



Barn Report

A Dairy Keeper Resource

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Focusing on Breeding to Increase Production

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Despite already being the largest milk producing nation, accounting for 17 per cent of world milk production, supply of milk in India does not match demand.

Economic growth, increased incomes, and an expanding population are contributing to a growing demand for milk.

It is estimated that in 2011, the country produced 121 million tonnes of milk. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) believes that the only way to increase production at a rate that matches demand is to improve the genetic potential of animals and focus on feeding a balanced diet.

The NDDB has planned a multi-state initiative and put together a National Dairy Plan - which has a 15 year horizon.

The National Dairy Plan aims at contributing to increasing milk production by increasing productivity in existing dairy animals through a focused and scientific process for breeding and feeding.

The plan has been sent to the World Bank for approval for funding.

UK farmers are looking at importing Australian cattle genetics to increase options for dairy farmers.

The genetics from Holstein, Jersey and Aussie Red bulls will help dairy farmers produce more milk from home grown forage feed and will produce cattle with a better stature that not only give a longer milk production but also have the benefit of producing dairy bull calves with a better meat conformation.

New virus alert

A new virus, schmallenberg, has been found in cattle, sheep and goats in the Netherlands and Germany. Farmers in North Europe are urged to be vigilant and take caution when importing animals from affected areas.

Clinical symptoms include fever, reduced milk yield, loss of appetite, loss of condition and diarrhea.

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