DESHI COW MANAGEMENT FOR BETTER MILK PRODUCTION

P.V. Patil and M. K. Patil
College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Udgir Dist.Latur-413517, Maharashtra
DOI- https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15699821

ABSTRACT

Indigenous cows, prevalent in the country, suffer from low productivity, prompting farmers to favor crossbred animals. Enhancing indigenous animal production necessitates community engagement and a shift in management practices. Current housing conditions are inadequate, leading to stress and reduced milk yield. Poor feeding practices contribute to low growth rates and milk production. Calf rearing also lacks focus, especially for female calves, impacting future productivity. Breeding management needs improvement, emphasizing the pedigree of bulls and utilizing artificial insemination. Proper health management, including vaccinations and cleanliness, is essential. Overall, strategic changes in management can bolster the performance of indigenous cattle.

KEYWORD: Indigenous Cattle, Scientific Rearing, Breeding Management, Nutritional Practices, Animal Health, Livestock Productivity

INTRODUCTION

A large number of indigenous cows are found in our country. But their production is very low. Therefore, the farmers turn towards the rearing of crossbred animals. The production of indigenous animals can also increase. It requires community efforts. Also, to some extent, our mindset needs to be changed dramatically in managing indigenous animals.
The following are the current managemental practices of indigenous animals and the changes required in the management of them.

HOUSE FOR INDIGENOUS ANIMALS

The indigenous animal house is not well constructed and has a very low height. We see a crowd of animals in the house, which has less capacity with insufficient facilities for watering and feeding, as well as the low level of cleanliness. In the summer, the animals tied in such a shed with tins at a low height experienced a lot of heat stress on the animal's body. Therefore, animals do not produce milk to their maximum capacity, and there are also problems in the breeding of animals, anoestrus, and repeat breeding. Because of this, we complain that indigenous animals are not economically affordable. On the contrary, for crossbred animals, as well as the Murrah buffalo, we construct well facilitate animal sheds. Often, our indigenous animals appear to be tied under the trees in the high temperatures during summer, cold during winter, and rain. This affects the production of such animals by stressing the body. Therefore, indigenous animals should also have a good place to stay and sit and protect them from high temperatures, cold, and heavy rain, but keep this animal shed should be less expensive. Keeping the indigenous animals free in loose housing without tying will help to increase their production to their maximum capacity. Keep the indigenous cows in a healthy environment in a shed with enough ventilation.

RATION FOR INDIGENOUS ANIMALS

Most people feed straws, kadbi, dry grasses or weeds to indigenous animals. But, this type of feed and fodder has low palatability, digestibility, and low nutritive value, so our animals do not grow fast, and cannot produce more milk. Farmers do not give concentrate mixture to our indigenous animals or give them very little. Yet we expect more milk production from such animals. If their diet is wrong, how is this animal responsible for the low productivity? If our indigenous animals are also given good quality fodder, such as hybrid napier grass, maize, Bajra, mega sweet fodder, and leguminous fodder, their milk production will

definitely increase. If sufficient fodder for grazing is not available, we cannot let loose deshi cows for grazing. Similar to crossbred animals, our indigenous animals should be provided with chaffed fodder. Even indigenous animals will need clean and abundant drinking water. During the last trimester of pregnancy, our indigenous animals should also supply a concentrate mixture so that the calf in the uterus will be born strong, and the milk production of the next lactation will also increase. The feed should have a mineral mixture that includes both major and trace elements. There should always be access to clean, fresh water.

CALF REARING

We always see that the indigenous female calves allow to drink very little milk, while the male calves are allow drink/suck more milk than female calves. As a result, the growth of indigenous female calves decreases. You will notice that the adult weight of our indigenous cow is slowly declining day by day. If the body of this indigenous cow is not strong/not well developed or the udder is not developed properly, where will the milk come from? We all need to think about this. In order to produce good indigenous cows, it is important to pay more attention to the rearing of pure indigenous calves. The purpose of increasing your indigenous cows will not be achieved by underestimating only crossbred cows. For this, there is a need to start a scientific rearing of indigenous calves. It will initially require more cost for rearing, but the next generation of indigenous cows will definitely be more productive. The use of milk replacer, calf starter, and nutritious cereal and leguminous fodders in the ration of the indigenous calf diet will make your next generation cows strong, healthy, and more productive. It is also necessary to have some government schemes in this regard, as well as provide some financial aid or feed supply for the rearing of pure indigenous calves. It is also very important to do deworming of calves from time to time for better and faster growth.

BREEDING MANAGEMENT

Livestock farmers do not see the pedigree of the breeding bull that is used for breeding their indigenous cows. If he found that his cow was in estrus, he immediately, without thinking about future progeny, went to breed the cow with the available breeding bull in his village. He does not know what the milk production of the mother of that bull is? Due to this, the calves born from low milk producing cows are also of low productivity. To make the next generation of your indigenous cow production more productive, the bull used for natural insemination should be proven. Now, the semen of indigenous cows is available at all places, so it is necessary to make the next generation productive by artificial insemination in our indigenous cows. The bulls used for the natural insemination in a village are not tested for any infectious illness, so the cows in the villages are likely to be infected with the disease. See that the bull is free from any infectious diseases. It is needed to change the mindset of the animal owners that, anyway the cow can get pregnant, they do not think about how the progeny will be. Timely breeding depends on routine heat detection. Keeping records of breeding cycles is crucial for assessing the productivity and health of the herd.

HEALTH MANAGEMENT

There is no doubt that our indigenous cow's immunity power is good, but it should be noted that the immune system of the animal depends on its nutritional management. Therefore, in addition to proper nutritional management, it is necessary to vaccinate the animal to keep away our indigenous animals from infectious diseases. In addition to this, it is important to take care of the cleaning of the shed and the surrounding area. It should be clean and dry. Prevent ectoparasite infestation to our indigenous animals.

In this way, proper changes in the management of our indigenous animals will help the production of pure indigenous cows and progeny with better performance.

CONCLUSION

Overall, strategic changes in management can bolster the performance of indigenous cattle.

REFERENCES

Chakrabharti, A. Sarkar, P.K and Das, P.(2023). Unlocking the potential: Deshi cow in Agroforestrysystems for sustainable land management and resource recycling. Indian Farming Digest, 2(3):11-13.

Kolekar, D.V., Chandre Gowda, M. J., Sairam, C. V. and Dixit, S. (2023). Productivity attributes of six deshi cow breeds in Karnataka. The Indian Journal of Animal Sciences, 93(3):279-286.

Sarang, S. K., Sreekumar, D., and Sejian, V. (2024). Indigenous cattle biodiversity in India: Adaptation and conservation. Reproduction and Breeding, 4(4): 254-266. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.repbre.2024.09.001

Singh, V. (2023). How to take care of cows in India. Krishijagran, https://krishijagran.com/animal-husbandry/how-to-take-care-of-cows-in-india/

Sushma, M. (2020).Deshi cows Agriculture benefits. Godeshimilk, https://godesimilk.com/desi-cows-agriculture-benefits/

Vigne, M., Dorin, B., & Aubron, C. (2021). Is feeding the Indian dairy cow sustainable? A tentative multiscalar answer. International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability, 20(2): 140–152. https://doi.org/10.1080/14735903.2021.1920237

Cite this article:

P.V. Patil and M. K. Patil. (2025). Deshi cow management for better milk production. Vet Farm Frontier, 02(05), 6–8. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15699821