good dairy characteristics.

Pregnant cows should be well fed and cared because in the last 6- 4 weeks of pregnancy the growth rate of the embryo is very high, about 500g/day. Beside of this the cow has to build up her body reserves and her udder for a higher milk production in the first months of the following lactation.

## Calves

Many cases of calf mortality happen at the time of parturition (calving) or a short while after the birth of the calf.

- Colostrum in the first day of life of the calf is essential, for nutritional reasons and for diseases prevention. Atleast 2-3 litres.

- In the first two- four weeks of life, the risk of infectious diseases is the highest.
- Clean water should be always avail able to calves from first day of life.
- Calf shed should be clean and dry at all times.
- Disinfect naval with iodine solution.

## Diseases of Dairy Cows
## Mastitis

Symptoms - Painful udder
- Small udder
- Hard udder
- Curds in milk flow
- Udder temperature high
- Cows not feeding properly

Treatment – Intra mammary tubes (antibiotics)
# also note of milk withholding periods before consuming milk.

## Ways to Increase Production

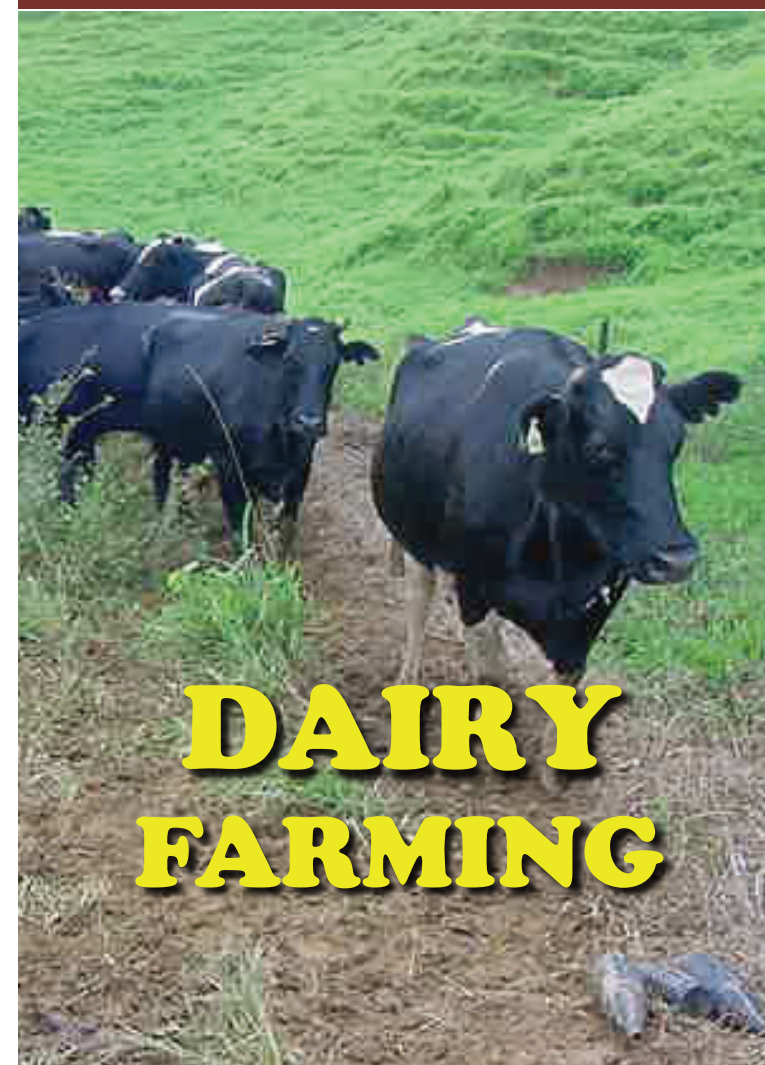1. Select Production and breeding stock carefully.

- Good breed
- Large and spacious udder
- Free from diseases
- Good conception
- Medium teats and docile animal

2. Proper feeding.
- Feed cows a balanced diet according to their maintenance and production needs.

3. Provide adequate water supply.

4. Use of good management practices.

5. Safeguard the animals from diseases.

6. Keep production records for cows.

7. Select the best method of marketing and best outlet.

# DAIRY FARMING

**Farmer's Leaflet 2015**

## Economic importance:
- Milk
- Money - Sales of milk.
  - Sales of surplus stock.
  - Sales of ghee.
- Ghee - for home consumption.
- Meat - from surplus stock.
- Employment – on commercial farm.

## BREEDS
Two types:
Jersey – less milk, more butter fat content.
Friesian – more milk, less butter fat content.

## Farming system in Fiji
- Backyard dairies – for home consumption.
- Small holder dairy farms – for town supply.
- Commercial dairy farms.

## Backyard farming
This is where people keep dairy cows for home use. The milk or dairy products produced are only for home consumption.

## Smallholder dairy farms
- These are usually those milk



supplies that provide fresh milk to consumers every morning.
- They also make and sell ghee to consumers.
- Usually hand milking is done.

## Commercial dairy farm
- These are big dairy farm with higher number of dairy cows, which supply milk to Rewa dairy.
- They use milking machines to milk the cows.
- Mostly located in the central division.

## Smallholder dairies
In order to operate a dairy farm you should comply with the following:

- Have a proper milking shed with concrete floor and facilities, which include milking cans and containers.

- Should have the dairy registered under your name.

- Dairy should be licensed and renewed every year.

- Should have a good and reliable

water supply.
- Cows should be free from T.B and Brucellosis.
- Have good feed on the farm or could practice supplementary feeding.
- Have special room for milk storage.

## Proper hygienic practices should be followed
- Properly wash the shed everyday after milking.
- Properly wash the equipments with hot water daily.
- Keep the grass short & keep the dairy clear.
- 7 days post calving no sale of milk.
- Milk should be strained through clean strainer.

## Management of Dairy Cows
- Cows should be checked for T.B and Brucellosis.
- They should be well fed with good feed and adequate water.
- Cows should be kept in shade during hot days.
- Replace breeding bull in every 3 years in order to set maximum production.
- Select good animals, which have