

JOB ROLE – ANIMAL HEALTH WORKER

Sector – Agriculture

(Qualification Pack Code: AGR/Q4804)

Class IX



PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education
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UNIT 1: RESTRAINING FARM ANIMALS

Session 3: Approaching and Handling Farm Animals

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Session Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Describe restraining of farm animals;
2. Identify tools and equipment used for restraining farm animals;
3. Identify the abnormal behaviour in farm animals; and
4. Follow safe practices in animal handling.

Introduction

1. The right way of approaching large animals such as cows and buffaloes is important for handling them safely.
2. Most large animals can see at wide angles around them and there is a blind spot directly behind their hindquarters.
3. Any movement in the area of the blind spot makes the animal uneasy and nervous. Therefore Animal Health Worker must consider this aspect during animal handling.

Approaching the Farm Animals

1. Before approaching an animal, ask the owner or its attendant if the animal is docile or furious.
2. Pat the animal gently by calling its name or words familiar to the animal.
3. If possible, call the animal by its name, and approach the animal preferably from the left side.
4. Never carry a stick while approaching the animal.
5. Avoid kicking region while approaching the animal.

Restraining of Individual Cows and Buffaloes

1. Cows are generally more nervous than other animals. Always announce your presence when approaching a cow and gently touch it.
2. If a cow tends to kick, consider using a rope. Do not permit workers to talk loudly. Gentle cows can be dangerous while defending their calves and such information should be shared with the visitors and new workers.

Restraining of Individual Cows and Buffaloes (contd...)

3. Special care is required for handling the breeding bulls. The handler should never come in direct contact with a breeding bull.
4. Keep small children and strangers away from the animals.
5. Cattle can be difficult to handle if you force them to act in ways that are not natural for them.

Restraining Particular Body Parts of Animals

Different approaches are used for restraining:

1. Head region
2. Forelegs
3. Hind legs
4. Tail for diverting the animal's attention

Restraining Particular Body Parts of Animals (contd...)

Restraining the head region:

1. To restrain the head region, the bridge between the nostrils is grasped firmly with thumb and forefinger of one hand.
2. The horn is held firmly with the other hand.



A farm worker restraining head of young cattle

Restraining Particular Body Parts of Animals (contd...)

Tools used for restraining head region



Bull nose ring



Bull holder



Bull nose leader



Muzzle cover



Mouth gags

Restraining Particular Body Parts of Animals (contd...)

Restraining of the foreleg:

The foreleg of the cattle is raised and held off the ground for examination or treatment.



Restraining Particular Body Parts of Animals (contd...)

Restraining of the hind leg:

1. The hind leg is raised off the ground and held in that position to examine and treat in cases of Mastitis and udder swelling.



2. Anti-kicker and Milker's knot are also used for restraining the hind legs.



Milker's knot



Anti-kicker

Restraining Particular Body Parts of Animals (contd...)

Restraining of tail:

1. Animal handler keeps both the hands close to the base of the tail as much as possible. The grip is gentle but firm.
2. The animal worker stands on the side of the cow to avoid being kicked.



Restraining the Whole Animal

Casting of animals:

1. Casting of an animal means making the animal fall on the ground.
2. Animals are cast for surgical operations, hoof trimming, etc., to prevent accident and injury during handling.
3. Animal are cast down in a circular pit of about 8 metres diameter filled with bedding materials like sand, wheat straw, saw dust, etc.
4. Before casting, the animal is kept on fasting for 12 hours to prevent injury to distended digestive organs.
5. Casting of pregnant animals is avoided.

Restraining the Whole Animal (contd..)

1. Reuff's method of Casting

1. Around 30 feet of rope is required to make a loop around the animal's neck using a bowline knot placed.
2. End of the rope is thrown over animal's back to the opposite side.
3. The rope is picked from under the animal, wrapped around its body and near the bowline to form a half hitch just behind the shoulder.



Restraining the Whole Animal (contd..)

1. Reuff's method of Casting (contd...)

4. By tossing the end over the animal's back, another half hitch is made just in front of the udder or scrotum in case of male cattle.

5. The rope gently pulled to cast the animal .



Restraining the Whole Animal (contd..)

2. Burley method of casting

1. The middle portion of the rope is placed on the upper side of the animal's neck and free ends of the rope is crossed under the neck.
2. Then both the free ends of the rope pass between the front legs in backward direction on either side of the animal.



Restraining the Whole Animal (contd..)

2. Burley method of casting (Contd...)

3. Each free end of the rope then crosses over the back of the animal and subsequently passes through the area between the udder or scrotum (in case of males) and hind legs.

4. When the rope is pulled in the backward direction, the animal is cast to the ground



Restraining Small Animals like Sheep and Goat

- Restrained by means of hand or an arm under the neck with the other arm placed on or around the rear side.

Safe Practices in Animal Handling

1. Wear PPEs like gloves, apron, gumboots, mask and rigid helmet (if required).
2. Observe personal hygiene by washing hands and face after handling the animals.
3. Awareness about the zoonotic diseases which can be transmitted from humans to animals and vice versa.



Safe Practices in Animal Handling (contd..)

4. Prompt disposal of infected animals, infected tissues and proper cleaning of contaminated sites.
5. Handle hazardous medical equipment such as needles or chemicals with extreme caution.
6. Special red-coloured bio-hazard disposal boxes are kept for this purpose on the farms.

Abnormal Behaviour in Farm Animals

Animal behaviour refers to the animal's reaction vis-.a-vis

1. Other animals of the same species,
2. Other animal species,
3. Human beings and
4. Environment.

The main causes of abnormal behaviour are stressful condition and prolonged sickness.

Abnormal behaviour gives clues about illness, stress, inadequate nutrition and other problems and sometimes can be detrimental.

Abnormal Behaviour in Farm Animals (contd..)

- Different abnormal behaviour observed in farm animals are as follows:
- **1. Coprophagia:** Eating of faeces of animals.
- **2. Excessive licking :** Calves do excessive licking of other animals when housed together.
- 3. **Pica :** Eating of non-feed materials like paper, metals, stones etc.
- 4. **Tail biting:** Biting or chewing the tail of another animal.
- 5. **Cannibalism:** Eating flesh of another animal of the same species.
- 6. **Crib-biting:** Gripping of solid objects such as a fence with incisor teeth.

Summary

In this session you learnt about restraining of farm animals, tools and equipment used for restraining them, safe practices of animal handling along with abnormal behaviour in farm animals.

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