

# VETM\*3430 - GLOSSARY OF DAIRY TERMS

## **-A-**

**Ad libitum:** In accordance with desire: Relative to nutrition of animals it means availability of food 24 hrs/day. SEE FREE-CHOICE

**Average daily gain:** The average amount of daily live weight increase as applied to farm animals.

## **-B-**

**Baled hay:** Forage that has been compressed into a bale (round or rectangular) to save space in storage and aid in handling.

**Bleat:** The vocal sound made by a goat.

**Buck:** A sexually mature uncastrated male goat.

**Bull:** A sexually mature uncastrated bovine male.

## **-C-**

**Calving:** Parturition in the bovine: The act of giving birth to young. SEE ALSO KIDDING

**Castration:** The removal of male reproductive organs (testicles) to reduce sexual activity and increase fattening of meat animals.

**Clean:** A lay term commonly used by cattle breeders to mean that a cow has shed her afterbirth or placenta.

**Colostrum:** The first milk secreted after calving, kidding or lambing. Higher in total solids than normal milk.

**Complete ration:** A blend of all feedstuffs (forages and grains) into one feed. A complete ration fits well into mechanized feeding and the use of computers to formulate least-cost rations. Sometimes called total mixed ration or TMR.

**Concentrate:** A feed high in nitrogen-free-extract (NFE) and total digestible nutrients (TDN) and low in crude fiber (less than 18 percent). Included are cereal grains, soybean oil meal, cottonseed meal, and by-products of the milling industry such as corn gluten and wheat bran. A concentrate may be low or rich in protein.

**Conformation:** The body form or physical traits of an animal; its shape and arrangement of parts.

**Cow:** A mature female bovine

**Crude fiber (CF):** That portion of feedstuffs composed of cellulose, hemicellulose, lignin and other polysaccharides which serve as structural and protective parts of plant (high in forages and low in grains). Not soluble in acid or alkali detergents.

**Crude protein (CP):** Total protein in a feed. To calculate the protein percentage a feed is first chemically analyzed for nitrogen content. Since proteins average about 16 percent nitrogen ( $100/6.25$ ), the percentage of nitrogen in the analysis is multiplied by 6.25 to give the CP percentage.

**Cud:** A bolus of regurgitated food (common to ruminants). SEE RUMINATION

**Culling:** The process of eliminating nonproductive or undesirable animals. The removal of cows from a herd as a result of low production or other factors that reduce the profitability of the cow.

## **-D-**

**Dairy cow:** A bovine from which milk production is intended for human consumption, or is kept for raising replacement dairy heifers.

**Dam:** The female parent of an animal

**Dehorn:** To remove horns from animals or to treat animals so horns will not develop.

**Docking:** Removing the tail, performed for sanitation purposes.

**Doe:** A sexually mature female goat.

**Dry:** Describes a nonlactating female.

**Dry cow:** Any cow that has calved once and is not currently producing milk.

**Dry matter (DM):** The moisture-free content of feeds

**Dry off:** To change a lactating animal to a nonlactating one. Usually done 6 to 8 weeks prior to freshening. SEE INVOLUTION

**Dry period:** The time during a lactation cycle when the cow is not lactating.

## **-E-**

**Edema:** The presence of abnormally large amounts of fluid in the intercellular tissue spaces of the body.

**Emaciation:** A wasted condition of the body; great losses of body weight or condition.

**Eructation:** The act of belching or casting up gas from the rumen.

**Escutcheon:** The part of a cow that extends upward just above and back of the udder where the hair turns upward in contrast to the normal downward direction of hair.

## **-F-**

**Fiber:** The cellulose portion of roughages (forages) that is low in total digestible nutrients (TDN) and hard to digest by monogastric animals.

**Forage:** Roughage of high feeding value. Grasses and legumes cut at the proper stage of maturity and stored to preserve quality are forages.

**Free-choice:** A feeding system that allows animals to eat at will.

**Free stalls:** Resting cubicles or cowstalls in which dairy animals are free to enter and leave, as opposed to being confined in stanchions.

**Fresh:** A cow that has recently given birth to a calf.

**Freshen:** Commonly used to designate the act of calving (parturition); to give birth to a calf and concurrently initiate lactation.

## **-G-**

**Gaunt:** lack of rumen fill causing a ruminant to appear very thin.

**Green chop:** (fresh forage) Forages harvested (cut and chopped) in the field and hauled to livestock for immediate consumption. This minimizes the loss of moisture, color, nutrients and wastage.

## **-H-**

**Heifer:** A bovine female less than three years of age who has not borne a calf. Young cows with their first calves are sometimes called first-calf heifers.

**High-moisture silage:** Silage usually containing 70 percent or more moisture

**Hook (hook bone):** Lay term for the tuber coxae. The point of the hip; the most lateral point of the ilium.

## **-I-**

**Involution of Mammary Gland:** Contraction or shrinkage of the milk secreting tissue as female approaches end of lactation.

## **-K-**

**Kid:** A goat up to one year old

**Kidding:** Parturition in the goat; the act of giving birth to young

## **-L-**

**Lactate:** To secrete or produce milk.

**Lactation period:** The number of days an animal secretes milk following each parturition. Usually 11 to 12 months

**Legume:** Clovers, alfalfa, and similar crops that can absorb nitrogen directly from the atmosphere through action of bacteria that live in their roots and use it as a nutrient for growth.

## **-M-**

## **-N-**

**Neonatal:** Pertaining to a newborn animal

**Neonatal Period:** Usually first 3-4 weeks of life.

## **-O-**

**Off feed:** Having ceased eating; without a healthy and normal appetite

**Open:** A term commonly used for nonpregnant farm mammals.

## **-P-**

**Parenteral:** Administration by injection (e.g. subcutaneous (SQ), intramuscular (IM), or intravenous (IV)). Not administered through the digestive tract.

**Parturition:** The act or process of giving birth to young.

**Pica:** A craving for unnatural articles of food such as is observed in phosphorus-deficient animals; a depraved appetite.

**Pin (pin bone):** the triangular ischial tuberosity.

**Polled:** Describing a naturally hornless animal

**Postpartum:** Occurring after birth of the offspring.

**Prepartum:** Occurring before birth of the offspring

## **-R-**

**Ration:** The food provided to an animal per 24 hours.

**Regurgitate:** To cast up undigested food from the rumen to the mouth, as done by ruminants. SEE ALSO: Ruminant.

**Ruminant:** One of the order of animals having a stomach with four complete cavities—rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum—through which food passes in digestion. These animals chew their cud. They include cattle, sheep, goats, deer, and camels.

**Rumination:** The casting up or regurgitation of food (cud) to be chewed a second time, as cattle do; a chewing of the cud by ruminants.

## **-S-**

**Silage:** (ensilage) Green forage, such as grass or clover, or fodder such as field corn or sorghum, that is chopped into a silo, where it is packed or compressed to exclude air and undergoes an acid fermentation (lactic and acetic acids) that retards spoilage.

**Silo:** A vertical cylindrical structure, pit, trench, or other relatively airtight chamber in which chopped green crops, such as corn, grass, legumes or small grain and other livestock feeds are fermented and stored. SEE SILAGE.

**Sire:** The male parent. The verb means to father or beget.

**Stanchion:** A specially designed headgate to hold an animal in place while allowing feeding and resting.

**Steer:** A male bovine castrated before development of secondary sex characteristics. SEE ALSO WETHER

**Switch:** The brush of hair on the end of a bovine's tail.

## **-T-**

## **-U-**

**Ungulate:** Referring to a hoofed four-legged animal, such as a cow

**Unthriftiness:** Lack of vigor, poor growth or development; the quality or state of being poor-doing in animals

## **-V-**

**VFA (volatile fatty acids):** Commonly used in reference to acetic, propionic, and butyric acids produced in the rumen of cattle, goats, and sheep, in the cecum and colon of swine, the colon of the horse, and the cecum of the rabbit.

**Veal:** A calf fed for early slaughter (usually at less than 3 months of age in the United States). If diet is exclusively milk the calf is referred to as a "White Veal Calf". If the diet is comprised of both milk and grain the calf is referred to as a "Red Veal Calf".

## **-W-**

**Wether:** A male sheep castrated at an early age before secondary sex characteristics develop.

## **-Sources-**

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