins on the circle.



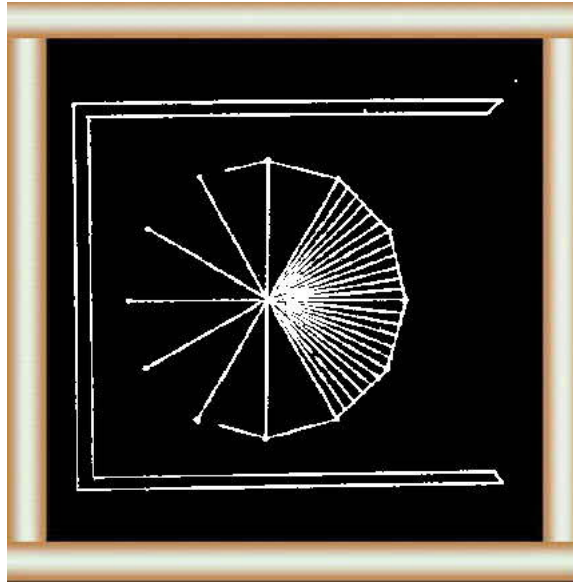
34 Divide each month (each 15.5 cm) into 6 parts:

- place 5 pins at equal spaces between each end pin (in 31).
- Tie a string of a different colour (from 31) to each of these 5 pins.

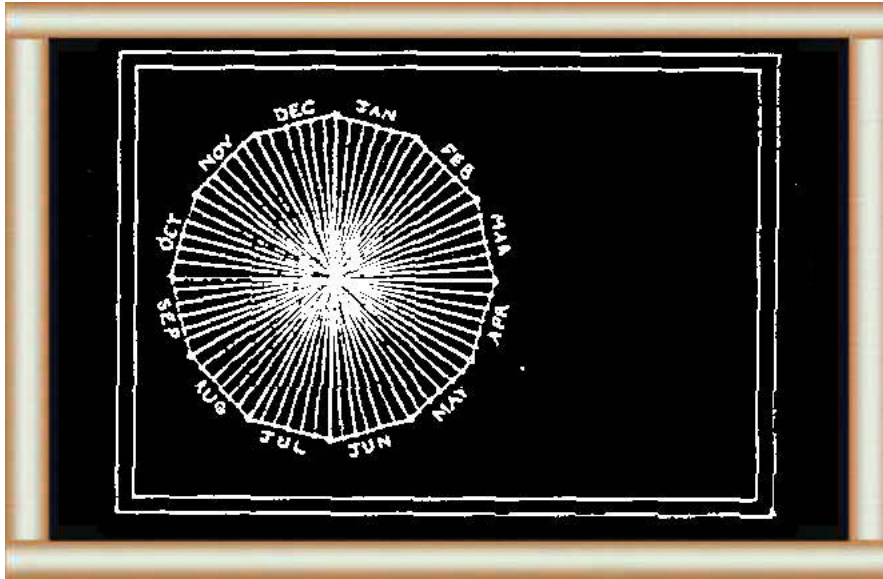
page72

5. Divide each month into 6 parts by placing 5 pins placing between each corner pin. (34)

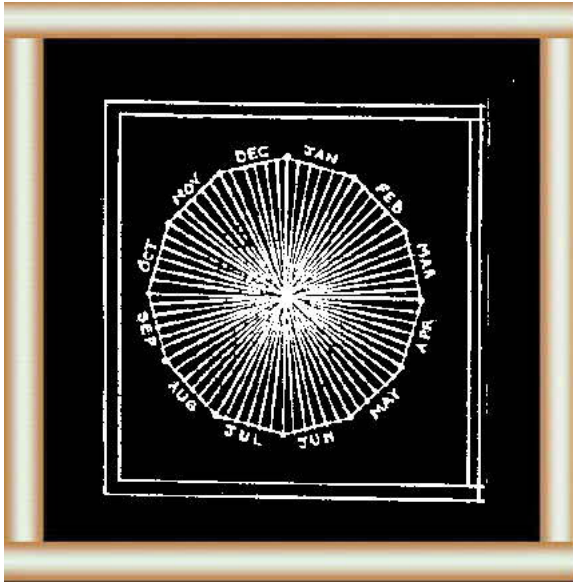
Connect each of these pins to the centre pin with the string of the other colour.



6. Write the name of each month on adhesive paper and stick them on the calander. (35)

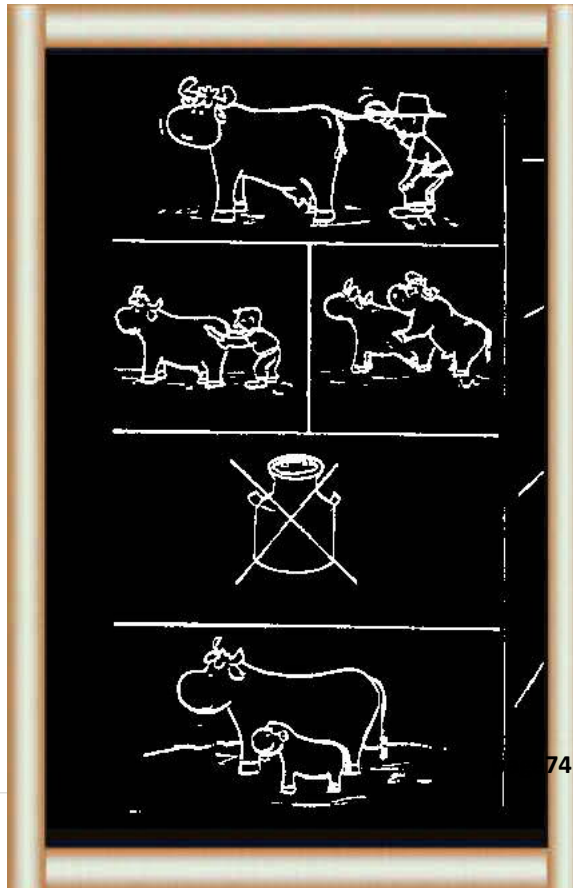


page73



35 Write the name of each month on sticky paper and label your calendar.

36 You need to make 4 signs for your calendar, write them on the sticky paper:
Heat - blue pin



Breeding - yellow pin

Drying off - red pin

Calving - green pin

7. There are four events in a cows cycle that need to be recorded on the breeding calendar:

(37-38)

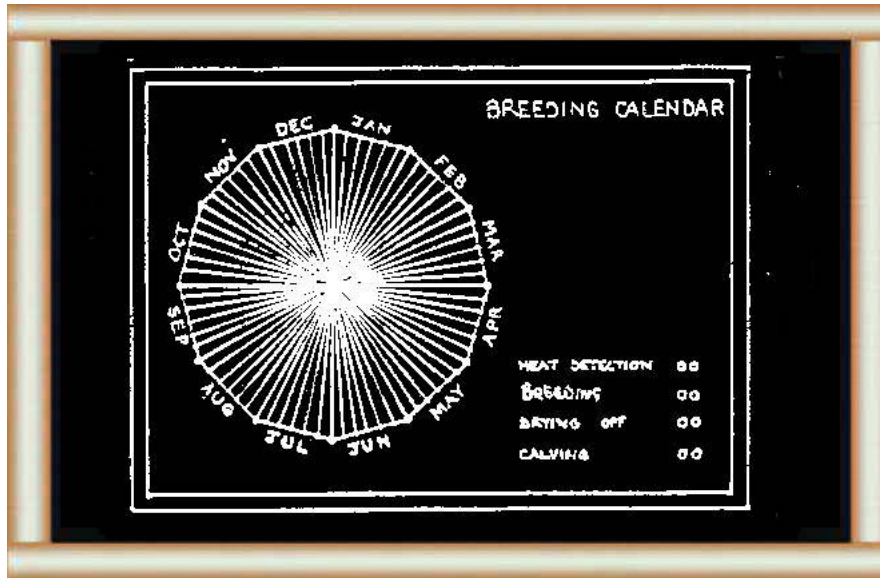
- **Heat detection - to look for heat signs.**
- **Date of breeding (mating or AI).**
- **Drying off - to stop milking a cow two months before calving.**
- **Calving date.**

Different colours are used, blue, yellow, red and green, to symbolize the four events.

Make four labels from self-adhesive paper, and write on them:

- **Heat Detection Blue pin**
- **Breeding (mating/AI) Yellow pin**
- **Drying Off Red pin**
- **Calving Green pin**

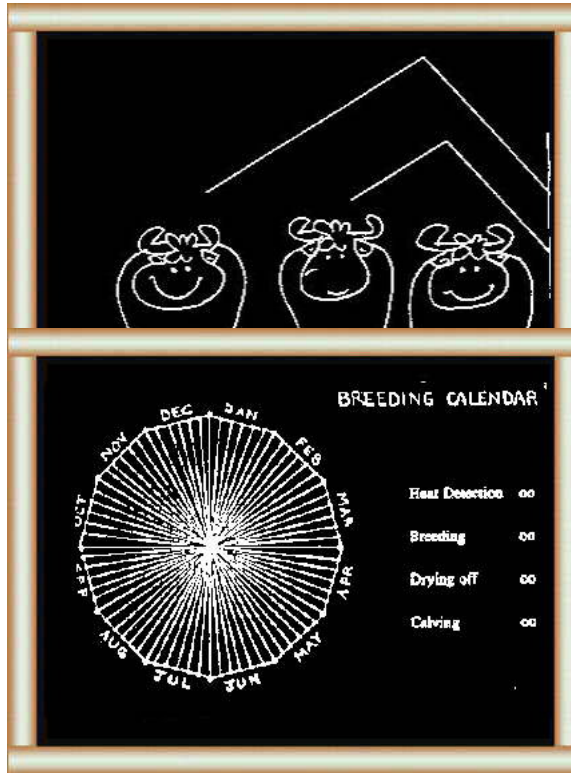
Stick the labels on the board. Put a blue pin next to the "Heat Detection" label, a yellow pin next to "Breeding", a red pin next to "Drying Off" and a green pin next to the "Calving" label.



8. Each cow in a herd needs an identification number, i.e. no. 1,2,3,4,5 and 6.

page75

37 Give each of your cows a number and mark one pin of each colour with the



number.
blue yellow red green

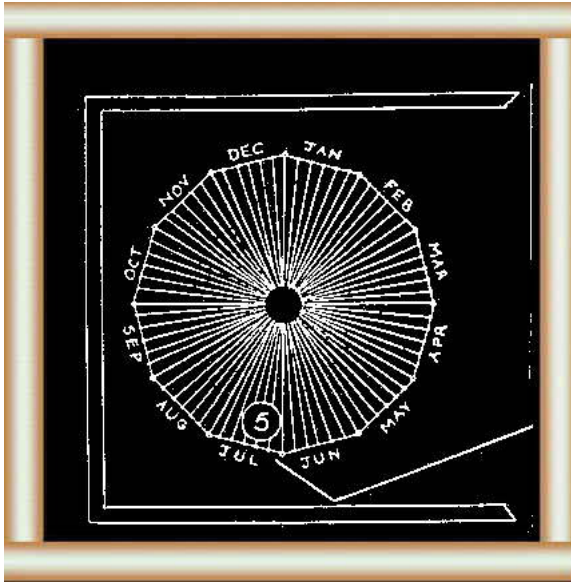
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3

38 Stick the 4 labels onto your calendar and put a pin of the correct colour next to each label:

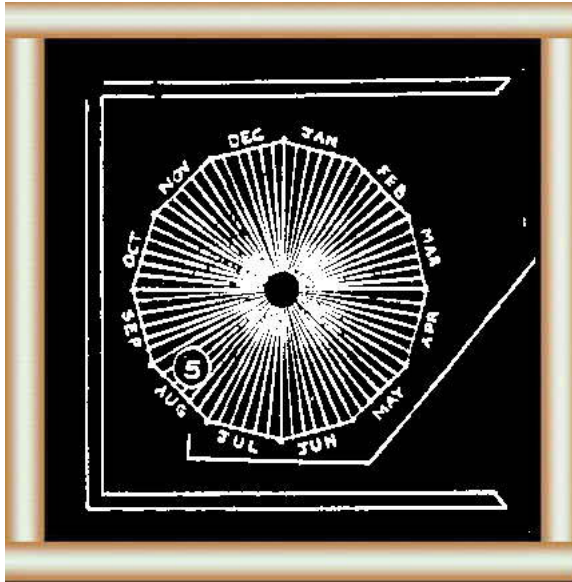
Heat detection	blue pin
Breeding	yellow pin
Drying off	red pin
Calving	green pin

page76

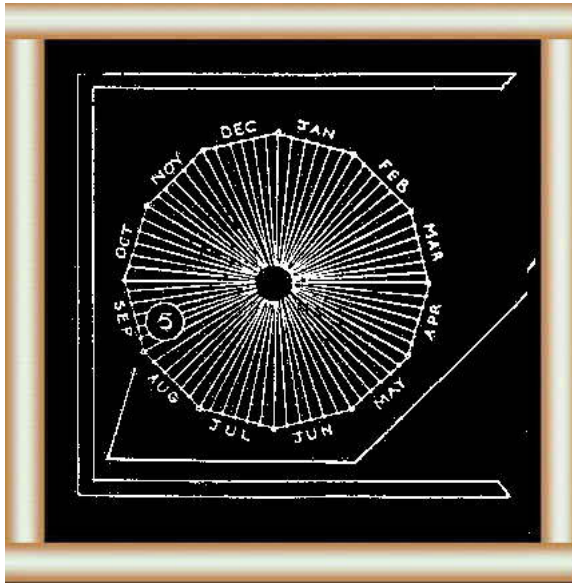
How can you use breeding calendar 2?



39 When one of your cows calves, place a green pin with the cow's number on the date.
For example, if cow 5 calves on 10 July, place green pin 5 on that date.



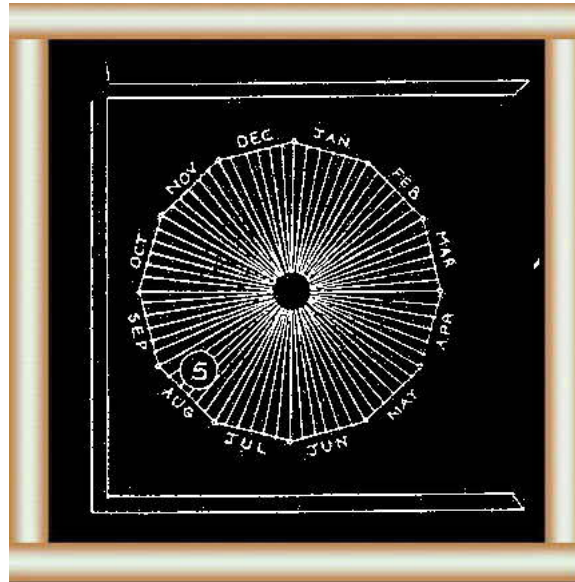
40 You know the 1st heat is about 40 days after calving.
So for cow 5, place blue pin 5 40 days after 10 July, on 20 August.
This will tell you when to look for signs of 1st heat.



41 You know the 2nd heat is about 21 days after the 1st heat.

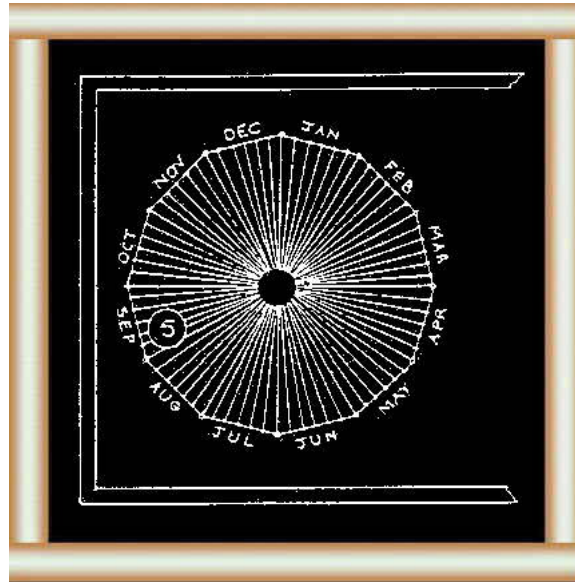
So when cow 5 shows first heat, move blue pin 5 21 days forward, to 10 September.

This tells you when to look for signs of 2nd heat.



3. If the cow shows heat about 40 days after calving you move the blue "heat detection" pin forward 21 days after heat observation. Then you remember to look for the second heat after calving. (41)

Example: If cow no. 5 shows heat signs 40 days after calving, on August 20th, move the blue "heat detection" pin marked 5 to September 10th.



page78

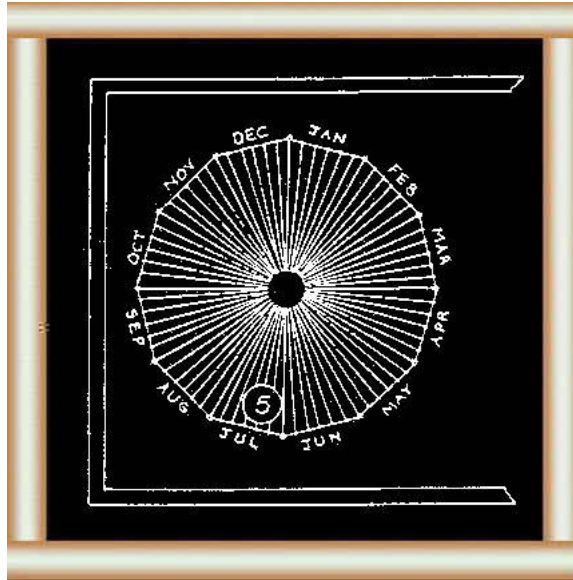
Each cow needs four pins, one in each colour. Mark the pins with the cow's identification number.

How to use the calendar?

1. When a cow calves you place a green "Calving" pin, marked with

the cow's number, on the day of calving. (39)

Example: If cow no. 5 calves on July 10th, a green pin marked 5 is placed in position July 10th on the calendar.



2. A cow normally shows heat about 40-42 days after calving. When a cow calves, also put a blue "heat detection" pin, marked with cow number, on day 40 after calving. (40)

Example: If cow no. 5 has calved on July 10th, place a blue "heat detection" pin on August 20th. This will be a reminder to look for signs of heat around August 20th. (If the cow does not show any

signs of heat by 60 days after calving, the extension officer or veterinarian should be consulted.)

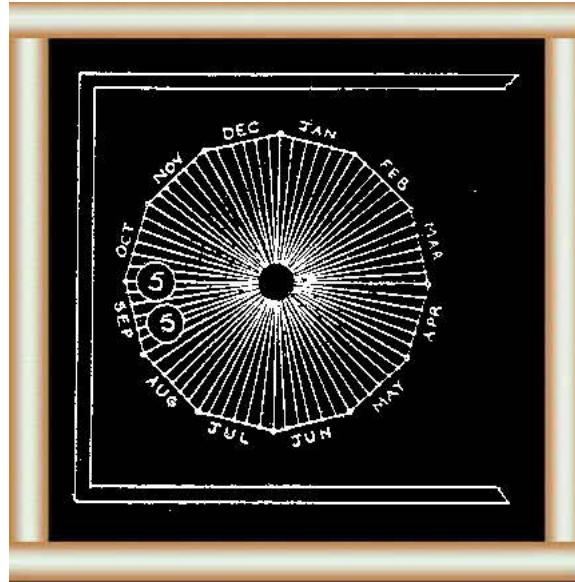
page79

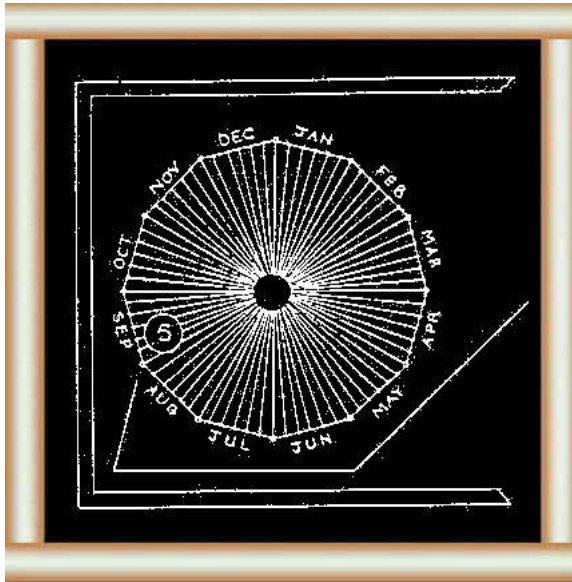
4. If the cow shows second heat after calving 21 days later (about 60 days after calving) breed her and place a yellow "breeding" pin on the day of breeding. (42)

When the cow has been bred (mating or A.I.) it is necessary to look for signs of heat 21 days later. So put the blue "heat detection" pin 21 days after breeding. (43)

If the cow does not become pregnant and shows heat 21 days after breeding, she can be bred again (2nd breeding). Then put a blue "heat detection" pin 21 days after 2nd breeding.

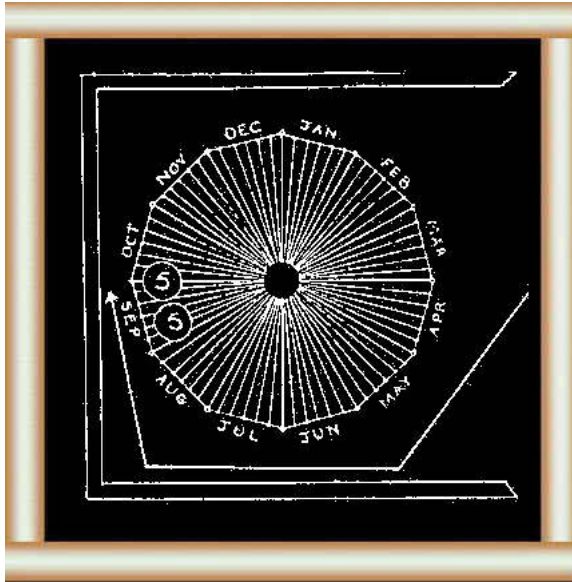
Example: If cow no. 5 shows heat signs on September 10th she will have to be inseminated. Put the yellow "breeding" pin marked 5 on September 10th. Also put a blue "heat detection" pin on October 1st, as a reminder to look for heat signs 21 days later, in case the cow did not get pregnant. If she shows heat on October 1st she should be inseminated again.



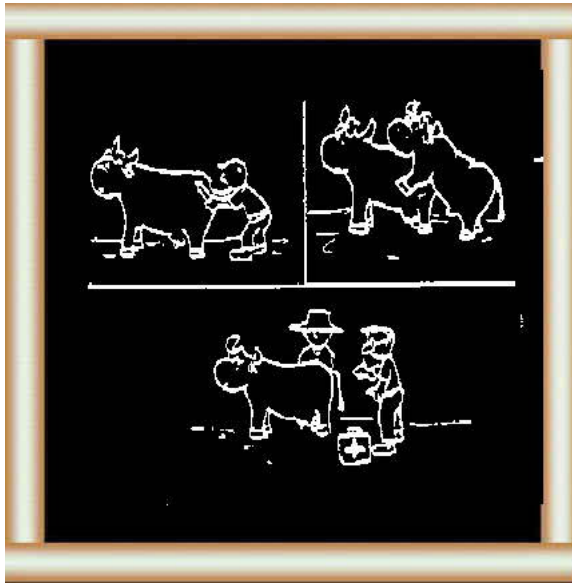


42 When you observe signs of 2nd heat (around September 10) inseminate or mate her.

Replace blue (heat) pin 5 with yellow (breeding) pin 5 on the date of breeding.



43 You know the 3rd heat is about 21 days after the 2nd heat.
So after breeding her (2nd heat) move blue pin 5 21 days forward to 1 October.
This tells you when to look for signs of 3rd heat.



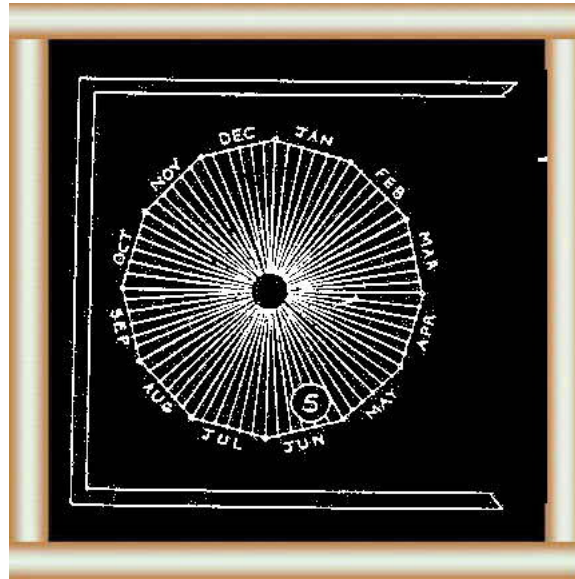
44 If your cow shows heat signs around 1 October, inseminate or mate her again. If she shows no heat signs, she may be pregnant.

page81

5. If the cow does not show heat 21 days after breeding she may be pregnant. Move the green "Calving" pin to the expected day of calving about 9 months (average, Holstein:279 days) after breeding. (44-45)

Ask the inseminator or veterinarian to confirm pregnancy about 45 days after breeding.

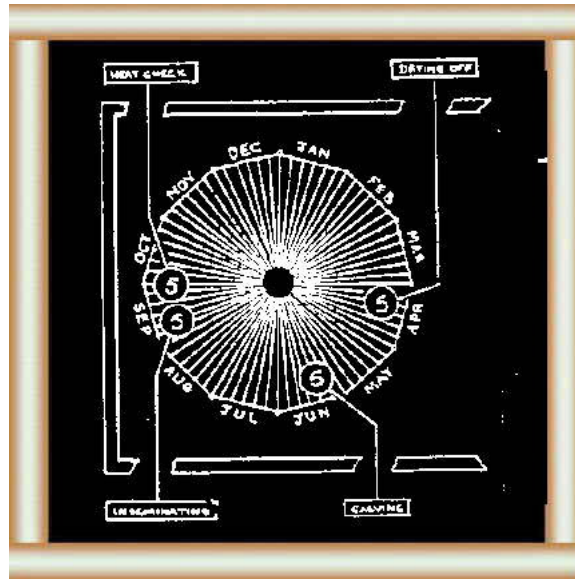
Example: If cow no. 5 is inseminated on September 10th and does not show heat later, she will be expected to calve about 9 months (or 279 days) after breeding, which will be June, 16th the following year. Move the green "calving" pin marked 5 to June 16th on the calendar.



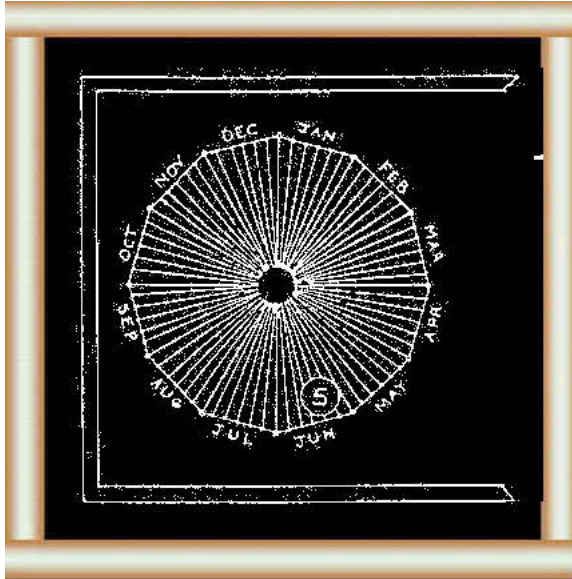
page82

6. A cow should not be milked the last two months before calving. The cow needs time to build up her body before next lactation period. When a cow is pregnant, place a red "drying off" pin on the day 2 months before expected calving. (46)

Example: If cow no. 5 is expected to calve on June 16th, place a red "drying off" pin on April, 16th.



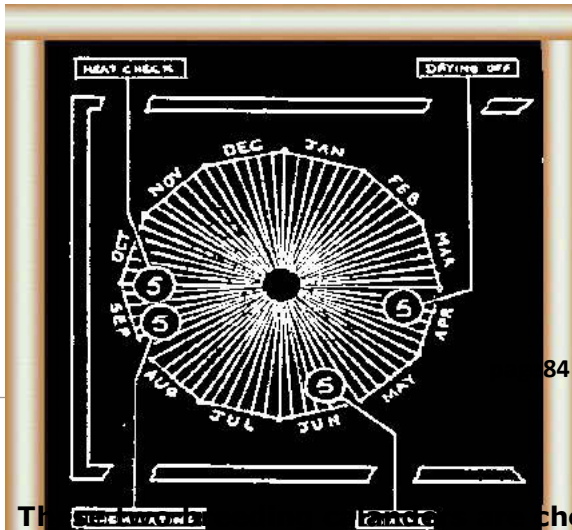
page83



45 If you think your cow is pregnant, place green (calving) pin 5 about 9 months after breeding (about 279 days for Holstein), on 16 June, the next year. Important

Ask your inseminator or vet to confirm pregnancy about 45 days after breeding.

46 You know you should stop milking 2 months before estimated calving. Place red (drying off) pin 5 2 months before 16 June, on 16 April. These two breeding calendars are - cheap



- easy to make

- easy to use.

They are suitable for small farms.

For bigger herds, consult your extension worker on how to make or buy a suitable breeding calendar.

They are cheap and easy to make, and simple to use. They can both be used on the small farm to cover recording of breeding for a limited number of cows.

For bigger herds more comprehensive breeding calendars may be necessary. These can also be "home made" or they can be bought. Consult your extension officer.

Acknowledgements:

Breeding Calendar 1 was originally designed by Ms Dorcas Pratt, VSO at RIT Agricultural College, Nan, Thailand.

Breeding Calendar 2 was originally designed by Mr Pairoj Jadsa-

What do you know about breeding calendars?

Use of a breeding calendar

- Use it to: - keep records (5-6)
- know when to do what (8)

Calving every year

- Understand the connection between: (9-10)
- calving
 - milking
 - breeding
 - drying off

Breeding calendar 1

Breeding calendar 2

Construction

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| - materials and equipment | (11) | - materials and equipment | (29) |
| - the calendar | (12-16) | - the calendar | (30-35) |
| - breeding, drying off calving signs | (17) | - heat, breeding, drying off, calving | |

- hanging up	(18- 19) pins	(36- 38)
<u>Use</u>		
- breeding signs	(20- 21) - calving and heat pins	(39- 41)
- looking for heat and breeding	(22) - heat and breeding pins	(42- 44)
- example of use	(23- - calving and drying off 24) pins	(45- 46)
- estimating calving date)	(25- 26)	
- drying off	(27- 28)	

page86



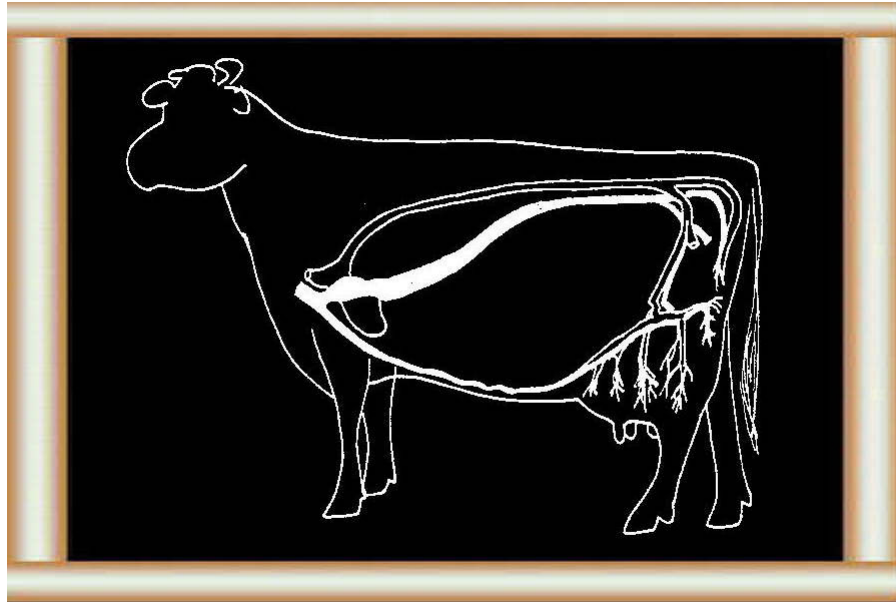
Small-Scale Dairy Farming Manual

Volume 4

Husbandry Unit 7.1

PHYSIOLOGY OF MILK PRODUCTION

page87



Extension Materials

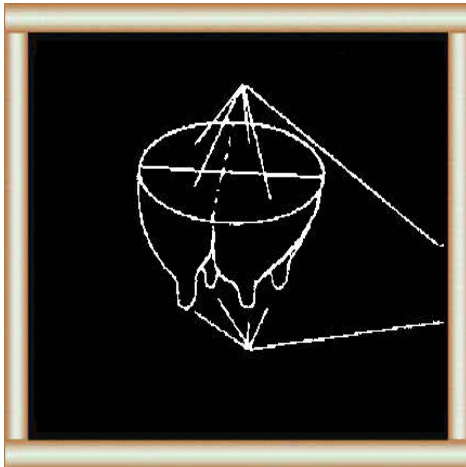
What should you know about the physiology of milk production?



Why is knowing about the physiology of milk production important? (5-8)

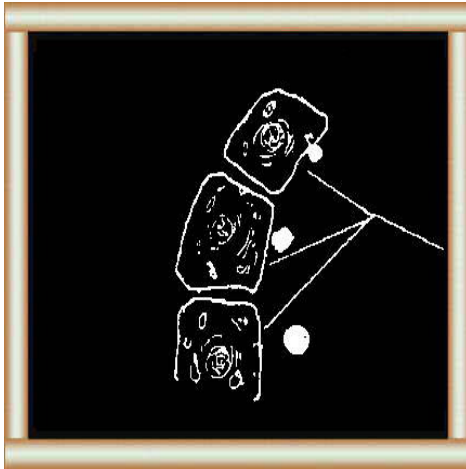
1 So you can improve your:

- feeding
- management.



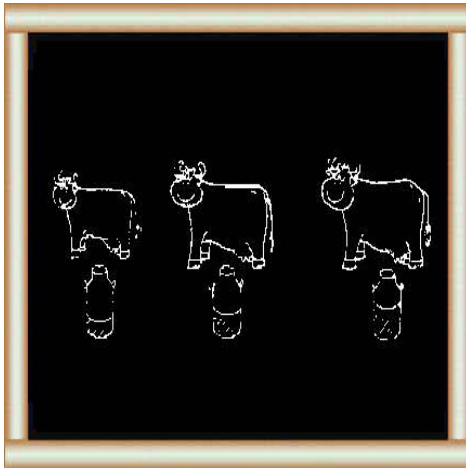
What is your cow's udder like? (9-41)

2 The udder is a skin gland with four quarters and teats.



Where does your milk come from?(42-46)

3 Cells in the udder take nutrients from the blood and produce milk substances.

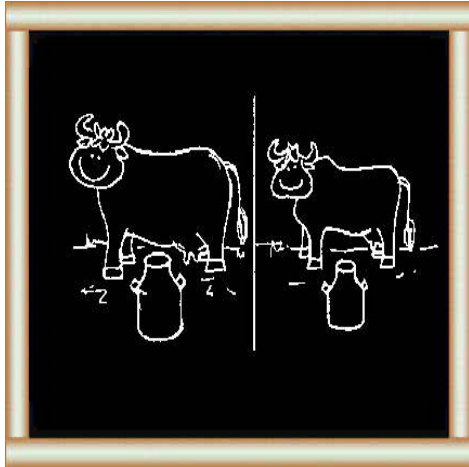


What affects milk production? (47-60)

4 Many factors in:

- breeding
- feeding
- husbandry.

Why is knowing about the physiology of milk production important?



5 Breeding affects milk production



6 but so do your feeding and management.



7 Knowing about the physiology of milk production helps you to improve your feeding and management



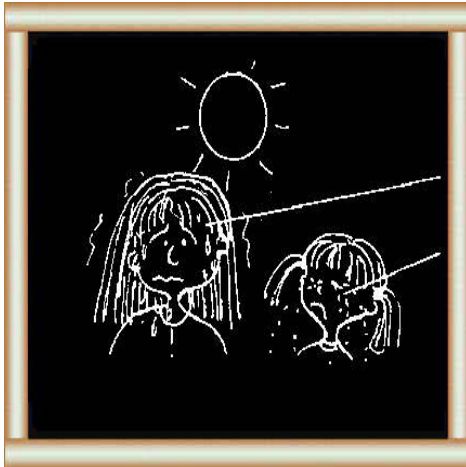
8 and to produce more high quality milk and increase your income.

page 90

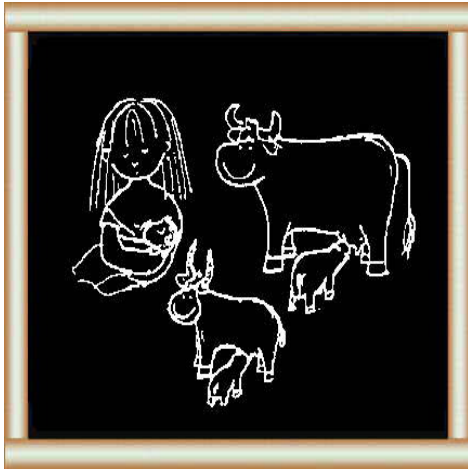
What is the udder?



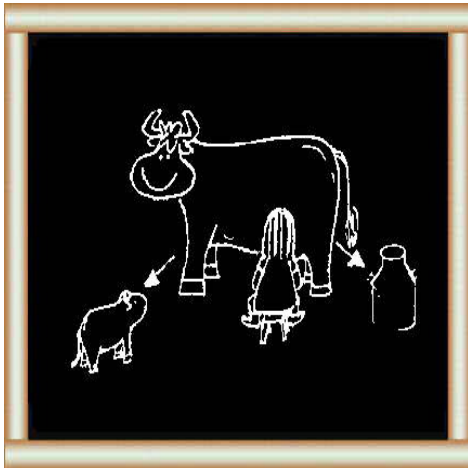
9 The udder is a well developed skin gland.



10 It is like sweat glands and tear glands which also secrete fluids to the outside of the body (exogenous glands).



11 All female mammals have an udder for feeding their young



12 and your cow's long lactation period gives milk for you as well as her calf.

What is the cow's udder like?

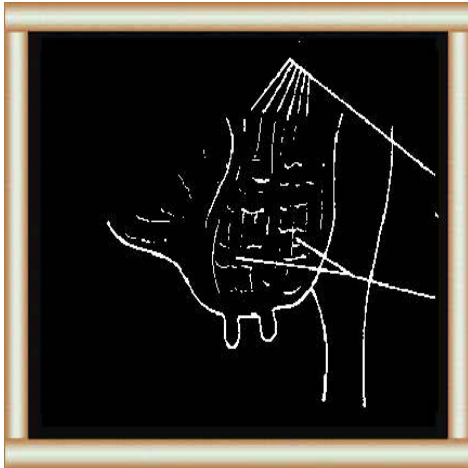
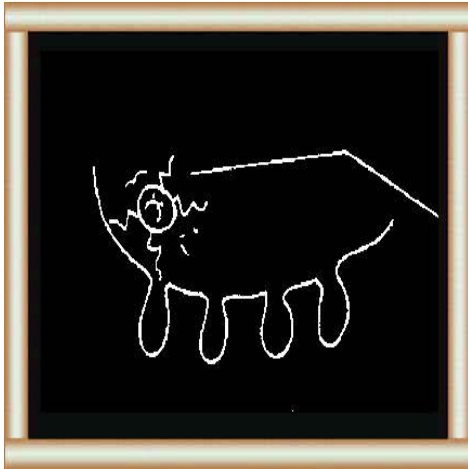


Outside the udder

13 The udder weighs between 10-30 kg without milk.

Signs of a good udder are:

- level
- left and right sides similar size.



V2

14 The skin covers the udder and protects it from rubbing and from bacteria. But it is not strong enough to support the udder.

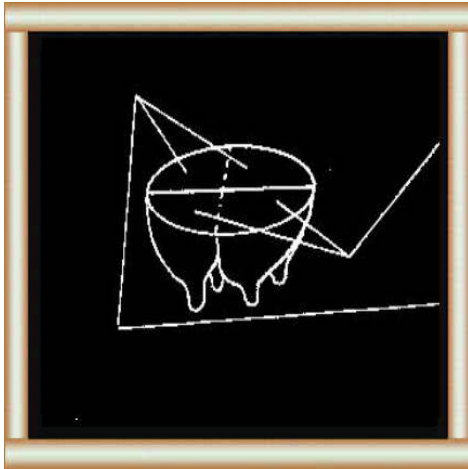
15 Strong tissues called ligaments help to suspend the udder. Two bands run along each side of the udder.



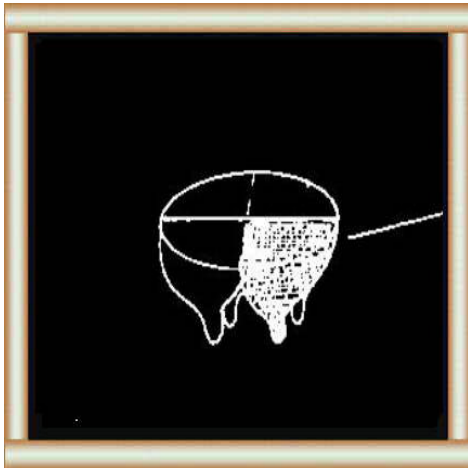
16 One band runs down the middle of the udder between the right and left halves. The middle ligament meets the two side ligaments at the bottom, making a strong sling.

page 92

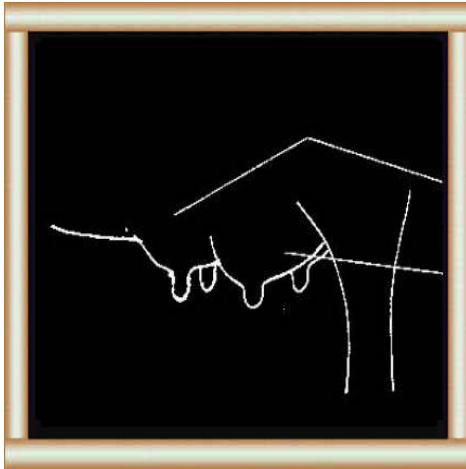
17 The udder has 4 quarters and



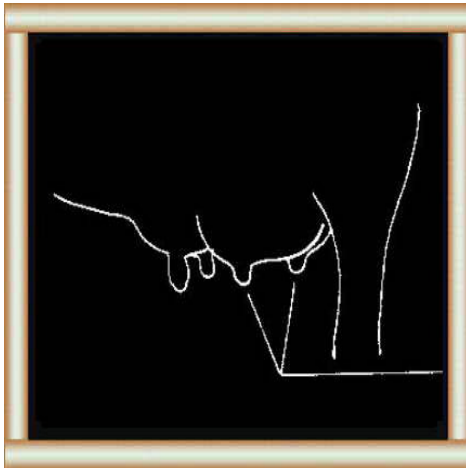
the two quarters on the left are clearly divided
from the two quarters on the right.



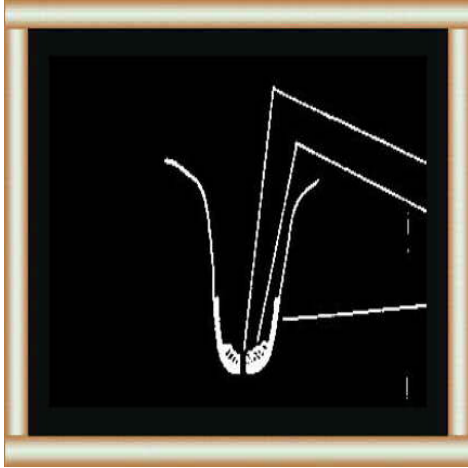
18 It is possible for a cow to have disease in
one quarter without affecting the other
quarters.



19 The front and rear quarters of the udder are not clearly separated. The rear quarters are larger and produce about 60% of the milk.



20 Each quarter usually has one teat and the rear teats are usually shorter than the fore teats.

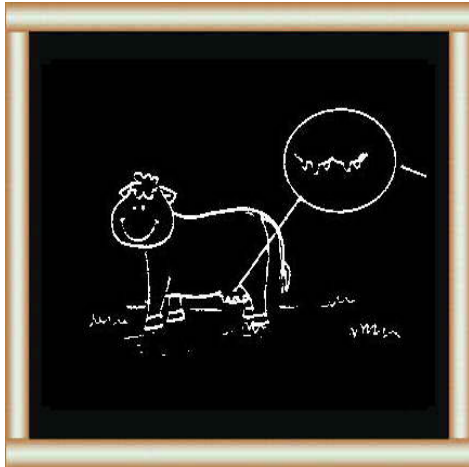
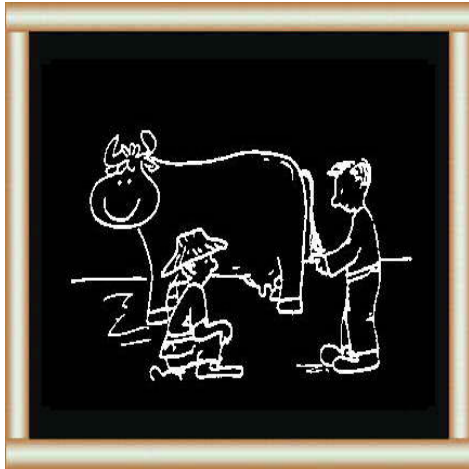


21 The teat has:

- an opening for milk to come out
- a muscle to close the opening

- a lining to protect against bacteria.

22 Signs of good teats are:



V2

- moderate size
- good position in quarter
- good muscle tension to stop leaks but allow easy milking.

23 Consult your extension worker about calves with more than 4 teats. Removal of extra teats helps protect against mastitis.

Inside the udder

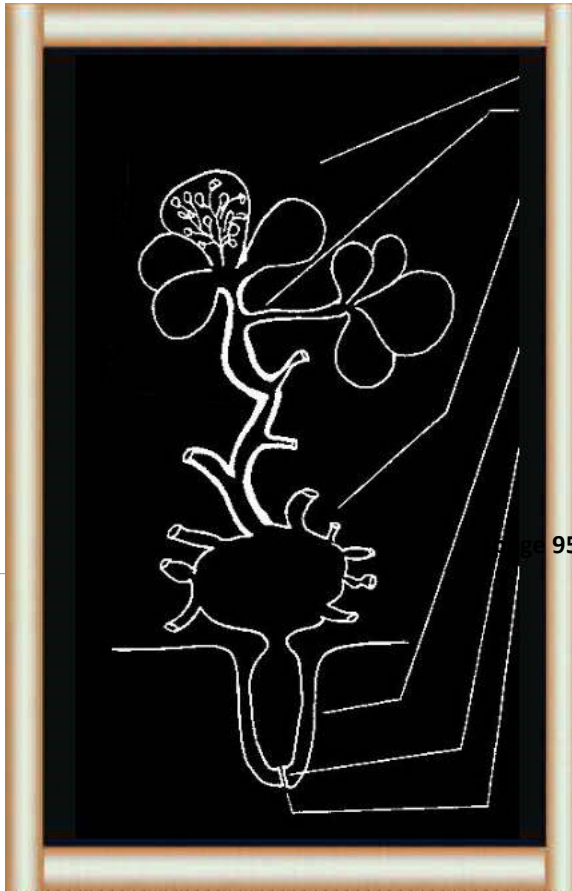
24 Inside the udder you can see lobes which produce milk.

The milk from each lobe passes through large ducts to the gland cistern which can store about $\frac{1}{2}$ l milk.

Folds in the tissue help to keep the milk in the gland cistern until the cow is suckled or milked.

The teat is hollow and can hold a small amount of milk.

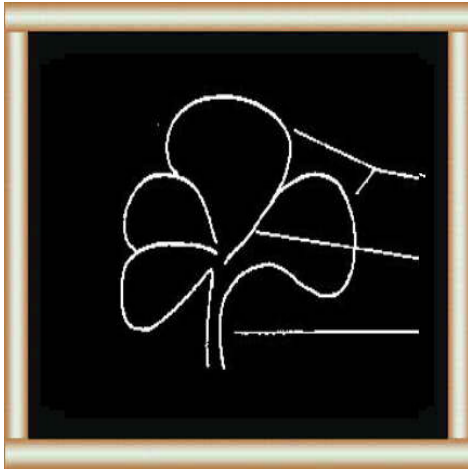
The streak canal (about 1 cm long) is at



the end of the teat and leads to the outer opening.

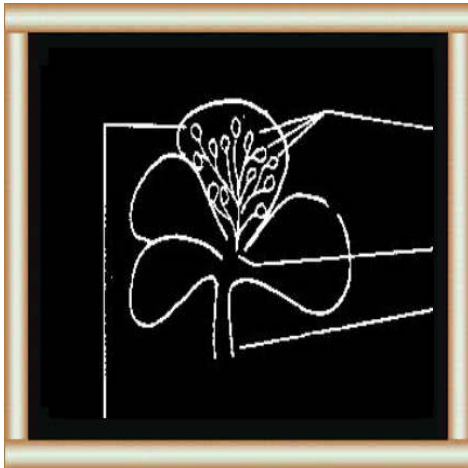
The canal is involuntarily closed between milkings.

95

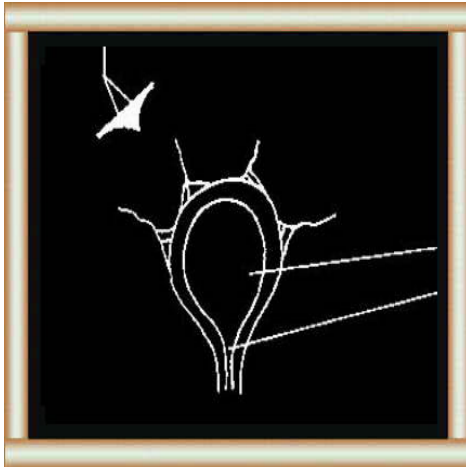


V2

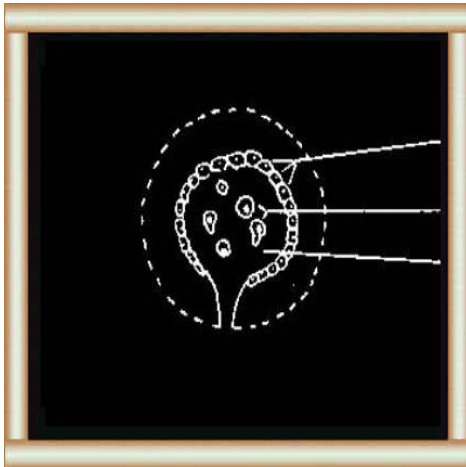
**25 Each lobe has a number of lobules and one large duct which drains the milk.
Connective tissue separates the lobules.**



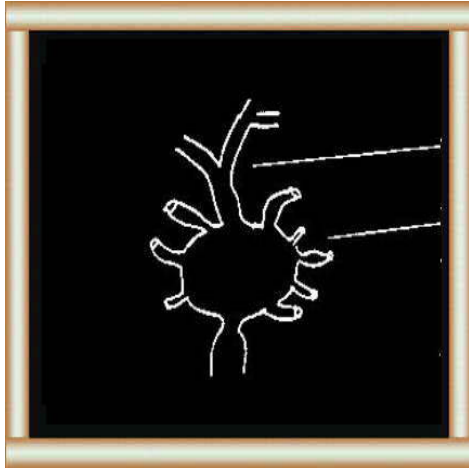
26 Each lobule has many alveoli and a duct which drains the milk from the lobule into the lobe duct.



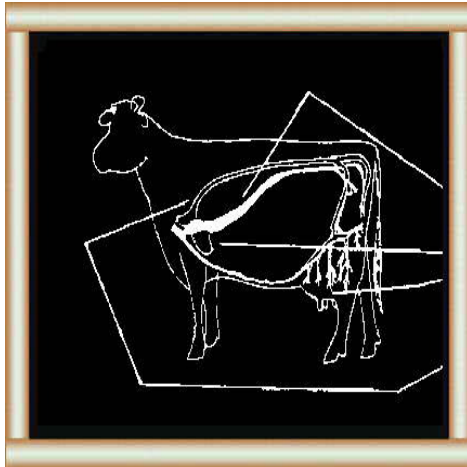
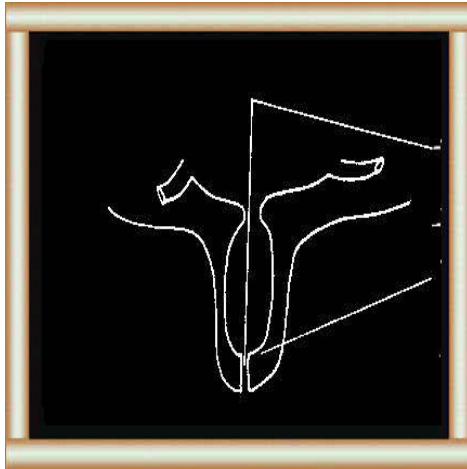
27 Through a microscope, you can see that each alveolus has a small duct which drains milk into the lobule duct.



28 The alveolus is like a small sac. The cells on the wall secrete particles of milk fat covered in protein into the hollow centre of the alveolus.



29 The mammary ducts drain the milk from the lobes into the gland cistern. These ducts only store and drain milk.



V2

30 The streak canal secretes a liquid which fights bacteria.

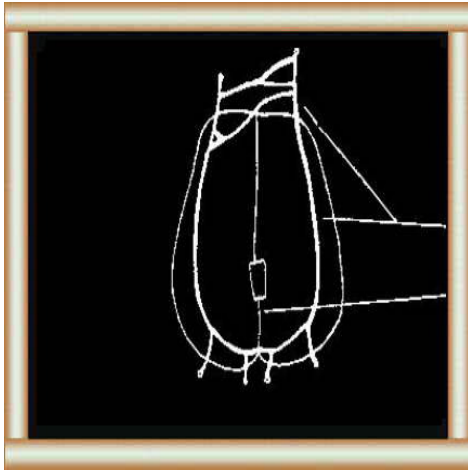
A muscle closes the streak canal.

If the muscle is loose, milking is faster but it is easier for the cow to get udder infections.

The blood system

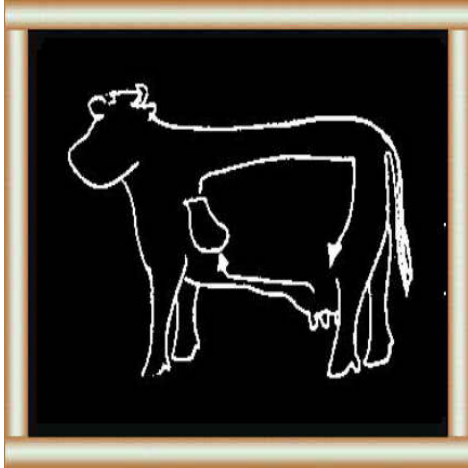
31 Arteries carry blood from the heart to the udder and carry food and oxygen.

Veins carry blood with waste products away from the udder.



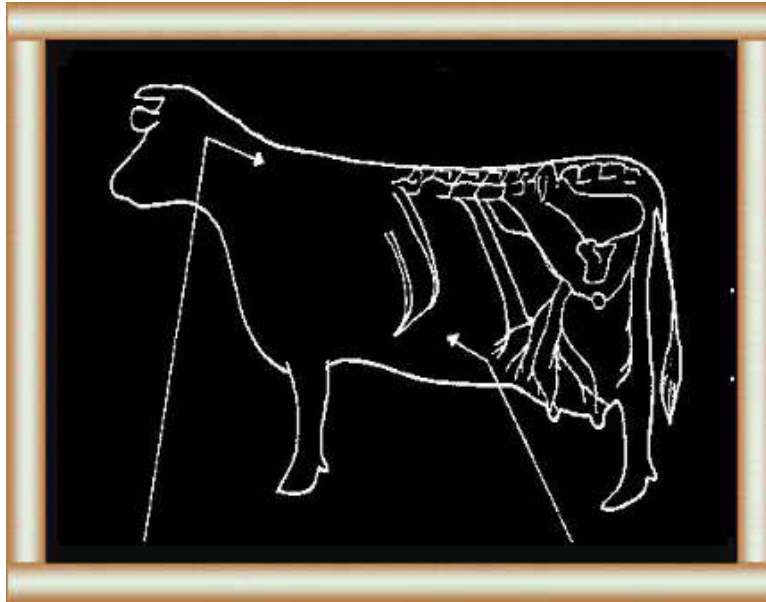
32 Looking from the back, you can see the milk veins and other veins and the middle ligament.

page 97



33 Blood flow is important for milk production.
About 500 l of blood must flow through the udder to produce 1 l of milk.

34 The nerve and the endocrine system



Some nerves send messages from the brain to the udder. This controls blood flow and milk production.

Other nerves send messages from the udder and other parts of the body to the brain about touch, temperature and pain. The body then releases hormones which also control blood flow and milk production.

page98

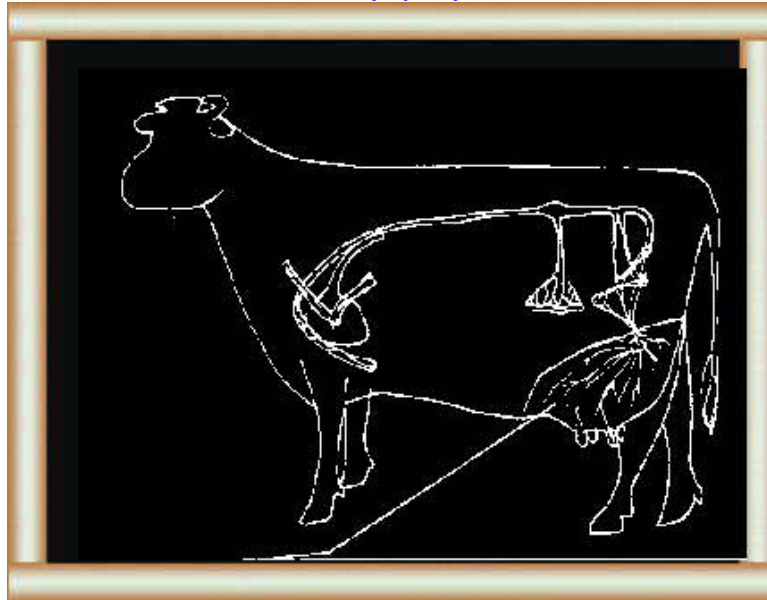


35 Touching and washing the udder sends a message to the brain and glands release a hormone oxytocin into the blood. This helps milk let-down.



36 Excitement and pain also send messages to the brain. Glands release another hormone epinephrine which reduces blood flow and milk production.

37 The Lymph System



Lymph ducts drain colourless fluid from tissues into the blood vessels.

page99



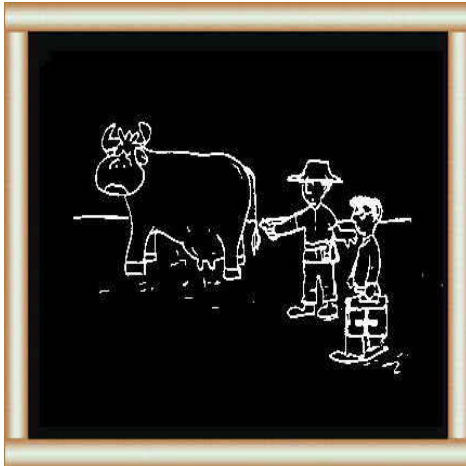
38 You can feel some of the lymph nodes through the skin. They are part of the cow's immune system and help fight disease.



39 Near parturition, the lymph ducts cannot drain enough fluid from the udder which swells more than normal. This is called udder edema.

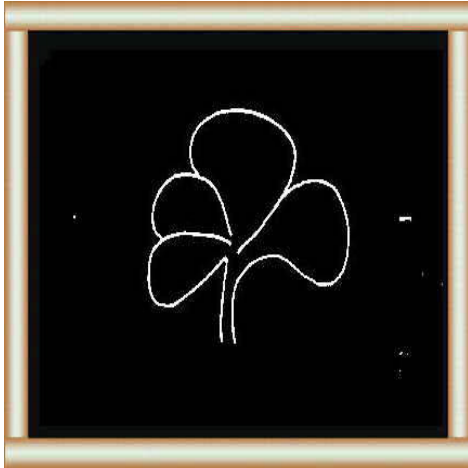


40 Milking does not help because the fluid is between the cells and not in the milk ducts.

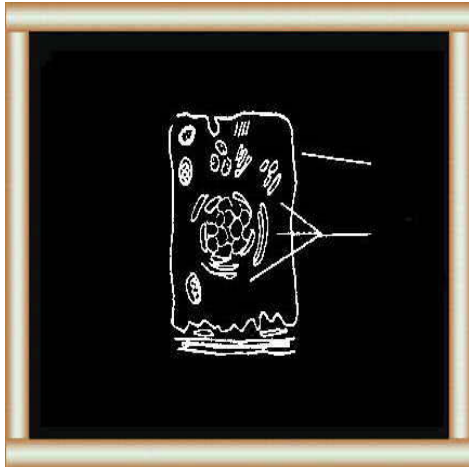


41 Reducing salt intake may help because salt keeps water in the cow's body.
If the swelling is bad, call your vet who can give drugs.

How does your cow produce milk?



42 Each alveolus has cells which produce the substances in milk e.g. sugar, fat and protein.



V2

43 Each cell in the alveolus has many structures inside it.
To produce milk the cell:

44
-takes nutrients from the blood

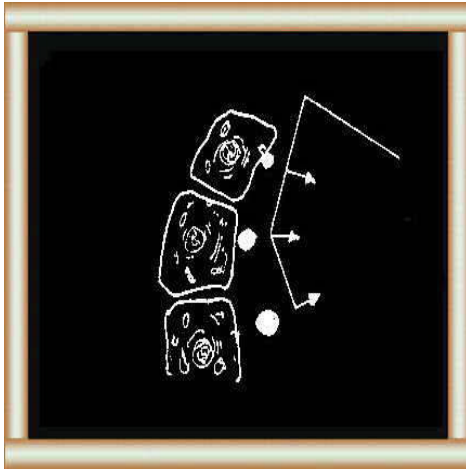


45

-produces the milk substances inside the cell

page 101

What affects milk production?



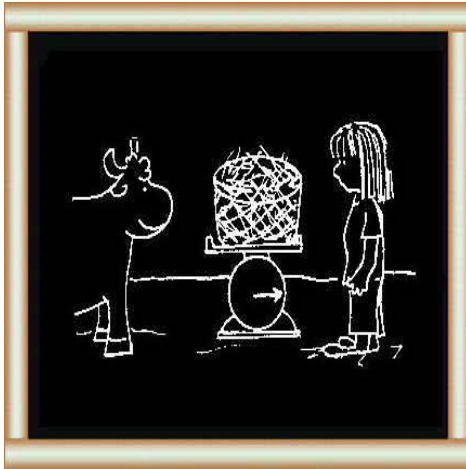
46

-releases milk substances into the alveolus where they mix with water to form milk.



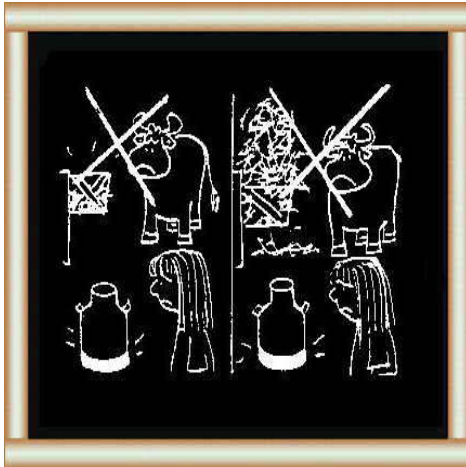
Heredity

47 Different breeds and different cows can produce different amounts of milk.



Nutrition

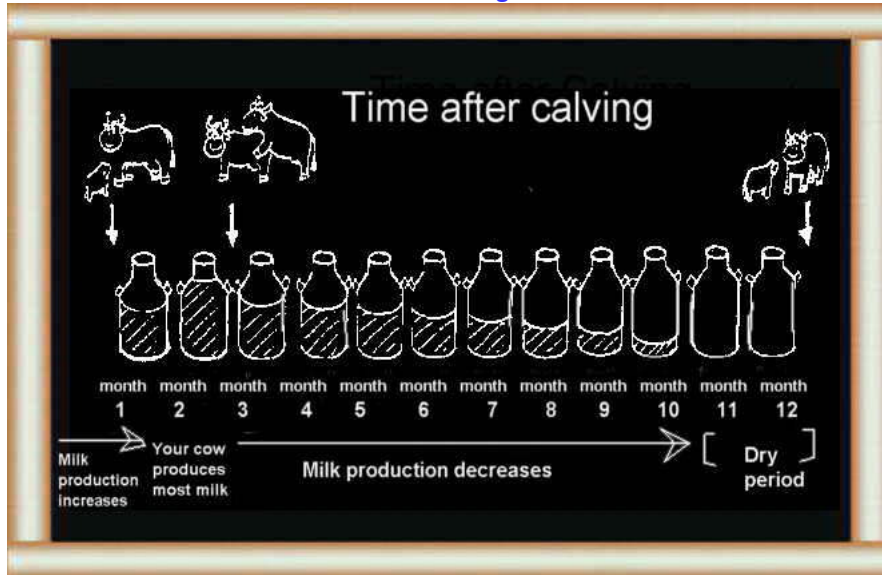
48 Your cow needs the right amounts of feed, roughage and concentrates for maintenance and production rations.



49 Under feeding and over feeding lead to poor milk production.

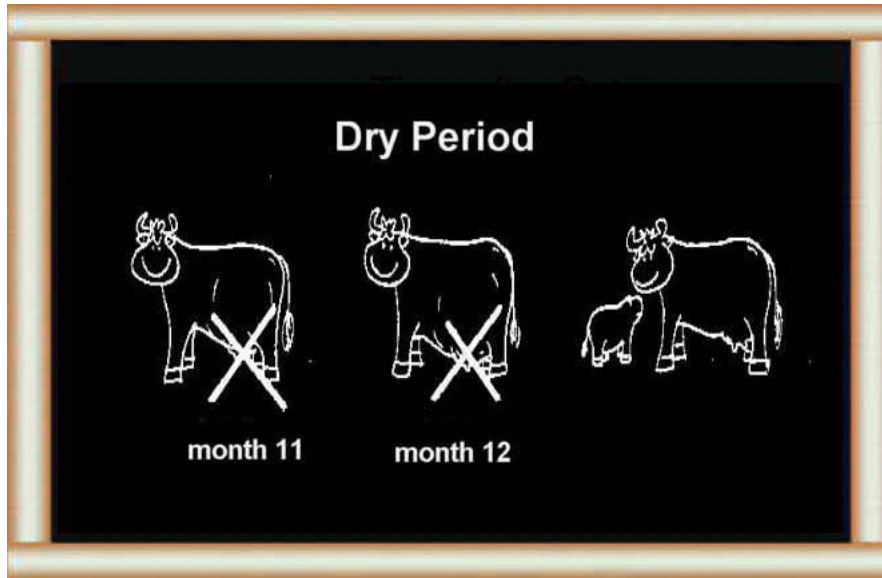
50

Time after calving



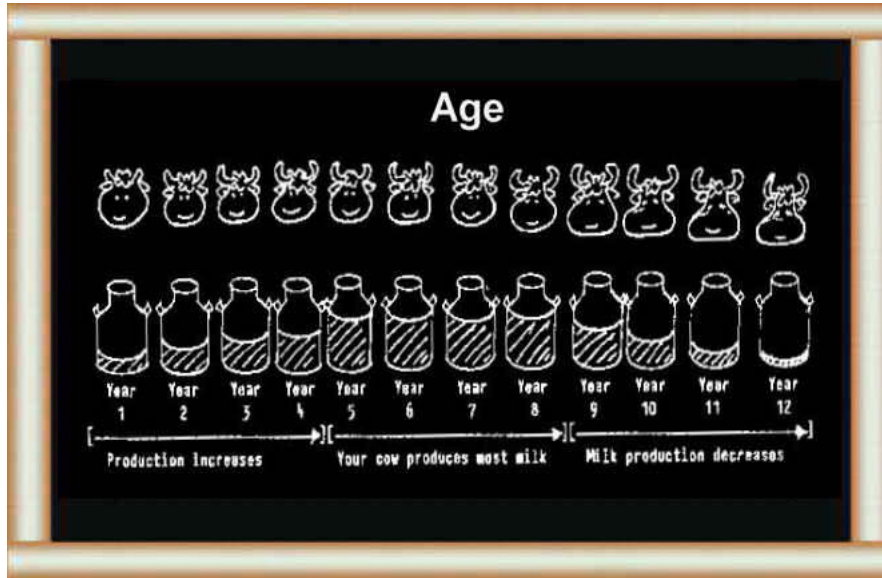
51

Dry period



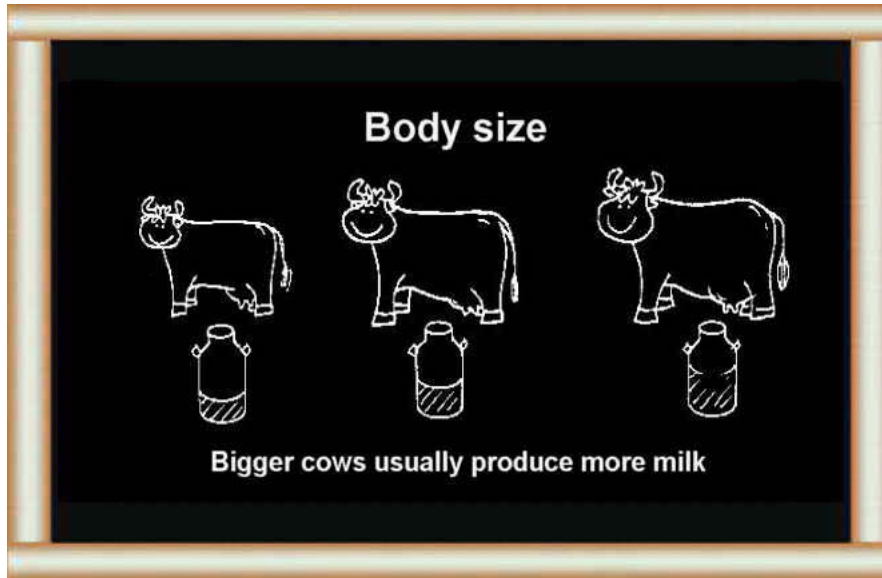
If you dry off your cow for 8 weeks before calving, your cow will produce more milk after calving. If the dry period is too long or too short, your cow will produce less milk.

page103



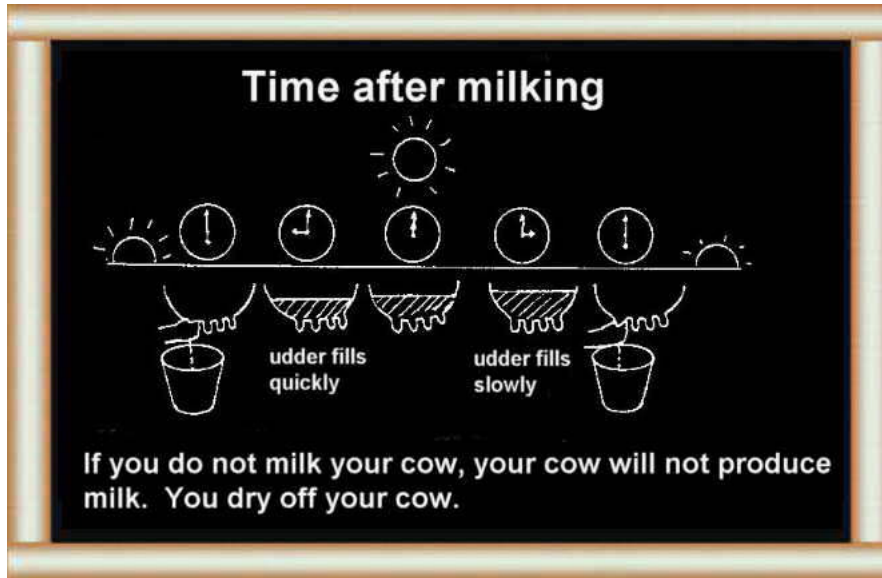
53

Body size



54

Time after milking



If you do not milk your cow, your cow will not produce milk. You dry off your cow.

page104

55

Number of milkings



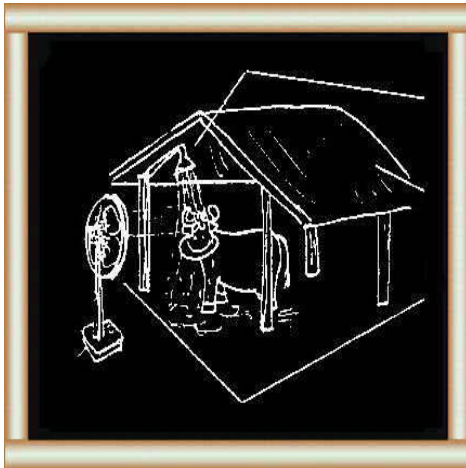
You can milk your cow 3 or 4 times a day. You get a little more milk but:

- you have to give more feed
- you have to do more work.



Temperature

56 If your cow is hot, she will eat less and produce less milk.



57 Keep your cow cool with:

- insulated roof
- shade
- fan or breeze
- shower.

Exercise and calm



58 Gentle exercise helps milk production



59 but make sure your cow is quiet and calm around milking time.



Disease

60 If your cow has mastitis, milk fever or other disease, the quantity and the quality of your milk is lower.

Call your vet.

What do you know about the physiology of the udder?**Importance**

Knowledge of physiology of the udder helps improve:

- 1 feeding and management** ([6-7](#))
- 2 milk production** ([8](#))

What the udder is

- 1 Skin gland** ([9-10](#))
- 2 Milk production** ([11-12](#))

What the udder is like

- 1 Exterior**
 - **weight and appearance** ([13](#))
 - **skin** ([14](#))
 - **supporting tissues** ([15-16](#))
 - **quarters** ([17-20](#))
 - **teats** ([21-23](#))

2 Interior	
- gland cistern	(24)
- lobes, lobules and alveoli	(25-28)
- gland cistern and streak canal	(29-30)
3 Blood system	(31-33)
4 Nerve system	(34-36)
5 Lymph system	(37-41)
Milk production	(42-46)
Factors affecting milk production	
1 Heredity	(47)
2 Nutrition	(48-49)
3 Time after calving	(50)
4 Dry period	(51)
5 Age	(52)
6 Body size	(52)
7 Time after milking	(54)
8 Number of milkings	(55)
	(56-

9 Temperature

[57](#))

10 Exercise and calm

([58-](#)

[59](#))

11 Disease

([60](#))

page107&108



Small-Scale Dairy Farming Manual

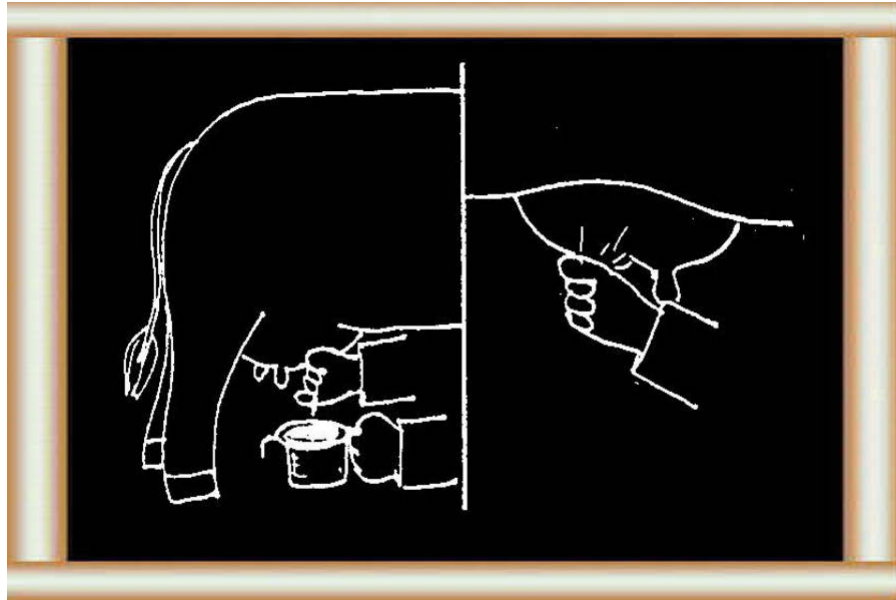
Volume 4

Husbandry Unit 7.2

MILKING AND HANDLING OF

MILKING EQUIPMENT

page109



MILKING & HANDLING OF MILKING EQUIPMENT

Husbandry Unit 7.2:

Technical Notes

Note: Numbers in brackets refer to illustrations in the Extension Materials.

Milking of buffaloes

After calving the animals tend to produce milk for a certain time. In nature the female animals tend to lactate till the young one is well grown and could survive under harsh conditions. However, the animals have been developed to have a long and useful lactation. Most buffaloes after calving continue producing for 270-300 days. Thereafter, milking is not recommended and is uneconomical.

On calving, buffaloes like cattle produce colostrum for up to 5 days. This is fed to young calves and in several countries is eaten by human beings also. Thereafter, normal production starts. Buffalo tend to reach peak milk production within 3-4 weeks. Depending on a number of conditions (feed, care and management, season), the peak is maintained for 60-120 days and then the animal enters into a declining phase till drying at 270-300 days.

Extension Materials

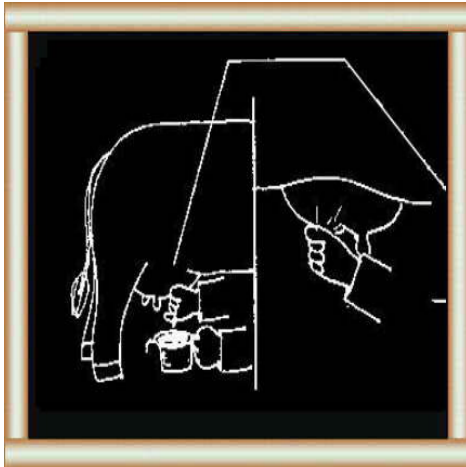
What should you know about milking?



How do you prepare for milking? (9-29)

1 You should know how to prepare:

- your milk shed
- your equipment
- your cow
- yourself.



How do you milk your cow? (30-42)

2 You should know how to:

- check your milk
- milk correctly.



What do you do with your milk? (43-49)

3 You should know how to:

- store your milk
- deliver your milk.



How do you care for utensils? (50-57)

4 You should know how to:

- wash utensils
- store and dry utensils.

page 113

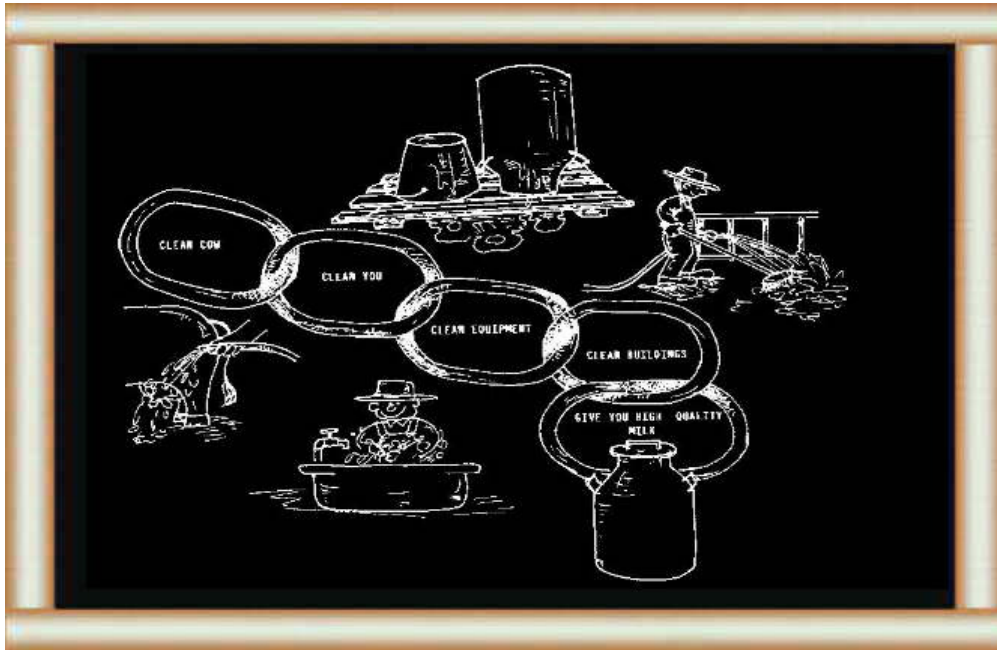
What is important in milking your cow?



6

V2

- 5 To produce high quality milk:
- milk your cow correctly
 - keep everything clean.



page114



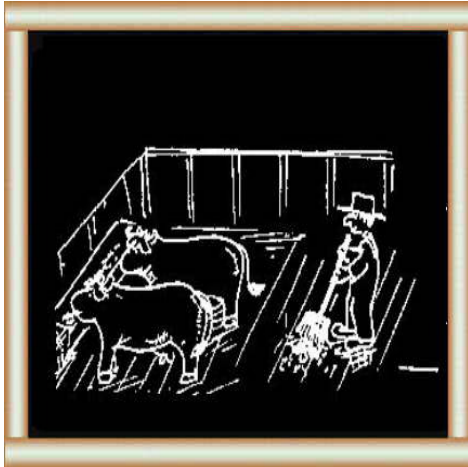
7 Incorrect milking and poor hygiene give you low quality milk.



8 If you are sick do not milk your cow.

You could pass your disease onto others.

How do you prepare for milking?



Your milking shed

9 Prepare the milking shed:

- clean the milking shed before milking
- sweep the floor



10

- wash the floor and walls with a disinfectant.



Your cow

11 Do not scare your cows or distress them by shouting, beating or kicking.

A scared or hurt dairy and especially buffalo cow will not let down milk.



12 A relaxed cow lets down milk easier.

page 116

13 Give your cow a little concentrate while



V2

you milk her.

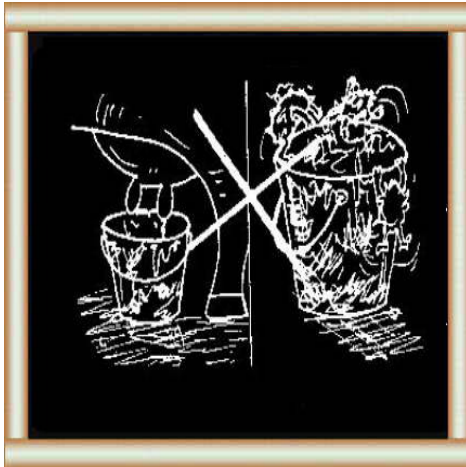
This helps her to stay calm.

14 Do not feed hay or silage while milking.

The dust may contaminate the milk.



Your equipment
15 Make sure your equipment is clean.



16 Bacteria multiply quickly in dirty
equipment.

Organize work well and make sure everything is present at the milking shed before milking starts. This has many benefits:

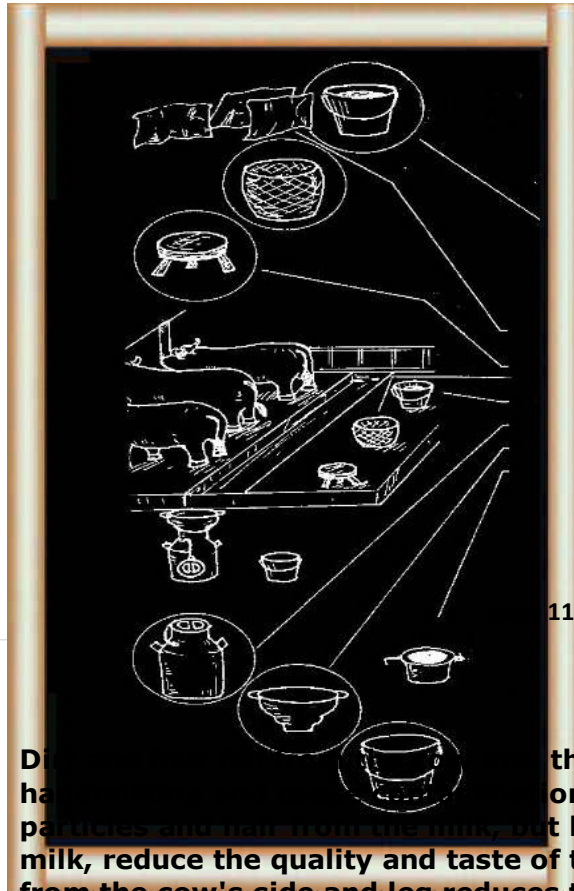
- The milker will not waste time searching for items after milking has started. Time saving.**
- Milking can be carried out immediately after washing the udder. Make maximum use of the cow's let-down reflexes, which are present 5-7 minutes after washing. Milking is then easy, takes a short time, and no residual milk remains in the udder.**
- Milk should be brought straight to the churn and strained after milking. Do not leave milk in an open pail exposed to dirt and dust. This affects the milk quality.**

One udder cloth for each cow greatly reduces the risk of spreading mastitis from one cow to another. Never put an udder cloth from a cow's udder back in the bucket of water with the clean cloths. Use a basket or some other container for the dirty cloths. (17)

Use the milking pail only for milk. If it is used for washing udder cloths, carrying concentrates or other purposes, the pail may well contaminate the milk during the next milking, with harmful particles left in the pail. (18)

17 Make sure everything you need for the milking is ready before you start milking.

- One udder cloth for each cow in a bucket of clean water.
- A stool for the milker.
- A basket to throw the udder cloths in after use.
- A milking pail which you use only for milk.
- A churn to collect all the milk in.
- A strainer with a clean straining cloth or filter.
- A strip cup.



18 Always place the churn with the strainer outside the animal shed.

This prevents dirt, urine, fodder or other contamination from splashing in.

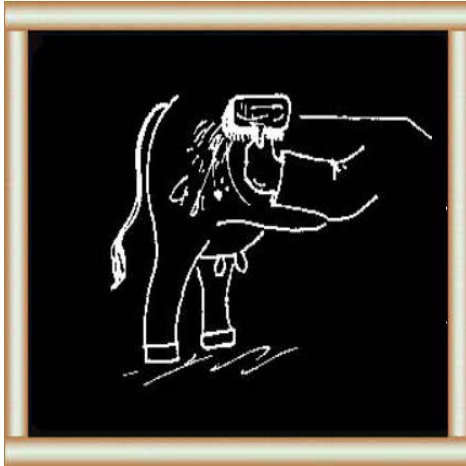
119

Do not wash the milking pail during milking. The strainer separates particles and hair from the milk, but bacteria and dirt left in the milk, reduce the quality and taste of the milk. A quick brush-off from the cow's side and leg reduces this risk. Do not wet wash because dirty water may run from the cow's body into the milk. (19-

20)

Wetwash the teats and lower udder with a clean cloth and clean water. If teats are not wetwashed, the milker's hands will rub off dirt during milking. (21)

page120



Washing your cow
19 Brush dirt and loose hair from the side and back leg of the cow.



20 Do not wetwash.



21 Wetwash the teats and the lower udder.



22 Add 10 cc of 12 % chlorine bleach to each l of water.

page 121

After washing the udder, wring the cloth and wipe all water off the udder with the wringed cloth. If water is left on the udder, dirty drops may fall into the milk during milking. (23-24)

After washing and wiping off the udder, do not put the used cloth back in the bucket with the clean cloths. The dirty cloth will spread dirt and bacteria to the clean cloths, and diseases will spread from one cow to another. (25)

page122

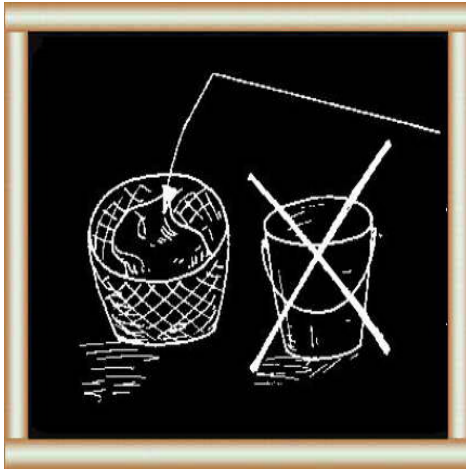


This disinfects the udder but does not taint the milk.

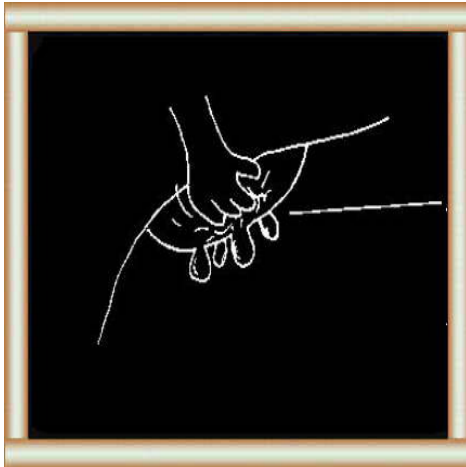
23 Wring the cloth.



24 Wipe off the teats and udder with the same wringed cloth.



25 Throw the used udder cloth in a basket, not back in the bucket.



Massaging the udder

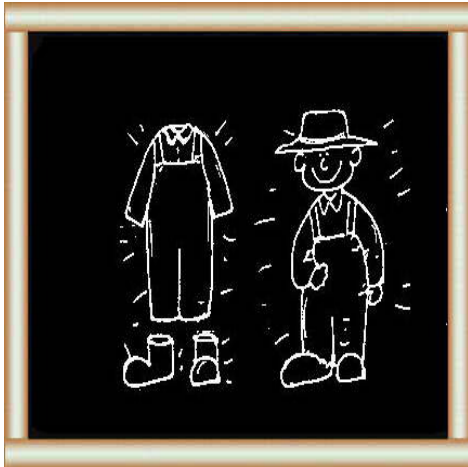
26 Massage the back part of the udder and then the front part and the teats.

This helps the let down of milk.

Wash hands and make sure clothes are clean before milking. (27-28)

The first milk from the teats (the foremilk) usually contains a high number of bacteria. Do not mix the foremilk with the rest of the milk. Strip the foremilk in a cup, with a black plate inside (a stripcup). Examine the milk on the black plate, you can easily see lumps or abnormal colours caused by mastitis. (30-31)

page124



V2

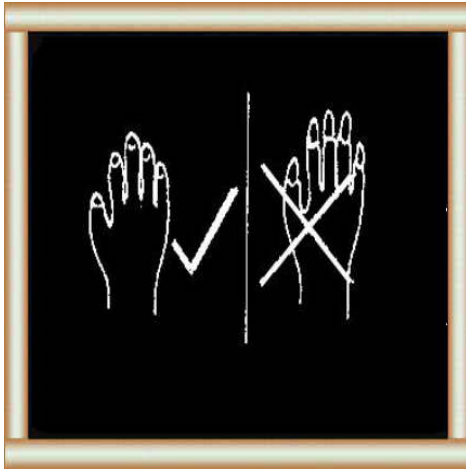
Preparing yourself

27 Make sure you and your clothes are clean.

Finish all cleaning and sweep before milking.

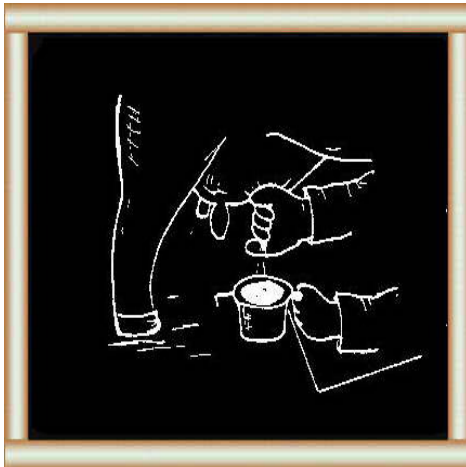


28 Wash your hands before milking.



29 Make sure your fingernails are short.

Long fingernails may hurt your cows.



How do you milk your cow?

Checking your milk

30 Begin milking, soon after washing.

Milk out the first milk from all four teats into a stripcup.

Washing stimulates the cow's udder and the cow produces a hormone called oxytocin. The blood stream carries oxytocin from the brain, where it is produced, to the udder.

In the udder, oxytocin causes cells surrounding to contract. These cells expel the milk towards the teats, from where it can be milked out. This is the cow's reflex for let-down of milk. the production of oxytocin and subsequent active let-down of milk, lasts only 5-7 minutes. Therefore, start milking immediately after washing. Aim to empty the udder within 7 minutes. If milking takes longer it will be hard to empty the udder, and milk will remain in the udder.

Do not interrupt milking before the udder is empty. The cow's let-down reflexes will cease by the time you start milking again, making the milking hard and unpleasant for both the cow and the milker.



31 Check the milk in the stripcup to see if it contains lumps or odd colours.

If the milk looks abnormal, the cow might have mastitis.



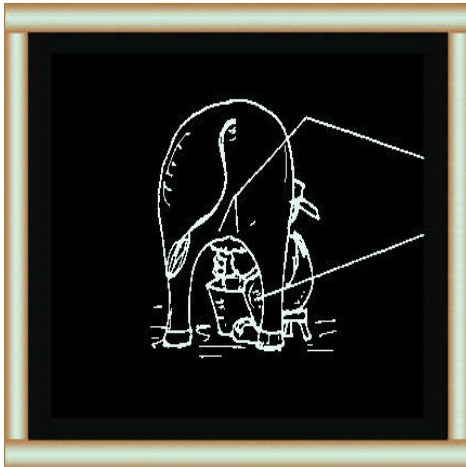
32 Never let the fresh milk squirt on the ground.

This could pass on disease if your cow is sick.



Your position

33 Sit down on a low stool beside the udder, with the milking pail between your knees.



34 Sit close to the cow.

Use both hands for milking.

Your knee will stop the cow from kicking over the pail.

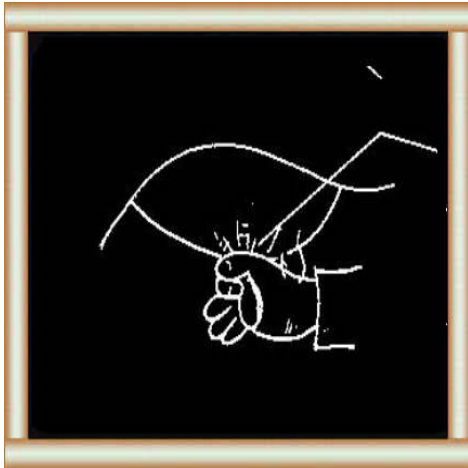
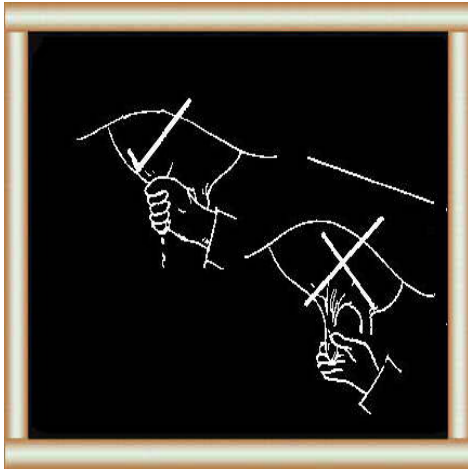
Usually, you do not need to tie the tail or the back legs of the cow.

A rhythmic squeezing of the teats with the full hands maintains a strong let-down reflex. (32-33)

By repeating 32 and 33, the teat is refilled from the udder and the milk can be squeezed out again.

The two hands of the milker alternate, when one hand is squeezing, the other one loosens the grip for refilling.

Do not stripmilk or strongly pull the teats with two fingers. This strains the soft tissue inside the teats and irritations here very easily lead to infections - MASTITIS. (38)



V2

35 Squeeze milk out of the teats using your full hands around the teats.

Do not try to pull the milk out.

36 First, close the canal between the teat and the udder, using two fingers.



37 Squeeze the milk out by closing the rest of the fingers firmly round the teat.



38 Do not pull the teats.

This can harm the inside of the teats, and they are easily infected.

Strip milking can lead to mastitis.

Important

After you begin milking, do not stop until the udder is empty.

page 129

During milking, you must maintain hygiene.

Do not wetmilk, which includes wetting hands with milk, water or spit, to ease the milking. It is very unhygienic, and may contaminate the milk severely. (39-41)

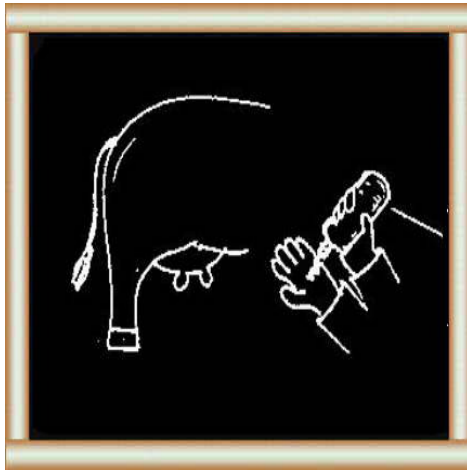
If drymilking is difficult, use a cream with no smell or taste to moisten hands. (42)

Keep cream clean in a closed container.

Machine milking does not pose many difficulties. However, if not put to machine milking during the first lactation, it might cause several problems. Owing to teat shapes and intramammary

pressure both teat cups and vacuum are slightly modified.

page130



Moistening your hands

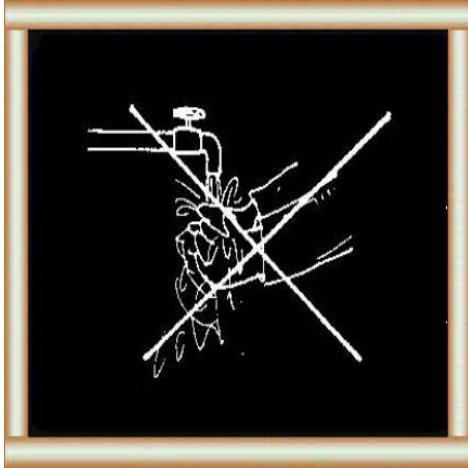
**39 If you find it hard to milk with dry hands,
you can use cream to moisten your hands.**



40 Never dip your fingers in the milk to moisten your hands.



41 Never use spit to moisten your hands.



42 Never use water to moisten your hands during milking.

page131

Milk easily takes taste from the environment. If milk is left standing in an open bucket, dirt and dust particles can fall in and it can absorb smells or tastes from fodder, manure, pesticides or other substances in the environment. Make sure to bring the milk to the churn and strain it immediately after milking. Keep the churn in a well ventilated place out of the direct sun.

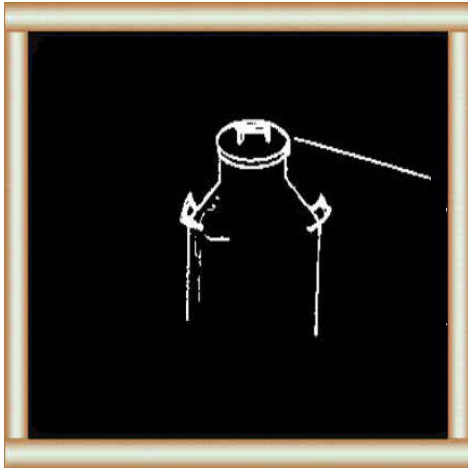
There are always bacteria in milk. In warm milk, the bacteria multiply rapidly, and will produce acids or other products which make the milk go bad. In cold milk, there are few bacteria.

Cool fresh milk quickly after milking to prevent spoilage and resulting low prices. Immediately after milking bring the milk to the collection centre where it is cooled down to a temperature (3-1C) where bacteria do very little damage to milk quality. (43-47)

page132



**What do you do with your milk?
43 When your cow is empty, bring the milk to
the churn and strain it with a clean filter.**



V2

44 If the milk contains dirt, find out what it is:

- hair?
- skin?
- faeces?
- insects?

Find out where it comes from and keep it out of the milk.

45 Keep lids on milk buckets.



46 Handle your milk gently.

47 Rough handling causes fats to oxidise or



V2

split up.

This leads to tallowy or rancid tastes in your milk.

48 Keep your milk in the shade.



49 After milking, take the milk to the collection centre as quickly as you can.

Remember to protect your milk from the sun during transport.

page134

Most bacteria in milk come from milking utensils which are not cleaned properly.

Milk residues on utensils provide good living conditions for bacteria, which contaminate the fresh milk during the next milk-ing.

To produce good quality milk with a low number of bacteria, wash all milking utensils thoroughly and follow routines:

- Rinse all milking utensils in cold water. This removes all loose particles and rinses out all water-soluble parts of the milk (i.e.

protein). If you rinse immediately after milking, you clean out over 90% of all milk residue. If the milk residues dry on the utensils, it is much harder to wash them clean.

- Wash the utensils in hot water with a recommended dairy detergent using a brush. High temperatures help milk fats dissolve and help cleaning in general. Detergents soften the water, prevent milkstone forming and keep dirt in solution so that it does not attach to the surfaces.

- After washing with detergent, rinse the utensils thoroughly in clean water again.

- After washing, disinfect the utensils, by dipping them in a solution of disinfectant and water. Leave the utensils to dry after dipping in disinfectant solution. If local water is clean, rinse the utensils in clean water just before next milking.



How do you care for utensils?

Washing

50 Rinse all milking utensils in cold water.



51 Wash the milking utensils in hot water with detergent.

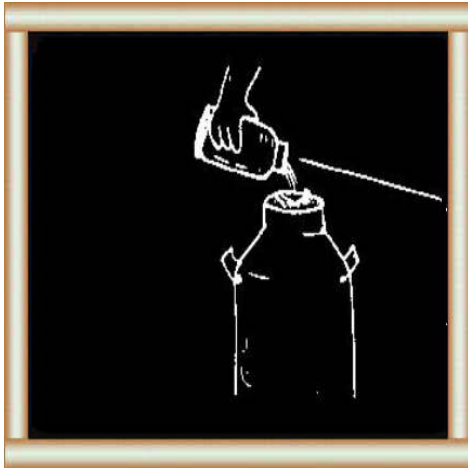
Use a handbrush to scrub clean.

After washing with detergent rinse with plenty of clean water again.



52 Mix disinfectant with water, and rinse all the milking utensils in the solution.

page136



V2

53 Always follow the instructions and keep chemicals in a safe place.

Remember

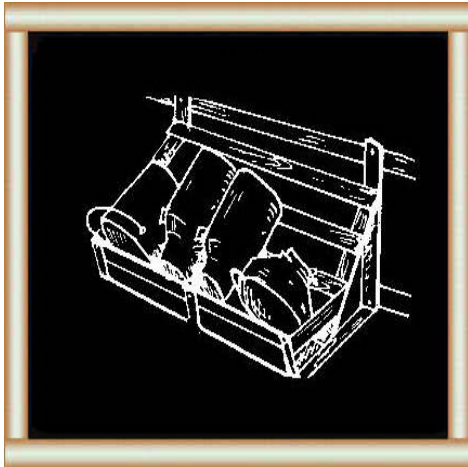
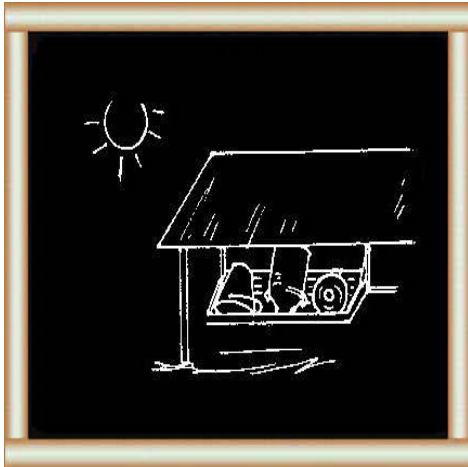
54 Wash and disinfect all stripcups, udder cloths and baskets.

Leave milking utensils to dry on racks in a well-ventilated, clean and tidy place. Racks should:

- allow water to drain out from buckets and churns**
- allow air to circulate so that the insides dry quickly**
- be made in any available material, which is easy to clean.**

Bacteria do not live on a clean, disinfected and dry surface, but if the insides remain wet, bacteria infest the utensils, and again reduce milk quality.

Leave dry utensils on the racks. Fix racks in an area with little activity, dirt and dust or in a storeroom, which is clean, well ventilated, and contains no chemicals like pesticides. (55-57)



V2

Storing and drying

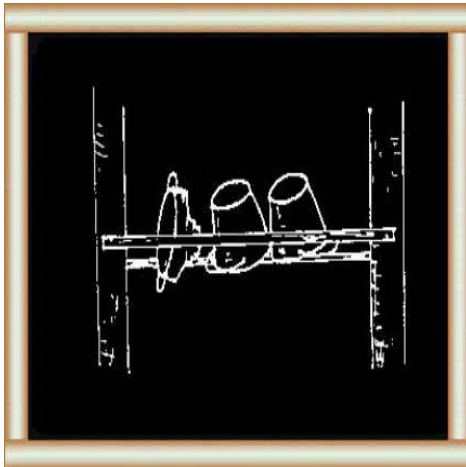
55 When you wash the milking utensils dry them in a clean and tidy place.

You should dry utensils in fresh air, preferably in sunlight.

56



57 Make drying racks for milk utensils from suitable materials.



58

What do you know about milking?**Important things in milking**

You can produce high quality milk by: (5-8)

- milking correctly
- not milking when you are sick
- keeping everything clean.

Preparing for milking

1 Milking shed (9-10)

- Sweep and wash before milking

2 Your cow

- Relax and feed her (11-13)

- Brush, wash and disinfect her (19-22)

- Dry and massage her (23-26)

3 Your equipment

- Clean and disinfect (15-18)

4 Yourself

- Clean clothes and hands (27-28)
- Cut fingernails (29)

Milking

- 1 Check milk for lumps or odd colours (29-31)
- 2 Sit in right position (33-34)
- 3 Squeeze teats with full hands, do not pull (35-38)
- 4 Use cream to moisten hands if necessary (39)
- 5 Never moisten hands with milk, spit or water (40-42)

Handling of milk

- 1 Strain milk (43-44)
- 2 Cover milk and handle gently (45-47)
- 3 Keep milk cool and deliver quickly (48-49)

Caring for utensils

- 1 Rinse, wash, rinse and disinfect (50-54)
- 2 Dry and store in fresh air or sunlight (55-57)



Small-Scale Dairy Farming Manual

Volume 4

Husbandry Unit 7.3

MILK RECORDING



Extension Materials

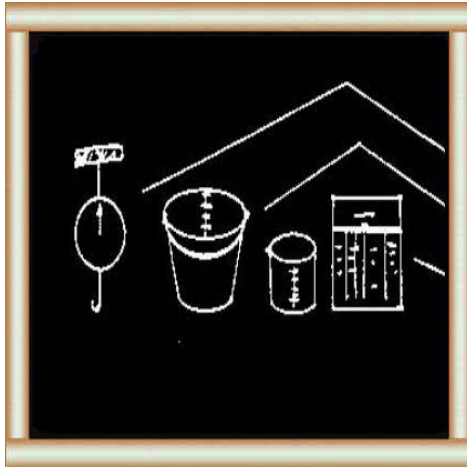
What should you know about milk recording?



What is milk recording? (5-6)

1 Milk recording is:

- measuring milk yield and composition
- keeping records.



V2

Why do you need milk recording? (7-10)

2 To make decisions about:

- feeding
- selecting animals
- culling animals.

How can you record yields? (11-19)

3 You need to:

- weigh milk yields
- take milk samples
- keep records.



What is official recording and why should you cooperate? (20-27)

4 To improve selection of animals and production of:

- your family and neighbours
- farmers throughout your country.

page 143

MILK RECORDING

Husbandry Unit 7.3:

Technical Notes

Note: Numbers in brackets refer to illustrations in the Extension Materials.

Milk recording is the process of making measurements of the yield and composition of milk produced by individual animals and recording them. (5-6)

Such records are of great value for making decisions on

- **feeding cattle and buffalo (7)**
- **selection of calves with a higher capacity to produce (i.e. calves from high yielding animals) (8)**
- **progeny testing of bulls (9)**
- **removing (culling) unproductive animals. (10)**

page145

What is milk recording?



5 In milk recording, you measure the:

- milk yield
 - milk composition
- of each of your animals.



6 You record the yield and composition.



Why do you need milk recording?

7 Milk recording helps you make decisions on:
- feeding cattle and buffalo (see H.4 Feeding)



8

- selecting calves from animals with high yields because they should have high yields when they grow

page 146

Recording by owner

In its simplest form milk recording involves the measurement and recording by the owner of the quantity of milk produced daily by each individual animal. The common practice is to measure the yield in kg using a suitable balance or a bucket or other container calibrated in 0.5 kg intervals. (11-12)

The daily yield is used as a basis for making decisions on feed-ing. (See Unit H.4)

page147



9
- selecting bulls which can produce animals
with high yields



V2

10

- culling animals with low production.

How can you record daily milk yield?

11 You usually measure daily milk yield in kg:
- with a suitable balance



12

- or with a bucket marked for each $\frac{1}{2}$ kg of milk.

Daily yield helps you make decisions on feeding. (H.4)

page 148

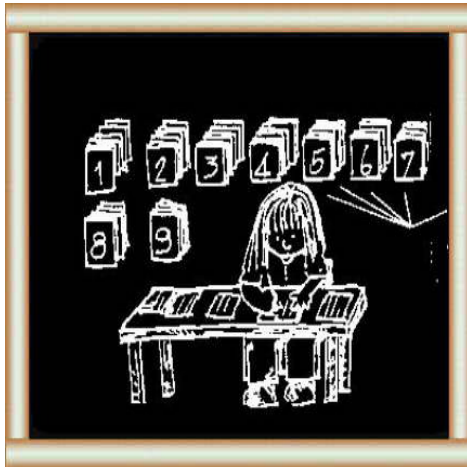
The lactation yield is obtained by adding the daily yields. This is a valuable criteria for making decisions on culling unproductive animals and selecting of calves. (13)

An improvement on this simple method would be to get the butter fat content measured about once a month. Assistance of the extension officer or the dairy cooperative will have to be obtained for this purpose. (14)

To measure the average fat content of the milk on a particular day, a proportionate sample of the milk produced at each milking during the day has to be collected, e.g. if 10 kg are produced in the morning and 5 kg in the afternoon milk, the sample has to contain

10 ml from morning milk and 5 ml from afternoon milk. A preservative like Potassium Dichromate has to be added to the sample to prevent it clotting. (15-16)

page149

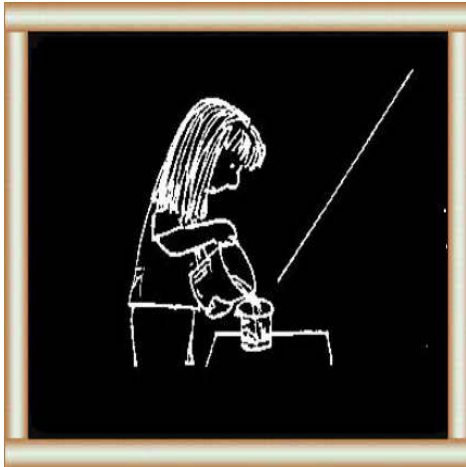


13 By adding all the daily yields for one animal, you get the lactation yield.

This helps you decide on culling and selecting calves.



14 You should also measure the butter fat content of your milk once a month. Consult your extension worker or dairy cooperative.



15 Take a 0.1 % sample from each milking on one day of the month e.g.
- 10 ml if you have 10 kg of morning milk
- 5 ml if you have 5 kg of afternoon milk.



16 Add a little preservative (e.g. Potassium Dichromate) to stop the sample clotting.

page 150

Information on daily milk yield of several cows can be recorded in a single page as shown opposite. (17)

Information on monthly milk yields can be recorded in the format given in Annex I. (18)

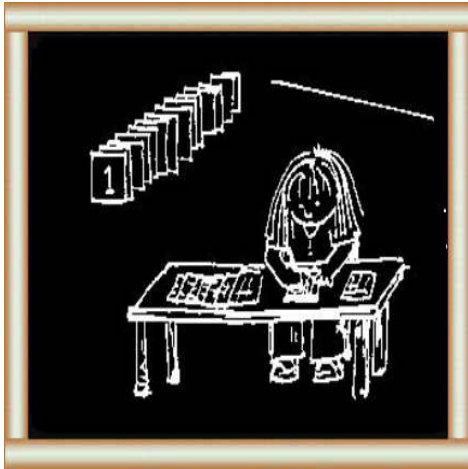
When lactation is completed, the information on each individual cow can be recorded in the format given in Annex II. (19)

page151

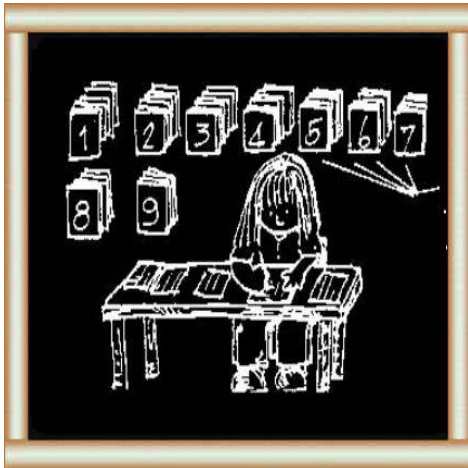
17 You can use this table to record **daily** milk yields.

Daily milk yield (kg) during the month of _____

Date	Cow No. 1		Cow No. 2		Cow No. 3		Remarks
	am.	pm.	am.	pm.	am.	pm.	
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
Results of Butter Fat Test							



18 You can use the table in Annex 1 to record monthly milk yield



19 and the table in Annex 2 to record lactation yield for each of your animals.

Official recording

In Asia only a few countries have official milk recording schemes. Even in those countries, only a few herds in a limited area are covered.

In official recording, an extension officer from the government or from the dairy cooperative visits each farm, records the milk yield of each individual animal and collects appropriate samples for measuring the milk composition. Subsequently, the farmer is provided with information on yield and composition of milk of each cow. (20-21)

As official recording involves heavy cost, mainly on salaries of recorders and their travelling expenses, an attempt is made to reduce the number of visits. Some of the practices adopted are:

- fortnightly recording, which is adequate for all recording purposes; (22)**
- monthly recording, which gives a high accuracy for progeny testing purposes, but which only gives some guidance in selecting and feeding individual animals; (23)**

What is official recording and why should you cooperate?



20 In official recording, an extension worker from the government:

- visits your farm
- records milk yields for each animal
- takes samples to measure composition.

21 After checking, he sends you information



V2

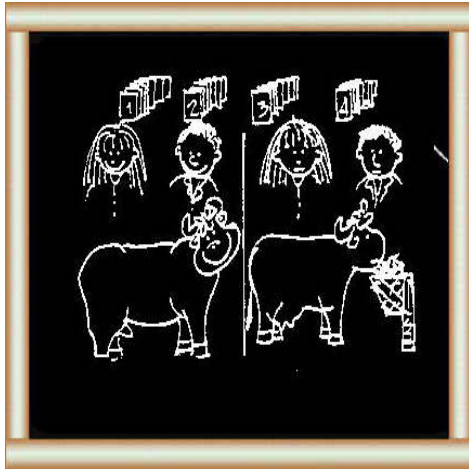
on:

-your milk yields

-the composition of your milk.

22 Frequent visits are better but cost a lot of money.

Visiting every two weeks is best for recording.



23 Visiting every month is :
 -enough for breeding purposes
 -enough for some guidance for feeding and selecting animals.

page 154

- **bimonthly recording, which is adequate for progeny testing but not sufficient for individual selection and feeding; (24)**

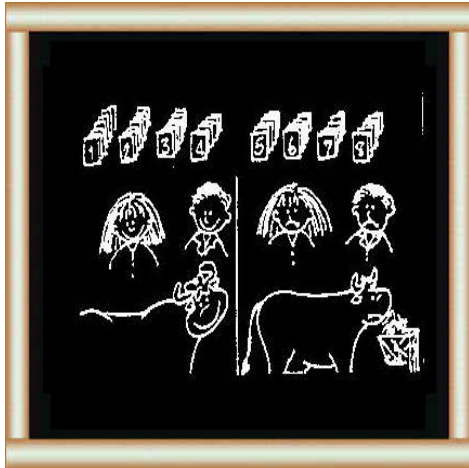
- **a.m. and p.m. sampling, where morning milk is weighed and tested in one month and afternoon milk is weighed and tested next month**
 - **more accurate than bimonthly but less accurate than monthly recording. (25)**

Whatever the procedure adopted, farmers should be encouraged to cooperate with any official recording programmes, because they serve as a basis for:

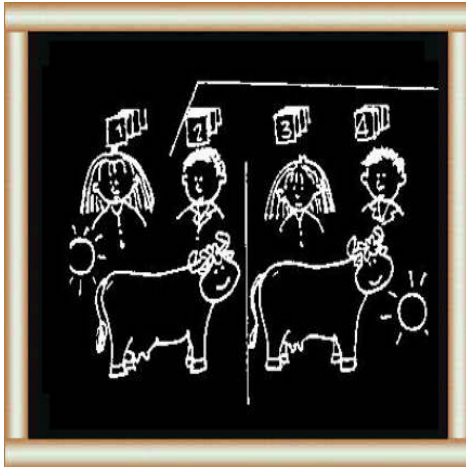
- **checking farmer's own recordings for deciding on individual**

**animal selection and feeding; (26)
and
- improving the productivity of the national cattle and buffalo herds
through sire selection by progeny testing. (27)**

page155



24 Visiting every 2 months is:
-enough for breeding purposes
-not enough for guidance on feeding and selecting animals.



25 Visiting to weigh and test:

- morning milk one month
 - afternoon milk the next month
- is better than visiting every two months.



26 Cooperating with official recording helps you by:

- checking your recording
- giving you guidance on feeding and selecting animals.



27 It also helps improve the selection of animals and production of farmers
-in your neighbourhood
-in your country.

page 156

Annex I

Monthly Milk Yield

Year:..... Month	Cow No.		Cow No.		Cow No.	
	Milk kg	Fat %	Milk kg	Fat %	Milk kg	Fat %
January						
February						

March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						

Annex II

HISTORY SHEET OF COW

Breed: **Tattoo No:**

Date on Birth: **Born of Farm:** **Cause of Death:**.....
 or
Date of Purchase: **Purchased from:**..... **Sold to:**.....
Sire's No: **Dam's No.**

1 Date of Fertile Service	2 No. of Bull used for Service	3 Date of Calving	4 Lactation No.	5 Age at Calving (mths)	6 No. Allotted to Calf	7 Sex and Weight of Calf (kg)	8 Disposal of Calf	9 305 day Milk Yield (kg)	10 Total Milk Yield (kg)	11 Butter Fat (%)	12 Date of Dry Off

Keywords

**History (sheet) of cow
Fertile Service**

**Tattoo No.
Age at the calving**

What do you know about milk recording?**What milk recording is**

- 1 Taking measurements of yield and composition (5)**
- 2 Keeping records (6)**

Reasons for milk recording

To make decisions on:

- 1 Feeding (7)**
- 2 Selecting calves**
- 3 Selecting bulls (9)**
- 4 Culling (10)**

Recording yields

- 1 Daily milk yield (decisions on feeding)**
 - balance (11)**
 - graduated bucket (12)**
- 2 Lactation yields (decisions on culling, (13)**

selection)	
3 Butter fat content	(14-16)
4 Daily record form	(17)
5 Monthly record form	(18Annex I)
6 Lactation record form	(19 AnnexII)
Official recording	
1 Farm visits:	
- recording yields and sampling	(20)
- information and guidance	(21)
- 2 weekly visits	(22)
- monthly visits	(23)
- 2 monthly visits	(24)
- monthly morning/afternoon sampling	(25)
2 Reasons for cooperation	(26-27)

page160



Small-Scale

Dairy Farming Manual

Volume 4

Husbandry Unit 8

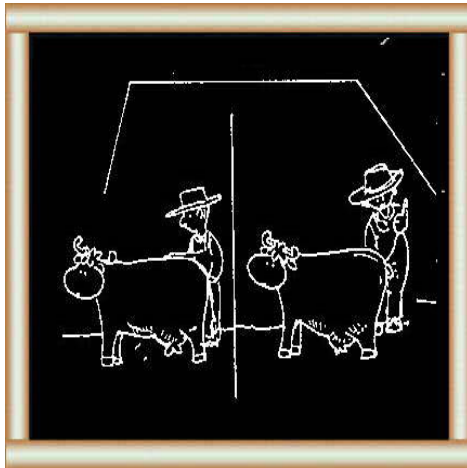
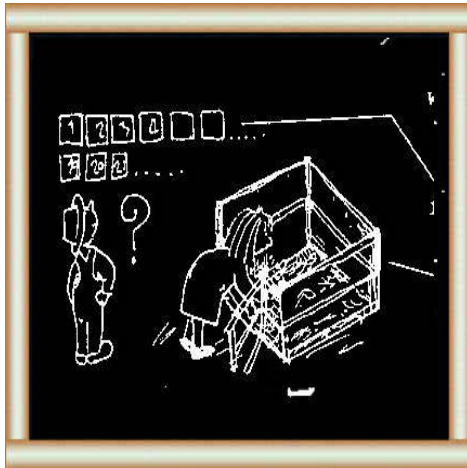
CALVING

page161



What should you know about calving?

How do you prepare for calving? (5-20)



V2

- 1 You should know how to:**
- estimate the date of calving
 - prepare the calving site.

What are the signs of calving? (21-27)

- 2 You should know:**
- signs 1-2 weeks before calving
 - signs just before calving.



What do you see and do during calving? (28-45)

3 You should know:

- when to leave your cow alone
- how to help if necessary
- when to call the vet.



What do you do after calving? (46-68)

4 You should know how to care for:

- your calf
- your cow.

CALVING

Husbandry Unit 8:

Technical Notes

Note: Numbers in brackets refer to illustrations in the Extension Materials.

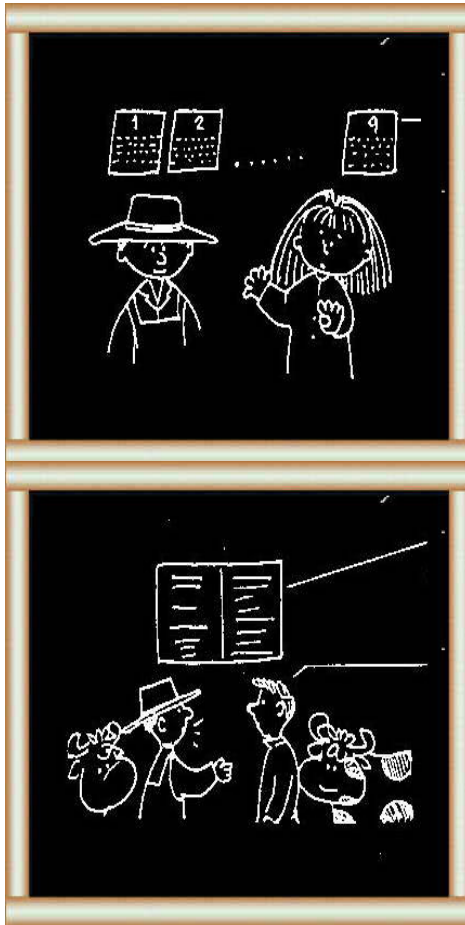
Preparation before calving

Calculate the approximate calving date from the A.I./mating date. Pregnancy in cows lasts 274 -291 days. (5-6)

Pregnancy in buffaloes lasts 308 - 343 days. Riverine buffalo usually have a shorter pregnancy than Swamp buffalo.

page165

[How do you prepare for calving?](#)



5 You know that your dairy cow gives birth about 9 months after successful A.I. or natural breeding.

Your dairy buffalo gives birth after about 10 months.

6 Consult your breeding calendar and your extension worker.

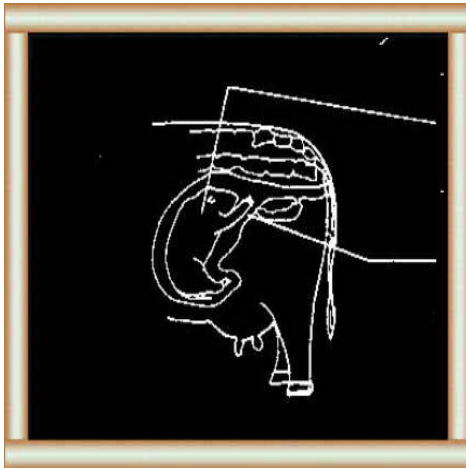
The length of pregnancy depends on:

- breed
- your animal (age, no. of calvings, calf sex, twin/single calves).

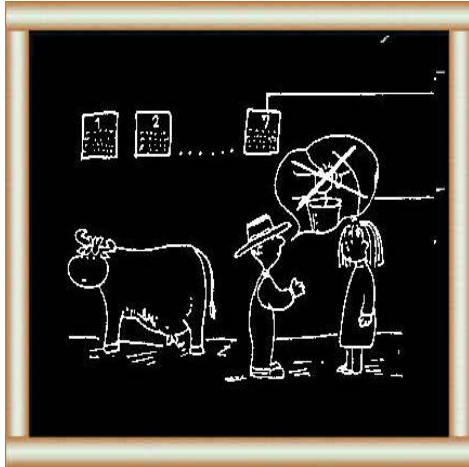
See H 6.2 Breeding Calendars.



7 Your calf grows slowly at first and is about this size at 7 months (about one third of birth weight).

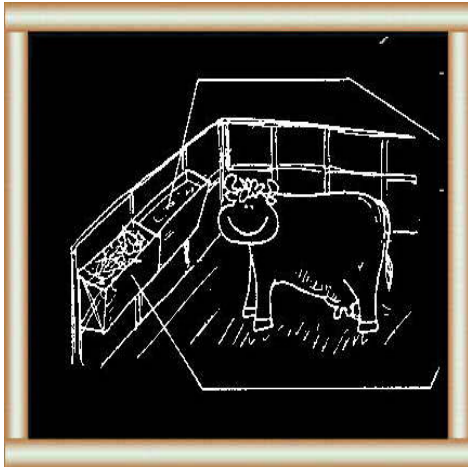


8 This is your calf just before birth. This is the correct position - legs forward with head on the legs for easy birth.



Drying off

9 Dry off your cow 2 months before expected calving.



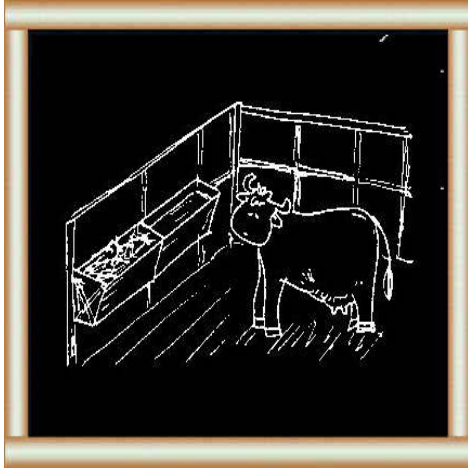
V2

Rations

10 Increase the rations 1 month before expected calving.

11 If your cow is in good condition give daily:

- clean water (freely)
- good quality grass (freely)
- enough concentrates and minerals.



12 If your cow is in poor condition, consult your extension worker about feeding.

page167

Prepare the calving site. Always separate the calving site from the rest of the herd. Use a protected outside area or a calving box. Make the calving box at least 180 cm x 180 cm. Clean and disinfect it before use. Provide sufficient bedding where possible. (15-18)

page168



Equipment

13 Prepare equipment and store in a clean place one week before expected calving:

- clean bucket for water
- soap
- small bottle of tincture of iodine (make sure the iodine is not adulterated)



14

- a 2 m strong, clean rope 1 cm thick (or an obstetrical chain)
- a 1 m strong, clean stick.

Calving site

15 Always separate your cow from the other cows just before calving.

Make sure she is:

- safe
- quiet.

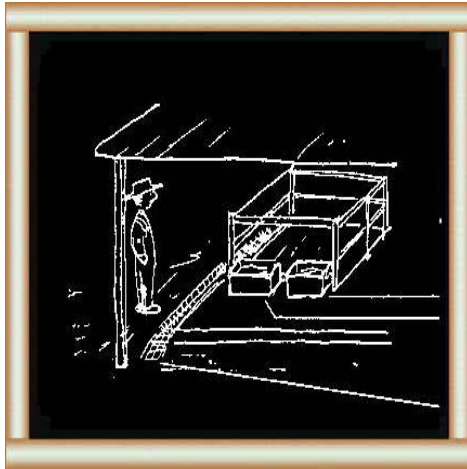


16 If outside, the site should be:

- dry
- fenced
- roofed, e.g. in rainy weather or places with no shade.

Move dairy cows to the calving site at 270 days pregnancy (about 310 days for dairy buffalo). (19)

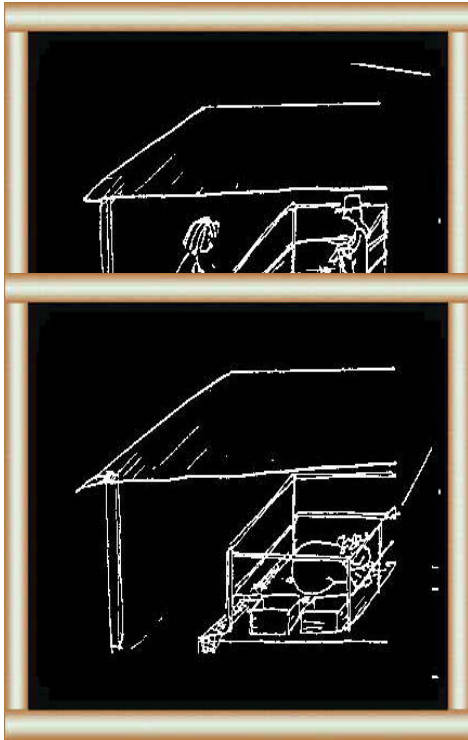
page170



17 If inside the barn, prepare a 1.8 x 1.8 m calving box outside of which are:

- gutter
- feeder
- waterer.

18 Before moving your cow to the box:



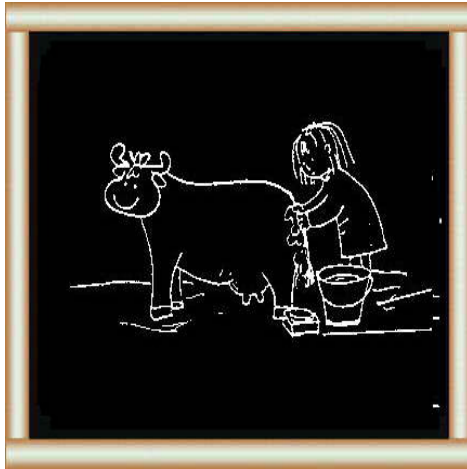
V2

- clean everything
- disinfect everything
- add plenty of straw bedding (if available)
- add sand or sawdust if the floor is slippery.

19 Move your dairy cow to the box about 1 week before calving - about 270 days of pregnancy (310 days for dairy buffalo).

Note:

Consult your breeding calendar or extension worker.



Washing

20 Wash your cow with soap and water daily to prepare for calving.

page171

Signs of approaching calving

The most important signs of approaching calving:

- **The udder grows quickly in the last weeks of pregnancy and begins secreting close to calving; (21)**
- **The vulva may show swelling and discharge of mucus; (22)**
- **The hip areas on each side of the tail root "relax". (23)**



What are the signs of calving?

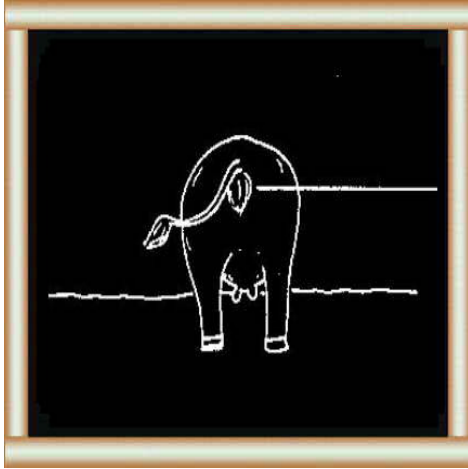
1-2 weeks before calving

21 The udder becomes bigger as liquid collects.

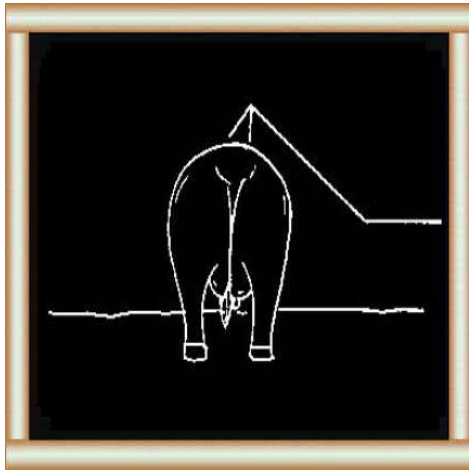
Near to calving
22 The vulva swells and begins to discharge
mucus.

01/11/2011

V2



01/11/2011

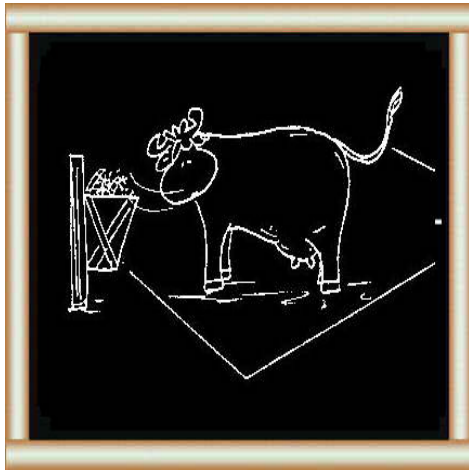


V2

1-3 days before calving

23 The area on each side of the tail relaxes.

You can feel the looseness and see the curve -
your cow is preparing for birth.



24 Your cow may:
- raise her tail
- eat less.

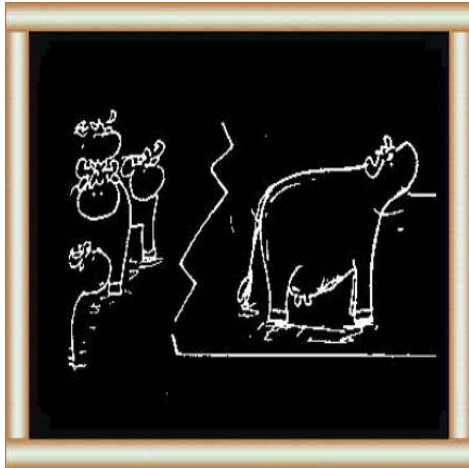
At parturition, the cow becomes restless and tries to separate if in a group. (25)

She also starts to strain intermittently. Duration of straining increases and intervals between straining shorten as the parturition process continues, with a short pause after the rupture of the water bag. (26)

01/11/2011

V2

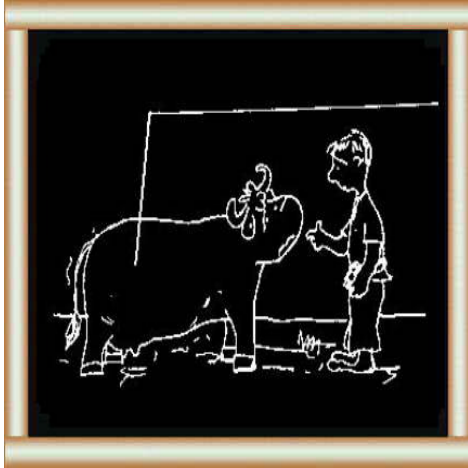
page174



25 Just before calving

Your cow becomes restless and tries to separate from the herd.

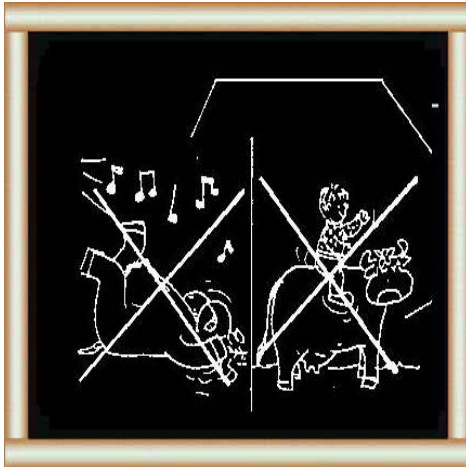
01/11/2011



V2

time to time.

As calving progresses, she strains harder and more often.



27 Make sure:

- she has quiet
- no one disturbs her or she may hold back her calf.



What do you see and do during calving?

Normal birth

- 28 Watch carefully but do nothing if everything is normal.**

Calving

The most important thing to remember:

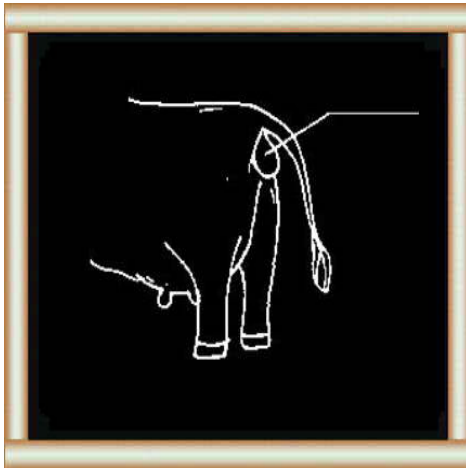
**OBSERVE THE COW - BUT LEAVE HER ALONE IF CALVING
PROCEEDS NORMALLY**

First, the water bag appears in the vulva opening. It breaks by itself later, so DO NOT BREAK IT! (30)

Normally, the head and two front legs then appear in the vulva opening. (31-32)



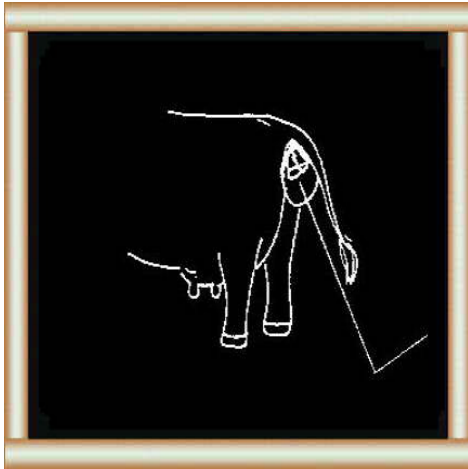
29 Never try to hurry your cow, you may hurt her and your calf.



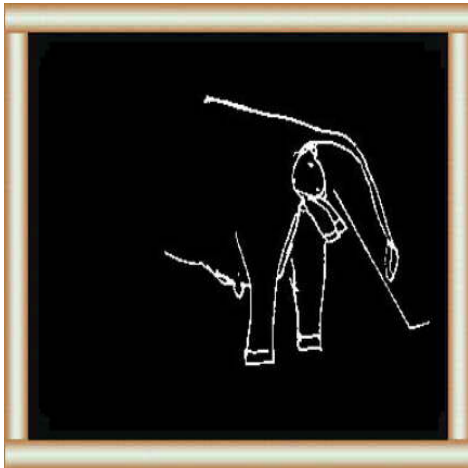
30 You see the water bag in the vulva opening.

Never break the bag, it breaks by itself.

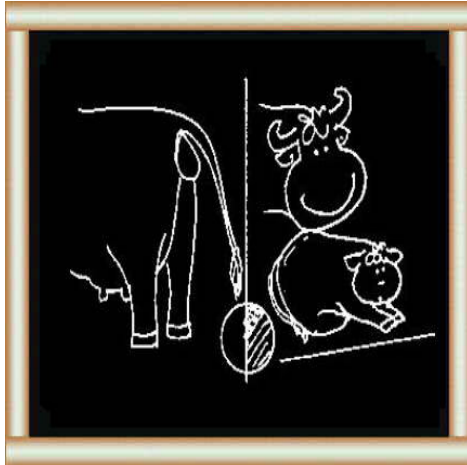
The straining stops for a short time.



31 Then the straining begins again, you see the two front legs

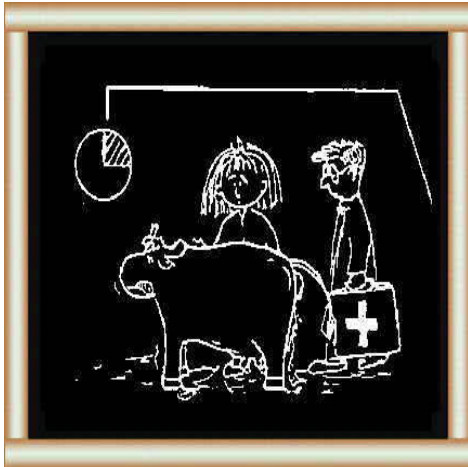


32and then the head.



33 Normally, your cow continues labour for 2-6 hours while the rest of your calf comes out.

34 Call the vet if:



V2

- your animal starts labour but you do not see the water bag:

- for cows, in 6 hours
- for heifers, in 12 hours

35

- you see the water bag break but no part of your calf after 2-3 hours



36

- you see part of your calf but no more of the calf comes out after 30 minutes

page178

In most cases the rest of the calf is then soon delivered. If, however, the birth stops at this point the farmer may assist in pulling out the calf. Clean the cow well (vulva surroundings) with water and soap. (39-40)

page179



**37 Call the vet if:
- you see the head and only one front leg.**



V2

38 Do not try to turn the calf or pull the other leg out, you may hurt your cow and your calf.



**39 You may help your cow if:
- the head, two front legs (and maybe the front part of the body) come out but no more of the calf comes out with labour.**



40 Clean and disinfect:

- your hands and arms and make sure your finger nails are short
- the area around the vulva
- the rope or chains
- the stick or torsion bars.

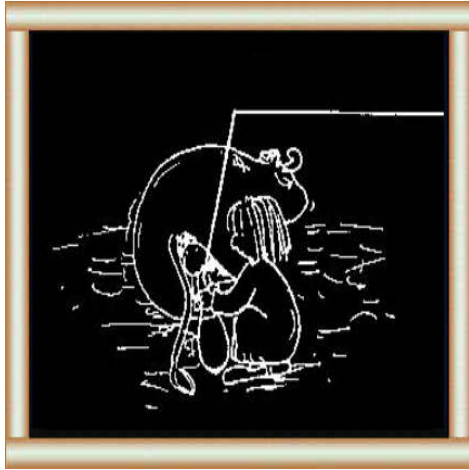
page180

Place a clean rope or chain around each leg of the calf at a point higher than the pastern joints. (41-42)

Pull by using a strong, clean stick as a torsion bar. (43)

Pulling should be out and down. NEVER UP! Pull at the time the cow strains and not during the intervals between strainings. Not more than two persons should pull. If excess force is used, the uterus will also come out with the calf or it may tear. (44)

page181



41 Carefully tie each end of the chain or rope above the hoof joints of the calf.



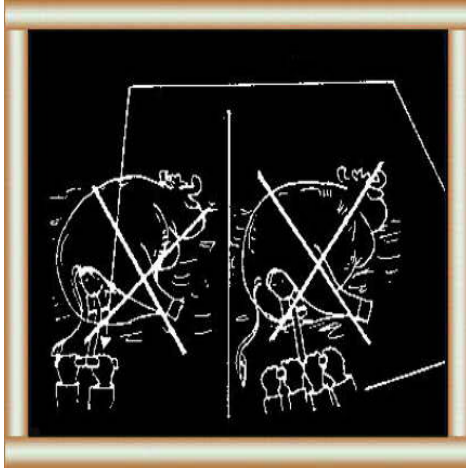
V2

42 Put the stick or torsion bars through the loop of the rope or chain.



43 Pull:

- only when your cow strains
- only towards your cows's udder
- only with one other person.



- 44 Never pull:**
- straight or upwards
 - with more than one other person.

page182

If no progress is seen: call the veterinarian. The veterinarian should also be called when: (45)

- the cow has shown restlessness/labour for 3-6 hours (heifer: 12 hours), but no water bag or calf appears;
- the water bag breaks, but the calf does not appear after 2-3 hours;
- part of the calf appears, but there is no progress in birth for about half an hour.



45 If pulling correctly does not help:
- your cow may have twins
- the calf may be too big or deformed.
You must call the vet.



What do you do after calving?

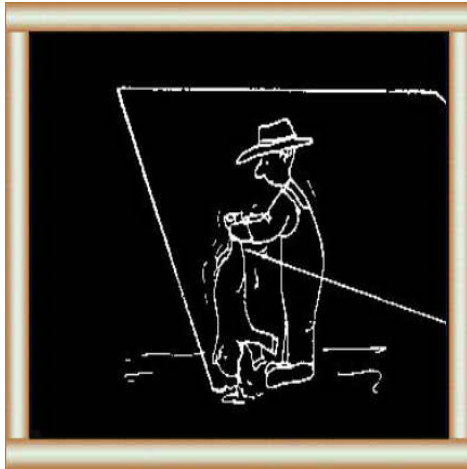
46 After calving you should care for your calf and your cow.



Caring for your calf

47 Do not cut the navel cord.

Your calf receives blood from the placenta.



48 Remove liquid from the lungs by:
- holding your calf by the hindlegs and
swinging or shaking

page184

After calving

The calf:

Remove mucus from the mouth and nostrils. If the birth was difficult, hang the calf, head down, over a divider or likewise to let fluid run out of the lungs. (49)

Start missing respiration by tickling the nostrils with a straw, by rubbing the chest area thoroughly with some straw or grass or even a piece of rough cloth (52) or by using artificial respiration,

alternately pressing and relaxing slowly the calf's shoulder and front leg. (53)

page185



49

- hanging your calf over a board and rubbing firmly.

Rub from the stomach to the chest to the throat.



50 Put your calf down.

Put your hand in the back of your calf's mouth and wipe out the mucus.



51 Use two fingers to milk (wipe) out mucus from your calf's nose.



- 52 If your calf is not breathing:
- tickle the nose with a clean straw
 - gently rub the chest with some straw or rough cloth

page186

Dry the calf (or allow the cow to clean it by licking). (55-56)

page187



53

- hold your calf's front leg and shoulder and alternately press and relax



54

- slap your calf on the ribs or on the rump.



55 Give your calf fresh air and let your cow lick the calf dry as soon as possible.

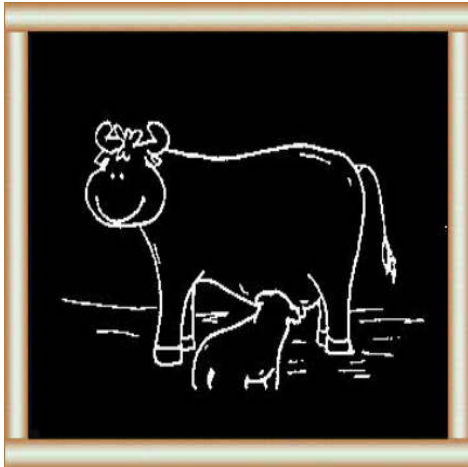


56 If your cow cannot lick the calf, use straw to rub the calf dry.

Dip the navel cord in tincture of iodine (do not cut the cord!). Apply an antiseptic dressing three times a day during the first 3 days. This helps healing. (57)

Give at least 1 litre of colostrum within 2 hours after birth, and another 2 litres within 6 hours (or encourage the calf to drink colostrum as soon as possible, within the first hour). (59)

If suckling is practised, encourage the calf to suckle at least four times during the first 24 hours (and remove surplus colostrum by hand milking). Suckling stimulates uterine activity and helps in expulsion of after birth.



V2

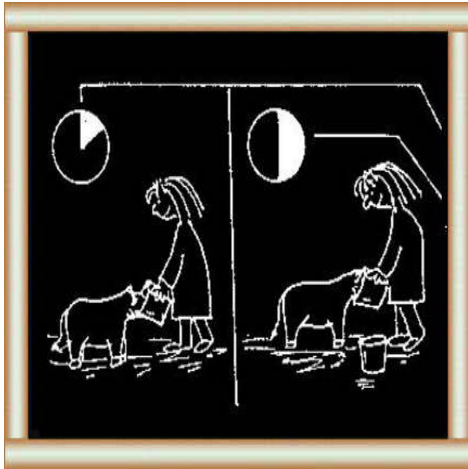
57 Dip the navel cord in tincture of iodine.

Do not cut the cord.

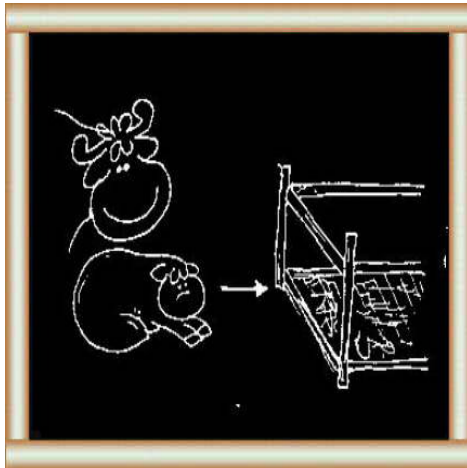
Check daily for navel infections at least 2 weeks after calving.

58 Allow your calf to get colostrum by suckling.

(See H.9 Calf Rearing for more information on calf care)



- 59 Make sure your calf gets:**
- at least 1 l of colostrum within 2 hours of birth
 - 2 more l of colostrum within 6 hours of birth.



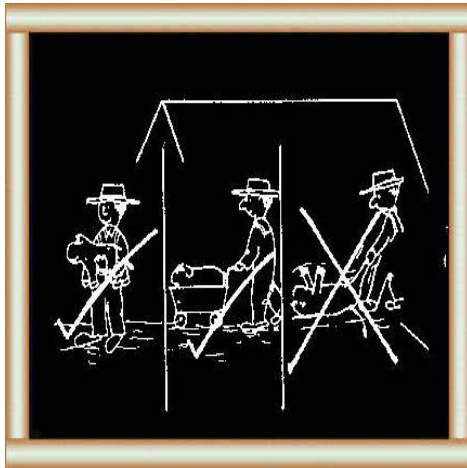
- 60 Move your calf to a separate calf box.**

Place the calf in a clean, draught-free box with a lot of dry bedding. (62)

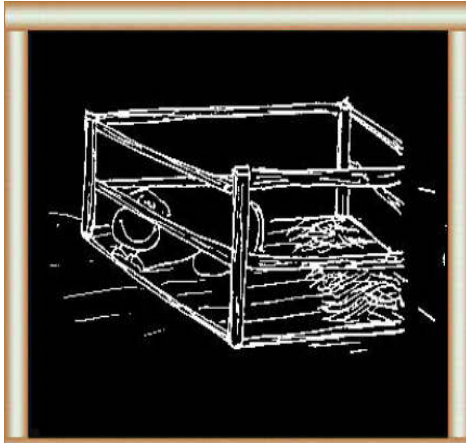
The cow:

Make sure the cow stands up within an hour after calving. Keeping the calf in front may encourage her to get up. (64)

page191



61 Carry your calf or use a wheel-barrow.



Do not drag your calf along the floor.

62 Make sure the calf box:

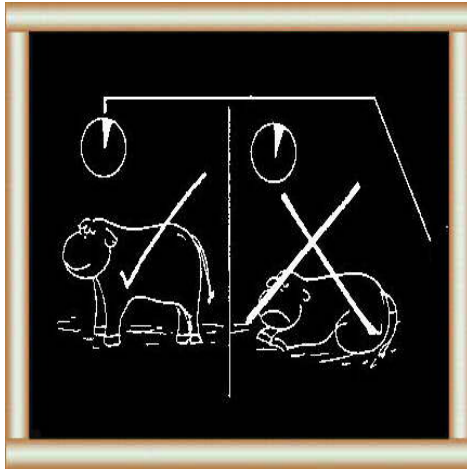
- is clean
- is dry
- is free from draughts
- has lots of dry bedding.



Caring for your cow

63 Keep your cow in a place which is:

- clean
- dry
- warm and free from draughts.



64 Make your cow stand up within 1 hour after calving, even if she does not want to.

page192

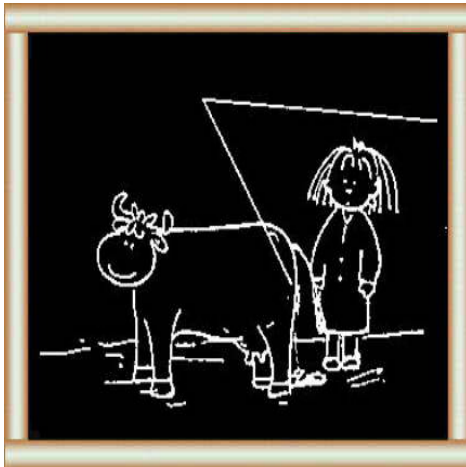
The cow should deliver the afterbirth within 24 hours after calving. If there is no afterbirth within 24 hours call a veterinarian for examination. (65)

page193



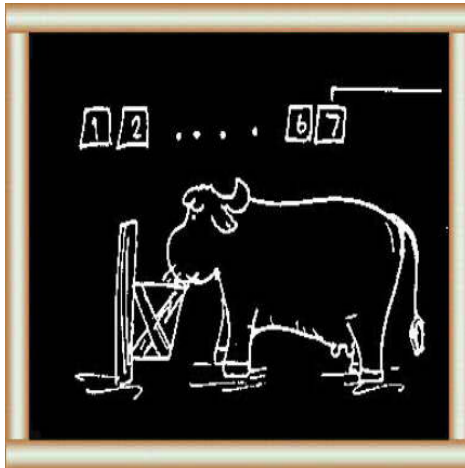
65 Your cow should deliver the placenta within 12 hours after calving.

If there is no placenta after 24 hours, call the vet.



66 A reddish discharge from the vulva is normal for 2 weeks after calving.

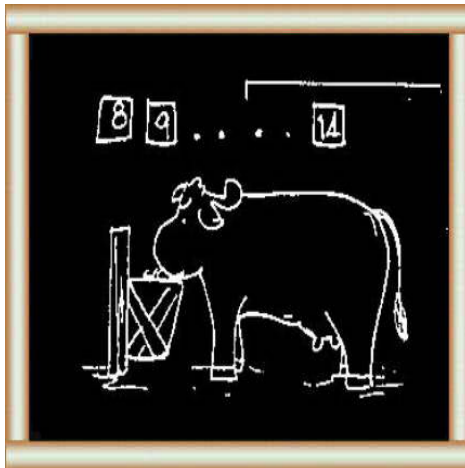
After 2 weeks, the discharge should become clear and then stop.



67 For the 1st week after calving, feed your cow mainly foods which are:

- light
- bulky
- slightly laxative

e.g. bran and molasses with little silage or grain.



68 After the 1st week, slowly increase the amounts of grain and silage in your cow's diet.

What do you know about calving?
--

Preparation for calving	Signs of calving
--------------------------------	-------------------------

Before estimated calving date:

2 months - dry off your cow

(9)

1 month - increase rations

(10-12)

1 week - prepare equipment

(13-14)

- prepare calving site

(15-18)

- move your cow

(19)

- wash your cow daily

(20)

Before estimated calving date:

1-2 weeks - udder increases in size

(21)

1 week - vulva swells

(22)

- mucus discharge

1-3 days - tail area relaxes

(23)

- cow raises tail, eats less

(24)

Just before - restlessness

(25)

- separation from herd

- straining

(26)

Care during calving

1 Normal birth: - observe carefully

(28-

33)

- do nothing

- no water bag within 6 hours of first

2 Call vet if:	straining	
	(cows: 6 hours, heifers: 12 hours)	(34)
	- water bag but no calf after 2-3 hours	(35)
	- calf stuck more than 30 minutes	(36)
	- head and only one leg	(37)
3 Pull calf if	calf comes out normally but then stuck	(39- 45)
4 Clean and disinfect	you, your cow and all equipment	(40)
Care after calving		
1 Your calf:	- care of navel cord	(47, 57)
	- remove liquid from lungs, mouth and nose	(48, 50, 51)
	- help breathing by tickling and rubbing	(49, 52- 54)
	- clean and dry body	(55- 56)
	- feeding	(58- 59)
	- move to calf box carefully	(60- 62)
2 Your cow:	- housing	(63)

- **standing up within 1 hour of calving** ([64](#))
- **delivery of placenta** ([65](#))
- **vulva discharge** ([66](#))
- **feeding** ([67-68](#))

page195

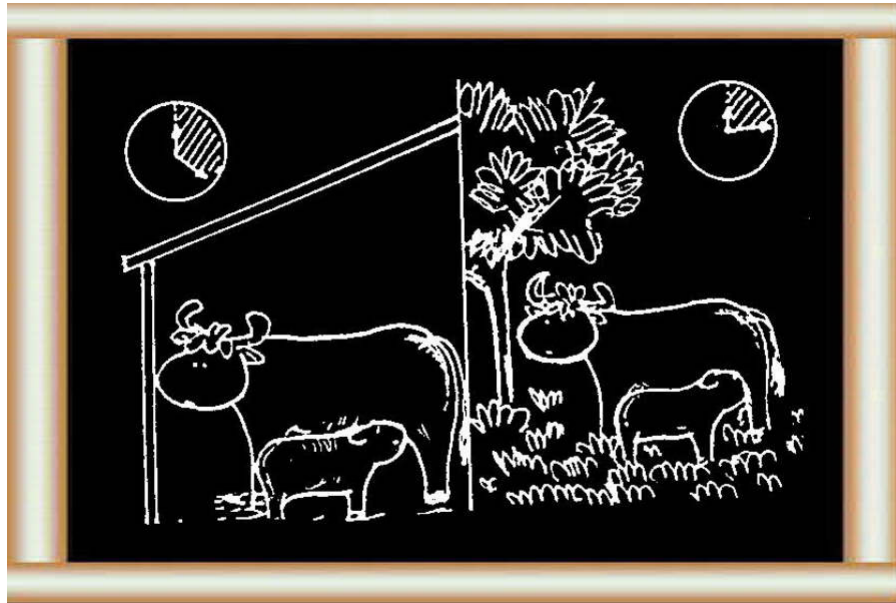


Small-Scale Dairy Farming Manual

Volume 4

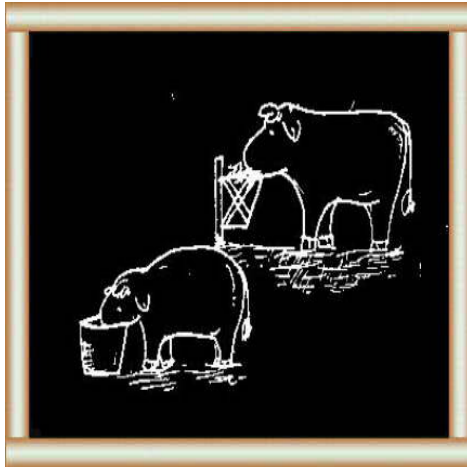
Husbandry Unit 9

CALF REARING



Extension Materials

What should you know about calf rearing?



How do you feed your calves?(6-33)

1 Feeding the right rations:

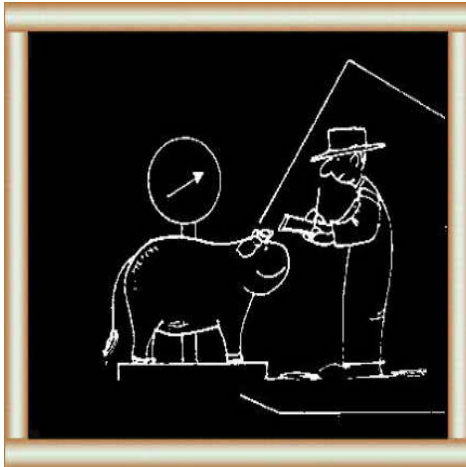
- from birth to weaning
- during weaning
- after weaning.



What are the main health problems?(34-53)

2 You should know about:

- non-infectious diseases
- bacteria and viruses
- parasites.



How can you keep records of growth?(54-56)

3 Good records need:

- ear tagging
- weighing and measuring.

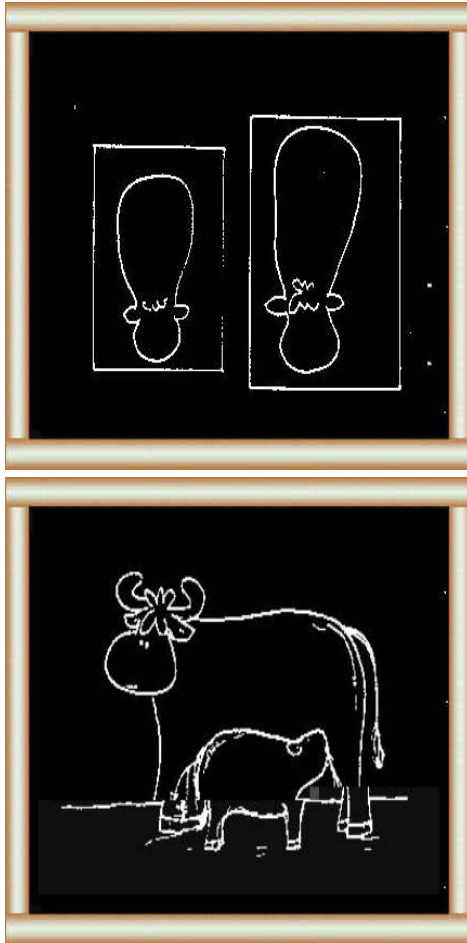


How can you dehorn your calf?(57-59)

4 You should know how to:

- prepare the area
- apply the chemical.

What is important in housing? (60-76)



V2

5 Important things in housing include:

- materials
- design
- feeders and waterers.

How do you feed your calves from birth to weaning?

Week 1

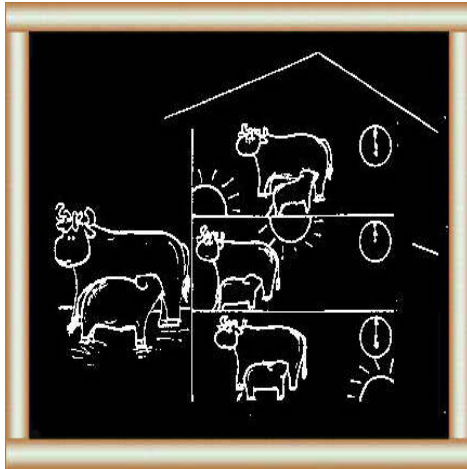
6 After birth, your calf needs colostrum for at

least 4 days:

- for nutrients
- for protection against disease
- for passing faeces the first day.

page200

7 If you do not separate your calf and dam:

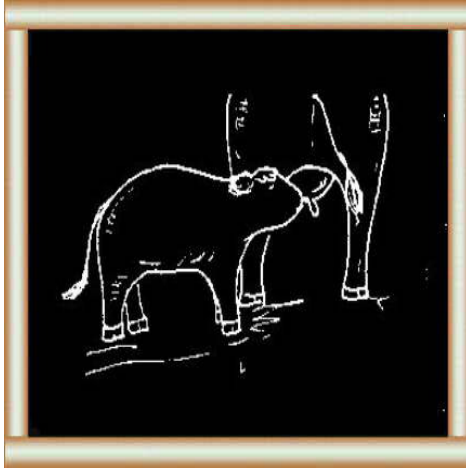


V2

- let your calf suckle freely in day 1, the first suckling is within 3 hours after birth
- let your calf suckle 3 times per day in days 2-4.

8 Each feeding time is about:

- 25 minutes if housed
- 15 minutes if pastured.

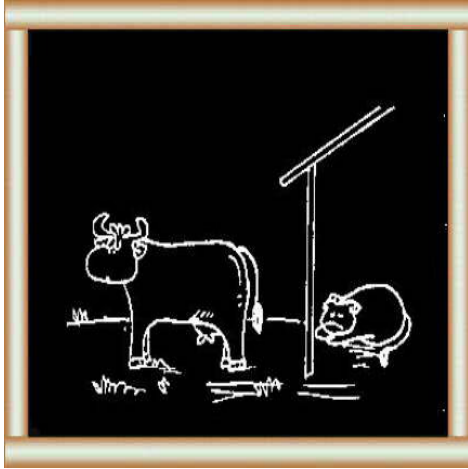


9 The advantages of suckling are:

- the milk is at the temperature of the udder
- the stomach does not overfill
- your calf does not get scours through fast drinking
- the milk is clean
- you use no labour
- Zebu breeds sometimes do not let down milk without the calf.

page201

10 There are some advantages in separating

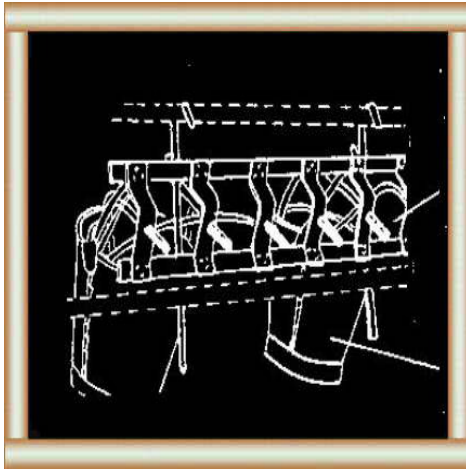


V2

your calf and dam at birth:

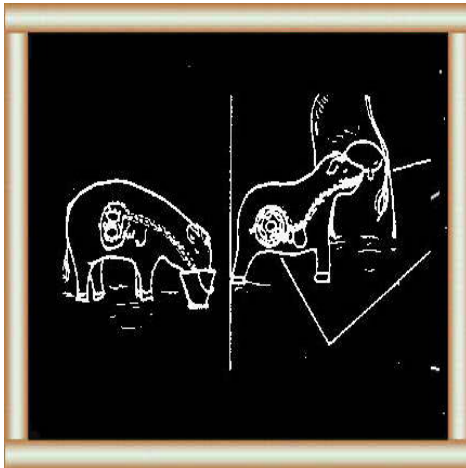
- less noise and disturbance
- you can easily teach feeding to calves who have not suckled
- you can keep records of consumption.

11 Nipple feeding is a good way to feed your calves.



12 Buckets hang at the right height.

Rubber nipples fit over tubes which lead into colostrum in the bucket.



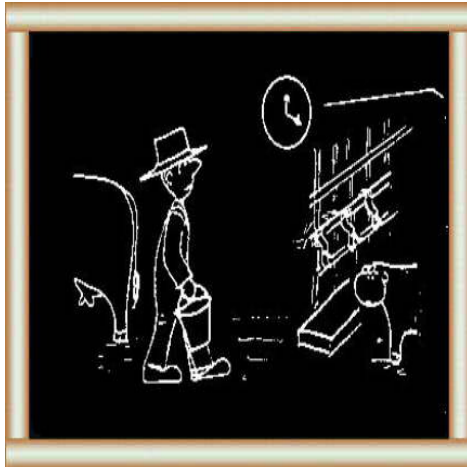
13 You can also use bucket feeding but nipple feeding is better:

- it is like suckling
- digestion is better.



14 If you use bucket feeding, you must teach your calf how to feed:

- hold your calf's head near the colostrum
- put two fingers in your calf's mouth
- lower his head into the colostrum



- when your calf tastes the colostrum remove your fingers and let him drink alone
- repeat until your calf can drink alone.

- 16 Remember in nipple or bucket feeding:**
- feed colostrum at the temperature of the udder and at the same time each day, this avoids fast drinking, indigestion and scours



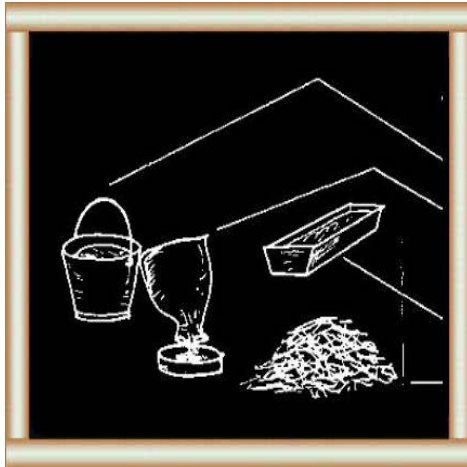
17

- give your calf plenty of clean water
- feed your calves the right amount:
 - day 1-2 : 0.75-1 l (3-4 x/day)
 - day 3 : 1-1.5 l (3 x/day)
 - day 4-7 : 2-3 l (2 x/day)
- do not overfeed your calves
- clean and disinfect all equipment after each feeding.

page203

Weeks 2-7

18 Each day, your calf needs:



V2

- 6 l of whole milk
- concentrates (fed freely) (up to $\frac{1}{2}$ kg/day)
- hay (not more than concentrates)
- water (fed freely).

- 19 For weeks 2-7 you need a total amount of:
- 250 kg of whole milk
 - 11 kg of concentrates
 - 5 kg of hay
 - a calf needs at least $\frac{1}{7}$ of his body weight in water each day.



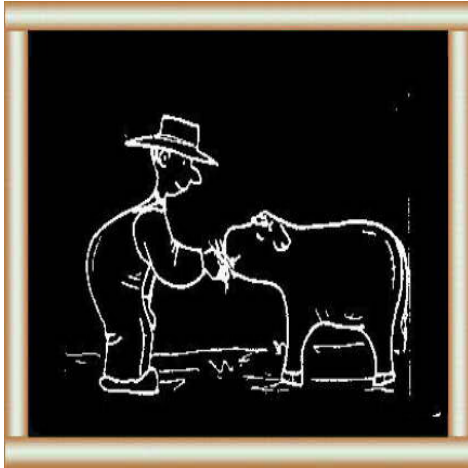
20 Concentrates contain about 20 % protein.

One possible mixture is:

- 50 % cotton seed cake**
- 50 % maize bran.**



21 You should use a good hay and chop it into small pieces to help digestion.



22 Begin feeding hay to your calves as young as 2 weeks.

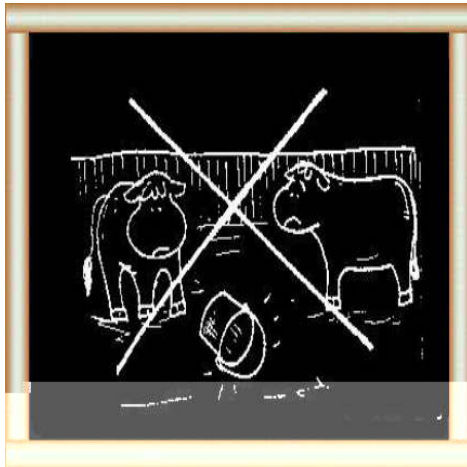
It helps:

- develop the rumen
- provide vitamins
- prevent anaemia and rickets.

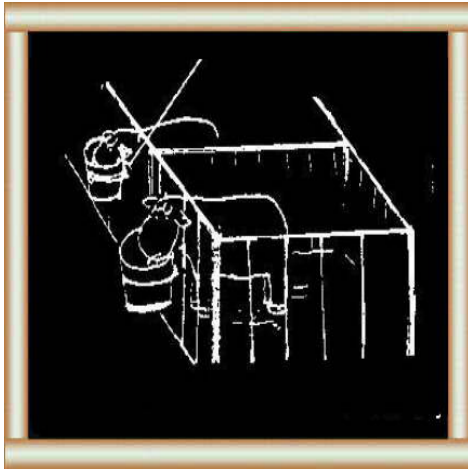


V2

23 You can easily make calf feeders from bamboo and place them in the exercise yard.



24 Make sure your calves get enough water. In hot climates, each calf may need more than 10 l/day.



25 Secure water buckets with a holder so your calves can drink all the water they want.

page205

26 Instead of whole milk, you can feed your



V2

calf milk replacer.

One type you can make is sour milk:

- add 20 g of citric acid to 10 l of milk 24 hours before feeding.

27 Keep $\frac{1}{2}$ l of the sour milk; you can use this instead of citric acid to make the next feed.

Sour milk:

- keeps longer, you can make enough for 3 days feed and save labour

- is better for your calf's digestion.

Important: Add a vitamin premix if you use skim milk.



28 You can also use milk replacer powder. It contains skim milk, fish and soya proteins and vegetable fat.

Follow the directions for mixing with water and make sure every thing is clean.



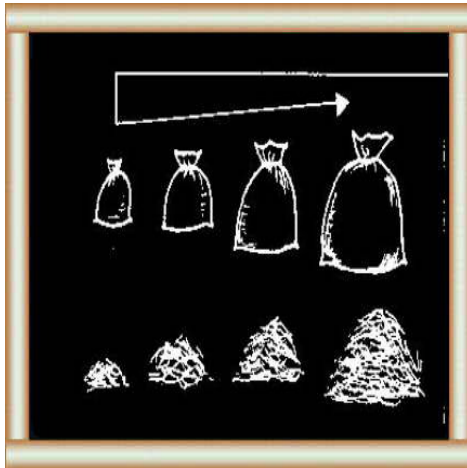
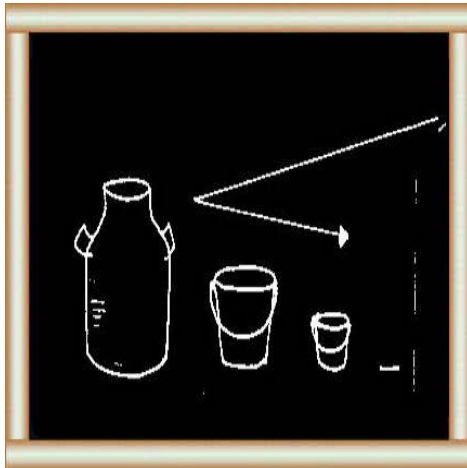
29 Hang a mineral lick so that your calves can get the minerals and vitamins they need.

page206

Week 8-16

30 From week 8, you can begin to wean your calf off milk:

- reduce the amount of milk week by week



V2

week 8 : 6 kg/day
week 9 : 6 kg/day
week 10 : 4 kg/day
week 11 : 2 kg/day
week 12 : 0 kg/day

31 At the same time, increase the amount of:

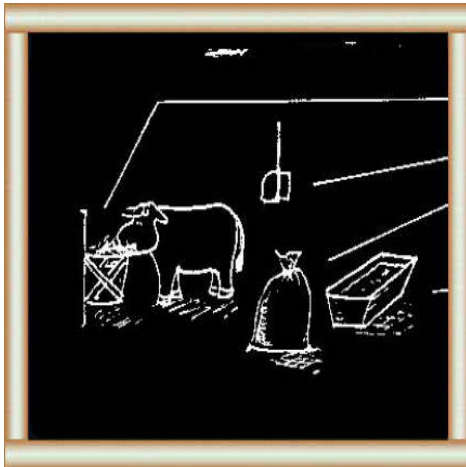
Concentrates Hay/day
week 8 800 g 300 g
week 9 1,000 g 350 g
week 10 1,200 g 400 g
week 11 1,400 g 500 g
week 12 1,500 g 600 g



32 After week 12, ration concentrates at 1.5 kg/day and give hay freely.

For weeks 1-16, you need a total amount of:

- 140 kg of milk
- 42 kg of concentrates
- 15 kg of hay
- water freely.



Weeks 17-25

33 Feed your heifers hay and water freely with a mineral lick and 1-2 kg/day of low-protein concentrates such as:

- 25 % cotton seed cake
- 75 % maize bran.

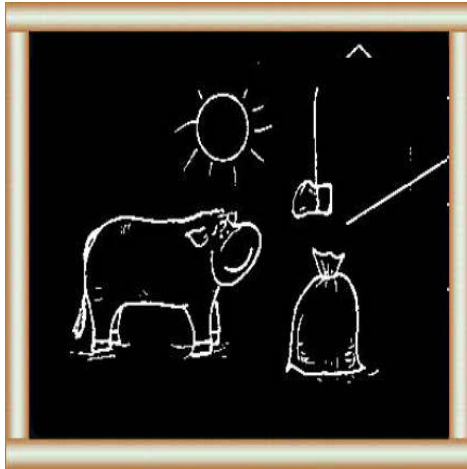
What are the main health problems?



Non-infectious diseases

34 Your calf may lack some nutrients and show signs such as:

- rough coat**
- change of coat colour**
- loss of hair**
- enlarged joints.**



V2

35 Make sure your calf gets:

- enough minerals, vitamins and concentrates
- exercise, fresh air and sunshine.

36 Your feeding routine may be poor:

- different time each day
- not enough water.

Your calf will show signs such as:

- lying down
- diarrhoea!

In serious cases, your calf may vomit.



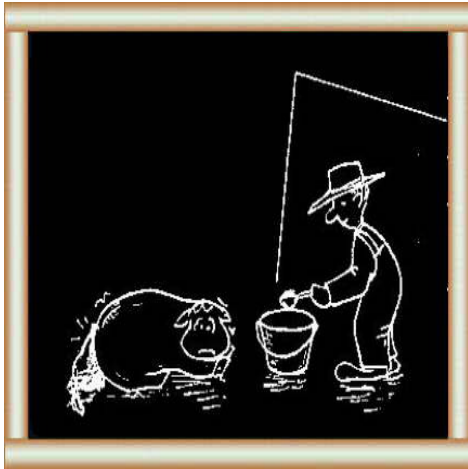
37 Set up a good feeding routine by:

- feeding at the same time each day
- feeding more often if your calf is eating too fast
- making sure everything is clean.

If your calf has diarrhoea, act quickly!

page208

Day 1



V2

38

3 times/day:

- add 9 g of sodium chloride to 1 l of water and feed.

Give no other dry or liquid feed.

Day 2

39 Mix 1.7 l of milk with 2.6 l of water and divide into 3 parts.

Give 3 times/day.



Day 3

40

Mix 2.6 l of milk with 1.7 l of water and divide into 3 parts.

Give 3 times/day and continue each day until your calf is normal.

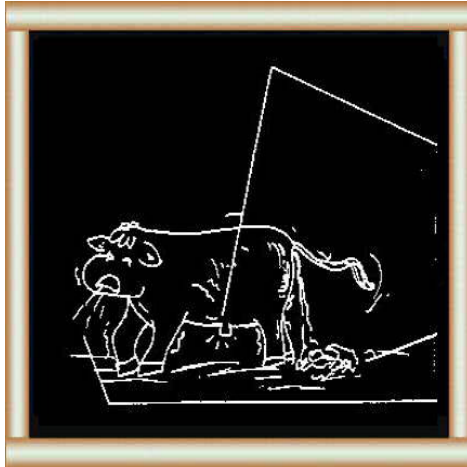
41 In cases of severe diarrhoea, give an anti-diarrhoea agent.

Consult your vet and follow directions carefully.

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Consult your vet and follow directions carefully.

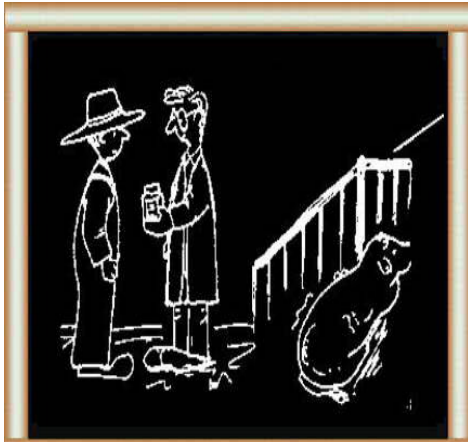
Bacterial and virus diseases (See H. 10 and H. 11)



42 Look out for signs of:

- navel infections
- fever
- diarrhoea with blood or mucus
- coughing and breathing difficulty.

43 Isolate the sick calf in a pen away from the



V2

others.

Consult your vet about treatment with disinfectants, anti-diarrhoea agents or antibiotics and follow directions carefully.

44 Check your feeding routines:

- colostrum feeding
- enough vitamins and minerals
- hygiene.

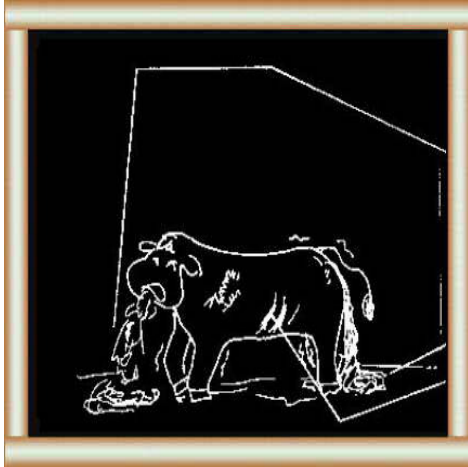


45 Check your housing:

- good temperature and ventilation
- no overcrowding
- good hygiene.

page210

Parasites (See H. 10.6)



V2

46 Look out for signs of:

- digestive trouble
- poor growth
- diarrhoea
- rough coat.

47 Isolate the sick calf.

Bring a sample of faeces to the vet for analysis.

Follow his directions about treatment carefully.

This will include a schedule for:

- deworming
- vaccinations.



48 Check your housing and grazing routines:

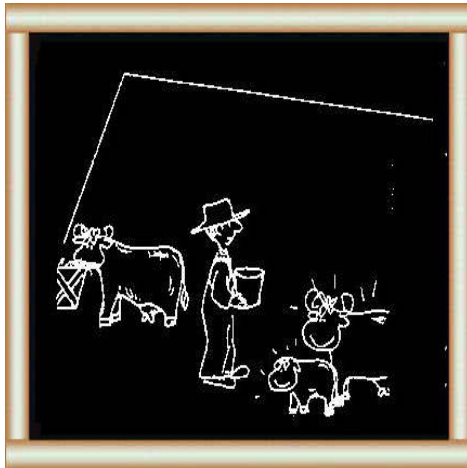
- good hygiene
- no feeding from ground or near wet areas
- moving pastures and no overcrowding
- free from insects.



49 Give the right medicine at the right time.

page211

What are the main ways to prevent health problems?



50 Good feeding of pregnant cows and hygiene during calving.



51 Early feeding with colostrum and enough hay, concentrates, vitamins and minerals as your calves grow.



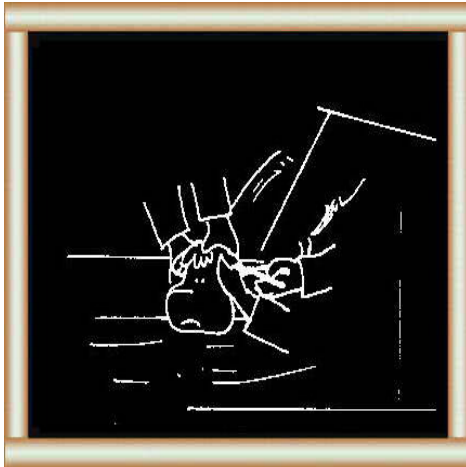
52 Clean, dry housing with good ventilation:

- separate sick calves
- do not mix calves of different ages.

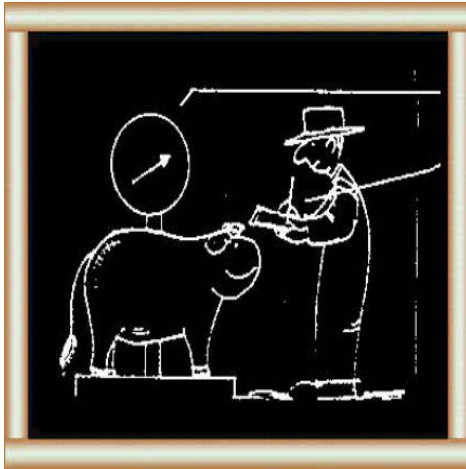


53 Medicines, injections and sprays given at the right time in consultation with your vet.

How can you keep records of growth? (See H. 6.2.)



54 When you separate your calf from the dam, tag the ear.

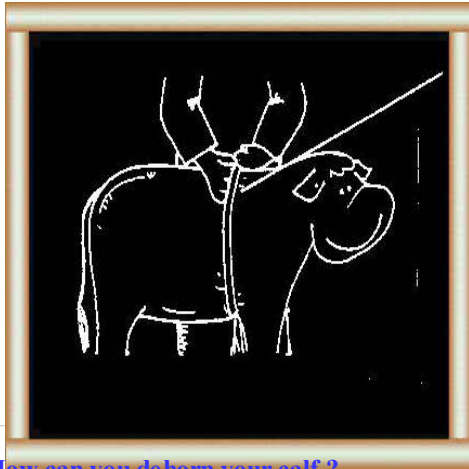


55 Weigh your calf at birth and each month after birth, keep a record of weight gain.

Growth should be at least 500 g/day.

56 If you cannot weigh your calf, measure the breast circumference:

Breast Wght	Circumference	Approx
cm	inches	kg
70.0	27.6	40.0
85.5	33.6	60.0
95.5	37.6	80.0
104.0	41.0	100.0
111.0	43.5	120.0
117.0	46.0	140.0
122.5	48.2	160.0
127.5	50.2	180.0
132.5	52.2	200.0



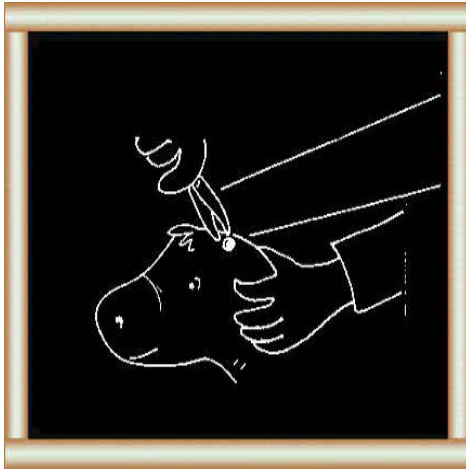
V2

137.5	54.1	220.0
142.0	55.8	240.0
147.0	57.8	260.0
158.0	59.8	280.0
150.0	61.4	300.0
159.0	62.6	320.0
162.5	64.0	340.0
165.0	65.0	360.0
168.0	66.3	380.0
171.0	67.4	400.0

page213

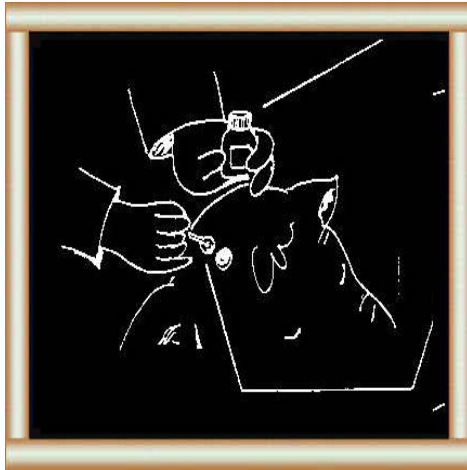
How can you dehorn your calf ?

57 Clip hair away from the horn bud.



58 Wipe the bud clean with spirit or a cleansing solution.





59 Dip a wooden handled brush into collodion.

Apply a small amount to the horn bud and rub in.

Do not touch the surrounding skin.

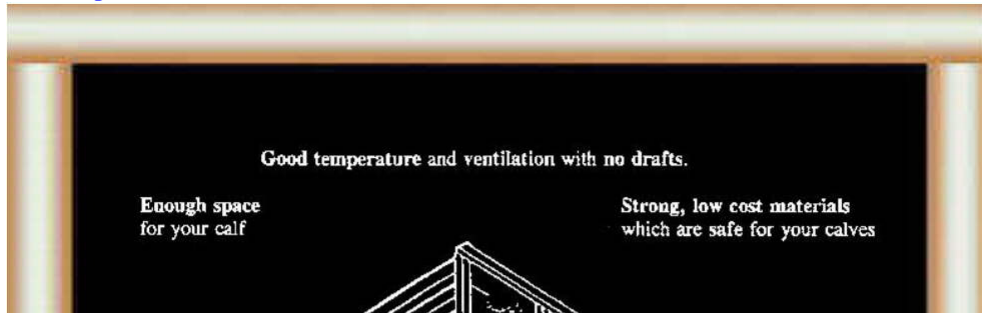
After the collodion is dry apply again without rubbing.

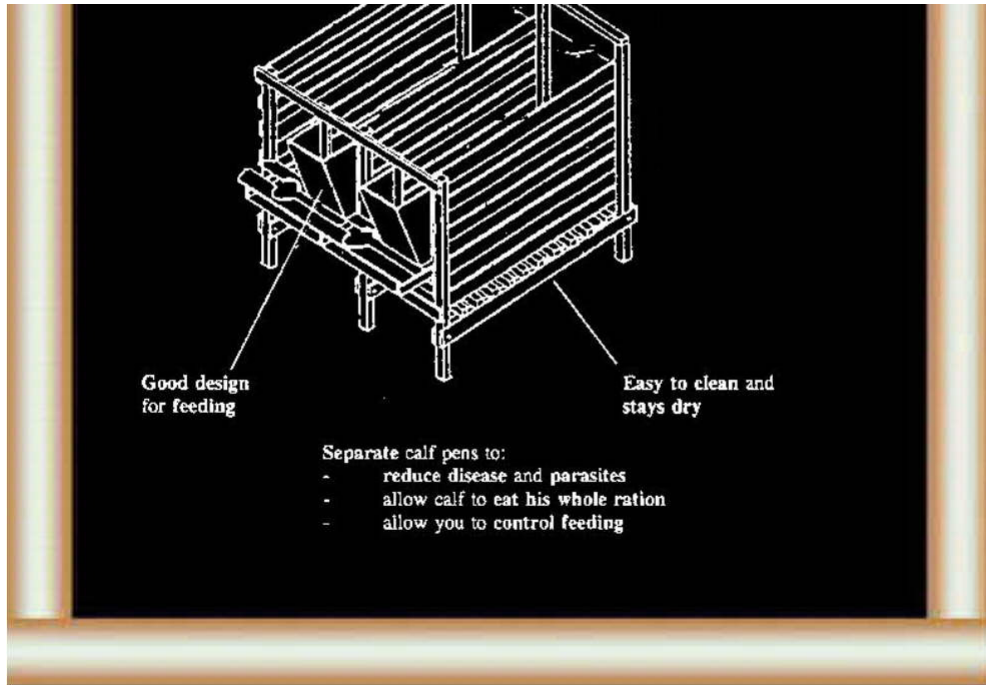
page214

What is important in housing? (See H.3)

60

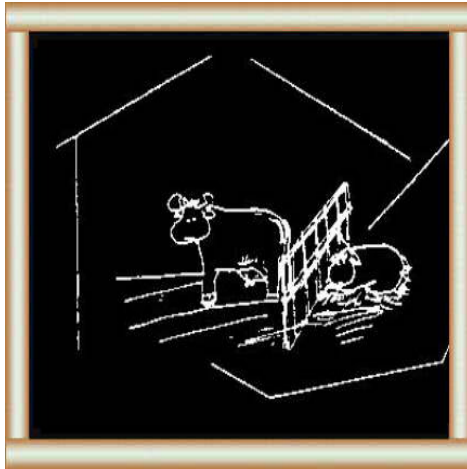
Good temperature and ventilation with no drafts.





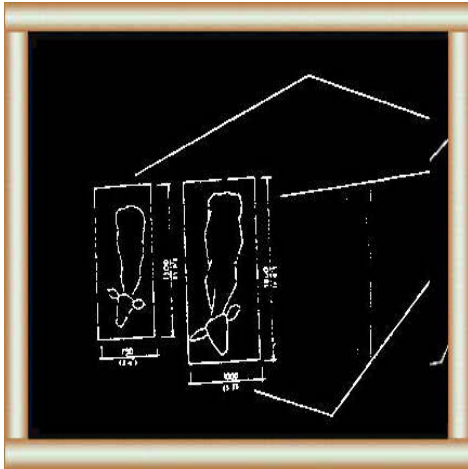
Separate calf pens to:

- reduce disease and parasites
- allow calf to eat his whole ration
- allow you to control feeding.



- 61 If you cannot have a separate calf pen:**
- tie your calf in the cow shed
 - separate your calf from the dam.
- Make sure the floor slopes to keep the calf's area dry.**

page215



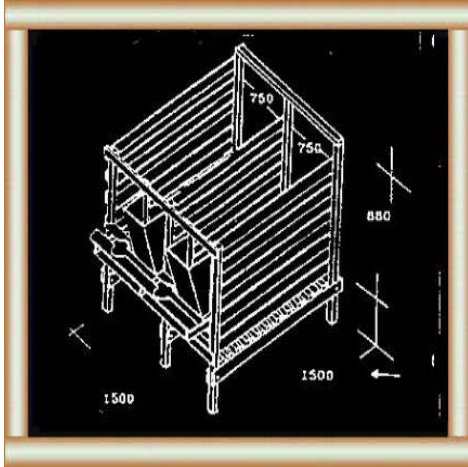
V2

62 Your calf needs more space at 8 weeks, than at 4 weeks.

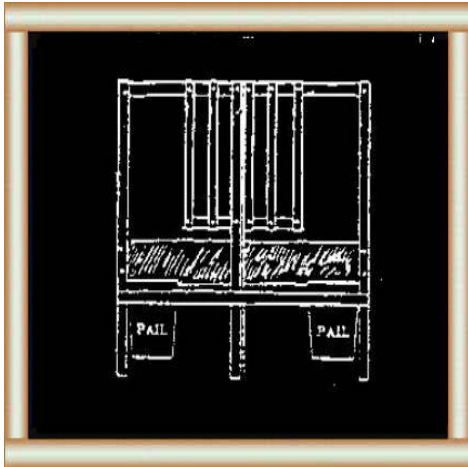
The width of the pen should be more than the calf's shoulder height.



63 These three pens show examples of structures and measurements.



64

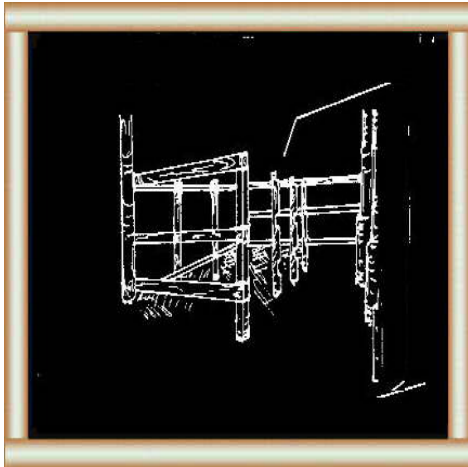
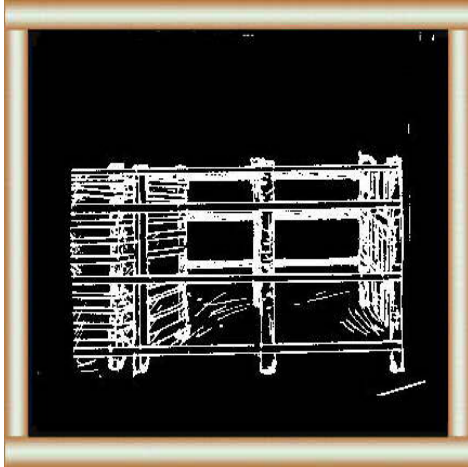


65



**66 You have little space on your farm.
Design individual calf pens, so you can change
them into group pens**

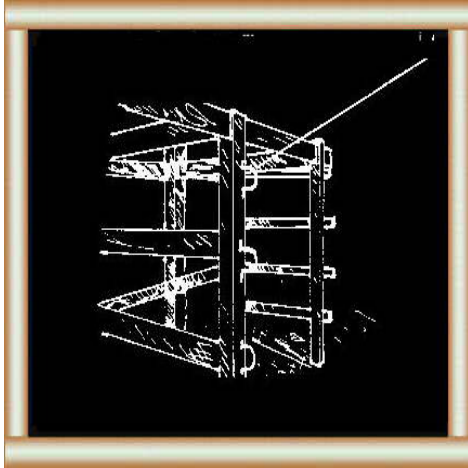
01/11/2011



V2

67 or take them to pieces and store them

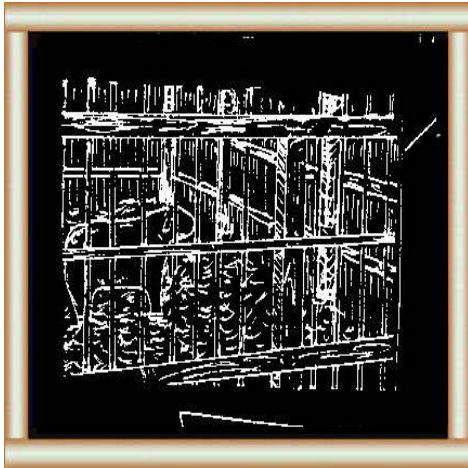
68 leaving only the corner posts.



**69 Pole holders hold runners for use as a group pen.
Add dividers for individual pens.**

page217

70 The group pen leads to an open area for



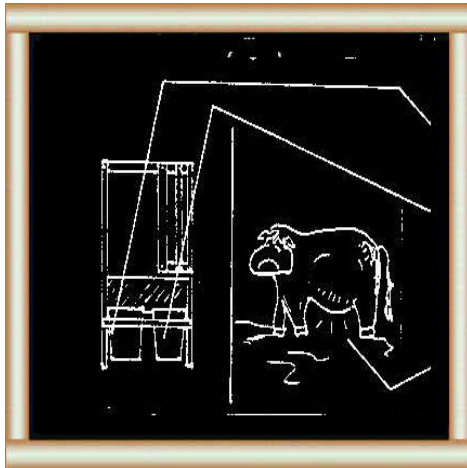
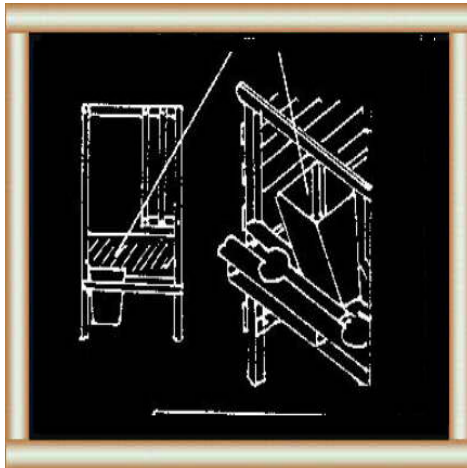
V2

exercise.

The extended roof provides shade and shelter.

71 Fence the exercise area.

You can use ropes from palm fibre for tying:
- staples and nails are dangerous.



V2

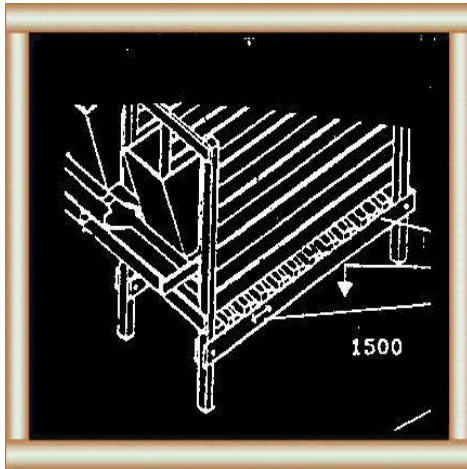
They are suitable for feeding calves in the first month:

- for milk feeding
- for concentrate feeding.

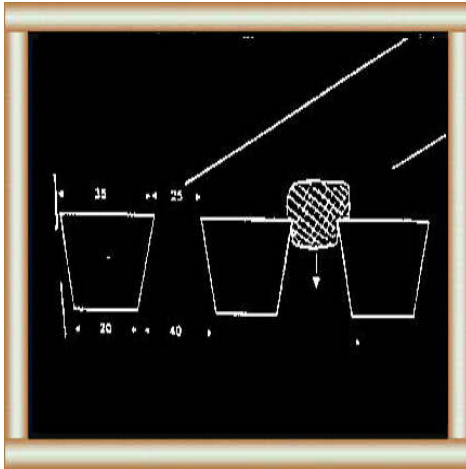
74 After weaning, the pen should have 2 buckets:

- one for water (fed freely)
 - one for concentrates (fed freely).
- Do not mix water and concentrates.

The mixture becomes sour and causes digestive problems.



75 If you have no bedding, make a slatted floor to give your calf a dry resting place. Slats should be at right angles to the long side. This shape allows droppings to pass easily. Slat to slat distance can be from 20-25 mm.



76

page219

What do you know about calf rearing ?

Feeding and dam	In Week 1, decide on:-suckling	(7-9)
	-separating calf	(10)
	- nipple feeding	(11-12)

- bucket feeding (13-16)

Week 1 (6-17)	Weeks 2-7 (18-29)						Weeks 8-16 (30-32)									
Week: 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Day: 1-2 3 4																
Colostrum/day (kg) 1 1.5 3																
(kg) Milk or Milk Replacer/day	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	4	2						
Concentrates/day (kg):	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	.6	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	
<-----adlib-----><-----rationed----->																
(kg) Hay/day		0.1	0.1	0.1	.15	.2	0.3	0.3	.35	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6	

Separate Sexes

Housing (60-70)	Pen with clean	Collective stall with calves of	Open stable in larger
			Heifers-pasture, Males-

	bedding	same age	group	stable&fatten
	Exercise, fresh air,			Vaccinate
Health	<u>sunshine</u> >		Trim hooves	heifers
(34-53)	Protect against			against
	parasites >			Brucellosis
Records	Tag ears	<u>Weigh often</u>		>
(54-56)		Record feed consumption		
Dehorning	-clip hair			
(57-59)	-clean			
	apply collodion			

page 220

