

### **TRANSITION PERIOD IN DAIRY**

The Period from drying off animal to new heat detection after parturition is termed as Transition Period. Ideally, it ranges from 60 days before Parturition to 45 days after Parturition.

Transition Period is the most crucial period in Dairy Farm Management as 80% as Success of Dairy Farming lies in how well these period is Managed.

Transition Period is very challenging as animal is predisposed to following challenges:

- Size of Foetus grows quite rapidly in last trimester of Pregnancy (75% size is gained) and hence outflow of nutrients towards foetus is more
- As Uterus size increases it compresses Digestive tract especially Rumen
- Feed intake of Animal is compromised
- Pre-partum diet consisting of legumes and dry fodder is very rich in Potassium makes blood pH alkaline thus compromising mobilisation of Calcium from Bone to Blood after Parturition
- Disturbed DCAD (Dietary Cation-Anion Difference)
- Lots of Nutrients are diverted for Colostrum production and Milk Production days before Parturition
- Generally, most of animals post Parturition suffer from Hypoglycaemia with risk of Ketosis and Fatty Liver
- Immunity of Animal is compromised predisposing it to risk of Mastitis and Metritis

#### **Management during Transition Period:**

- Ensure that Animal is dried off properly before 45 days of Calving
- Introduce, Transition feed which will take care of DCAD balance- Anions to be increased in feed
- Avoid feeding Leguminous fodder in last month as it has higher Potassium Cation levels
- Do not use injectable Calcium solutions in last week of Pregnancy unless recommended by Veterinarian as it may interfere with Calcium metabolism
- Transition feed with dense calorie having blend of both Glycogenic and Gluconeogenic precursors 10 days before calving
- Feed Animal Concentrated Mineral Gel just after Calving so that they get required Nutrients instantly
- Gradually increase Concentrate feeding post calving so that Rumen Microflora adjust to change in the feed
- Always provide High Quality Chelated Mineral Mixture (MHA preferred) so that Milk production is intact and animal is healthy.

**REMEMBER, TRANSITION PERIOD IS A PHYSIOLOGY NOT A DISEASE**