Best practice health & husbandry of cattle
Cambodia
Husbandry and Reproduction

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Basic needs for the welfare of cattle

- **Quantity and quality** of water & food
- **Contact** with other cattle: herd animal
- **Space** to stand, lie down, stretch, turn
- **Protection** from:
  - predators, disease, injury & appropriate treatment
  - adverse climate/un-seasonal sudden changes
- **Housing** for protection (cold, heat, floods, fire, predation)

Handling:
can do it but good safe equipment preferred

Handling:
race, head bail, bleeding pole
Handling facilities

- Good handling facilities are:
  - strong & solid,
  - hold the animal safe & secure
  - well lit, level floor
  - no moving/noisy or sharp objects

- In addition to handling facilities also need people with good animal handling skills

Animal Handling Skills

- Positive attitude, gentle, quiet
  - understand animal behaviour
  - ability to interpret animal actions
  - patience!!
Reproductive cycle

1. **Heat/oestrus**
   - Every 3 weeks if not pregnant

2. **Mating**
   - Conception

3. **Pregnancy**
   - 9 months

4. **Birth, Calving**
   - Within 6 hours of onset

5. **Post Calving**
   - 1-2 months

**Bull breeding soundness**

- **Physical examination**
  - Body condition score 2.5-3
  - Feet/legs: able to mount
  - Eyes: good eyesight, no discharge
  - Teeth/mouth: can eat well
  - Coat: good condition
  - Good temperament

- **Examination of visible reproductive organs**
  - Penis, sheath, scrotum, testis: no abnormalities
  - Both Testis present, same size and good tone on palpation
  - Measurement of scrotal circumference; depends on breed but usually >30cm at 2yrs (less in buffaloes)

**Cow breeding soundness**

- Body condition: 2-3
- Feet/legs/pelvis: be served & calve
- Eyes: good eyesight, no abnormalities
- Teeth/mouth: can eat well
- Coat: good condition
- Udder: teats normal, no lumps
- Older cow: had calf within last 2 yrs
- Vulva: no abnormal discharge
- No retained placenta
- Good temperament
- Reproductive/pregnancy exam?
**the 4 Ts**

**Bulls:**
- teeth
- toes
- testicles
- temperament

**toes**

*Interdigital dermatitis*

**testicles**

*Inguinal hernia*

*Prolapsed penis*
Cows
teeth, toes, teats, temperament

Lumpy jaw

Chronic laminitis

Teat necrosis
Controlled mating – many advantages

- Know stage of pregnancy and birth date
- Observe at birth-less risk of injury/death for cow and calf
- Can plan calves for when needed most
  - For sale
  - When easiest to manage: labour & feed
- Can give correct nutrition
  - Growth of developing calf (1.5 x ME)
  - Milk for feeding calf (2.5 x ME)

Handling & Restraint
Identification: ear tag
Examination: condition score, 4T’s, clinical
Weight, height, circumference: recoding
Breeding soundness: male v female
Sampling: blood, faeces,
Administration: vaccination, drenching,
Other treatments