



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# HOW TO REDUCE THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN DAIRY CATTLE



Available freshwater, shade, silence and good ventilation can help to reduce heat stress, mastitis, respiratory problems and other health issues, while improving milk production.

Diseases spread easier in crowded areas; ensure enough space per animal. On average, 4.5–5.5 m<sup>2</sup> is required per cow in the barn.



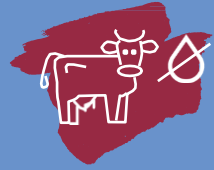
Vaccination is a reliable alternative to antibiotics in the prevention of some diseases. Make sure you follow your vaccination calendar.

Following a comprehensive biosecurity program will reduce disease occurrence.



Moisture, mud and manure are good environments for diseases to appear. Use bedding, such as hay, sawdust or shavings. Keep it clean and dry, and replace it often to reduce the occurrence of mastitis, lameness and respiratory diseases.

Adequate management of cows during the dry period can prevent infections and has a positive effect on lactation.



Milk quality and udder health highly depend on milking practices. Using clean milking equipment and cloths, and cleaning and disinfecting teats and your hands before milking will reduce the spread of mastitis.

Feed the calf at least 3 litres of colostrum in the first four hours after birth to ensure better disease resistance. An additional 2 litres are required in the following four hours.



Many high-producing breeds are more susceptible to diseases. If possible, choose a breed that is suitable for your production environment.

Update yourself on the latest appropriate and balanced feeding to provide sufficient proteins, energy and fibre. This can help maintain the health of your animals and reduce stress.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO USE ANTIBIOTICS EFFECTIVELY AND RESPONSIBLY IN DAIRY PRODUCTION PLEASE SCAN ME



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