



Lecture title: Cattle husbandry

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Summary: This lecture highlights the Iraqi cattle classified according to geographical and dairy cattle management including: cutting of umbilical cord, drying of the body, claw trimming, guiding of calves to Suckle and natural suckling

Iraqi cattle

Iraqi cattle can be classified according to its geographical presence into:

1. Al Junobi cattle:

It is found in the southern part in Iraq. These cattle are characterized by the presence of both hump and dewlap due to presence of a ratio of Zebu (Indian) cattle blood. Their colors are bright to dark red with sleek coat (smooth hair and skin) and small horns. Their legs are long due to nature of rearing on pasture (grazing). It is characterized by their ability of heat tolerance.

2. Sharabi cattle:

It is reared in basin of Tigris river between Fishkhabour and Zammar. The color is dark (black) with white line on the back abdomen. the legs are short but the body is full which is similar to beef _cattle breeds.

3. Karadi cattle:

It is regarded as low_ produced cattle. It is characterized by small size, small horns, short strong legs which assist these cattle to live and thrive in mountainous region. The common color is black. red, grey. It is used as a beast of burden. Adult animal weight 300_350 kg. Milk production is very low and not exceed 2 kg per day in relatively short lactation period.

4. Ristaki cattle:

It is found in middle and some southern part of Iraq. It is present in little number with various colors. Mean animal weight of adult is 450 kg. Milk production ranges between 3_4 kg/day. It is used as a beast of burden.

5. Cross breeds:

Due to inefficient productive parameters of Iraqi cattle cross, breeding with original dairy is followed. The aim of cross breeding is to improve production of local breed.



However, Friesian is selected to fulfill this goal to improve milk production and an increase in body growth and weight.

In Iraq, cross breeding with Friesian using artificial insemination (A.I).

Dairy Cattle management

Calf-hood management (from parturition to six month). This stage begins with the first respiration of the newly_ born calf. Some calves suffer from coma to due to prolonged parturition or adhesion of parts of placenta (fetal membranes) to the face of calf leading to obstruction of external respiratory orifices and filling with fetal fluids. Therefore, it is better to assist the calf by removal the excretions and fluids present on the mouth and nose as well as sprinkling little amount of water on calf's head.

Cutting of umbilical cord

Umbilical cord should be cut by a knife 10 cm from abdomen surface, tied by sterile thread. Antiseptic is used such as tincture of iodine with sulpha powder on the umbilicus.

Drying of the body

Fetal fluids may be present on the body after parturition, Hence, it should be dried by pieces of clean sterile clothes or towel.

Claw trimming

Claws of newly _born calves are yellow color having horny layer on the claw sole. It is better to remove this layer. Strong and healthy calf can stand on legs through 20 _30 minutes after parturition.

Guiding of Calves to Suckle

Calves must be guided for suckling from dam's udder. It is better to suckle as quickly as possible, 2_ 5 hours after parturition. The suckling may be natural or artificial. Colostrum are given as a first meal to the calf during the first three days after parturition. Colostrum contains antibodies (Abs) preventing animal from exposure to diseases and infections as well as protein and laxative matter.



Natural Suckling

Calves are allowed to suckle 5-8 minutes during 24 hours each. Each suckling lasts 10-15 minutes. In the first month ,calf depends on milk as main feed, but in the second month (2nd)month ,green feed as well as some dry feed may be used unit weaning which takes place at the 3rd or 4th month of age .Calves are reared isolated in open or closed barns. Suckling calves may be collected in groups, but it should be observed not to lick each other in order not to form balls in the rumen leading to death of these calves:

1. Horn buds of calves must be removed either by caustic soda or by burning to prevent horn growth, this operation is known as "disbudding" which is carried out in early life, but if the operation is carried out in later age (old age) is called "dehorning".

Best time of castration is one month. Calves may be left to the age of six months or more to be castrated by Burdizzo (Emasculator pincer).