



Lecture title: Examination of animals for their soundness

Lecturer Affiliation: Prof. Dr. Dhyaa Mohammad Taher Jwher (*PhD*)
Department of veterinary Public Health

Summary: The examination of animals for their soundness involves a thorough assessment of the animal's general health, physical structure, and functional ability to ensure it is free from disease, defects, or lameness. This includes observing the animal from a distance for gait, posture, behavior, and coat condition, followed by a close clinical examination of the limbs, joints, head, mucous membranes, and skin. Vital signs such as temperature, pulse, and respiration are measured, and the animal's appetite, urination, and defecation are evaluated. Additional diagnostic tests, including laboratory analysis of blood, urine, or feces, may be performed to confirm the animal's health status. This comprehensive examination ensures the animal is fit, healthy, and capable of normal performance.

B- Examination of cattle:

1. Clinical examination of cattle differs from that of horses due to different causes. The basic principle of cattle examination is to ensure that cattle are free of genetic defects, different disease (infectious and non-infectious), absence of chronic pulmonary disease, frequent tympany, any diseases related to production such as sterility and mastitis.
2. The cattle must have a normal posture, easily moved, alert, vigilant, sick animal is lethargic and in-alert. The head must be in the correct posture, not-pendulous or extended to the lateral position.
3. The eyes must have a glossy appearance. Normal mucous members of the eye is pink - red colour with no abnormal excretions.
4. Muzzle of the cow is usually black, moist and glossy. **In** sick animals, muzzle is dry. Mouth is inspected for any inflammations or ophthous. Such lesions indicate "foot and mouth disease" or "cattle plague" or some other diseases.
5. Skin is examined for any ecto-parasitosis and other skin disease skin should be smooth, sleek and elastic.



6. Rectal temperature, mean pulse and respiratory rates/minute are measured and these readings must be in normal parameters.

7. The animal has appetite, can eat and consume the ration. Rumination should be checked in the animal.

8. Limbs (legs), muscles, joints, tendons, ligaments and hooves (claws) are examined for any injuries, inflammations, cracks, lacerations, lesions or rot.

9. The animal is tested for different infections disease such as T.B and infections abortion, blood parasites, eggs like liver flukes, ascaris and tapeworms.

10. Dairy cattle, to ensure good health conditional whether these cows were exposed to infectious abortion or mastitis.

Good attention should be directed into udder condition. Avoidance of purchasing a dry cow into dairy herd. Such cows should be lactating. **Quality and quantity** of milk should be determined for one week to estimate the economic value of the animal.

11. Normal intact udder should be spongy, expansible with milk filling, having homogenous intact four quarters. Udder suffer no hypertrophy or atrophy.

Teats are inspected, having direct attachment to the base of udder with proportional lengths. Teats have uniform shapes, without injuries and lacerations. There is no pain at milking with no partial or total obstruction. Milk is emerged from the teat in one unbranched line i.e. there is no milk splashing. Colour, odour, viscosity, acidity and pH of milk are observed. Milk should not have unacceptable odour neither bloody or containing flakes. Milk is chemically and bacteriologically examined to exclude or ensure intact udder.

12. Reproductive (genital) organs are examined to ensure any inflammation or abnormal vaginal excretions. Also, the ovaries and Fallopian ovarian tracts are examined by rectal palpation to determine any presence of vesicle or hypertrophy.



In BULLS: the testes must be homogenous and symmetrical in their sizes with no adhesion with the scrotum. Testes do not contain indurations or tumor or swelling and there are four rudimentary teats around the testes. Bulls should have good health and vigour, well-structured muscles, tendons, joints and ligament.

13. Claws should be normal with no claw deviation.

Examination also include:

- **Observe the animal from a distance includes**
 - Gait
 - Posture
 - Hair coat
 - Behavior
 - Breathing pattern
 - Respiratory noises
 - Body swellings
 - Skin wound
- **Restraint**
 - Chute
 - Halter
 - Headgate
 - Ganglock
- **Collect data most affected by sympathetic tone first**
 - Urine Sample for Multi-stick analysis
 - Rumination Rate
 - Heart Rate
 - Respiratory Rate