

Commercial Cattle Dairy Farming



Why Cattle Dairy Farming

- India ranks first among all countries in both production and consumption of milk. India plans to increase its milk production to 300 million tons by 2025.
- Growing demand for healthy, clean, antibiotic free, chemical free, hormone free and organic milk and milk products.
- Consumption increasing more than 6% per year
- Increasing awareness about benefit of cow milk.
- Consumption of processed and packaged dairy products is increasing in urban areas. It is driven by higher incomes and greater interest in nutrition. We are the fastest growing economy, to be third by 2030.
- Most world-famous brands eager to enter in milk business in India. (Nestle, Lactalis, Danone, Fonterra, Arla Foods, Schreiber Dynamics, Heritage Novandie)
- Large opportunities in carbon credit and development of non-conventional environment friendly source of energy through dairying.
- All types of automation and mechanization (Activity and Rumination monitoring system, TMR mixer Wagon and milking parlors) is available in India which is making farming easy to manage and one can think of keeping more animals at one place.
- Almost all areas of India are suitable for setting up dairy farming businesses.
- Our productivity is still less than 7 liters per cow per day, 25.6 in Britain and 38.6 in Israel. So, there is big scope for improvement.

Major parameters for success or failure of Dairy farms

1. Size of the farm
2. Cow Comfort
 - Site selection
 - Layout
 - Long term plan
 - Shed infrastructure
 - Equipment selection
3. Feed and Fodder
 - Feed formulations
 - Fodder Quality and its availability
 - Fodder processing and storage
4. Herd Management
 - Biosecurity
 - SOP / Protocol
 - Preventive health protocols
 - Understanding of next best action as we are dealing with live stock
 - Breeding strategies
 - Calf raising and nonproductive animal management
 - Frequent changes in daily routine

Major reasons for success or failure of Dairy farms

5. Cow Purchase

- Cow selection with due testing for zoonotic diseases.
- Quarantine norms
- Growth stages, cannot go for huge number in less time.

6. Team

- Team selection
- Team training

7. Milk harvesting and processing

- Water quality
- Milk and milk product quality
- Processing, products, Marketing and sales. Front end clarity.
- Equipment selection and infra

8. Other

- Inventory and accounting.
- Feedback and monitoring mechanism for task management
- Livestock is being treated as an industrial machinery
- Automation and Mechanization. Application of computer-based technology.

Products we can look for

Milk Products:

Liquid Milk (Glass bottle, Pet bottle, pouch, tetra pack), A2 Milk, Fermented Dairy product (Curd, Many flavors of Misti Doi, Many flavors of Yoghurt), Butter, Ghee, Paneer, Ice-creams, Different types of Cheese, Shrikhand, Aamrakhand, Butter milk (Chas), Low fat product etc.

Other products:

Organic fertilizers (Vermicompost, Bio-compost, PROM), Vermiwash, Jeevamrut slurry and Electricity generation through Biogas.

How possibly we should proceed

A commercial dairy farm in Indian conditions can keep 1000 milking cows at one spot. To stabilize all operations, start operation with 200 adult cows. Layout should be done considering final count. Land should be available for future expansion. Infrastructure can be built phase wise.

In this priority is, we should stabilize dairy farm operations and develop milk product recipe, their packaging, marketing and sales. Same time other products like compost can be made.

Once we confident enough, then we should go for expansion.

One thing we must keep in our mind that commercial farms in India cannot operate by selling liquid milk to cooperatives.

If we work out all aspects as per standard protocol then crossbred cows can produce A2, disease free, clean milk.

About Me

Education

- Bachelors of Agriculture from MPKV Rahuri.
- Farm Production and Management, certificate course from Pennstate College of Agriculture.

Activities

- Participated in Punjab Dairy Farmers Association (PDFA) expo, shared thoughts in silage making.
- Participated in In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) programme by J. K. Trust.
- Optimization of fodder production and suitable variety trials done with Advanta India.
- Participated in Bovino Da Latte 2017 held in Cremona, Italy.
- Worked with Mr. Frank Delfino a well-known ruminant nutritionist from US.
- Worked with Mr. Mike Kilkenny, Mr. Edmund Piper and Mr. Gildas at different stages, all are European dairy farm managers.
- Participated in farm audit.
- Familiar with herd management software like Alpro, Delpro, DP 21, SCR cow monitoring system and DeLaval feed manager system.
- Conducted many silage trials to understand effect of optimal rolling and inoculant on DM loss and toxin in silage.
- Inferred best suitable shed design and farm lay out to achieve topmost cow comfort for Indian climatic conditions.

Experience

Current: Working as a Consultant to large herd dairy farms.

Company: Sarda Farms , Nashik, Maharashtra (Dairy Farm Manager, March. 2014 – June 2020)

Company: ABIL Dairy LLP. (Asst. Dairy Farm Manager, Dec. 2012 – Feb. 2014)

Company: Bhagyalaxmi Dairy Farms Pvt Ltd. (Feeding & Forage Manager, 2005 – Dec. 2012)

THANK YOU

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