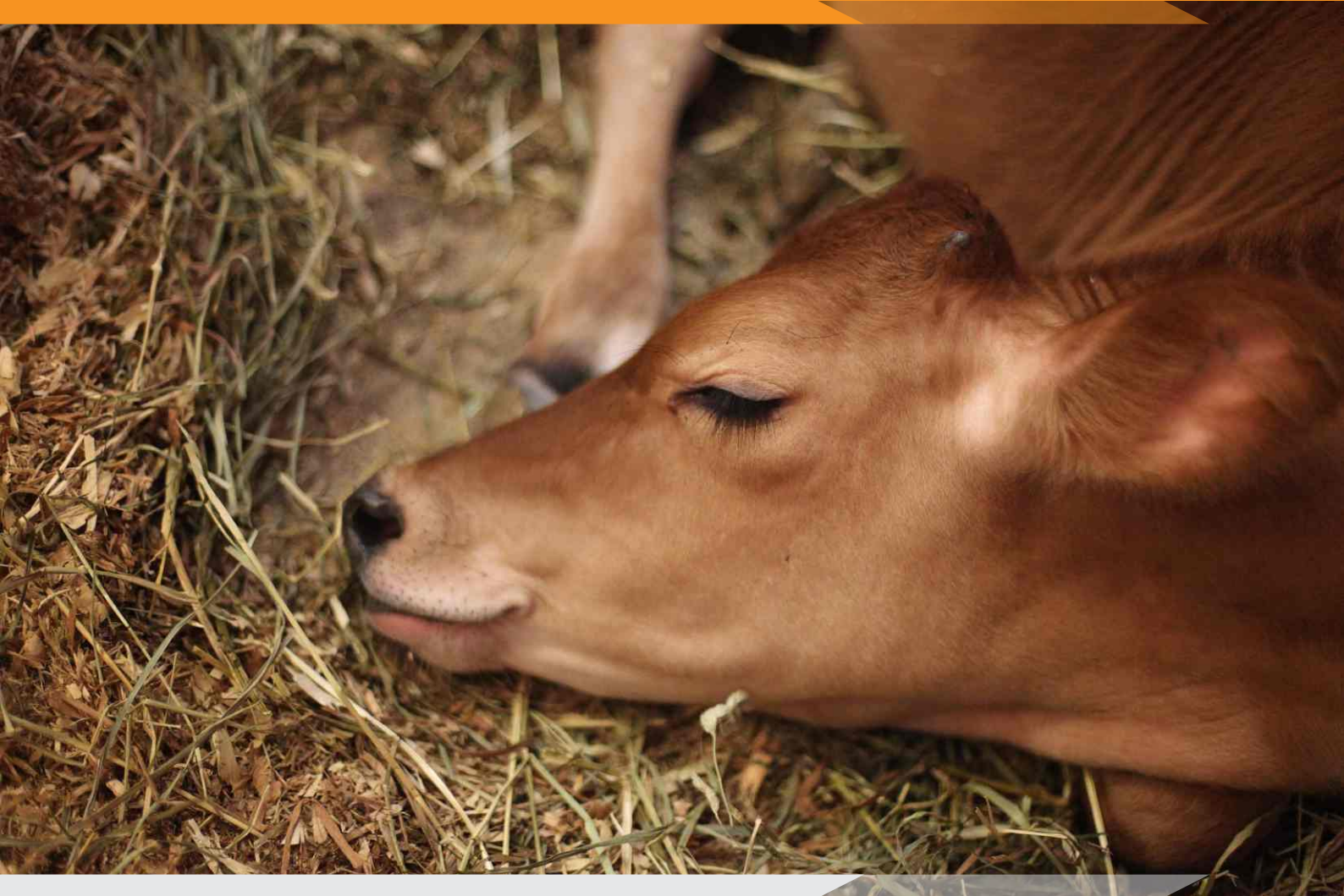


GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF

DAIRIES



About Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO)

FIAPO is India's apex
animal rights organisation.

As the collective voice
of the animal rights
movement in India,

FIAPO is the catalyst
that protects the interests
and rights of animals
on local and national

levels - through education,
research, lobbying, mobilisation,
networking, training
and direct action.

Created for the movement,
by the movement,
FIAPO is India's only
national federation.

It has over 83 members
and over 200 supporter
organisations across
the country.

Join us to protect the interests and rights
of animals by visiting www.fiapo.org.

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Animals should be kept in small, stable groups at low stocking density in an enriching environment, such that they can express their natural behaviour like lying down for as long as they want, scratching, walking, grazing, feeding calves etc. Individual housing should not be used except temporarily or for veterinary reasons.
2. Housing should provide bedded lying areas. Sand or straw bedding should be provided in the lying area for all animals to reduce the incidence of lameness and to ensure a comfortable lying area for any lame animals.
3. Animals housed outdoors need shelter from adverse weather and protection from predators and other sources of stress such as noise generated due to traffic and densely populated urban areas. The housing system must provide adequate climatic protection and comfort to the animals.
4. Housing should provide natural lighting and ventilation and an uninterrupted, dark resting period at night. Extreme temperatures and humidity should be prevented. Good air quality should be ensured (a useful guide is that if air quality is unpleasant for humans it is also likely to be a problem for dairy animals).
5. The space allowance for animals housed in groups should be worked in view the age, sex, live weight and behavioural needs of the group and the size of the group. There should be enough space for animals to move around and interact with each other. The accommodation should provide enough space for a subordinate animal to move away from a dominant one.

The minimum floor space allowances for animals should be:

Type of animal	Floor space per animal (m ²)	
	Covered area	Open Area
Young calves (< 8 weeks)	1.0	2.0
Older calves (> 8 wks.)	2.0	4.0
Heifers	2.0	4.0-5.0
Adult buffaloes	4.0	8.0
Adult cows	3.5	7.0
Cows approaching calving	12.0	20-25
Bulls	12.0	120.0
Bullocks	3.5	7.0

6. If there are cubicles, they should be large enough for comfort, without restricting rails, and their number should be at least 10% more than the group size. Cubicles should allow the animal to lie down and stand up easily without injuring themselves.
7. Housing should allow free movement (for example, passageways should be wide enough for two animals to pass each other easily), without restrictions such as overhead electric wires.

FLOORING

1. Floors should not be totally slatted, slippery, hard or too rough, and should minimise contact with slurry. Roughened concrete floors should be avoided as they abrade the hooves and cause injuries

FEEDING

1. Dairy animals should spend as much of the day as possible outdoors, with as much access to natural vegetation as possible, unless extreme weather conditions mean that indoor housing is beneficial. Grazing lands/ gauchar land should be developed around dairies. They should be planted with vegetation that can be grazed by animals. Animals should not have to walk long distances, and the ground should not be very rough or stony, to avoid foot damage.
2. Animals should have continuous unrestricted access to clean drinking water, with sufficient trough space and flow rate to ensure this.
3. Animals should be given adequate quantities of fresh wholesome feed for their nutritional and behavioural needs, including at least 10% of long fiber roughage to ensure normal rumen function. As much of this as possible should be obtained from natural vegetation. At other times, palatable fibrous feed such as silage, grass or hay should be made available in unrestricted quantity. Animal products should not be permitted in the diet, including meat and bone meal.
4. Animals should be given 90% fodder such as grass or hay or Bhusa (a powdered rice husk) and 10% fruit and vegetables. Jaggery can be added to diet if affordable to provide well needed energy. Pure sugar, rice (cooked or raw) and jackfruit should not be given in large quantities, as this will cause acidosis, leading to death
5. In loose enclosures, the length of the manger should enable all the animals in the shed to eat at the same time to avoid competition during feeding. Where feed and water troughs are provided in the loafing area, the access areas should be sufficiently wide to permit free movement of animals and prevent routes becoming wet and slippery. The feeding and watering space requirement as per BIS are given in the table below:

Sr. No	Type of animal	Feeding (manger) space per animal (cm)	Water trough space/ animal (cm)
1	Young calves (< 8 weeks)	40- 50	10-15
2	Older calves (> 8 wks)	40-50	10-15
3	Heifers	45-60	30-45
4	Adult cows	60-75	45-60
5	Adult Buffaloes	60-75	60-75
6	Down calvers	60-75	60-75
7	Bulls	60-75	60-75
8	Bullocks	60-75	60-75

* The actual length and width of water through may be decided as per the strength of group

HUSBANDRY

1. Animals should not be tied continuously and tethering should preferably not be used; where it is necessary the tether should not be shorter than 5m and the animal should be released daily for exercise for at least 2 to 4 hours.
2. Mutilations must not be undertaken for any animal unless for healthcare, and then only by a veterinary doctor, with pain relief. Mutilations include branding, nose-ringing, tail docking, dehorning and disbudding.
3. Handling facilities such as races gates and crushes should be designed and managed to minimise stress. Animals should be moved by low-stress methods, using implements such as flags and rattles rather than sticks.
4. All new animals should be isolated for a sufficient period (minimum 30 days) before allowing full entry to the facility.
5. Dry cows must be inspected, and treated as necessary, to ensure udder health, particularly after drying off and in the final weeks before calving.
6. Hormones and antibiotics should be used only under the prescription of a veterinary doctor. Growth hormones should not be used, as they have negative effects on animal health. Drugs such as Oxytocin should not be used for increasing the let-down of milk without prescription of a veterinarian. Oxytocin is a Schedule-H drug under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 and is required to be supplied on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner only.

7. Contingency plans should be in place for emergencies such as breakdown of equipment vital to the animals (e.g. feeding or ventilation equipment), fire or flood. Emergency sources should be available of power, water etc.

MILKING

1. Milking should be frequent enough to prevent discomfort but not as frequent as to cause excessive physiological demand on the animal or to allow insufficient time for eating and resting, or insufficient milk for the calf.
2. Milking equipment must be well maintained, and good hygiene practiced during milking, to avoid discomfort to the dairy animal and injury or infection of the udder.
3. If milking is by hand, milking should be done by way of 'full hand' method and 'knuckling' should be avoided as it is painful to the animals and may damage the teats.

HEALTH CARE

1. The herd should be thoroughly inspected each day and each animal treated appropriately (body condition scoring is useful for this), Particular causes for concern in animals, which may be addressed by both management and genetic selection, are lameness, mastitis and reproductive, metabolic and behavioural disorders. In some areas parasites and other pests also cause serious problems. Sick animals should be segregated and housed separately and the sick animal shed should have provision for feeding, watering inside the shed.
2. Caretakers should be trained and assessed for competence in looking after dairy animals and should manage the herd to avoid fear and distress. They should be in sufficient number to ensure good animal care.
3. The unit should have regular contact with a veterinary surgeon, a health plan should be documented, and the vet should be consulted whenever the best way to safeguard animal's welfare is not clear.
4. Regular foot inspection and locomotion scoring should be used to check foot health, with foot trimming and other care used as appropriate.
5. Regular vaccination programme, parasite control programme and prophylactic measures should be in place against prevalent bovine diseases. Animals should be vaccinated against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) every 6 months as a preventative. At 90 days of age, every animal should be vaccinated against Rabies.

6. A regular deworming programme and other measures to control external and internal parasites should be used throughout the life of the animal. Young animals (up to 18 months) should be dewormed more frequently (at least 4 times in a year and if necessary monthly) than adult animals, depending on the climate and management.
7. All health and welfare assessments and outcomes should be recorded, as well as the results of all environmental controls.
8. Biosecurity should be ensured at the facility. Unit should be enclosed by fences and gates, with proper procedures in place for hygiene of the people, vehicles and equipment entering and leaving.

CALVES

1. Calves should not be separated from mothers for at least 6 months of age.
2. Immediately after birth, the mother should be able to lick her calf, and the calf needs to get colostrum within 6 hours. If the mother dies or has insufficient colostrum, the calf should be given colostrum from other mothers or artificial colostrum.
3. Calves must be housed in clean, dry conditions with bedding while with the mother for at least 6 months. The weaning process must be gradual, post which calves must be housed within sight of other animals in pairs or small groups.
4. When calves are fed in groups, care is needed to ensure that all calves, even the slowest drinkers or eaters, are consuming what they need.
5. Management at calving should aim to achieve the comfort, health and welfare of both mother and calf. This will usually involve isolating the mother in a pen with dry bedding and inspecting her frequently to ensure calving proceeds normally. Calving should not be induced or accelerated mechanically for human convenience. If calving is slow but the calf is in the normal position for delivery, controlled traction may be used, but if this is not quickly successful, veterinary assistance should be obtained.
6. Male calves should be castrated painlessly with the use of anesthesia to prevent an increase of population and reduce disease and unnecessary suffering.

BULLS

1. Sexed semen should be used by the dairy owners to manage the population of calves.
2. If a bull is used for natural mating, the floor should not be slatted or slippery. The bull should be kept with other cattle or, if alone, in sight of other cattle and with sufficient space for resting and exercise. Appropriate facilities for restraint are needed.

ABANDONMENT

1. No animals should be abandoned. Chronically ill animals should be given the specific care they require until natural death.





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