

Unit

4



Record Keeping in a Dairy Farm



Maintaining records or record keeping is an essential part of livestock management. It can be done easily if animals have some form of identification mark. Thus, animal records and identification are inseparable. Maintaining records in a dairy farm helps make decisions about various activities related to the farm. It also helps reduce expenses and increase profits by making decisions about feed, pasture, animal sale and purchase, etc. Based on the records, profit and loss can be calculated for a given period. Farm records make it easy to extract information that may be required about the farm and animals.

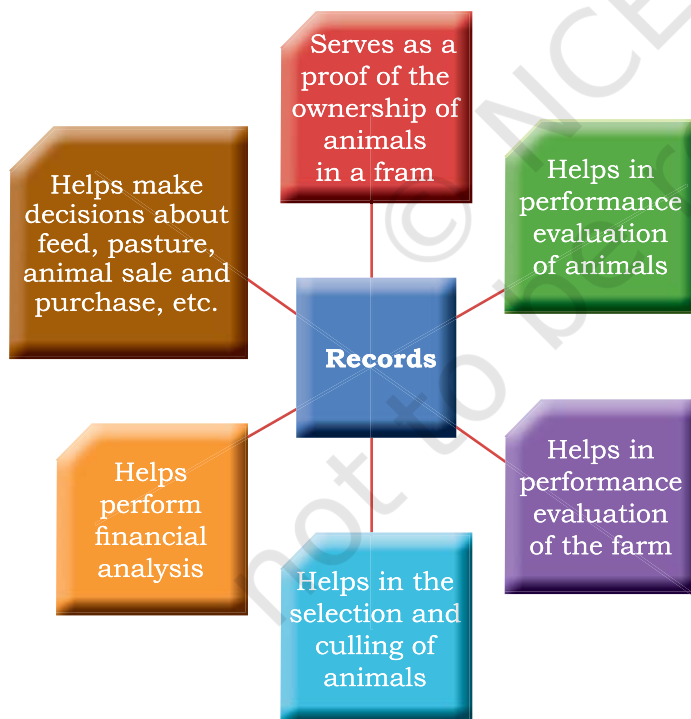


Fig. 4.1: Purposes of record keeping

NEED FOR RECORD KEEPING

The major purposes of record keeping in a dairy farm are depicted in the Fig. 4.1.

CHARACTERISTICS OF FARM RECORDS

A farm record must:

- be maintained in a simple format.
- be easy to keep.
- provide necessary information.
- avoid duplication.

TYPES OF FARM RECORD

There are different types of record that need to be maintained in a livestock farm. A farmer must maintain records relevant to a particular livestock farm. Records of a farm can broadly be classified into three categories (Fig. 4.2).

Technical records	Farm section records	Financial records
• Daily report register • Artificial insemination or service register • Calving register • Daily milk yield register • Feed stock register • Feeding record • Health record	• Fodder cultivation register • Field register • Labour register • Muster roll • Tractor logbook • Machinery and equipment book	• Store stock book • Attendance and pay record • Feed cost record • Veterinary expenses • Record on cost of fodder seeds • Equipment purchases

Fig. 4.2: Types of farm record

WAYS TO MAINTAIN FARM RECORDS

In a livestock farm, records can be maintained in two ways — manually and electronically.

Manual record keeping

In this system, various forms are used, varying from pocket size cards to data register.

Electronic record keeping

Here, the farm data are maintained on a computer. Data compilation and retrieval are easy in electronically maintained records.

SPECIMEN OF COMMON DAIRY RECORDS

Some of the specimen of different kinds of record, usually, maintained in a dairy farm are given in Table 4.1 (a to j). Farms may develop other records as and when required.

Table 4.1(a): Breeding record

S. No.	Cow tag number	Date of calving	Date of first heat after calving	First service			Second service			Third service			First pregnancy diagnosis	Second pregnancy diagnosis	Date on which cow stopped milking	Expected date of calving	Actual date of calving	Remark, if any
				Date of service	Time of service	Bull tag number	Date of service	Time of service	Bull tag number	Date of service	Time of service	Bull tag number	Date	Pregnant/ non-pregnant				
1.																		
2.																		
3.																		
4.																		
5.																		

Table 4.1(b): Calving record

S. No.	Cow tag number	Date of calving	Bull tag number	Calf tag number	Sex of the calf (M/F)	Weight at birth (kg)	Remark, if any
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							

Table 4.1(c): Growth record of young animals

S. No.	Animal tag number	Date of birth	Weight at birth (kg)	Monthly body weight (kg)								Weight at first service (kg)	Weight at first calving (kg)	Remark, if any
				1	2	3	...	22	23	24				
1.														
2.														
3.														
4.														
5.														



Table 4.1(d): Lactation record

S. No.	Cow tag number	Number of total calvings	Date of calving	Date of drying	Lactation yield (litres)	Peak yield (litres)	Date of peak yield	Lactation length (days)	Dry period (days)	Remark, if any
1.										
2.										
3.										
4.										
5.										

Table 4.1(e): Daily feed record for a month

S. No.	Date	Number of animals	Concentrate			Green fodder			Dry fodder			Others		
			Received	Issued	Balance	Received	Issued	Balance	Received	Issued	Balance	Received	Issued	Balance
1.														
2.														
3.														
4.														
5.														

Table 4.1(f): Herd strength record on a daily basis

S. No.	Date	Cows		Heifer	Young male	Bulls	Calves		Total number of animals	Addition of animals		Deduction of animals		Remark, if any
		Milch	Dry				Male	Female		Number of animals	From where	Number of animals	From where	
1.														
2.														
3.														
4.														
5.														

Table 4.1(g): Record of daily milk yield for a month

S. No.	Cow tag Number	Date of calving	Dates																Monthly milk yield	Lactation yield					
			1		2		3		4		...		27		28		29				30		31		
			M	E	M	E	M	E	M	E	M	E	M	E	M	E	M	E			M	E	M	E	
1.																									
2.																									
3.																									
4.																									
5.																									

Table 4.1(h): Vaccination record

S. No.	Date	Name of the vaccine	Route of vaccination	Number of animals vaccinated	Tag numbers of animals vaccinated	Next due date of vaccination	Remark, if any
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							

Table 4.1(i): Health check-up record

S. No.	Date	Name of the test	Disease for which the test was performed	Number of animals tested	Animal tag numbers	Next due date for check-up	Remark, if any
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							



Table 4.1(j): Herd health record

S. No.	Date	Animal tag number	History	Symptoms	Treatment	Result (cured/died)	Name of the veterinarian	Cost of treatment	Remark, if any
1.									
2.									
3.									
4.									
5.									

Practical Exercise

Activity

Form groups in class, consisting of three members each, and visit a nearby dairy farm. Record the following.

- Vaccination of the animals
- Daily feeding of the animals in a month
- Daily milk yield for a month

Material required: record book and writing material

Procedure

- Visit a nearby dairy farm.
- Talk to the manager and find out if any kind of record is maintained at the farm.
- Request the manager to show you the farm record, if any.
- Note down your observations.
- Prepare a presentation along with two of your friends and present it before the class.

Check Your Progress

A. Multiple Choice Questions

- Which of the following information is required to maintain data at a farm?
 - Information about animals
 - Information about inputs
 - Information about prices
 - All of the above
- Most farmers do not maintain farm records due to _____.
 - lack of awareness
 - illiteracy
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - None of the above

NOTES

3. Technical records include _____.
 - (a) daily milk yield register
 - (b) feed stock register
 - (c) health records
 - (d) All of the above
4. Farm section records include _____.
 - (a) field register
 - (b) labour register
 - (c) muster roll
 - (d) All of the above
5. Financial records include _____.
 - (a) feed cost record
 - (b) veterinary expenses
 - (c) cost of fodder seeds
 - (d) All of the above

B. Fill in the Blanks

1. _____ keeping is an essential part of livestock management.
2. Record keeping can be done easily if animals have some form of _____ mark.
3. In _____ record keeping system, various forms are used, varying from pocket size cards to data register.
4. In _____ record keeping, farm data are maintained on a computer.
5. Machinery and equipment book are maintained under _____ section records.

C. Mark True (T) or False (F)

1. Farm records should be maintained in a simple form.
2. No inference can be drawn from a farm record.
3. Farm records provide necessary information as and when required by a dairy farmer.
4. Duplication is essential in maintaining farm records.
5. Records are maintained in a farm for the selection and culling of animals.

