

BOOK REVIEW



'PASU PARIPALANAM'

(Management of Dairy Cattle) Malayalam

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Rs.42.00

This book is aimed at providing basic information on and practical aspects of cattle management to the non professional dairy farmer. The first introductory chapter gives an overview of the livestock development scenario of Kerala and this is followed by the chapters on ; Cattle breeds, Handling of animals, Cattle shed construction, Feeds and fodder, Care and management of calves, Feeding schedule, Reproduction, Milking, diseases of cattle and their prevention, First aid, selection of dairy cattle, Determination of age and weight, and Maintenance of records. All the relevant details have been explained in simple language and with a lucid presentation. But one gets the feeling that there is a lack of balance between the contents of different chapters with reference to the details presented. Further, there is scope for rearrangement of the chapters to give more flow and continuity to the topics. Since reproductive health is very important in augmenting milk production, it is felt that more focus should have been made on proper feeding of heifers, infertility and on the practical aspects of reducing intercalving period.

In general, the format and get-up of

the book are good; but the quality of figures, both photographs and drawings needs improvement. Printing these in art paper would greatly improve the quality. Some of the line drawings appear a little amateurish. The spelling of 'Dairy Cattle' (wrongly printed as 'Diary Cattle') in the inner title page requires correction in the next edition. One aspect, though not very important, but needs mention is that the professional status and academic qualifications are not usually mentioned along with the author's name on the cover. These are given only in the inner title page.

In general, this book is a very laudable attempt by the author to provide all aspects of dairy cattle management in a comprehensive but understandable manner. All those involved in cattle rearing should read this moderately priced book and have this book with them as reference material. It will be worthwhile that all the veterinary institutions have multiple copies of the book so that farmers can have ready access to them. This exposure would definitely improve the quality of dairy cattle management. The author deserves compliments for bringing out this excellent book of great practical value.

MK.

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