



Ministry of Rural Development



Technical Bulletin Cattle Rearing

**A Sustainable Livelihood
for SHG Women
Part IV: Housing for
Cattle**

Introduction to Cattle Farming

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAYNRLM) is a flagship program of Govt. of India, dedicated to eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods in rural areas. DAY-NRLM focuses on empowering rural women through the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and community institutions. The DAY-NRLM is making concerted efforts to augment livelihoods of SHG women through multiple farm, allied and non-farm activities. Cattle rearing is one of most crucial components among these activities. It offers SHG women an opportunity to generate income, achieve self-sufficiency, and strengthen their economic prospects.

With its adaption to diverse environments and being complimentary to agriculture farming, cattle farming presents an attractive opportunity for SHG women. It is easy for farmers with even small land holding to rear cattle as the waste from the crops and fodder grown becomes nutrition for the cattle. This bulletin aims to equip the farmers with the knowledge necessary for efficient and profitable cattle rearing. The Technical Bulletin has been structured into four parts to serve as a comprehensive resource for individuals and organizations seeking to enhance their knowledge and skill in cattle farming. Each part offers specific insights and guidance, covering various aspects of cattle rearing, from its significance to selection of breeds, signs of healthy animal, feeding, health & disease management, and general management practices. By dividing the information into these distinct sections, the Technical Bulletin aims to provide a systematic and accessible resource that equips readers with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful and sustainable cattle rearing. These four parts collectively offer a valuable reference for achieving success in the field. This section introduces to the Cattle farming, its relevance, feed and fodder management for cattle. With the potential to generate sustainable livelihood, cattle offer an accessible and economically viable opportunity for women to secure their financial independence.

Benefits of Dairy Farming:

1. **Weather Independent:** Unlike many other agricultural sectors, dairy production is **unaffected by rainfall**. The feed and fodder required for feeding the dairy animal is either produced throughout the year or could be stored as hay for dry fodder and silage for green fodder in the season of excess production.
2. **Stable Pricing:** The price of milk in the market has **consistently held steady**, even during times of supply surplus. This stability benefits both producers and consumers.
3. **Growing Demand:** The demand for dairy products continues to rise, driven by both vegetarians and non-vegetarians. This sustained demand ensures a stable market.
4. **Easy to Market:** Marketing dairy products is straightforward. There's no need for specialized shops, and marketing expenses are relatively low compared to other industries.
5. **Guaranteed Income:** Dairy farming provides a **reliable annual income**, making it a unique industry in this regard.

The technical bulletin on cattle rearing has five components viz. breeds of cattle, health management, housing of cattle and feed & fodder management. The topic of housing for cattle is discussed in this bulletin.

Housing of cattle:

i. Why do animals need housing?

1. It gives them protection against wild animals and harsh weather conditions
2. Housing gives hygiene environment for cattle which helps in preventing infestation from ectoparasites.
3. Well organised systems in house make cattle management easy.
4. It gives comfort to the cattle which helps in enhancing its production and productivity.

ii. Selection of site for housing

1. Close to house of owner: The site for housing of cattle should be near the house of the owner so that he/she can closely monitor the status of cattle.
2. Elevated ground is essential for house of cattle as it prevents the stagnation of water near the living place of cattle.
3. Adequate sunlight: The face of the rooms and ventilator should be such that the house gets adequate sunlight and air into the room.
4. Space for future expansion: The house should be planned on such a plot that the expansion of stay area of cattle could be done in the future.

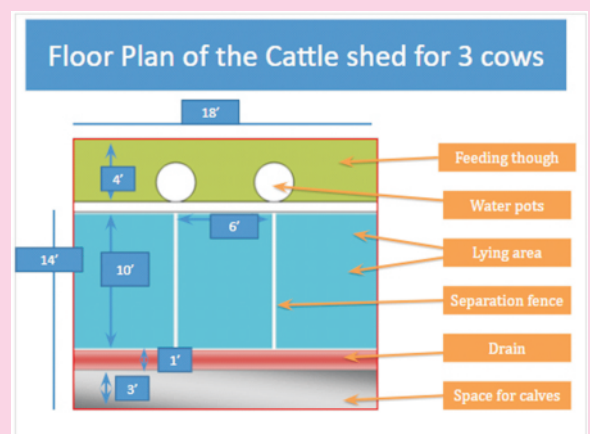
iii. Features of well-designed house

1. Water is required for maintaining hygiene of the house and feed and fodder of the cattle. Hence continuous water supply is essential for cattle management.
2. Usually it is practice in villages to give feed and fodder on the ground instead of trough. This is a compromise with the hygiene of the fodder as the chances of contamination in the feed when it is spread on the ground. Therefore, the use of feed trough is recommended for the cattle feeding.
3. Place to lie down: The production of the cattle enhances if it remains in peace and is physically not over exerted and hence better in health and production.
4. Well ventilated houses allow sufficient light and air into the rooms and hence reduces humidity of the room which prevents microbial growth.
5. Efficient drainage system reflects the hygiene of the house as it affects the outflow of unwanted waste and is directly related to consumption of water for cleanliness and hygiene atmosphere in the house. The floor should be non-slippery, well designed for proper flow of waste with no stagnation.



Floor plan of three cattle and two calves

The total area required for housing of three cattle and two calves is (18'X18')324 sq meters. The space required for cattle is 10'X6' and space for two calves is 3'X18'. For the feeding troughs and water pot space of 4'X18' has been reserved. The drain has 1' width for proper flow of waste.





This document is developed by
National Mission Management Unit, DAY-NRLM
with support from TA-NRLM (Transforming Rural India Foundation)