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Constraints faced by farmers in animal husbandry practices in U.S.Nagar district of Uttarakhand

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Abstract
The present study was carried out in U.S.Nagar district of Uttrakhand to find out the constraints faced by the farmers in animal husbandry practices. The data were collected through interview schedule from 180 farmers of five clusters. The major constraints in respect of feeding, breeding, and health care management practices were studied. Among animal husbandry practices, the major constrain in respect of breeding were unavailability of high genetic merit bull, insemination of animal at improper time, poor conception rate through A.I. As regards feeding of animals, main constraints were high cost of concentrate mixture, lack of knowledge about the proper amount of concentrate feeding. In respect of management of health care, lack of awareness about deworming schedule, lack of the knowledge of common contagious disease and their prevention measures and high cost of vaccination were found to be the most serious constraints.

Keywords: Constraints; Animal Husbandry; Vaccination; Deworming

1. Introduction
Livestock have been an integral part of farming system and source of livelihood for over 70% rural household population in the state and these household earn over a third of their income from livestock. There are about 300 million bovines, 65.07 million sheep, 135.2 million goats, 190.9 million cattle, and 108.7 million buffaloes as per 19th livestock census in the country. Livestock management practices regarding feeding, breeding, housing and health care are the major elements in increasing dairy production. Sometimes, due to some social and local problems, farmers have to run their dairy business on the traditional managemental practices. Uttrakhand state possesses 22.35 lacs cattle, 2.19 lacs buffalo, 13.35 lacs goat, 2.90 lacs sheep and 26.01 lacs poultry. In the whole state about 41.69% of breedable population covered under the organized breeding set up. (23.17% through A.I & 18.52% through natural breeding). It is very important to understand the constraints related to breeding, feeding and health care in animal husbandry practices and their remedial measures. Therefore, the present study was undertaken with the specific objective to identify various constraints perceived by the farmers in animal husbandry practices in Uttarakhand

Materials and Methods
The present study was based on the data obtained on animals, reared by 180 farmers' viz.: Pantnagar, Gadarpur, Bazpur, Kichha and Sitarganj in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttrakhand. Each cluster has villages and 36 farmers from each cluster were selected. Thus, the entire sample consisted of 180 respondents from six clusters of U.S. Nagar district. The data were collected personally through interview. The schedule covered all possible constraints that could hinder the animal husbandry practices by the respondents'. Frequency and percentage of respondents in each category were calculated. The constraints' relating to breeding, feeding, health care was ranked according to their percentage basis from higher to lower separately enlisted.

Results and Discussion
In the present study an attempt has been made to identify the constraints hindering the respondents in animal husbandry practices in major areas and overall constraints in animal husbandry practices. These were analyzed and discussed under the following sub-section viz.,

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feeding, breeding, health care management practices.

Various Constraints perceived by farmers in animal husbandry practices

Among the feeding constraints in present study, the overall data revealed that 59.44 per cent of farmers were found facing the problem of high cost of concentrate mixture, while 40.55 percent of farmers not facing this problem. Similar observation were reported by Savitha (2004) [6] who revealed that majority of the dairy farmers faced problems of costly fooder/feed/concentrate (63.33%), Mahendra and Anil (2005) who also reported that 85 per cent of the livestock farmers perceived high price of concentrate as a major constraint. 52.77 per cent farmers facing lack of knowledge about the proper amount of concentrate feeding.

In the breeding constraints majority of farmers facing the problem of unavailability of high genetic merit bull (93.33%) while (6.66%) farmers were not facing this problem. 52.22% of farmers facing insemination of animal at improper time and only 42.2% farmers facing poor conception rate through A.I.

This might be, possibly, due to lapses in timely detection of heat and timely insemination with quality semen by trained personnel. Similar findings were reported by Meena and Fulzele (2006) [4] who concluded that majority of livestock farmers experienced the constraints such as lack of good breedable bulls Agarwal *et al.* (2007) [1], Palanisamy *et al.* (2003) [5] who found that the major constraints perceived by the farmers was lack of awareness about the ideal time of insemination due to poor heat detection process perceived by 90 % of farmers.

In the health constraints faced by the dairy cattle and buffalo farmers revealed that 54.44, 51.66, 43.88 per cent lack of awareness about deworming schedule, lack of the knowledge of common contagious disease and their prevention measures and high cost of vaccination, respectively. Similar findings were supported by Selvaraj *et al.* (2003) [7], Mahendra and Anil (2005), Yadav *et al.* (2009) [8] reported that less technical knowledge of deworming schedule were found to be the most serious constraints.

Constraints perceived by dairy farmers of U.S. Nagar district (N=180)

SI.	Constraints	Frequency	Per cent	Rank
1.	High cost of concentrate mixture	107	59.44	II
2.	Lack of knowledge about the proper amount of concentrate feeding	95	52.77	IV
3.	Unavailabilty of high genetic merit bull	168	93.33	I
4.	Insemination of animals at improper time	94	52.22	V
5.	Poor conception rate through A.I	76	42.22	VIII
6.	High cost of vaccination	79	43.88	VII
7.	Lack of awareness about deworming schedule	98	54.44	III
8.	Lack of the knowledge of common contagious disease and their prevention measures	93	51.66	VI

Conclusion

It can be concluded that various constraint perceived by the dairy keepers in unavailability of high genetic merit bull ranked 1st, high cost of concentrate mixture ranked II, lack of awareness about deworming schedule ranked III, lack of knowledge about the proper amount of concentrate feeding ranked IV, Insemination of animals at improper time ranked V, lack of the knowledge of common contagious disease and their prevention measures ranked VI, high cost of vaccination VII and poor conception rate through A.I ranked VIII. To overcome the constraints of various management practices, awareness and motivation camps should be organized. The different constraints identified and recorded in this study were also perceived by the farmers in their study areas, however, the priority order (ranks) of the different constraints varied in different studies made in different areas of U.S. Nagar district of Uttarakhand.

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