



Agri Articles

(e-Magazine for Agricultural Articles)

Volume: 03, Issue: 04 (JULY-AUGUST, 2023)

Available online at <http://www.agriarticles.com>

© Agri Articles, ISSN: 2582-9882

Activities or Problems with Livestock's Behavior

(*Pradeep Nodal and Goatm Chopra)

Dept. of Animal Production, Rajasthan College of Agriculture (MPUAT, Udaipur)

*Corresponding Author's email: pardeepnodal418@gmail.com

Modern dairy farming in India is often characterized by a lack of shelter, malnutrition and low levels of management without regard for the ethical needs and welfare of the animals. This affects not only their growth, production and regeneration, but also leads to the emergence of various types of abnormal behavior. These strange behaviours and strange ideas are not seen in free-range or pasture-raised animals, even when pets are left in their natural habitat. Growing calves, highly productive cattle and buffalo are at risk of not having their moral needs met. Inter suckling or lactation in adult cows. Pica or insect licking. Silent heat problems. The prevalence of this unusual behavior in a dairy herd can be considered an indicator of the quantity and quality of dairy farm management, husbandry, feeding and health care, but also in meeting the animals' behavioural needs. The development of abnormal behavior is related to various pressures in the animal's environment.

The incidence of this behavior can safely be considered high under the standard housing and husbandry systems that exist in rural India, where animals are confined to one place for most of the day and night. Growing calves, highly productive cattle and buffalo are at risk of not having their moral needs met. Therefore, under strict housing and breeding conditions, farmers must pay close attention to the natural environment of animals and change some management practices to meet the high ethical needs of their animals, which will ultimately lead to increased animal production and profitability in dairy farming. In livestock production, producers face a number of problems associated with production systems. Today, the public is deeply concerned about sustainable programs and animal welfare. Applied ethology can be instrumental in addressing some of these issues in the following ways. The purpose of this review is to briefly demonstrate sustainable behavioural technologies whose functionality enables animal welfare and productivity. Examples include areas of behavioural problems related to multiple births, where scent transfer can be used instead, or adding new-borns to foster parents; early weaning, when other forms of slow rest can reduce separation stress; early knowledge of the development of food preferences, where behavioural problems such as neophobic can be avoided; early detection of sick animals, when recognition of certain behavior can help to diagnose the disease in time, even before clinical symptoms appear; social isolation from easy management, where various strategies have been shown to be effective in changing animal behavior; resource design and management in which emphasis is placed on animal management behavior and how best results are achieved; social isolation, facilitation, and restraint, where the presence of other group members can change partners' use and sexual behavior or reduce suffering; and human-animal interactions in production, in which the relationship between human-animal interactions is emphasized.

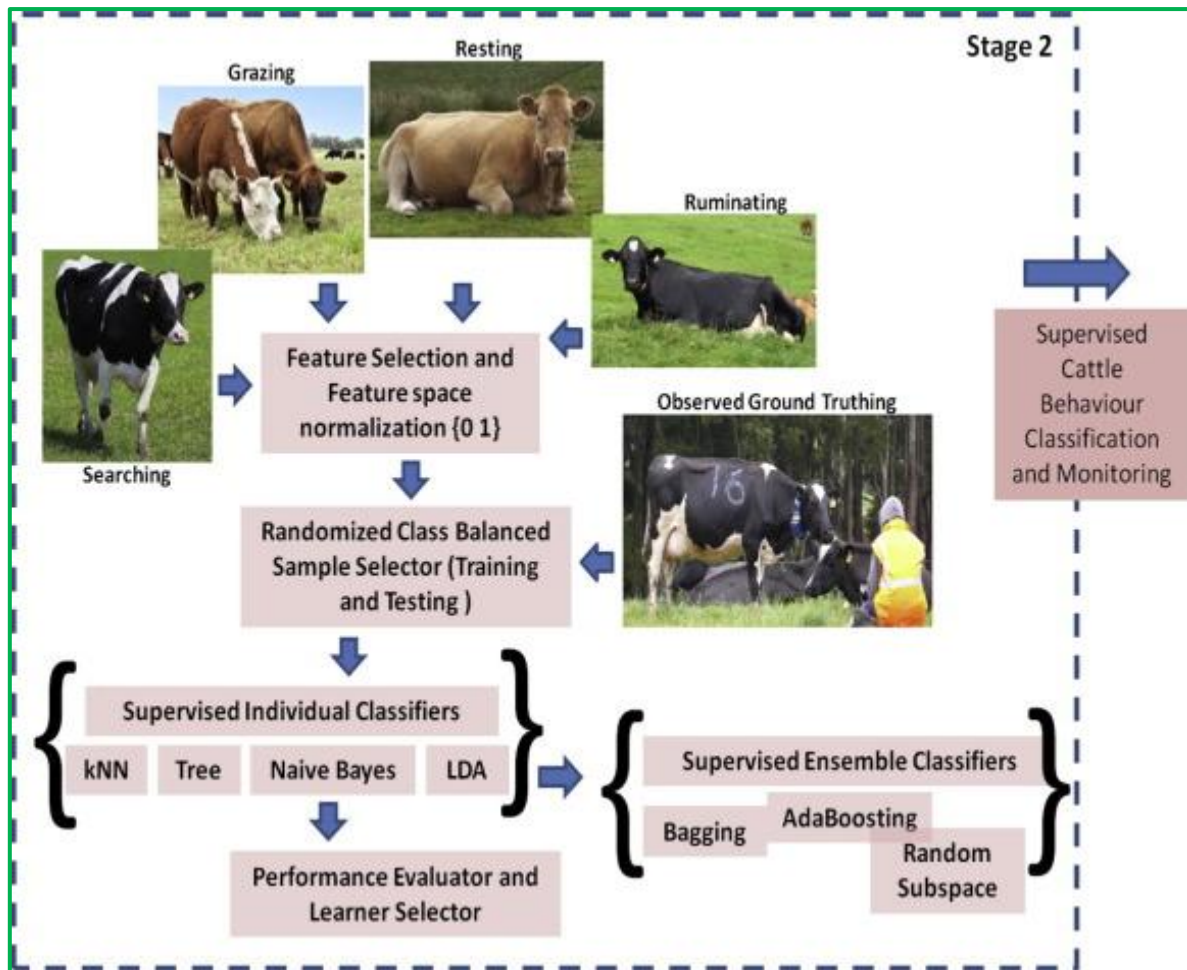


Fig: animal behaviours

The major abnormal behaviours observed:

- Masturbation
- Buller steer syndrome
- Psychic heat
- Nymphomania
- Stereotypies
- Stealing young/ lamb stealing
- Inter suckling
- Cannibalism

Masturbation: All domestic animals have been observed to masturbate. It is commonly noted in bulls. The bull performed pelvic thrusts, with his back arched. With a partially erect penis. Thus, the penis moves in and out of the preputial sheath until ejaculation occurs. Bulls masturbate especially at times of inactivity. Masturbation causes no known reproductive problem.

Buller steer syndrome: The Buller steer syndrome is found among confined and pasture-kept cattle. The Buller behaviour occurs when a steer is repeatedly mounted (“Buller”) and ridden by its pen mates (“rider”) until it is injured or killed. The usual practice is to remove the animal being ridden.

Psychic heat: Some mares show estrus behaviour without the normal physiological correlates of estrus. This abnormality is known as psychic heat. It may occur when any horse is brought into the environment of a solitary mare.

Nymphomania: A condition in which cow remains always in heat or estrus. It is more common in high-production dairy cows. The cow shows intense estrus behaviour either persistently or at frequent, irregular intervals.

Stereotypies: Pre-parturient ewes, cows and mares often approach, sniff and remain close to the new born young of other members of the group. This leads to reduced maternal support to the young and it became weak.

In lamb stealing, the foster mother may later reject her own lamb when it is born or may have no colostrum left for it. In these various situations lamb may often die. This problem can be controlled by separating the ewe or cow should separate from the group before and very soon after parturition.

Inter suckling: Inter-sucking is most common abnormal behaviour in early weaned cattle and buffalo calves as they have not given opportunity to satisfy their natural suckling instinct. They start sucking or licking the naval, prepuce, scrotum ears and tails of their herd mates and inanimate objects mostly of teat shaped. The scrotum sucking is very common among male calves.

References

1. Orihuela A. Review: Management of livestock behavior to improve welfare and production. *Animal*. 2021 Dec;15 Suppl 1:100290. doi: 10.1016/j.animal.2021.100290. Epub 2021 Jul 6. PMID: 34238724.
2. Objective book on livestock production management