

# Unit C

# Animal Health

Lesson 2

## Managing Animal Health

# *Terms*

- Branding
- Castrating
- Dehorning
- Docking
- Heat
- Mastitis
- Tattooing



# What are good health management practices?

- I. Every type of animal needs specific management practices for good health.
  - There are some broad similarities between all breeds.



# What are good health management practices?

- A. Always make sure that you purchase your animal from a reputable person.
  - If you start out with healthy animals it will be less expensive and less stressful.
  - If you start out with infected animals, you may deal with the problem for a very long time before it is totally gone.



# What are good health management practices?

- B. Only obtain animals after you have a specific use for them in mind.
  - If you are not committed to large amounts of paperwork, don't buy animals that will require it for proper health.



# What are good health management practices?

- C. Clean and disinfect all areas before bringing animals into them.
- D. Make sure all animals are fed properly. You can avoid many diseases with proper nutrition.
- E. Keep animals out of weather elements that they don't tolerate well in order to avoid certain illnesses and discomfort.
- F. Keep track of sexual maturity of animals so they don't have babies before you or they are ready.

# What are good health management practices?

- G. Monitor animals daily so you are aware of what is normal and will notice when something is other than normal.
- H. Dispose of all animals properly to avoid further infection.
- I. Separate sick animals from healthy until you are positive the disease or parasite is not contagious to other animals.
- J. Contact the veterinarian for any situation you don't know how to handle as soon as you can.

# SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR GOOD ANIMAL HEALTH

- Always make sure that you purchase your animal from a reputable person. If you start out with healthy animals it will be less expensive and less stressful. If you start out with infected animals, you may deal with the problem for a very long time before it is totally gone.
- Only obtain animals after you have a specific use for them in mind. If you are not committed to large amounts of paperwork, don't buy animals that will require it for proper health.
- Clean and disinfect all areas before bringing animals into them.
- Make sure all animals are fed properly. You can avoid many diseases with proper nutrition.

# SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR GOOD ANIMAL HEALTH

- Keep animals out of weather elements that they don't tolerate well to avoid certain illness and discomfort.
- Keep track of sexual maturity of animals so they don't have babies before you or they are ready.
- Monitor animals daily so you are aware of what is normal and will notice when something is other than normal.
- Dispose of all animals properly to avoid further infection.
- Separate sick animals from healthy until you are positive the disease or parasite is not contagious to other animals.
- Contact the veterinarian for any situation you don't know how to handle as soon as you can.

# Simple maintenance can help to promote animal health.

II. Proper management of simple maintenance can save you time and money in your animal business.

- You can do many of these practices on your own or with the help of a veterinarian.
- Proper timing is the key to successful maintenance.

# Simple maintenance can help to promote animal health.

- A. Dehorning of animals is common to ensure that the animals do not hurt each other, themselves, or humans.

- *Dehorning* is the removal of horns by use of chemicals, hot irons, saws, or other means.



Manual Dehorner ↑



Electric  
Dehorner ←

# Simple maintenance can help to promote animal health.

B. ***Castrating*** is removing the testicles from male animals so they can't breed.

- Often males are less aggressive and easier to handle after being castrated.
- This includes castrating bulls into steers, rams into wethers, and bucks into wethers.

Simple maintenance can help to promote animal health.

1. Emasculatome (Burdizzo).



2. Elastrator.



3. Surgical Removal.

# Simple maintenance can help to promote animal health.

C. Docking of tails is a common practice for and lambs.

- **Docking** is the term used to describe removing the animal's tail.



Elastrator



Elastrator  
Ring



Docking a lamb's  
Tail using an elastrator

# Simple maintenance can help to promote animal health.

D. Bedding animals is a very important health management practice.

- Animals that have clean and dry bedding are less likely to be sick from parasites and diseases.
- Using the proper kind and amount of bedding is also essential for proper health.

# Simple maintenance can help to promote animal health.

- E. Removal of manure and urine on a regular basis.
  - Since many diseases are passed through feces, you will decrease the occurrence of contamination.



# DEHORNING, CASTRATING, AND DOCKING

- **Dehorning**—Removing an animal's horns by use of chemicals, hot irons, saws, or other means; common to ensure that animals do not hurt each other, themselves, or humans.
- **Castrating**—Removing the testicles from male animals so they can't breed; often males are less aggressive and easier to handle after being castrated.
- **Docking**—Removing an animal's tail; a common practice for lambs.

# How do I identify my animals?

- III. It is important to be able to tell your animals apart, especially in a large business. If you don't know what animal to watch, treat, or breed you could be doing damage to your enterprise.
  - There are different methods used for various types of animals.
  - Use the method that is right for your animal and your purposes.

# How do I identify my animals?

A. Cattle can be branded to establish ownership.

- *Branding* is burning or freezing a mark onto an animal to determine ownership or pedigree.
- Some owners brand the horns of their animals.

There are four methods used:

1. Hot iron
2. Freeze branding
3. Branding fluids
4. Laser branding

# Branding Options



Hot Iron  
Branding



Freeze  
Branding



Branding  
Fluids

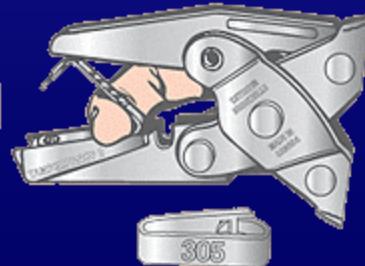


Laser  
Branding

# How do I identify my animals?

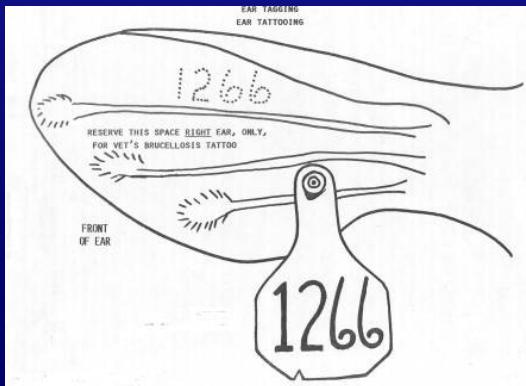
B. Plastic or metal ear tags are also used to identify cattle.

- They are useful because they are inexpensive, can be done anytime, and are numbered.
- Plastic tags are easier to read than metal ones because they are brightly colored and have large numbers on them.



# How do I identify my animals?

- C. Marking the skin with ink on needle points is called *tattooing*.
- This is a permanent marking but can be hard to read.



# How do I identify my animals?

D. Neck chains are sometimes used but can get lost.

- The animal on rare occasion could also hang itself.

F. Another way to identify cattle is to have them swallow a transmitter which gets stuck in their stomach.

- The transmitter gives off a signal to identify the animal when activated by a receiving unit.
- This method is costly, but the transmitters can be retrieved and reused after slaughter.

# *Review / Summary*

- Every type of animal needs specific management practices for good health.
- Proper management of simple maintenance can save you time and money in your animal business.
- Several different management methods are used for various types of animals.