

NAVS NEWSLETTER

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

NEW DELHI - JULY 2014



OUR MISSION

"To consolidate and promote the views of scientific community on all policy matters related to Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry in the welfare of India; to encourage better training and utilization of veterinary talent and enterprise in the country; to strive for advancement of livestock sector in the national economy; to promote animal welfare; to protect environment; and to safeguard the interests of the profession and to gain greater recognition and acclaim for it".

EDITOR: Prof. Dr. R.N. KOHLI

Editorial Contact

Postal: 922, Sector - A (B&C), Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070
Telephones: (Landline) 011- 46065021(preferable); (M) 09968920200
Email Id.: rnkohli@gmail.com

NAVS(I) Website: www.navsindia.org

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF VETERINARY SCIENCES (INDIA)

Office: G-4, A Block, NASC, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi-110 012

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 4. Fourth NAVS Convocation: 7th May 2005 at GBPUAT, **Pantnagar, Uttrakhand**
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 9. Ninth NAVS Convocation: 30th October 2010 at NDRI, **Karnal, Haryana.**
 10. Tenth NAVS Convocation: 12th November 2011 at RAJUVAS, **Bikaner, Rajasthan.**
 11. Eleventh NAVS Convocation: 2nd November 2012 at DUVASU, **Mathura, U.P.**
 12. Twelfth NAVS Convocation: 28th January 2014 at LUVAS, **Hisar, Haryana**
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CONTACT US

Official Address of the Academy

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF VETERINARY SCIENCES (INDIA)
G-4, A-Block, NASC, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi-110 012

NAVS(I) Website: www.navsindia.org

**All correspondence regarding the Newsletter may kindly be addressed to the Editor
(rnkohli@gmail.com).**

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PRESIDENT: Prof. Dr. K.M.L. Pathak, DDG (A.S.), ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110114.
Phone: 011-23381119; 23388991- Ext. 200; Email: pathakkml@yahoo.co.in

VICE-PRESIDENT: Maj. Gen. Shri Kant Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, Lala Lajpar Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Hisar (Haryana). Email: shrikant28@hotmail.com

SECRETARY GENERAL Dr. Rishendra Verma, Joint Director, Centre for Animal Disease Research and Diagnosis (CADRAD), Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar-243 122 (UP);
Contact#: +91-9359117376(M), +91-581-2302188(O), Fax#: +91-581-2302188, +91-581-2303284; Email: rishendra_verma@yahoo.com

TREASURER: Dr. Lal Krishna, C-302, Exotica Elegence, Ahimsa Khand-II, Plot No. 9-A, Indrapuram – 201010, Ghaziabad (U.P.). Phone: 09350586550;
Email: lalkrishna1948@rediffmail.com

EDITOR: Prof. Dr. R.N. Kohli, 922, Sector - A (B&C), Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070
Telephones: 011-46065021; 09968920200; Email ID: rnkohli@gmail

2. EDITOR'S NOTE



ARE WE LOSING OUR BUFFALOES? - II

In our editorial with the above title in the April 2014 issue of this Newsletter we had expressed that the expanding buffalo beef exports from India raised several issues. One of our major concerns was the possible impact of this export on the dairy animal population of the country and on the total quantity of milk they produced. In this connection we mentioned that a Parliamentary Committee was deliberating on a petition seeking a ban on meat exports. **This is an update on the outcome of the deliberations of the said committee.**

The said petition seeking a ban on meat exports was admitted by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 7th January, 2013. While presenting their demands, the petitioners alleged that meat export involves catering to the economic ambitions of a few and in the process creates an irreversible situation of depletion of national animal wealth. Meat export caters to the need of other countries at the cost of our young and healthy animals. The Petitions Committee of the Rajya Sabha invited suggestions from individuals/organizations on the subject matter of the petition, which got an overwhelming response with the receipt of more than ten lakhs memoranda. The Committee also heard the petitioners, the representatives of selected NGOs / individuals (who had submitted their memoranda against the issues raised in the petition), and also the Secretaries, Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce & Industry) and Department of Animal Husbandry (Ministry of Agriculture) and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The Rajya Sabha Committee on Petitions for review of meat export policy submitted its exhaustive report on 13th February 2014 (Report No. 151), in which it made far reaching observations-cum-recommendations on various aspects of the issues under review. **Following eye-opening excerpts from the report that are relevant to the subject matter of this article are presented here:**

“The Committee is distressed to note that there are several Departments dealing with the issue of animal health i.e. the Department of Animal Husbandry, Animal Welfare Board, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dairying & Fisheries, Department of Environment & Forests and Ministry of Commerce resulting in total chaos. The Committee, while highlighting the fact that the International standards of meat necessitate slaughter of young and healthy animals rather than old and unproductive animals as stated by the Ministry, recommends that critical analysis of meat export policy may be done by a Commission comprising of farmers, cattle owners, experts working in this field and its recommendations should be implemented by the Government. The Committee also recommends that the Government should not grant permission for functioning of any new slaughter house until the critical analysis by the dedicated Commission is complete. The Committee also advocates review of policy of giving subsidies to the meat exporters and recommends a total ban on the subsidies and tax benefits. The Committee further recommends strict implementation of the rules and orders pertaining to the meat export policy.”

“The Committee strongly recommends that the Department of Animal Husbandry may under take a National Survey by taking at least five districts in each state on a random basis to study the reasons for declining female buffalo population with each progressive year. The Committee also strongly recommends that the Department of Animal Husbandry should play a more proactive role in preserving the cattle wealth of the country instead of being a mute spectator.”

“The Committee is constrained to note that the Department of Animal Husbandry has not paid adequate stress to enhancement of buffalo population. The Committee feels that incessant increase of milk prices to the range of 20% year to year basis is an indication of a deeper malaise having created a mismatch between demand and supply of milk and recommends that Department of Animal Husbandry should initiate a pan India programme to organize Animal Husbandry on modern and scientific lines and also take steps for preserving and improving the breeds and prohibiting the slaughter of healthy and milch animals.”

“The Committee is pained to know that time and again during the course of examination the Department of Commerce and other Government agencies which appeared before it, have generally given the impression that only male buffaloes are slaughtered for export and females are kept for milk. The Committee strongly condemns slaughtering of female milch buffaloes and recommends that the Government should immediately stop export of meat of female buffaloes. The Committee notes that despite regulation the procedure followed to certify each and every animal by the veterinary professionals is a mere formality and eyewash. The Committee understands that veterinary inspectors succumb to inducements and pass animals not really unproductive as useless and fit for slaughter. The Committee in this background strongly recommends for amendment in the current Foreign Trade Policy with reference to meat export policy S.No19 (a) Tariff item HS Code 0201 which reads as ‘Meat of buffalo (both male and female) fresh and chilled as permissible items for export’ to read as ‘Meat of buffalo (strictly male only)’. The Committee further recommends that all APEDA recognized export houses for meat export should not be allowed to export until they involve themselves in actual rearing of buffaloes.”

“Adulteration of milk is a direct symptom of inadequate supply of pure milk and increasing prices which have their origin in the reducing buffalo population. Adequate supply of pure milk at reasonable prices would make adulterated milk as commercially unviable. The Committee has been apprised that amendment to the Foreign Trade Policy is done on a five yearly basis, however keeping in view the distressing picture and indications on a ground level. The Committee strongly recommends for complete ban on slaughter of female buffaloes for export purposes.”

“The Committee observes that the FSSAI have been given the responsibility of ensuring safe food and also evolving standards for animal products but it is yet to evolve any protocol / standards for raising of animals, usage of hormones/steroids, usage of any other harmful substance etc. The Committee therefore recommends that the Authority should have scientific panels, which may be given the responsibility of evolving standards for all animal products including quantity of steroids and antibiotics, which is acceptable, to be used for animals. It has also been reported that diseased buffaloes are being blatantly slaughtered and their meat is entering the food chain creating possibilities of drug resistant zoonotic diseases. FSSAI may regularly monitor the conditions of abattoirs/slaughter houses to prevent such practices.”

“The Committee is distressed to note the manner in which large scale ‘smuggling on hoof’ of live animals takes place through India's porous borders mainly on borders adjoining Bangladesh and Pakistan. It has been regularly reported that live animals mainly cows are smuggled across the borders in connivance with the some paramilitary forces which are supposed to guard our borders. The Committee strongly recommends that Ministry of Home Affairs should set in a clear

mechanism and issue necessary directions to our paramilitary forces that such activity shall be taken as a violation and shall be punishable. The Committee recommends for suitable deterrent action to prevent smuggling of live animals mainly cows through our borders.”

“The Committee was informed by members of public that some APEDA approved slaughter houses in the country are mixing cow meat also in their export consignments despite clear cut ban on cow slaughter. The Committee recommends for random supervision by APEDA and laboratory testing of the products being exported so as to prevent any such violation. In case of detection of cow meat in export consignments the Committee recommends for strict and time bound action including cancellation of APEDA registration.”

“The Committee strongly recommends that the entire Meat Export Policy be again reviewed by the Department of Commerce in a time bound manner within three months by involving all stake holders including members of the public. The Ministry of Commerce may take into consideration the findings/ observations/ recommendations of this Committee including long term implications of the meat export policy before finalizing the review. The Committee recommends that pending this review no new abattoirs should be registered by APEDA.”

We wish to reiterate that India has emerged as the largest producer of milk in the world. Thanks to the cooperative dairy movement pioneered by Late V. Kurien. The milk production which was 17.0 million tonnes during 1950-51 rose to 127.9 in the year 2011-12. This achievement was rightly termed as a White Revolution. With the launching of the National Dairy Plan - I in February 2012 to meet the growing demand of milk, the production of 150 million tones is envisaged by 2016-17. The country is now looking forward to achieve a Second White Revolution. However, the present policy of meat export was likely to impact the population and productivity of buffaloes which are a major source of milk in the country. ‘Export of Dairy Animal Meat’ can have potential harmful effects on livestock population, and on the economy of the country. Let us remember that Water Buffalo Milk has 58% more calcium than cow's milk; 40% more protein than cow's milk; 43% less cholesterol than cow's milk. If the export of buffalo beaf was allowed unscuplously, it would have serious repercussions on milk production in the country and all efforts made for successful implementation of Second White Revolution would go waste. Slaughtering of animals in such large numbers, without any concrete efforts to enhance their populations will also have long term adverse effects on agriculture such as increased use of chemical fertilizers (due to non- availability of dung), damage to the soil, pollution of agricultural farms, water, air and food grains etc and an overall increase in agricultural costs. **In this regard the observations and recomendations listed in the report of the aforesaid Parliamentary Committee deserve serious and urgent attention of all concerned.**

Prof. Dr. R.N. Kohli

3. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Prof. Kohli, Just admitted as Fellow to the Academy, I read with great interest the April 2014 issue of NAVS Newsletter. The coverage is wide and the contents informative and educative. Overall it deserves all appreciation of your efforts to keep us informed about the developments in veterinary world! Thank you very much for sending the Newsletter.

Dr. Ajit Singh (adjitpridik@msn.com) Professor, Vet. Microbiology, LUVAS, Hisar-125004, Haryana

Dear Dr. Kohli, I am a practicing veterinarian since 1980. I have read the April 2014 issue of your NAVS Newsletter and am impressed. I know Dr. Pathak from college days. As I wanted to join the Academy, I walked through your website (as advised), and noted that under Associate Membership one of the pre-requisites is 'minimum M.V.Sc and should have been Assistant Professor for three years'. Sir I am M.V. Sc (1975) but have always been a Private Entrepreneur and never served any university. Does that mean I do not qualify? When Over All development of Veterinary Profession is your mission, does it include recognizing private sector also? Kindly guide me. **Dr. C.B. Singh** (doctorcbsingh@gmail.com); +9915003429; www.gavcindia.org

(**Editor responds:** As already advised, you are eligible to apply for Associate Membership).

Dear Prof. Kohli, Thanks for the Newsletter - or is it a journal/magazine? Great job!

Dr. Sartaj S. Mathur (sartajmathur@yahoo.co.in)

The April 2014 issue of the Newsletter was another feather in the cap of your good self who is known to be one of the best editors that the veterinary profession of India ever had. Kindly accept my hearty greetings. Pray we continue to receive your service for years to come.

I am also in receipt of two hard copies of the NAVS publications viz. Current Address book of Fellows and Members of NAVS and a booklet that could be described the best compendium on Brucellosis. I am reminded of a similar note handed to be by Prof P.N. Khanna ex-director-in-charge IVRI long ago. I am sure the NAVS would have included information from the richly informative material provided by Dr. Khanna. Both these booklets are wonderful reading materials which people like me would always cherish to store in our personal book shelves. **Prof. Dr. Rama Kumar V.**, Ex-Secretary, Veterinary Council of India (drramakumarv@gmail.com)

Dear Dr. Kohli, Thank you for the Newsletter. It is very comprehensive, well written and enjoyable reading to say the least. Because of you, NAVS has something to hang on, which otherwise have been very disappointing for my experience. Please keep it up. You deserve all the accolades and support. Have you thought of starting an elite Journal, like Academy Proceedings? **Dr. A.K. Karihaloo**, DVM; PhD (karihaloo@gmail.com), NAVS Fellow, USA.

Dear Dr Kohli, as always, the NAVS Newsletters are highly informative cum presentable and accordingly I compliment for the good work is being done by you and your committed editorial team members! I have gone through your editorial and do share your concern over the reckless export of buffalo meat and calling for a total ban on its export. Nonetheless, one point crosses my mind that with the ever increasing pressure on the arable lands as well as all inputs costs including labour & money, whether in the long run, it would be economically sustainable for the producers as well as the

milk consumers especially when cow slaughtering is banned in India? Wouldn't be desirable to call for a formulation cum the driving of a rational export policy, as it is prevailing in the beef & milk producing cum exporting countries instead of seeking total export ban? **Animesh Banerjee**, Former President, Indian Dairy Association (banerjeeanimesh@rediffmail.com). (**Editor responds:** Since buffaloes are a major source of milk in the country, we have pointed out to the possible impact of the present meat export policy on the population and productivity of buffaloes, as we feel that unscrupulous & reckless export of buffalo meat may have its repercussions on the milk production of the country. Please also see the editorial in this issue of the Newsletter.)

The NAVS Newsletters regularly provide me with latest information and are certainly useful to me for the proper implementation of the programmes related to livestock sector. I am handling Animal Biotechnology programme of this department since 1997 and am also responsible for initiation of establishing a National Institute of Animal Biotechnology at Hyderabad. **Dr Arun Kumar Rawat** (akrawat@dbt.nic.in); Director, Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, Ministry of Science and Technology, Block-2, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003; Ph(O): 011-24363656, Ph(R) : 011-26892671,

You have so nicely arranged the different topics in the NAVS Newsletter. It is very informative and would be very useful for the profession. I highly appreciate your very good work. Please keep it up. **Dr. Subodh Kumar Saha**, Principal Scientist, IVRI, Izatnagar, Ph.No. 9412822615 (M), 0581-2301318(O); (subodhksaha@yahoo.com)

I am very happy and encouraged to see the constant progress of NAVS and would like to appreciate your enthusiasm, continuous support, hard work and dedication towards the Academy. I too wish to become member of the academy but at this juncture I may not be eligible due to less span of service experience. We are organizing an International Symposium and XXVIII Annual Convention of IAVMI at Veterinary College, Mathura on Oct 30 - Nov 1, 2014. Your gracious presence on the occasion will definitely bless and honor us. **Dr. Ruchi Tiwari** (ruchi.vet@gmail.com)

I acknowledge your contributions towards the veterinary profession.

Dr. P. H. Sutariya (pshutariya@gmail.com), Dy. Director of AH, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar.

Thank you Dr Kohli. Really it is full of very informative news. Good compilation and collection. You are doing good job for the profession. Congratulations.

Dr S.P Gautam (sp_gautam2000@yahoo.com) +91 9891678342; twitter #AnimalSociety

I must appreciate your dynamic Editorship. Do not know how even at this age you collect so fast and so vast information for all of us---touch wood--- keep going sir. It's a mini journal or an interesting magazine and not a newsletter any more. Since 1993 NAVS was being managed from makeshift offices. Kudos to Dr. Pathak for having it installed in the NASC Complex. The interview with Dr Beckman on Veterinary Dentistry and the write-up of Prof. Rama Kumar on potential of Veterinary Profession for health of man, animals and nature through animal resources made interesting reading. Keep it up sir. **Prof. Dr. Jit Singh** (jitp48@gmail.com)

Dear Dr. Kohli, Thank you very much for such an excellent issue of NAVS Newsletter April 2014. It is really very much informative. I am sure NAVS would reach to the new height of development during your tenure of Editorship. **Dr. Ratan Chandra Ghosh**, Professor & Head, Department of Veterinary Pathology, College of Veterinary Sci. & A.H., Chhattisgarh Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya, Anjora, Durg, C.G-491001; e.mail:rcghosh@rediffmail.com

I read with great interest the Editor's Note on "Are we losing our buffaloes" and also the "Potential of veterinary profession in ensuring optimum health for man, animal and nature through animal resources" authored by Prof. Dr. Ramkumar. You are doing an excellent job by rendering your selfless service to our profession and hence you deserve high appreciation and many congratulations. Your sincere efforts are highly admirable. I pray to the almighty God to bless you a happy and healthy long life. **Prof. Dr.Mahendra Pal**, Professor of Veterinary Public Health, College of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture, Addis Ababa University, P.B.No.34, Debre Zeit, Ethiopia. His email Id is: palmahendra2@gmail.com

Dear Professor Kohli, Thank you for bringing out a very informative latest issue of NAVS Newsletter. **Dr. S.B. Barbuddhe**, National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Office of DSW, 1st Floor, IGKVV Campus, Krishak Nagar, Raipur 492012 Chhatisgarh, India (barbuddhesb@yahoo.com).

Congratulations for timely release of the April issue of NAVS Newsletter in which you have covered all the Global Information of Veterinary Profession. We have a Retired Veterinary Club in Jammu. Every year we are organizing WORLD VETERINARY DAY. Kindly intimate the "THEME OF W V D_2014" **Prof. N.A. Sudhan**, Jammu. (**Editor NAVS responds:** Thank you for your interest in the NAVS Newsletter and appreciating our efforts in this regard. This year's Theme of World Veterinary Day is: ANIMAL WELFARE.

Dear Dr Kohli ji! Thank you for the Newsletter. The Editorial Note on Buffaloes is really very informative. Regards!

Prof Suresh S Honnappagol (sskvafsu@yahoo.co.in), Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Dept. of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi 110 001, India; Phones: Off - +9111 25848045; Fax - +9111 25848045

NAVS (I) is gaining momentum and better visibility in the professional arena through successive and timely publication of the Newsletters. This document is serving as a capsule containing mirror projections of developments taking place in the entire spectrum of livestock and allied sectors. Some suggestions are put forth to enhance professional activities. To add value to this publication, it is suggested to bring out a brief profiles of Universities/ Institutes/ Colleges/ Scientific organizations/ NGO's associated with Veterinary and animal sciences (including Dairying and Fisheries) in a sequential order. **Dr. Jitendra Singh Bhatia** [<bhatiajs05@rediffmail.com>](mailto:bhatiajs05@rediffmail.com)

4-: FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

VETERINARY EDUCATION IN INDIA



Prof. Dr. K.M.L. Pathak

The relatively fast and continual progression of veterinary education during the last 3 decade in India necessitated

creation of a separate Council for veterinary education. It is matter of pride and honour for all of us that we have a statutory body like Veterinary Council of India (VCI) formed under the Indian Veterinary Council Act 1984, which regulates undergraduate education through Minimum Standards of Veterinary Education (MSVE) for B.V.Sc & A.H in all states and union territories of India. Under this constitutional framework certain norms are being fulfilled for recognition of veterinary qualification (B.V.Sc & A.H) offered by any veterinary institution that we all believe has resulted in positive developments for the growth of future veterinary education in India. **Presently, there are 12 veterinary universities and affiliated 53** veterinary colleges. These colleges are collectively bringing out 2,050 qualified veterinary graduates in India annually.

In India, about 70% of the rural households own livestock. Animal Husbandry is an important source of employment in rural India, especially for women. In spite of the fact that the average holding of livestock is small, the livestock sector has considerable potential for generating additional employment through milk, meat, wool and eggs production and value addition. Milk production alone involves more than 30 million small producers. **The income generated from milk alone is estimated at over Rs. 2,28,809 crores which is higher than that from paddy (i.e. Rs. 1,35,307 crores), wheat (Rs. 1,03,226 crores) or sugarcane (Rs. 37,366 crores).** Following an increase in purchasing capacity and growing urbanization, It is estimated that the future demand for milk requirement will increase to around 170 million tons by 2020.

The country has a total strength of 539 million livestock and 648.88 million poultry population. However, the statistics to livestock population in Punjab has shown a declining trend by 33% percent for cattle and 19% for buffalo. Nonetheless, **the state of Punjab holds the distinction of having much higher average daily milk yield in comparison to national average, both in buffalo (7.8 kg vs. 4.2 kg as well as cow 9.5 kg vs. 6.5 kg) and the credit goes to the astute vision and keen interest taken by several state generated skilled veterinary fraternity, farmers and government initiatives in promoting livestock production through scientific husbandry practices.** Currently the per capita milk availability in Punjab is 939 g per day against a national average of 290 g. Cattle and buffalo constitute about 93% of total livestock population in the state accounting 7.61 and 50.02 lacs respectively.

However, I wish to flag some concerns, and also share my observations made during a recent visit to GADVASU, Ludhiana:

We recognize the importance of buffalo as the major milk producer in the country, producing more than 55% milk despite being around a third of total cattle and buffalo population. Towards this direction, I am happy to learn that the College of Veterinary Science at GADVASU has initiated conservation and improvement of Nili-Ravi Buffaloes, apart from also acting as one of the prominent centres for Network Project on Buffaloes (Main & Field unit) through an excellent herd of Murrah buffaloes both at university dairy farm and in the field areas in various villages of Ludhiana district and, thereby, consistently providing significant germplasm of progeny tested bulls to progressive and marginal farmers of the state. Productivity directly hinges on the reproductive efficiency of animals and I am happy to learn about GADVASU's pro-active participation in improving the re-productive potential of both buffalo and cattle population in state. The University's attempt in mapping mineral profile and providing recommendations to State's Directorate of Animal Husbandry for supplementation of area specific mineral mixture, has contributed immensely in improving the conception rate among animals, as well as decreasing the age of puberty, and minimizing reproductive disorders.

It is heartening to note that the college has established a School of Animal Biotechnology and a School of Public Health and Zoonoses. In addition, the College has been very active in providing in disease diagnosis and treatment of farmers' animals through specialized clinical diagnostic laboratory equipped with latest diagnostic equipments as well as for clinical surgical interventions and gynaecological management and reproduction technique (s).

I am delighted to learn about GADVASU's livestock product innovation. The University has come out with several bio-preserved, eco friendly, quality food products of animal origin, which I know has won several hearts of city residents as well as other dignitaries to this college. And it is important that such technologies are transferred for entrepreneurship to young and unemployed youth besides exploring commercialization avenues. On account of urbanization and change in human lifestyles, such consumer friendly low calorie, low fat, low salt and high dietary and fortified products are high on demand and would popularised.

I would also like to sincerely implore our professional brothers and sisters that we should strive hard for transfer of technology to the end users i.e. the livestock farmers. All efforts should be made for providing up-to date knowledge/technological information at the farmers' door steps using user-friendly technology or tools of E-kiosk to be set-up at Krishi Vigyan Kendra's and Regional Research Stations

In India, the livestock continues to be raised on crop residues and agricultural bi-products. The area under cultivated fodder production is limited only to 4.60% of the total cultivable land. The schemes and programmes concerning to feed, fodder and pasture development in the country are quite inadequate. The efforts made during the 10th Five- year plan in raising the feed and fodder resources for the livestock have not met with the desired success. Therefore, high priority should be given for increasing the fodder production per unit area by evolving high yielding varieties of disease resistance fodder crops, efficient utilization of industrial & agricultural by-products, improvement in quality of straws and use of total mixed balanced ration practice for feeding the livestock. Such quality production should be based on proper collection, densification, baling, fortification, handling, transport and proper storage of feed and fodder apart from transportation of fortified feed blocks for animals to help them tide over the draught or lean periods in addition to their care of other managerial issues such as housing, behaviour, adaptation etc. for improving health vis-à-vis production of animals.

Since first five year plan, continuous efforts have been made to control diseases of the livestock especially rinderpest, black quarter, hemorrhagic septicemia, anthrax and food and mouth disease. While, rinderpest has been globally eradicated recently, other diseases still continue to pose a major threat to animal production programmes. Some of the emerging diseases like peste des petitis ruminants (PPR), bluetongue, sheep pox and goat pox, swine fever, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, new castle-Disease (Ranikhet disease) are causing huge economic losses.

An urgent policy intervention is required to effectively manage animal diseases and disaster management and it should deal concurrently with an aim to develop excellence in clinical services with capacity building for super-specialty at species level besides advancements in internal medicine. There should be enough sincere efforts in curbing several disease outbreaks, which takes a large toll on both animal and human health.

The concept of crossbreeding for high and quality milk production started way back in 1971 through All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Cattle, by crossing local zebu cattle with Holstein Friesian, Brown Swiss & Jersey breeds. After a few years of initial success, serious disillusionment set in. Numerous problems such as loss of our indigenous germplasm, increased disease incidence, high mortality among high yielding animals, high incidence of dystocia, poor male fertility and high infertility in females accentuated with lack of fodder availability were observed forcing policy makers to have a relook at the crossbreeding program. We need to act swiftly in concerted fashion by bringing several important institutions together on this crucial issue to prevent indiscriminate crossbreeding and ensure conservation of different Zebu breeds both in-situ and ex-situ.

Major policy reforms are required to provide support to small ruminant developmental programme. The grazing policy for livestock in forest including joint forest management with particular reference to high altitude forest needs to be developed and jointly implemented by Animal Husbandry and Forest Departments. Regeneration and development of common property resources and wasteland with involvement of Panchayats and NGOs need to be given greater attention. It is proposed to launch this programme in 40 backward districts in 6 states having high population of sheep and goats.

Animal Welfare during natural calamities and disasters require attention since such calamities can drive the poor into destitution. A disaster management fund for livestock needs to be created to support livestock owners during calamities. NGOs working for livestock welfare would be strengthened so that they can ensure and promote animal care and well being.

A matter of serious concern is the dearth of veterinary education in our country. In this connection also I wish to flag some issues:

1. The veterinary human resource in India is continuously facing the threat of shortage of skilled professionals. Our experience and information shows that the high cost of professional education is responsible for such huge gap in demand and supply of quality veterinary professionals and many of our existing colleges are insufficient to cover up the existing vacancies for further openings in this sector. So, the only option left to us is to either open new veterinary colleges with public-private partnership to ameliorate severe crisis or DARE should take an initiative in setting up of CAUs and CVUs in the four zones with one university in every each zone which

should have integrated approach to cater to changing needs of the hour in veterinary profession. This will consequently benefit the families from lower income groups under the concept of state-LGS aided universities/institutes. The approach would be to have a common liaison/integration between the state-LGS and non-LGS public agencies for starting new institutions.

2. Private sector/Foreign universities should be encouraged to sponsor agricultural and veterinary education and research in India. For this, the concept of MoUs with foreign universities should immediately be initiated and implemented. I am happy to learn that the College of Veterinary Science in GADVASU is one step ahead in this important initiative and already has a liaison with University of Saskatoon, Canada in various disciplines/subjects with effective symbiotic collaborative programmes / student exchange programmes.
3. There is a great need of new recruitments of sound professionals, as an eminent occupation among rural as well as urban masses apart from development of state of art, internationally accredited laboratories to bolster livestock production
4. Livestock diversification through pro-active professionalism in livestock rearing and processing of end stage product from livestock is very essential and needs to be supported with a strong extension education system.
5. At present, the highest priority is needed towards higher allocation of financial resources, faculty up-gradation, and promotion of interpersonal networking in higher education and review of Centre- State relations in professional education under the umbrella of ICAR, DARE, DAHDF and NARS. The various highest bodies of professional learning should undertake more research oriented activities through the participation of local non-governmental organization and private industries based on the local demands of livestock production, conservation, protection and their improvements.

The challenges before Veterinary & Animal Scientists are huge and the administrations of the colleges and universities are continuously persevering to achieve greater heights through technological advancements for quality production of skilled human resources. I also appeal to all the future graduates to not only to utilize the knowledge gained but also ensure that they harness all possible opportunities of enhancing their skills to address the ever increasing emerging problems. My good wishes are with all the universities and the colleges to attain a quintessence of success and meet international stature in coming years.

Prof. K.M.L. Pathak

(pathakkml@yahoo.co.in)

5: VET TRACKS

APPOINTMENTS, TRANSFERS, PROMOTIONS AND FELICITATIONS

5-1: Dr. Amarjit Singh Nanda Takes Over as Vice-Chancellor in Jabalpur

Upon his appointment as Vice-Chancellor of Nana Deshmukh University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Jabalpur (M.P.), Dr Amarjit Singh Nanda recently took over the coveted position.



Dr Amarjit Singh Nanda who recently completed his tenure as Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Govt. of India, was formerly Professor of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics in Guru Angad Dev Veterinary & Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana, and was also the founder Director of Research of that University.

Dr. Nanda was born in a small village Kanjali, near historical Kali Wein in Distt Kapurthala, on 2nd November 1953 and had his early education there. He did his B.V.Sc. & A.H. (1977) and M.V.Sc. (1979) in Animal Reproduction, from PAU Ludhiana. Coincidentally, the Editor of this newsletter was the Founder Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery (which initially also included Reproduction) at P.A.U. from 1971 to 1981, and during the same period Dr. Nanda joined as a veterinary student in

1973 and later became an Assistant Professor in 1980 in P.A.U. I distinctly remember Dr. Nanda as a very meritorious and hard working student at both U.G. and P.G. level and I and my other colleagues were sure of his successes and achievements in times to come.

Dr Amarjit Singh Nanda subsequently completed his Fellowship of the Royal Veterinary College of Sweden (FRVCS) in 1983 and Ph. D. from Liverpool University, U.K. in 1989. Apart from the positions he held in Ludhiana, he has the distinction of working as the Regional Expert on Animal Production at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, as a Visiting Professor in Hiroshima University, Japan and in University of SaoPaulo Brazil. As Head of Department and as the Director for Centre of Advanced Studies, he gave leadership to applied research in animal reproduction.

Dr. Nanda is an eminent fellow of the Academy (NAVS) apart from winning several other awards and distinctions in his career including Fellowship of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and Indian Society for Study of Animal Reproduction.

Born and brought-up in a small holders farming family, Dr Nanda is well aware of grassroots level dairy farming problems and during his long career, he always focused his research and its application on the field related problems.

We heartily congratulate Dr. Nanda and wish him the best in future too.

5-2: Professor Mahendra Pal Gets Life Time Achievement Award

Dr. Mahendra Pal, presently working as Professor of Veterinary Public Health, College of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture, Addis Ababa University, Debre Zeit, Ethiopia has been conferred with the “Achievement Award” for the year 2013-2014 during the inauguration function of the XII Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Veterinary Public Health Specialists at the College of Veterinary Sciences, Khanapara, Guwahati, Assam, India on February 4, 2014. He was awarded for his scientific contributions and outstanding performance in the field of veterinary public health. Prof. Pal’s main area of research is ecology, epidemiology and diagnosis of zoonoses, particularly the mycotic zoonoses. He has helped in the development of Medical Mycology in a few Medical Colleges in India and provided the identified fungal cultures to many institutes for demonstration to students and also to conduct research. Prof. Pal has worked in several veterinary and medical institutes and has published over 350 papers in national and international journals. He has authored four books including “Zoonoses” and “**Veterinary and Medical Mycology**” which are highly appreciated by veterinary and medical scientists. He has also won several other awards and distinctions in his professional career. He is an eminent Fellow of The National academy of Veterinary Sciences, and we sincerely congratulate him for his achievements.

5-3: Dr. Ratan Chandra Ghosh Awarded IAVP Fellowship

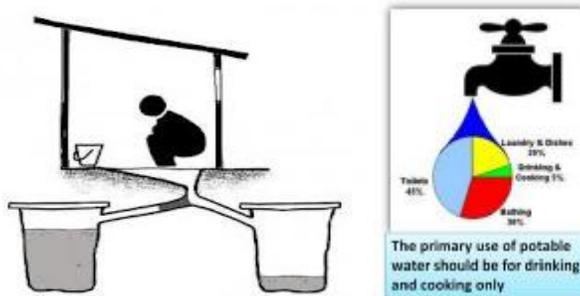
NAVS fellow Dr. Ratan Chandra Ghosh, Professor & Head Department of Veterinary Pathology, College of Veterinary Science, Chhattisgarh Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya Anjora, Durg, wrote to inform us that he was awarded the IAVP Fellowship at the 30th Annual Conference of IAVP held at College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, OUAT, Bhubaneswar from 21-23 November 2013. His e.mail ID: rcghosh@rediffmail.com

**Enjoy Your Life Today
Because Yesterday Has Gone
&
Tomorrow Never Comes**

6. VIEW POINT

Water Use and Waste Management: A Major Role of Animal Resources

It is observed that 15,000 liters of good water is used to flush 35 kg feces and 500 Lt. Urine per person per year. All these ‘black water’ is disposed through sewerage system. The dangers of septic tanks in polluting well water especially in low lying areas and the periodic need to clean septage was also discussed. The immense possibilities of using human and animal urine and the urgent need to use of **separation toilets (see diagram)** use of solid waste and water hyacinth as pig feed, personal or public biogas plants for generating manure and energy is often discussed. Coastal areas where the absence of toilets is a major problem are often not discussed. Experts of waste management feel that tendency to discourage children from using the term “shit” has an unfortunate sequel in discussing solid human waste disposal in primary education of hygiene. In fact the tendency of major political parties to suggest septic toilets as “quick fix” remedy can be a serious threat for future.



- Only 5 % of water is used for cooking and drinking.
- 95 % of potable water is used in Toilets (45 %), Laundry (20 %) and Bathing (30%).
- For all the secondary purposes non-potable water must be used.

Regulating and managing waste water is an important aspect of water management. Organized civic amenities are yet to reach many urban and rural areas of India (Wikipedia). Globally, 86% of urban population and 38% of rural population has access to some level of sanitation (both together 60%). In Asia 78% of urbanites and 31% of rural people has some access to sanitation. 52% people still have no access to *proper* sanitary service. Statistical facts reveal that **only** 60% to 80% of urban garbage of India’s metropolitan cities is cleared by designated agencies. Waste and garbage clearance has become one of the major health related problems in cities of India. This includes plastic dumping and burning of plastic waste at random.

Here is an example of misuse of Septic Tank: There are more than 25 private operators with more than 60 vehicles (each with a capacity of 5,000 liters) working daily in and around Kochi in Kerala collecting and dumping about 600, 000 liters of sludge, in the open environment without any treatment. While open defecation means fecal matter is spread around in smaller quantities, septage dumping means discharge of highly concentrated pathogens with potential to cause significant health and environmental damages. Local newspapers are frequently reporting on incidences of septage dumped in water bodies and paddy fields and villagers agitating against illegal dumping, sometimes even beating up the workers of the operators. Septage brought from cities is allegedly contaminating the drinking water sources. [Kerala’s Looming Sanitation Challenge: Blog By Suseel Samuel On Wed, 04/03/2013]

IS WASTE BEING WASTED? It is often not discussed that urine contains 11-1-2% respectively of N-P-K (Sodium-Phosphorous-Potassium) which if properly harvested can be a good source of fertilizer for agriculture which the government currently subsidizes. An average person voids **350-700ml of urine 4-7 times a day**. The normal range is 800 to 2000 milliliters **per day** with a normal fluid intake [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/

<ency/article/003425.htm>] [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fluid_balance] **Human urine being acidic can to an extent be used in alkaline soil.** A dairy cow excretes 25 liters urine/day or 9000 liters annually. This urine being alkaline can be highly useful for correcting (acidic) soil. Solid human and animal wastes are a source of energy and manure. China had 685,000 separation toilets spread among 17 provinces in 2003. China uses pigs in community toilets for sanitation and waste utilisation. They also add the water hyacinth for feeding pigs. In India a system where pigs scavenge open latrine is prevalent in some pockets. There is ample scope to explore the role of animals and the use of animal waste management for sustainable sanitation through scientific veterinary intervention. Use of manure gas (Gobar gas) though limited (0.3% & 0.1%) is an eco-friendly a method that need be considered and improved to suit each region. There is scope to explore the role of animals and the use of animal waste management for sustainable sanitation through scientific intervention.

When urine and solid waste are mixed, they start to ferment. In the Separation toilet no such process occurs and unpleasant smell is less. Separation toilet produces the most fertile fertilizer. The separation is used to recycle the solid waste back to nature as biogas and organic fertilizer. The process inactivates human pathogens so that the waste can be composted harmlessly. Handling the liquid is easy. It is mixed with eight parts water to make good fertilizer for garden! Large sewage system, certainly not flushing water is needed; it is a benefit to the environment.

ENERGY FROM WASTE: At least some countries are converting bio-waste to energy. Australia, has started to burn the residual fibre waste from raw sugar processing - called **bagasse in India** - to produce steam, to work the machines which process the cane and drive electricity generators. The present installed capacity of all the sugar mills in Australia is about 250 megawatts, 60-70 megawatts of which is sold to the electricity grid. This is only a fraction of the potential capacity. The installed electricity generation capacity of sewage farms around Australia is about 7.5 megawatts electricity production from this source could triple by 2010. [www.science.org.au/nova/039/039key.htm - 12k - 21 Oct 2003]

Experts of waste management feel that tendency to discourage children from using the term "shit" has an unfortunate sequel in discussing solid human waste disposal in primary education of hygiene. In fact the tendency of major political parties to suggest septic toilets as "quick fix" remedy can be a serious threat of E. coli infection in future, especially in population dense states like Pondicherry and Kerala as well as in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Seemandhra, Goa and Gujarat .

Rural India frequently uses dried cow dung (cow dung cakes) for cooking. This (biomass) is a major source of energy for cooking. In rural India, Indian cattle and buffaloes produce (by a modest estimate) more than 800 MT (million tons) of fiber rich dung every year. Of this around 300 MT is burned as dung cakes for cooking and the rest is used as manure. Nearly 90% of cooking energy of India's rural areas is from crop residues and cow dung cake (78%+11.5%). Manure gas plant especially the cow dung gas plants though low in water consumption, has not caught up due to operational problems. (Human waste can be added) The difficulties faced vary from region to region and season to season. We already discussed that each cow or buffalo excretes 9000 liters annually. Caprine/ ovine urine is often not discussed. Diluted 10 times with water bovine urine can be sprayed to control pests damaging vegetables. This would be especially useful for organic vegetable production

(Contributed by Dr. Rama Kumar V., Former Secretary, Veterinary Council of India)

7. NAVS NEWS

7.1: ICAR-NAVS expert consultation on Strategies for Breeding Buffaloes Round-the- Year - 4th July 2014 at National Agriculture Science Centre (NASC), New Delhi.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, in association with the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences, is organizing an expert consultation meet on ‘Strategies for Breeding Buffaloes Round-the-Year’ on **4th July 2014** at **National Agriculture Science Centre (NASC)**, New Delhi.

Livestock sub-sector is one of the main pillars of India’s agrarian economy, with buffalo as a major player contributing over 50% to milk pool. Nevertheless, there are wide fluctuations leading to sequential periods of glut and scarcity of milk, owing to seasonality of reproduction in the species. Seasonal influences on buffalo’s reproductive performance are partly responsible for its low fertility, which may also impact share of the species in agriculture export market through meat. Various factors can be implicated in seasonality of buffalo reproduction, but deeper insight into etiological factors is prerequisite to devising appropriate ameliorative strategies. It is, therefore, warranted that a thorough consultation is done amongst experts for recommending suitable strategies for improving overall reproductive efficiency of this important livestock for the country. Accordingly, this Expert Consultation amongst a select group of researchers, planners and managers is being held to develop a road-map for round-the-year buffalo reproduction.

Dr. Inderjeet Singh, Director, Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (www.cirb.res.in), Hisar 125 001, Haryana, is the Organizing Secretary of the event and following is the programme:

PROGRAMME

ICAR-NAVS EXPERT CONSULTATION ON STRATEGIES FOR BREEDING BUFFALOES ROUND THE YEAR		
Venue: Lecture Hall, NASC Complex, New Delhi Date : Friday, 4th July, 2014		
Time	Activity	Persons
0900-0910 Hrs	Welcome address	Dr. B.S. Prakash ADG(ANP)
0910-0920 Hrs	Background and theme of the Expert Consultation	Prof. K.M.L. Pathak DDG (Animal Science) & President, NAVS

0920-0930 Hrs	Address by Chief Guest	Dr. S. Ayyappan Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR
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Technical Session I: Understanding buffalo reproduction (0930 – 1100 hrs)

- Chairman : Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) & DG, ICAR
Moderator : Dr M.L. Madan, Former DDG(AS) & VC
Dr. K.M. Bujarbaruah, VC, AAU
Panelists : Dr. R. M. Acharya, Former DDG(AS)
Dr. S.S. Honnappagol, AHC (DAHD&F), GoI
Dr. U.K. Mishra, VC, CGKV, Anjora
Dr. A.K. Mishra, VC, MAFSU
Dr. A.S. Nanda, VC, NDUV
Dr. J.S. Bhatia, Former ADG(Edu)
Dr. Inderjeet Singh, Director, CIRB
Rapporteurs : Dr. J.P. Ravindra, Principal Scientist, NIANP
Dr. R.K. Sharma, Principal Scientist (APR), CIRB

Time	Topic	Speaker
0930-0950 hrs	Understanding buffalo reproduction and interventions to breed buffaloes round the year	Dr. BS Prakash ADG(AN&P), ICAR
0950-1115 hrs	Open house discussion	
1115–1145 hrs	TEA	

Technical Session II: Nutritional interventions (1145 – 1320 hrs)

- Chairman : Dr. K. Pradhan, Former VC, RAU
Moderator : Dr A.K. Gahlot, VC, RAJUVAS
Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Director, NDRI
Panelists : Dr. K. Ramchandran, Tech. Expert, Rain-fed Authority of India
Dr. Arun Varma, Former ADG(ANP)
Dr. O.P. Dhanda, Former ADG (AN&P)
Dr. Khub Singh, Former Director, NIANP
Dr. N.N. Pathak, Former Director, CIRB
Dr. K.T. Sampath, Former Director, NIANP
Dr. B.S. Punia, Former Director, CIRB
Dr. Kusumakar Sharma, ADG(HRD), ICAR
Dr. S.P.Tiwari, Dean, CVS, Anjora
Dr. Vishnu Sharma, Dean PG, RAJUVAS
Dr. Rajan Gupta, Principal Scientist (AN), ICAR
Rapporteurs : Dr. S.S. Paul, Principal Scientist, CIRB
Dr. R. Malik, Principal Scientist, CIRB

Time	Topic	Speaker
1145-1205hrs	Nutritional interventions for successful buffalo reproduction throughout the year	Dr. CS Prasad Director, NIANP
1205-1320 hrs	Open house discussion	
1320-1345 hrs	LUNCH	

Technical Session III: Health and Management (1345 – 1500 hrs)

Chairman :	Dr. S. Bandyopadhyay, Member, ASRB
Moderator :	Dr. V.K. Taneja, Vice Chancellor, GADVASU Dr. M.P. Yadav, Former VC, SBBPU&T
Panelists :	Dr. B. Ashok, VC, KV&ASU Dr. A.C. Varshney, VC, UPDDUPCVVV Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Shri Kant, VC, LLRUVAS Dr. R.K. Singh, Director IVRI Dr. Lal Krishna, Former ADG (AH), ICAR Dr. B. Pattnaik, Director, PD-FMD Dr. H. Rahman, Director, NIVEDI Dr. Rishendra Verma, Joint Director, IVRI
Rapporteurs :	Dr. Ashok Kumar, HOD (Public Health), IVRI Dr. Jyoti Misri, Principal Scientist(AH), ICAR

Time	Topic	Speaker
1345-1405 hrs	Health and Management Strategies for High Buffalo Fertility	Dr. Gaya Prasad ADG(AH), ICAR
1405-1515 hrs	Open house discussion	
1515-1530 hrs	TEA	

Wrap Up (1530 – 1600 hrs)

Chairman : Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) & DG, ICAR

1530-1540 hrs	Overall Recommendations	Dr. B.S. Prakash ADG(AN&P), ICAR
1540-1550 hrs	Remarks	Prof. K.M.L. Pathak DDG (Animal Science), ICAR & President, NAVS
1550-1600 hrs	Remarks	Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Shri Kant, VC, LLRUVAS & Vice-President, NAVS
1600-1610 hrs	The Way Forward	Dr. S. Ayyappan Secretary (DARE) & DG, ICAR
1610 hrs	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Inderjeet Singh, Director, CIRB

8. NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY NEWS

8.1: A Veterinarian Takes Over as Minister in the New Central Government

According to a Press Information Bureau, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture release dated 28-May-2014 **Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan** took over as Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan is 41 year old and this is his first term as Member of Parliament. Dr. Balyan represents Muzzaffarnagar constituency in Uttar Pradesh in the newly constituted 16th Lok Sabha. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan (41) was born in Village Kutbi, Post Kutba, Distt. Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh) and is resident of the same place. By profession, Dr Balyan is a veterinary doctor. He did his B.V.Sc. & A.H. (1994), M.V.Sc. (1997) and Ph.D. (2005) (Anatomy) from Choudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agriculture University, Hisar. He was also an Assistant Professor there before joining the Haryana Government as a veterinary surgeon. His spouse is also a Veterinary Doctor. Dr. Balyan resigned the job about two years ago to become a partner in a real estate firm (A2Z Builders & Developers) and also join the BJP.



Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan taking oath as a central government minister in New Delhi

The Young and Dynamic Minister of State of Agriculture & Food Processing is the face of youth leadership and is committed to work for ushering the second green & white revolutions. He has all the qualities of a good leader and is a capable professional. Probably, this is for the first time in recent history that a veterinarian has been appointed as a Minister in the Central Government. The Veterinary profession of India is proud and pleased at his appointment, heartily congratulates him and wishes him the best of luck.

It is also heartening to note that the New Cabinet Minister of Agriculture - Radha Mohan Singh - in his very first public statement also emphasized that conservation of indigenous breeds of cows was high on the agenda of his Ministry and the new central government. These are very good developments not only for the livestock husbandry sector in general but also the Veterinary and Animal Science Institutions of research and education in particular.

8.2: Heat stress in lactating dairy cows

Heat stress, and the various behavioral and physiological effects in lactating dairy cows, costs the US dairy industry upwards of \$1 billion dollars annually in production losses. Management changes to cows' environments can help reduce the negative effects of heat stress, but mitigation strategies go well beyond cow comfort. Nutritional and digestive stressors brought

about during bouts of heat stress, or during other times of the year represent potential production losses, lost revenue and potential for decreased profitability. Maintaining consistency in the rumen and post-ruminal digestive tract requires timely dietary adjustments and strong consideration of feed additives. Details: editor@dairyherdnetwork-mail.com

8.3: OIE Declares India Free from African Horse Sickness



Following a recommendation of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE approved the proposal that India be recognised by the OIE as a country free from African Horse Sickness (AHS) in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2013). Prof. Dr. Suresh S Honnappagol, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Govt. of India received the certificate along with Indian Delegation on May 29, 2014 from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) at Paris.

The Veterinary Scientists who made it happen deserve our heartiest congratulations.

8.4: Dr. Pathak Delivers Convocation Address at GADVASU Veterinary College in Ludhiana - Calls for Human Resource Development

College of Veterinary Science of Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU) is one of the premier institutes for veterinary and animal science education and has achieved national and international recognition of excellence, stated Dr. K.M.L. Pathak, DDG, Animal Sciences, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and President National Academy of Veterinary Sciences while delivering his convocation address at 13th Convocation of College of Veterinary Science on June 5, 2014 at Ludhiana. A total of 111 students were conferred B.V.Sc. & AH degree. Three Gold medals and merit certificate were awarded to the meritorious students for their performance. Money Vouchers were presented to

students excelling in studies in different years of the program to get books. Dr Pathak said the serious concern in veterinary education is veterinary human resource which is continuously facing the threat of shortage of skilled professionals. The number of veterinary



graduates produced each year is still far below the required level. He felt strong need to upgrade veterinary education and research in the country by opening new veterinary colleges. He congratulated all recipients of degrees and awards in the 13th Convocation and also their worthy teachers for imparting quality education, skills and values.

Dr V K Taneja, Vice Chancellor, presided over the function and other officers of the University **Dr P D Juyal** Registrar, **Dr S S Randhawa** Director of Research, **Dr R S Sahota** Director or Extension Education, **Dr. Sushil Prabhakar** Controller of Examinations were also present. **Dr H S Sandhu**, Dean of the College, highlighted the research, teaching and extension achievements of the University in his convocation report and spoke about the future programs. Several former Deans of the College graced the occasion with their presence.

SOME GLIMPSES OF THE CEREMONY



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8.5: World Veterinary Day 2014 Celebrations

8.5.1: World Veterinary Association Launches W.V.D. Award 2014 on this year's theme of Animal Welfare

The WVA launched the World Veterinary Day Award 2014 on this year's theme of Animal Welfare. The competition was open to all WVA veterinary associations, alone, or in cooperation with any other selected veterinary body. The winner of the 2014 World Veterinary Day Award was to be invited to the OIE 82nd General Session of the World Assembly of National Delegates to be held in Paris, France on 25 May 2014 where he/she will receive the WVD 2014 Award and a price of 1000 US\$. The theme of Animal Welfare was chosen to highlight the role of veterinarians in Animal Welfare in line with OIE standards and the great contribution of the veterinary profession to animals and society around the globe.

World Veterinary Day was instigated by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in 2000 to be celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April. In 2008 the WVA and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) agreed on the creation of the World Veterinary Day Award aimed at rewarding the most successful celebration of the contribution of the veterinary profession to society.

8.5.2: Retired Veterinarian's Club Jammu Celebrate World Veterinary Day

Like the previous year, the Retired Veterinarian's Club Jammu organized World Veterinary Day this year too in the Seminar Hall of the Directorate of Animal Husbandry Department, Jammu. About 50 Retired Veterinarians along with the officers of Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department participated in the event. Director Animal Husbandry was the Chief Guest. Dr. N. A. Sudhan Former Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu presented a paper on "Animal Welfare - An Important Concern for the Veterinarian". Dr. Bupinder Singh, President, Retired Veterinary Club and Dr. Jia Lal Gupta Ex. Director Sheep Jammu also spoke on the occasion. Director Animal Husbandry Jammu highlighted the role of Veterinarian in the use of latest technology for Animal Conservation and Welfare.

8.5.3: World Veterinary Day Celebration at Pantnagar

Dr. Ajay Kumar Upadhyay, Secretary Blue Cross Society, Pantnagar, writes to inform that World Veterinary Day Celebration was organized by them on 28th April. Approximately 400 veterinary students and 60 members of the staff attended the event. Chief Guest, Dr. G.K. Singh, informed in his speech that World Veterinary Day was being celebrated there since 2004 by all the Veterinary Doctors to pay the homage to first Veterinary Professional of India "Shalihotra". He stated that the youngest "Pandav", Shahdev and Nakul, too were veterinary practitioners.

Various competitions such as quiz contest, slogan writing and thematic expression etc were organized among the students. The awards were distributed to the winners by senior professor - Dr. V.S. Rajora, Dr. D.P. Tewari and Dr. R.S. Chauhan.

During the World Veterinary Day Function, Spectromast-DS a product of M/s. Zoetis India Ltd. to prevent mastitis by dry udder therapy, was also launched at GBPUAT, Pantnagar - the first agricultural university of India. Dr. Amit Singh of Zoetis said that Mastitis Disease could be prevented in the subsequent lactation by infusing of medicine in the end of lactation.

8.6: International Biodiversity Day Celebrated at NBAGR, Karnal

Dr. Arjava Sharma, Director, National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Post Box: 129, GT Road Bye Pass, KARNAL - 132 001 (Haryana) writes to inform that the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal organized a one-day programme on the occasion of

International Biodiversity Day on 22nd May, 2014, to create awareness among the livestock keepers of Karnal district about the positive attributes of indigenous cattle genetic resources of our country. On this occasion, more than 60 farmers of 10 villages of Karnal district along with 100 dignitaries and animal science researchers were present.

Besides, poster making competition for students on the subject – Livestock diversity for human welfare, a special session was held to discuss the A1/A2 type milk and its possible health implications. For the event, bureau made special efforts to approach more than 125 farmers of Karnal district and screened about 150 native, crossbred and exotic cows to ascertain the allelic (A1/ A2 variants) status β -casein milk. The frequency of A2 allele in these samples was found to be 0.91, 0.76 and 0.68 across native, crossbred and exotic cows, respectively. The data indicated higher frequency of desirable A2 allele in native cows and lower frequency in crossbred and exotic cows. The farmers whose animals showed A2A2 genotype were honoured with certificates on the occasion by the Chief guest, Dr M.P. Yadav, former Director, IVRI and former VC, SVBUA&T, Meerut and present Secretary, NAAS. Dr Inderjeet Singh, Director, CIRB, Hisar also highlighted the importance of A2 allele which is present in high frequency amongst all breeds of indigenous cattle as well as buffaloes

Dr Arjava Sharma, Director informed that Bureau has been putting in consistent efforts to screen our valuable genetic resources for the prevalence A2 allele. Bureau scientists have screened more than 900 animals of 22 native cattle breeds from various agro-climatic regions of the country to understand the distribution of A1/A2 β -casein milk variants. Majority of the Indian native cattle (90.4%) showed A2A2, the desirable genotype. The frequency distribution of A2 allele across the different utility types was 1.0, 0.95 and 0.92 for milch dual and draft purpose breeds, respectively. The overall high frequency of A2 allele across Indian cattle showed predominance of favourable A2 allele in our native cattle breeds.

The event provided a unique platform for policy makers, researchers, stakeholders to discuss various aspects of A1/A2 milk as in recent years, lot of interest is shown by the researchers on bovine β -casein gene. There is a wider notion that high consumption of A1 β -casein milk may increase the risk for a range of human diseases. After elaborated discussion on this issue, the experts opined that there is a need to screen sire lines being used in breeding programmes for their A1/A2 status to minimize the risk of disseminating the A1 allele in Indian cattle population. Further, they reiterated that if the demand for A2 milk increases in future, our native cattle would certainly be better placed than exotic cattle.

8.7: Cows Reward the Owner on Receiving 5-Star Treatment

There is reason to envy Jusuf Arifagic's cows. In a country where half of the population is living in poverty, his animals sleep on mattresses in a barn with a computerized air conditioning and lighting system. They are bathed regularly, get a massage whenever they feel like it and receive the occasional pedicure. Relaxing music - sometimes classic, sometimes local serenades - makes sure milking is not stressful.

"Nobody should envy my cows. Everybody should just realize that the visa for the future is science," said Jusuf Arifagic, the 52-year-old farmer everybody around Kozarac in northwestern Bosnia is talking about. Arifagic brought the concept of pampering cows from Norway where he lived as a refugee after fleeing from Bosnia's 1992-95 war. After years of negotiations with both countries, Arifagic invested 8 million euros (\$11 million) into the luxury farm that started four months ago with the importation of 115 Norwegian Red Cows - a tough

and hornless animal bred over the past 75 years to produce more and better milk. His plan is to expand to 5,000 cows, creating the biggest facility in Europe for this type of animal. He wants other farmers in Bosnia to follow suit so Norway can one day move some of its dairy production to Bosnia. That would avoid the high heating costs during six months of Norway's harsh winter and would help reduce Bosnia's almost 40 percent unemployment rate.

Arifagic and his 25 employees monitor every corner of the rubber-floored barn on computer screens. The huge hall looks almost empty, as most of the animals prefer to hang out by the six automatic car wash-style brushes, enjoying massages. A computer regulates the temperature, the quality of air and the lighting, keeping the cows healthy. Arifagic's calculation: Pampered cows give five liters more of milk a day. Multiply that by hundreds of cows and "although initially expensive, advanced technology really pays off in just a few years," he said. Veterinarian inspector Velibor Kesic says Arifagic's concept is also making his job easier by showing other farmers how to reduce infectious diseases. The luxury cow treatment has certainly stunned the neighbors in Kozarac. "My barn can't compare to his," said farmer Dervis Menhovic, whose family keeps seven cows squeezed into a traditional barn next to his house. "His is a hotel." The new facility holds another, maybe even more important benefit for Bosnia. Both Serbs and Bosniaks work at Arifagic's farm - the entrepreneur has no time for the animosities of the past. "We live, work and create here," he said. "For the first time since the war, young and educated people are returning to Kozarac."

- See more at: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/norwegian-cows-get-full-pampering-in-bosnia/article1-1217860.aspx#sthash.oM8M6iTU.dpuf>

8.8: Dr. Harpreet S. Kochhar is the New Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada



The Government of Canada has appointed a new Chief Veterinary Officer. Dr. Harpreet S. Kochhar will lead Canada's

efforts to protect animal and human health from current and emerging animal diseases. The appointment is effective immediately. Dr. Kochhar is a veterinarian by training with a Master's degree in Veterinary Science and a PhD in biotechnology. He is an expert on animal biotechnology for the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and has worked internationally with such organizations as the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Dr. Ian Alexander, who served as Chief Veterinary Officer prior to Dr. Kochhar's appointment, has been named Executive Director of Animal Health Science for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Dr. Kochhar joined the CFIA in 2002 as a senior Animal Biotechnology Policy Specialist. Since then he has also worked in a number of roles in the CFIA's Science Branch and Operations Branch, including Executive Director of Operations Strategies and Delivery, and Executive Director of Western Area Operations. Prior to joining the CFIA in 2002, Dr. Kochhar worked as a veterinarian in private practice and an assistant professor with research interests in animal biotechnology at the University of Guelph's Veterinary College. He is an expert on animal biotechnology for the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and has worked internationally with such organizations as the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). As Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Kochhar leads Canada's efforts to effectively manage current

and emerging disease threats in order to protect animal and human health, and to maintain international trust in Canada's inspection and certification systems in support of market access.

8.9: 'Field Day' organized under NICRA at CSWRI, Avikanagar

National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project is being operational from mid-XI Plan. Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI) Avikanagar has been assigned with regard to its principal objectives. Principal activities under NICRA at CSWRI, Avikanagar concentrated around assessing water quality of Rajasthan region, assessing physiological stress during water and feed scarcity and managing climatic stress in sheep through nutritional and shelter management strategies. Some of the significant achievements are i) poor water quality with respect to specific conductivity, chloride, magnesium, sodium, silica and total solids exceeding maximum permissible limits, ii) evaluated a vitamin-mineral supplement that successfully helped ewes to resist heat stress, iii) Malpura ewes showed capability to adapt and tolerate up to 40% water restriction during summer, but alternate day water restriction has more adverse effect iv) Feeding of prickly pear cactus [*Opuntia ficus indica* (L.) Mill.] could be a promising strategy to compensate water and feed scarcity during summer in arid and semi-arid regions v) indigenously developed bamboo-dome structure could be an economically viable option while thermocol-insulated shelter would be more useful for commercial sheep farmers for providing protection from cold stress to young lambs, vi) A double wall 'Yangya-type Shed' promises better protection from heat stress and offer opportunity for commercial lamb rearing resilient against summer production decline.

Continuing with the research activities, a 'Field Day' was organized on 24th March, 2014 at the Institute. Professor M.P. Yadav, Secretary, NAAS presided the meeting as Chief Guest. Two folders, one in Hindi and one in English "Monsoon herbage and weeds: Could be an answer to feed scarcity" were released in this occasion.

During the inaugural speech, Chief Guest expressed concern on depleting water, feed, fodder and other natural resources in ensuing climate change scenario. Director of the Institute Dr S.M.K. Naqvi affirmed greater concern on nutrition and shelter management strategies to resist any decline in overall production of small ruminants and ensuring net benefit to the farmers. Principal Investigator and Coordinator of the project Dr A. Sahoo emphasized on exploring feeds and feeding strategies based on promising locally available feed resources and newer sources. Scientists from CSWRI and RRC of IGFRI participated in the event and had detailed discussion on various topics of National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture.

8.10: LUVAS enters into Memorandum of Agreement with NRDC, New Delhi

Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS) entered into Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), New Delhi on 20.3.2014 for taking up its IPR related issues at national and international level for a period of ten years. An agreement to this effect was signed by Dr. Ravindra Sharma, Director of Research, LUVAS and Dr. Rajendra Dobhal, Chairman & Managing Director, NRDC, an enterprise of Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi. Stating this, Dr. Naresh Kumar Kakker, Sr. Scientist & Nodal Officer, Intellectual Property Rights Management & Commercialization Unit, LUVAS informed that as per agreement NRDC shall render all possible assistance to LUVAS in the filing of patent

applications (both in the country and abroad) and other IPR related issues. Further, both the organizations shall co-operate each other in the development of technologies, their demonstration, successful transfer to industry for entrepreneurship development, commercial exploitation & socio-economic benefits.

8.11: Vanbandhu Veterinary College Navsari Recognised

Dean Dr. Naresh Kelawala writes to inform that Vanbandhu College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Navsari Agriculture University, Navsari, has been recognised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, New Delhi, on recommendation of the statutory body i.e. Veterinary Council of India (VCI). Hence, he requested all past graduates to approach the Gujarat Veterinary Council, Gandhinagar, for registration. The Dean further states that the College was established under Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana and it was a matter of pride for all, including the State Government, especially its Tribal Development Department. This Milestone was achieved by the College only due to the whole hearted support of the University authorities and the Faculty.

8.12: Sheep Genome Decoded

Seventy three researchers from 26 institutions and 8 years of collaboration finally led to the first complete sequence of the sheep genome. The results were published in *Science* elucidating the sheep's unique and specialized digestive and metabolic systems. The researchers identified a gene (*LCE7A*) which represents a subfamily of the late cornified envelope (*LCE*) genes. The gene is expressed in the skin of sheep, cattle, and goat, but not in the rumen which is the first chamber of their complex stomach. They also discovered that *LCE7A* is expressed under positive selection in sheep. They believe that the expansion of this gene is associated with wool formation. Scientists from Beijing Genome Institute (BGI) also studied the pathway of MOGAT enzymes that might be important in wool production. They found that MOGAT2 and MOGAT3 have undergone tandem gene expression. Moreover, the enzymes were present in the sheep's skin, not in the liver where they are expressed in other species. Thus, the loss of MOGAT2 and MOGAT3 in the sheep liver may reduce the importance of the liver in metabolizing long chain fatty acids in ruminants when compared to non-ruminants. Read more at:

<http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1113164331/genome-sequence-of-sheep-complete-060614/>.

8.13: Kerala Veterinary University Offers Courses on One Health

Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU) is offering two technology enabled distant learning courses viz., “PG Certificate in One Health and PG Diploma in One Health”. Applications forms and prospectus can be downloaded at <http://application.kvasu.ac.in/> (Please see technology enabled distant learning programs). The flexible online learning environment enables the student to learn at times and locations that suit him/her the best.

“One Health” as you are aware is a perfect unifying concept that brings together human health care practitioners, veterinarians, agriculture personnel, environment scientists and general public under one umbrella. KVASU offers the courses under the newly established “Centre for One Health Education, Advocacy, Research and Training”. (For details contact: onehealthindia@gmail.com or prejit@kvasu.ac.in; or visit www.kvasu.ac.in (or link to <http://application.kvasu.ac.in/>)

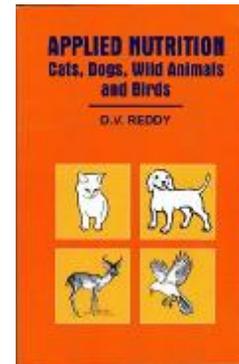
8.14: First metritis vaccine protects dairy cows

Written by Freya Smale on April 24, 2014 in R&D, Veterinary Vaccines

- See more at: <http://www.vaccination.org/2014/04/24/first-metritis-vaccine-protects-dairy-cows/#sthash.OLyj0XUL.dpuf>

8.15: Applied Nutrition Cats, Dogs, Wild Animal and Birds” by Dr. D.V. Reddy

According to a message posted by the author on his page on Facebook (Venkareddy Duvvuru, Professor & Head, Department of Animal Nutrition at Rajiv Gandhi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Puducherry-605009, INDIA) this textbook is released this year, 2014.



8.16: Direct evidence that MERS comes from camels: Study

Researchers said they have found the first direct evidence that the potentially deadly virus causing MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) jumps directly from camels to humans. **In a study which reinforces the case against camels as the prime suspects for transmitting the deadly virus, researchers said that in this case it was highly likely the animal’s nasal secretions were to blame. This was reported recently by Khaleej Times.** The virus has hit Saudi Arabia the hardest, killing 282 people out of 688 infected, according to the Saudi health ministry’s latest figures.

MERS has been found elsewhere in the Middle East and in Europe, Asia and North America, brought by travelers who were infected in Saudi Arabia. The latest findings in the New England Journal of Medicine are based on a 44-year-old Saudi man who kept a herd of nine camels and who died of MERS in November 2013. His friends said they witnessed him applying a topical medicine to the nose of one of his ill camels — four of them were reportedly sick with nasal discharge — seven days before he himself became stricken with MERS. Researchers sequenced the virus found in one of the sick camels and the virus that killed the man, and found that their genomes were identical. “These data suggest that this fatal case of human MERS-CoronaVirus infection was transmitted through close contact with an infected camel,” said the study led by Tariq Madani at the department of medicine, King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah. Previous research has suggested that the virus has been quite common in camels for at least the past 20 years, and was likely making the jump into humans. “Although others have shown that dromedary camels may be important reservoirs for MERS coronavirus, this paper from Azhar and colleagues provides the first unequivocal evidence of camel to human transmission of the virus,” said W. Ian Lipkin, director of the Center for infection and Immunity at Columbia University in New York. Mers is considered a deadlier but less transmissible cousin of the Sars virus that appeared in Asia in 2003 and infected 8,273 people, nine percent of whom died. ([facebook.com/khaleejtimes](https://www.facebook.com/khaleejtimes)),

9. SCIENCE, HEALTH & SOCIETY

(Disclaimer: All health related information and results stated in this Chapter are for information purposes only. The information is not specific medical advice for any individual. The content of this Chapter should not substitute medical advice from a health professional. If you have a health problem, speak to your doctor or a health professional immediately about your condition.)

9.1: Centre Urges the Supreme Court to Allow Field Trials of GM crops:

Soon after Environment and Forests Minister Veerappa Moily reversed his predecessor Jayanti Natarajan's stance and permitted field trials of genetically modified (GM) crops, the Centre Wednesday urged the Supreme Court to let them go ahead with it in the interest of India's science and economy. The latest affidavit filed by the Agriculture Ministry junked a majority opinion by the court-appointed Technical Expert Committee in July 2013 for an indefinite moratorium on field trials until the Centre had tightened its regulatory mechanism. The committee had favoured trials only for research purposes, preferably in greenhouse. The government called this as an 'unscientific approach' and claimed that although the existing regulatory mechanism was dependable, they were open to all ideas of strengthening it further. "As a result of continuous oversight, no confirmed adverse effect from research, field trials or commercialization of GM crops have come to light. Hence, it is reiterated that there is no basis to accept the recommendation to halt the confined field trials on the pretext of additions in the existing system," it said. The government further said that any delay or stoppage of GM crop field trials will be a 'blow to Indian Science' and consequently, Indian farmers and economy as a whole will be the 'biggest loser.' "Roadblocks in conduct of field trials would have a cascading effect of setting back all the related fields of research, which were thus far on the upswing. This will have several cascading implications, including the compulsion to import GM food," stated the affidavit, adding that the ambiguity in the matter since the first PIL was filed in 2004 had also discouraged young scientists and researchers. (Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi, 3 April 2014) (Editor NAVS adds: Pakistani Scientists also believe that criticism of GM crops is unscientific. For more details about GM crops see: <http://www.pakissan.com/biotech/gm.crops.criticism.unscientific.shtml>)

9.2: Pets can spread many zoonotic infections to their handlers: (TO EDIT)

Since antiquity, people have the liking of keeping many types of animals as their pets. The animal such as dog, cat, parrot, pigeon, canary, ferret, monkey, deer, turkey, tortoise, mice etc. are kept as pet by many persons in the world. These pet animals can be the potential source of zoonotic infections to their family members. Many zoonotic diseases such as herpes simiae, lymphocytic choriomeningitis, monkey pox, Newcastle disease, rabies, campylobacteriosis, psteurellosis, salmonellosis, shigellosis, tuberculosis, tularaemia, yersiniosis, chlamydiosis, aspergillosis, cryptococcosis, dermatophytosis, sporotrichosis, toxoplasmosis, ancylostomiasis, cutaneous larva migrans, echinococcosis, hymenolpiasis, visceral larva migrans, and scabies etc., are transmitted to their handlers/keepers by several routes of trnasmission. Some of the zoonoses cause life threatening infections particularly in immunocompromised hosts. The health education of the pet handlers about the source of infection, mode of transmission, severity of disease, personal hygiene, environmental sanitation and preventive measures are imperative in order to mitigate the risks posed by the zoonotic infections from their pets. **Source:** The book

entitled “**Zoonoses**” authored by Mahendra Pal,2007; Second edition, Satyam Publishers, Jaipur, India. Email Id of Prof.Mahendra Pal is : palmahendra2@gmail.com

9.3: Boost Your Brain Health and Memory

Honestly speaking. You don't feel as sharp as you did when you were younger. Sometimes you forget names or small things you were going to say or do. And you probably worry this is the beginning of something more serious. As a matter of fact, most of us, as we enter the fifth decade of our lives and onward, experience some loss of memory. As our body begins to lose a little function, our brain also does so. This is a normal process of nature. But just as we can improve our physical health, so can we boost our brain health. In fact, many people who have used the simple tricks in today's article feel sharper than they ever did.

Sleep – As simple as it might seem, sleep is the best medicine for treating brain fatigue and poor memory. Nothing refreshes the brain like good sleep. According to the journal Learning and Memory, it is more likely that you'll remember facts and information better if you have a restful sleep than if you sat cramming for hours.

Snack on nuts – Nuts of all kind are rich in magnesium that is necessary for establishing new connections in brain cells. Almonds and cashews in particular are very good sources. A handful of either of these nuts provides 25 percent of daily requirement of magnesium. Also, magnesium promotes restful sleep.

Mediterranean diet – Include fish, meat, olive oil and vinegar in your diet. The Mediterranean diet is known to lower the chances of damage to brain over age by up to 36 percent.

Blueberries – Blueberries are a rich source of the plant compound anthocyanin, which is essential for good brain health. Anthocyanins are helpful for fostering communication between neurons and delays memory loss.

Relaxation – Relaxation techniques like yoga, meditation, deep breathing and even a long walk is very helpful for memory, based on a study conducted by the University of Rochester.

Word games – They are not just useful for increasing your vocabulary but also to sharpen your brain skills and memory according to a study published in Neurology. Scrabble and crosswords are great and so is reading a book!

Managing your blood pressure and cholesterol level is important because, these conditions block the blood flow to your brain, slowing down your brain function. (Blue Heron Health News)

9.4: New and improved version of The Vegetarian Journal's Food Service Update

The Vegetarian Resource Group (VRG) has just released a new and improved version of The Vegetarian Journal's Food Service Update and made it available to the public online. This Food Service Update includes the “names and addresses of over 85 companies offering vegetarian food items in institutional sizes listed alphabetically and by subject.” This is undoubtedly an indispensable resource for food service providers who wish to include more vegetarian and/or vegan options for their patrons and for advocates of increased availability of vegetarian dishes everywhere! This guide includes basic foods like beans, breads and grains as well as specialty items such as faux meats and vegan cheeses. If you've ever wondered how to

make providing vegetarian/vegan options easier for food providers at your job, church, university, retirement community or hospital or your children's school, camp, or sports activity, this guide can provide them with resources that are going to make this change seem like a realistic and mutually beneficial one! (VRG Blog Posted: 16 Apr 2014 01:42 PM PDT)

The Vegetarian Journal's Food Service Update can be found both in HTML and PDF format at <http://www.vrg.org/fsupdate/FSUProducts2014.php>

9.5: Nobel Prize-Winning Pro-Homeopathy Author Passes Away

Gabriel García Márquez (1927-2014) was a Colombian novelist and journalist who won the 1982 Nobel Prize in Literature...and he passed away on 17th April 2014. Below is an excerpt from book, "The Homeopathic Revolution: Why Famous People & Cultural Heroes Choose Homeopathy."

Gabriel Garcia Marquez was considered one of the greatest South American writers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Perhaps the most well-known of his many novels is **One Hundred Years of Solitude**. Many of his writings are drawn from his own life. Because his father was trained as a medical doctor and a pharmacist who practiced homeopathy, this medical subject has been a part of several of his novels and short stories. In **Love in a Time of Cholera**, the godfather of the novel's protagonist is a homeopathic doctor, and ironically, the protagonist is fighting for the affections of a woman who is married to a conventional physician. Also, in an autobiographical short story called "Serenade: How My Father Won My Mother," published in the New Yorker (February 19, 2001), Garcia Márquez wrote: "Over the course of the year, Gabriel Eligio gave up his worthy profession of telegraph operator and devoted his talent as an autodidact to a science on the decline: homeopathy." In his most recent novel, **Living to Tell the Tale** (2003), Garcia Márquez chose to incorporate elements of his own life with some fictional twists. His heroine, a much-loved mother, is a "lioness" who fights a long battle with her family to marry a violin-playing telegraph clerk. Then, struggling in poverty when her husband abandons her and her eleven children, she seeks to make a better life for her family by making a living as a homeopathic pharmacist.

9.6: New Genetic Cause of High Blood Pressure Discovered

It has been debated for a long time whether high blood pressure is more often caused by genetics or lifestyle variations. But researchers generally agree that both factors play a vital role in this dangerous disease. And researching genetic causes helps us identify which lifestyle changes each person will benefit from. After all, we're all different, right?

Researchers from The Queen Mary University of London have now identified 11 new genetic sequences that will not only help catch the sneaky disease earlier, but also be a real breakthrough in treating it more effectively and choosing the lifestyle changes that fit best. The large study was conducted by examining the DNA of 87,736 people of European origin. The researchers were looking at genetic variants associated with blood pressure characteristics. A further examination of 68,368 individuals led to a discovery of 11 new genetic variants. Ten out of the eleven genetic systems are very closely related to the genetic proteins that are responsible for blood pressure regulation. Some of the drugs that target these blood pressure regulation

proteins are already on the market today and some are currently being developed. According to researchers, this newly identified genetic information will play a vital role in understanding how the body regulates blood pressure. They believe that further research will lead to discovery of more effective treatments to tackle high blood pressure and heart disease.

The problem, however, with genetic research is that people tend to believe they're prisoners of their genes and the only way to save them is to take genetic treatment drugs. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Our genes are nothing but blueprints. For example, a person who genetically tends to get overweight when they eat high carbohydrate diet, can change the trend by replacing pasta with protein and vegetables. In the same way, if you're genetically predisposed to have high blood pressure that will rarely account for more than a few points rise. And you can always bring it down using lifestyle changes like healthy diet and exercises.

9.7: A Dog to Remember



A brave golden Labrador named Zanjeer saved thousands of lives. The heroic canine detected more than 3,329 kgs of explosive RDX, 600 detonators, 249 hand grenades, and 6,406 rounds of live ammunition. Zanjeer, a treasured member of the Mumbai Police Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad, also helped avert other potential explosions by detecting three more bombs in the days following the initial blasts. In November 2000, Zanjeer died of bone cancer at the age of eight years. Zanjeer was buried with full honors. This brave dog is missed but will never be forgotten.

10. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Calendar of Conferences, Conventions and Symposia in India and abroad
Get your event listed in this section by mailing complete details to the Editor: rnkohli@gmail.com

10.1: XXVIII World Buiatrics Congress, July 27 to August 1, 2014, Cairns, Australia

The *Australian Cattle Veterinarians* had invited us to attend the XXVIII World Buiatrics Congress, to be held in Cairns Australia. The deadline for abstract submissions for oral or poster presentation on any ruminant subject was 31st March 2014. They have over 50 keynote presentations already organized, and are expecting over 300 oral and poster presentations. Cairns is a popular Australian tourist destination located between the Great Barrier Reef and the rainforest. Details of some tours being organized can be seen on their [web site](#). Cairns has an international airport with easy connecting flights from Brisbane, Sydney or Melbourne. Accommodation is available through the web site, and is mostly within easy walking distance of the convention venue.

(Source: <http://www.ivis.org/newsletter/archives/mar14/mar1214wbc-en.htm>).

10.2: 9th Biennial Conference of the Association for Applied Animal Andrology and 12th International Symposium on Spermatology Aug. 8- 10 and Aug. 10-14, 2014 - Newcastle, Australia

In August 2014 there will be an ANDROFEST to be held in scenic Newcastle NSW, Australia combining **The 9th Biennial Conference of AAAA** on Aug. 8-10, 2014 and **The 12th International Symposium on Spermatology** on Aug. 10-14, 2014. This is an extremely prestigious meeting, which is held once every 4 years and has now been running for almost half a century in different international locations. It brings together the global community of scientists conducting research on the cell biology of spermatozoa and fertilization to share new knowledge and understanding in this rapidly developing field. Since the opening Symposium in 1969, this conference has been held in Sweden, USA, France, Japan (2x), Italy (2x), Australia, Canada, South Africa and Spain. It is now Australia's turn again and we are proud to be hosting this conference in Newcastle. (Details: <http://www.ivis.org/newsletter/archives/apr14/apr2914aaaa.htm>)

10.3: International Conference on Asian Food Security, August 21–22 2014, Singapore

The International Conference on Asian Food Security (ICAFS 2014) will be held on 21–22 August 2014 in Singapore. ICAFS 2014 will be a key forum to meet and discuss the many issues and drivers of food security. ICAFS 2014 is targeted at those with leadership responsibilities who want to understand and address the challenges affecting the Asian agri-food landscape. It will be especially useful for government leaders, agri-food industry experts, civil societies and NGOs, members of academia, and representatives of investment entities. For more information visit <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/nts/article.asp?id=266&prev=Event&pyear=Upcoming>.

10.4: Animal Dairytech Asia 2014 3-5 September 2014, Gandhinagar, Gujrat

An international exhibition and conference on Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Dairy and Poultry, Veterinary and Packaging Industry is being organized by state of Gujrat. For details log on to: <http://agritechasia.com>

10.5: 39th World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress (WSAVA 2014):
16 Sep 2014 to 19 Sep 2014, Cape Town, South Africa

The WSAVA 2014 Congress is the world's largest congress for small animal veterinary professionals. It will gather over 3000 veterinarians, vet nurses and animal technicians specializing in small/companion animals and offers an advanced scientific programme with a leading international faculty. This companion animal veterinary congress provides 3,000 + colleagues to share your experience with, 4 days of Scientific Program, 80 + speakers, 150 + Scientific Sessions, 4 WSAVA Prize Lectures, over 20 Practical's (Workshops) and unforgettable Pre and Post Congress Tours. Experience the majestic splendor of South Africa's wildlife, culture and tradition whilst enhancing your professional veterinary network and knowledge. Advance Plan your Great African Vet Adventure. At the 39th World Small Animal Association Congress, WSAVA 2014 congress, in Cape Town you will enjoy three days of educational opportunities presented by the most renowned speakers and names in the companion animal veterinary field. For more information on the congress visit: www.wsava2014.com

10.6: Seminar on Advanced Veterinary Orthopedics: 20 and 21 Sept 2014, Goa

The veterinary orthopedic foundation is holding Hand on and Seminar on Advanced Veterinary Orthopedics in Goa on 20 and 21 September 2014. Contact drhatekar@gmail.com

10.7: The 2nd Cancer Vaccines & Gene Therapy Meeting: **October 6th & 7th 2014**
in the Philadelphia suburb of Malvern, PA. Email: [<baxter@naturegenetherapy.com>](mailto:baxter@naturegenetherapy.com); Or
jpoley@ngtcancervaccines.com ; Or Call +1.484.707.3333

10.8: Silver Jubilee Convention of Indian Society of Animal Production and Management; **9 October 2014 at Vanbandhu College of Veterinary Sci. & Animal Husbandry, Navsari, Gujrat**

Silver Jubilee Convention of Indian Society of Animal Production and Management and National Seminar on "Revisiting Management Policies and Practices for Indigenous Livestock & Poultry Breeds as Eco-Friendly Economic Producers" will be held on 9 October 2014 at Vanbandhu College of Veterinary Sci. & Animal Husbandry, Navsari, Gujrat

10.9: XXXVIII Annual Congress of Indian Society for Veterinary Surgery
15th to 17th October 2014, Bikaner, Rajasthan

XXXVIII Annual Congress of Indian Society for Veterinary Surgery and International Symposium on New Horizons of Camel Surgery and Large Ruminant Surgery on 15th to 17th October 2014, being organized by Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, College of Veterinary Science, Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Bikaner, Rajasthan. For details log on to: www.isvs2014bikaner.com.

10.10: The World Congress on Controversies, Debates & Consensus in Veterinary Medicine (CoVet); **Prague, Czech Republic - October 23-26, 2014**

Contact for details: Congress Med Ltd. 5 Druyanov Street, Klal Building/ Floor 19, Tel Aviv 6314305, Israel. Tel. +972 73 706 6950; Fax. +972 3 725 6266;
<http://www.congressmed.com/covet/index.php/contact>; E-mail: covet@congressmed.com

10.11: AVMA schedules animal welfare symposium; November 2 to 5, 2014
Rosemont, Illinois

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is planning and calling for abstract submissions for its Animal Welfare Symposium 2014, titled “Humane Endings - In Search of Best Practices for Euthanasia, Humane Slaughter and the Depopulation of Animals.” The symposium will take place on November 2 to 5, 2014, at the Westin O'Hare, Rosemont, Illinois. This symposium will take a comprehensive look at existing best practices for euthanasia, humane slaughter and depopulation across animal species, while exploring research and innovation in the name of continuous improvement. A by-invitation half-day workshop focused on international harmonization of recommendations will follow the 2.5-day event. The AVMA invites submission of abstracts for review for presentations and posters to be delivered at the symposium. Abstracts should clearly relate to euthanasia, humane slaughter or depopulation, or the harmonization of voluntary guidance and regulations for these activities. Examples of submissions of interest include recent research findings; reviews of research in a defined area; discussions of voluntary or regulatory oversight; and efforts or methods for harmonizing recommendations, nationally and internationally. Registration for the symposium will open on August 15, 2014. More information, submission instructions and registration are available [online from AVMA](#).

10.12: Winter school on “Advanced Concepts and Techniques to Augment Reproduction in Livestock” 12th November, 2014 to 2nd December, 2014, Bangalore

National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bengaluru, is organizing an ICAR Sponsored 21 day Winter School on “Advanced Concepts and Techniques to Augment Reproduction in Livestock” for the benefit of staff working in Veterinary Colleges, ICAR institutes, KVKs etc. from 12th November, 2014 to 2nd December, 2014. For detailed information please contact the Course Director: Dr. P.S.P. Gupta, Principal Scientist, NIANP, Bengaluru (Email ID: pspgupta@hotmail.com)

10.13: National Congress on Veterinary Public Health 24 and 25 November 2014, New Delhi

National Congress on Veterinary Public Health, XI Conference of Association of Public Health Veterinarians and National Symposium on “Food Security & Public Health: Present Status and Future Road Map” on 24 and 25 November 2014, at NASC, Dev Prasad Shastri Marg, New Delhi - 110012. For details contact: Prof. Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Convener, NCVH, 19/51, Sector-19, Indira Nagar, Lucknow - 226016, U.P. (aphvconf.2014@gmail.com)

10.14: International Symposium on Animal reproduction, 4-5 December 2014, TANUVAS, Chennai

An International Symposium on “Current Challenges and Translational Research to Augment Animal Reproduction” will be jointly organized by the Department of Animal Reproduction, TANUVAS, Chennai, Washington State University and Michigan State University (USA) on 4th & 5th December 2014.

For submission of abstracts and more information visit the website: www.tanuvas.tn.nic.in. The abstracts should be submitted on line at iconfargo2014@gmail.com.

10.15: Indian Livestock Industry Fair, 10-14 December 2014, Pune

Organized by Kisan forum Pvt. Ltd. Concurrent with KISAN: India's Largest Agri Show.
Details: team@pashudhan.com

10.16: 12th Agricultural Science Congress, 3-6 February , 2015. NDRI, Karnal

National Academy of Agricultural Science (NAAS) is organizing the **12th Agricultural Science Congress** to be held at **National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal from Feb 3-6, 2015**. The Congress is supported by **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. For further details please visit: <http://agricongress2015.in/>; Email: prabal.mmactiv@gmail.com; Mob: +91-9811974270

10.17: World Veterinary Vaccines Conference 2015: 7-9 April 2015; Walter E. Convention Center, Washinton D.C.;

Contact: Terrapinn Ltd, Wren House, 43 Hatton Garden, London, EC1N 8EL Tel: +44 (0)20 7092 1000; Fax: +44 (0)20 7242 1508; enquiry.uk@terrapinn.com

**Get your event listed in this section by mailing complete details to the
Editor: rnkohli@gmail.com**

**Our body is full of water but wherever it hurts, blood comes out;
our heart is full of Blood but whenever it hurts, TEARS come out.**

THE NAVS NEWSLETTER is compiled, edited and circulated by the NAVS Editor Prof. Dr. R.N. Kohli, for and on behalf of the NATIONAL ACADEMY OF VETERINARY SCIENCES (INDIA). It is for private circulation only. All correspondence regarding the Newsletter may kindly be addressed to the Editor (rnkohli@gmail.com).