

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

TOPIC: ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT

CLASS: SS3

WEEK: 10

## LIVESTOCK DISEASES

A disease in animals means any condition in which there is a deviation from the normal state of health or when there is any interference with the body processes which will make its body not to function in a normal way. This always gives rise to ill health, which does not allow the animals to perform less in areas of live weight gain, milk production, work done in case of work animals, egg or wool production etc.

Animal diseases are generally caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and malnutrition.

## CLASSIFICATION OF ANIMAL DISEASES

Based on organisms that cause diseases, the prevalent diseases of livestock can be grouped into

1. Viral diseases
2. Bacteria diseases
3. Fungal diseases
4. Protozoan diseases
5. Malnutrition or metabolic disorder

## SUSCEPTIBILITY TO DISEASES

This refers to condition in which the animals is easily attacked or infected by a disease.

## FACTORS THAT COULD PREDISPOSE ANIMALS TO DISEASES

The factor which helps in initiation and continuation of diseases condition include:

1. Health status of the animal: animals that are unhealthy can easily get infected more than those healthy animals.
2. The farm environment: dirty and unhygienic environment could easily predispose animals to disease
3. Nutrition: animals that are not fed properly in terms of quality and quantity can easily be infected by diseases.
4. Management: animals that are not properly managed in terms of administration of drugs and vaccines appropriately can easily be attacked by a disease.
5. Unfavorable climatic condition: extreme of climatic condition such as rainfall, temperature, wind etc. could predispose animals to diseases attack.
6. Poor housing: if animals are not properly housed and are exposed to heavy rainfall and high temperature, they could easily be attacked by diseases.

7. Stress condition: condition or pressures caused by difficulties in life can predispose animals to disease attack
8. Breed of animals: poor breeds of animals can easily be prone to disease attack as against the good breeds.

## RESISTANCE TO DISEASES

Diseases resistance is the ability of the animals to withstand the attack by a pathogen and remain healthy.

## FACTORS THAT DETERMINE THE RESISTANCE OF ANIMALS TO DISEASE

1. Development
2. Species of animals
3. Inoculation
4. Level of feeding
5. Age of animal
6. Physiological condition of the animal

## ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF ANIMAL DISEASES

1. Poor growth
2. Poor food utilization
3. Low yield of productivity
4. Low income to expecting farmers
5. Poor quality of animals products
6. Death of livestock

## Methods of preventing diseases

1. Quarantine: new stock being brought to the farm should be separated from the animals originated on the farm for proper scrutiny.
2. Vaccination: farm animals should be vaccinated at the right time and doses to give them immunity against pathogenic organisms.
3. Hygiene: good hygiene must be taken to prevent infection of farm animals. This involves cleaning of pens, watering and feeding.
4. Good feeding: animals should be properly fed to resist diseases attack.
5. Breeding : diseases resistant stocks should be bred on the farm
6. Rotational grazing: it makes building up of parasites to be avoided.
7. Isolation: all sick animals should be isolated from healthy ones.

## ASSIGNMENT

1. Define the term diseases.
2. Mention five problems of preventing livestock disease.

