Care and Management of Pregnant Cow
CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF PREGNANT COW

Care and management of pregnant cow is very important for the successful calving. There are some important points a farmer has to keep in mind for the care of pregnant animal.

- Identify pregnant animal after 90 days of artificial insemination if animal does come to heat again.
- First quarter of gestation period are critical so provide gentle treatment. In early stages of pregnancy disturbances can cause abortion.
- Provide **concentrate feed 3.5 kg per day**.
- Provide 25 – 35 Kg. Greed fodder per day and 5 Kg. Paddy straws.
- Minimum **45 – 60 days of dry period is essential**.
- Avoid long distance travel.
- Avoid slippery condition in the shed.
- Avoid chasing by other animals like dogs, bulls etc.
- **Separate pregnant animals from recently aborted animals** or carriers of diseases like Brucellosis.
- Provide adequate clean drinking water.
- Protect against extremes of climate.
- A few days before the probable date of calving, cow should be **transferred to individual calving pens**. Pregnant cow may be transferred to calving pen **1 to 2 weeks before the expected calving date**.
- The calving pen should be properly **cleaned and sterilized** before bringing in the cow.
- The number of **calving pens** required on a farm depends on the number of breedable cows and heifer, **generally 5 per cent of this number**.
- Ample amount of drinking water, laxative feed and generous supply of bedding may be provided.
 Signs of Approaching Parturition

- Cow will leave the herd and seek isolation
- Loss of appetite and distress
- Distention of teat and udder, considerable milk appears in the udder and there may be dripping of milk
- Relaxation of pelvic ligament one day before calving, the ligament on the sides of the tail head is loosened so that hollows appear on either side of the backbone and the tail head is raised and the quarters are dropped.
- The vulva become enlarged and flabby
- Animal will be restless and will pace about often trying to kick or scratch the flank region.
- The parturition process has three stages,
  I. preparatory stage (uterine contraction and dilatation of cervix)
  II. active expulsive stage
  III. Expulsion of fetal membrane.
- Cow will deliver the calf within 12 hours after commencement of first stage.
- Care must be taken to observe expulsion of placenta (after birth). It should be removed immediately so as to avoid cow eating it.

 Management immediately after calving

- Udder and hind quarter should be washed with lukewarm water containing an antiseptic solution of potassium permanganate lotion and dried with clean cloth.
- Cows may be milked to relieve the pressure of the udder. If day old weaning is not practiced the calf can be allowed to remain with the mother in the calving pen for 7 to 10 days. Otherwise the calves can be removed immediately to calf pen.
- The placenta should be expelled within 12 hours after parturition, if not it should be removed manually. Before manual removal the body temperature should be noted. In case of pyrexia, attempt should be made systemically to reduce fever. Otherwise systemic infection may establish.
- The cow should be monitored carefully for signs of any metabolic disorders like milk fever, ketosis, and acidosis and should be treated immediately.