

Chapter Thirty Four

FARM ANIMALS:

Introduction:

- These are animals which are kept by farmers or raised on the farm.

The importance of farm animals:

- They provide us with meat or protein.
- They provide us with milk which makes our diet nutritious.
- They provide us with hide and skin, which are used for the manufacture of leather products.
- Their droppings can be used as farm manure.
- Some of them provide wool which is used for making cloths.
- They can be sold for money.
- Some are reared as hobby and for sports.
- Some are used for scientific research.
- Some are used in feeding industries.

Products derived from some animals:

(1) PIG:

- The product had from pig is pork, which is used as food.

(2) Sheep:

- The product had from sheep is wool, which is used to manufacture cloths.

(3) Goat:

- The product had from goat is goat meat, which is referred to as chevon.

(4) Cow:

- The product had from cow is milk, which is used to manufacture margarine.
- Cow also provides us with meat.

(5) Poultry:

- The products had from poultry are eggs, which are used to make cakes.
- We also get meat from poultry.

(6) Rabbit:

- The product had is wool, which is used to make clothing.
- Rabbit also provides us with meat.

The importance of giving water to farm animals:

- Water given to farm animals is important because;
 - (a) It helps in the digestion of the food they eat.
 - (b) It helps them to get rid of waste materials from their bodies in the form of urine and sweat.
- It forms part of the body fluid and blood.

Animal feed:

- There are three types and these are:
 - (1) The basic animal feed.
 - (2) Concentrate and supplement.
 - (3) Roughages.

The basic animal feed:

- This feed is mainly used to feed non-ruminants and has a high food value.
- It is highly digestible.
- Even though it is very rich in carbohydrate, it lacks some nutrients.
- The feed includes the following:
 - (a) Cereals such as maize, guinea corn, millet and rice.
 - (b) Root and tuber crops such as yam, cassava and sweet potato.

Concentrates and supplements:

- These feeds are prepared from cereals, minerals and drugs.
- This type of feed is highly rich in protein, carbohydrate and minerals.
- It can easily be mixed by the farmer himself and can be produced commercially.
- It can be used to feed ruminants as supplement by adding vegetables such as lettuce, cabbage, kontomire and bokoboko.

- In short, concentrates are feed which are highly rich in protein, carbohydrates and minerals which are produced commercially for animal feeding.

Roughage:

- This refers to the fibrous feed materials which form the main diet of ruminants.
- They include grasses and legumes.
- These roughages can be stored in the form of hay and silage.
- The hay and silage can be used to feed the livestock during the dry season, when fresh green pasture is scarce.

Food ration for farm animals:

- Food ration is the daily prepared feed for farm animals.
- There are three types and these are:
 - (1) The maintenance ration.
 - (2) The production ration.
 - (3) The balanced ration.

The maintenance ration:

- This is the amount of food needed by farm animals in order to prevent increase or decrease in its weights.

Its importance:

- The maintenance ration is important because:
 - (1) It is used to maintain the weight of the animals during the dry season, when fresh green pasture is not available.
 - (2) It provides the animals with just the amount of energy and protein which it needs for metabolic activities such as respiration, blood circulation and movement.
 - (2) It is used in feeding animals kept under the intensive system of housing.

Production ration: This is a mixture of different food items, which is enough in order to enable production to occur in an animal.

Importance:

- (1) It can be used for flushing.
 - This implies that it can be given as a special feed to the animal, two weeks before mating.
- (2) It can be used for “steaming up” in pregnancy.
 - This implies that it can be given as special diet to the animals, two weeks before parturition.
- (3) **Balanced diet or ration:**
 - This is the ration which contains all the food nutrients required by an animal, in the right proportion for maintenance and production.

Importance:

- It enhances the production or growth in a farm animal.
- It improves the quality of meat had from the animal.
- It keeps the animal healthy.

Importance of food nutrients to farm animals:

Food nutrients	Functions	Deficiency symptoms
(1) <u>Carbohydrate:</u> Sources- Maize, millet and wheat bran.	(a) It provides energy. (b) It provides fat when in excess.	(i) Lack of energy. (ii) Loss of weight.
(2) <u>Protein:</u> Sources: - Fish meal, groundnut, cotton seed, palm kernel seed.	(a) It repairs worn out or damaged tissues. (b) Needed for body growth. (c) Provides energy.	(i) Slow growth. (ii) Low resistance to diseases. (iii) Lack of energy.
(3) <u>Fats:</u> Sources: Cotton seed cake, groundnut cakes, palm kernel cake.	(a) It maintains the body's temperature. (b) It provides energy.	(i) Loss of weight. (ii) Dry or rough skin. (iii) Lack of energy.

<p>(4) <u>Vitamins:</u> Sources: Greens and vegetables.</p>	<p>(a) Protects the body against diseases. (b) Helps in blood clotting.</p>	<p>(i) Low resistance to diseases. (ii) Loss of blood through excessive bleeding when there is a cut.</p>
<p>(5) <u>Minerals:</u> Sources: Oyster shell and common salt.</p>	<p>(a) Controls the processes and functions of the body's organs (i.e. respiration, ,circulation, reproduction e.t.c.) (b) Calcium and phosphorus helps in the formation of bones, teeth and shells. (c) Iodine is for growth, reproduction and formation of the thyroid. (d) Iron is for the formation of blood cells.</p>	<p>(i) Causes rickets and retarded growth. (ii) Poor teeth and bone formation. (iii) Goiter and anaemia.</p>

Some farm animals and their breeds:

Types of farm animals.	Breeds.
(1) Sheep:	<p>(a) Long – legged sheep. (b) Nguni black head. (c) Forest type.</p>

(2) Goat:	(a) West Africa dwarf goat. (b) The Sokoto red. (c) The Anglo-Nubian. (d) Sapel type.
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