Calf Rallies- an opportunity for farmers to Teach and Learn

Record Participation in a Calf Rally organized by HLDB under the Murrah Buffalo PT project

under NDP-I makes it a Success Story

Compiled by AB Group, NDDB

Haryana Livestock Development Board (HLDB) with technical guidance of NDDB is implementing a Progeny testing programme on Murrah buffaloes (MBPT) under the National Dairy Plan I (NDP I). Several extension activities have been taken to

active increase participation of the farmers in project. Among activities, various calf rally is one of the effective most extension activity which brings farmer from different places to a single platform and showcase their



calves. This intern motivates other farmers to learn from their peers and thus learning to raise healthy calves. A calf rally under MBPT sub project was held at village Gubhana about 20 Km from Jhajjar, the district town, on January 18, 2017. Despite cold weather and dense fog, a record number of 105 Buffalo Calves from Gubhana and nearby villages participated in the calf rally. All these calves were born following test and nominated inseminations, and have been duly identified with 12 digit bar-coded tags and registered under INAPH.

Success story- from project on "Production of High Genetic Merit Murrah Bulls through Progeny Testing" under National Dairy Plan, implemented by Haryana Livestock Development Board (HLDB)- Compiled by Animal Breeding Group of NDDB It was indeed pleasure to see the enthusiasm among the farmers. Most of them were very keen to learn more about progeny testing, health care and management



practices to get better returns out of animal rearing. A panel of veterinary surgeons took responsibility of judging all participating calves to select three best calves in each category. The panel also explained the judging procedure to the

farmers, about the practices to be adopted for ensuring better body growth in their calves and to rear animals with better breed characteristics.

All calves were subjected to body measurements and were administered with a dose of dewormer at the spot. The owners of calves having low body weight / poor growth were particularly advised to ensure timely deworming at specified intervals, monitor growth and use good feeding practices. The project team of HLDB, Deputy Director of the district and the concerned Sub Divisional Officer used this opportunity to interact with the farmers and respond to their queries. The farmers were briefed and advised on a variety of issues including genetic improvement of stock generation after generation, prophylactic vaccinations, balanced feeding, mineral supplementation, Brucella vaccination of female calves, green fodder production round the year, conserving each drop of water, cleanliness and protection from zoonoses etc.

Success story- from project on "Production of High Genetic Merit Murrah Bulls through Progeny Testing" under National Dairy Plan, implemented by Haryana Livestock Development Board (HLDB)- Compiled by Animal Breeding Group of NDDB

In addition to three cash prizes in each category, all calves were given a token incentive for participation. The calf rally lasted for more than 6 hr. At the end, some of the farmers requested for such calf rallies more frequently and assured the team of adopting better practices.

The efforts of HLDB was quite evident in attaining such success under NDP I. It was quite clear that the extension and outreach activities carried out by the project professional in the region was having quite good impact, signifying importance of such programmes in increasing project acceptability.



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