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Transforming Lives through Quality Education

DIVISION OF RESEARCH & EXTENSION

Guide to a Healthy Cow

A Healthy Cow makes a Happy Farmer

A healthy cow produces healthy and quality milk acceptable to family, consumers and processors. Failures by farmers to notice early signals of sickness in a cow leads to costly consequences. The cow will become more sick, drop in production, require treatment and may even die. These will cause loss of money and food.



A healthy cow grazing

Why Cow Signals are Important

Sickness has early signals which every farmer needs to know. The signals are changes in the body, dung and behaviour. The signals are good indications to farmer of what immediate action is necessary to take to prevent the cow from becoming more sick.

How do you know your cow is healthy?

1. A healthy cow looks bright, strong, stands upright and has smooth skin and hair
2. She has no ticks between the spraying intervals
3. She has a wet nose and breathe with ease. Faster breathing is a sign of fever
4. She is not limp when walking
5. Her dung is not watery and has no whole pieces of feed or worms. Presence of worms means she requires medicine. Pieces of feed in dung means digestion problem
6. The cow chews when resting. If she does not chew daily, she is unwell
7. She looks clean because her sleeping area is cleaned regularly
8. Lastly, If you notice the cow is sick, call an animal doctor to treat her as soon as possible



Happy cows resting

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