

Farm Animal Management and Care During the Rainy Season

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8150750>

Introduction

In India, livestock has always been an important aspect of agriculture and a source of economic growth. Numerous farmers in India raise animals such as horses, cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and pigs. Animals must be given the highest care and safety from adverse weather conditions when being raised for livestock. The monsoon season, which encourages the spread of various pathogenic organisms like bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites, is particularly destructive for living things. Extreme weather conditions are always harmful to all species. Although this is the case, animals still need protection to guard against strong winds, rain, and hail. We'll talk about a few common issues faced by cattle owners in this post, along with some solutions.



Challenges that were gradually introduced to cattle rearing in the rainy season.

The problems encountered by the farmers in the rainy season can be categorized in the following points:

1. Animal shed with leaky roofs

Animals in animal sheds experience discomfort due to water leaks. The shed's humidity levels considerably rise, which leads to an ammonia gas buildup. This causes eye discomfort. Numerous commensal and facultative bacteria can flourish in wet sheds as well.

2. water and feed

The availability of potable drinking water in sufficient quantities for animals during the rainy season is not guaranteed. Similar to this, fodder grown during the rainy season has a lot of moisture that fills the stomach but is essentially useless. Watery faeces result from the watery feed. Additionally, if the feed storage become moist due to rain water seeping through a cracked roof, mould growth will occur. Animals might develop cancer if their food is contaminated with mould.



3. Infection of udder

Due to moist sheds and bedding, there are more incidences of udder infection during the rainy season. When an animal's udder and teats come into contact with a dirty surface and pass via the teat canal, the udder and teats expand. Fever affects the animal, and milk production is also reduced. Untreated animals develop udder fibrosis, which renders them valuable.

4. Internal and external parasitic infestation

The prevalence of parasite infestation increases during the rainy season as a result of drain water overflow. By accident ingesting parasitic eggs (such as Tinea eggs) and green feed, farm animals cause tissue cysts to grow in the muscles of cattle and pigs. Similarly, during the wet season, tick infestations are more frequently seen. Theileriosis, trypanosomiasis, babesiosis, and other rickettsial infections like Q fever are all caused by large numbers of ticks in the animal shed.



Management of livestock rearing during rainy season

1. Animals should be dewormed to prevent numerous internal parasites before and at the beginning of the rainy season.
2. To improve milk production, provide the animals access to clean, healthy water to drink, along with dry and green feed. In the rainy season, never let animals out to graze.



3. Farmers might produce unusual feeds like hay and silage to avert a shortage of fodder. In addition to this, they can also employ mineral blocks such urea molasses mineral blocks (UMMB) to meet the needs of animals for minerals.
4. Farm animals should be properly vaccinated against infectious diseases such as hemorrhagic septicemia (HS), black quarter (BQ), and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).
5. To prevent any water leaks during rain, animal sheds should be fixed before the monsoon.
6. Animal sheds should be regularly sprayed with insecticides to keep external parasites under control.
7. To protect livestock from udder infections, clean cow dung, leftover feed, and urine frequently.
8. Animal housing should have enough ventilation, and prolonged stressors like travel and malnutrition should be avoided.

