

Dairy Hub Training Booklets

Titles

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| 1) Importance of Water | 9) Breeding |
| 2) Fodder | 10) Calf Rearing |
| 3) Wheat Straw Enrichment | 11) Diseases and Health |
| 4) Silage (Fodder Pickle) | 12) Mastitis |
| 5) Hay Making | 13) De - Worming |
| 6) Balanced Ration | 14) Mechanized Dairy Farming |
| 7) Dairy Farming as an Enterprise/Business | 15) Vaccination |
| 8) Heat Stress | |

Hay Making

“A Solution for Green Fodder Shortage”



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Dairy Hub is a Community Dairy Development Programme, which has been initiated for the development of small farmers. The aim of this programme is to keep farmers informed about modern ways of dairy farming, to provide practical help for improving their skills and to increase production of their animals. This programme will increase not only the average production of animals but also the income of farmers, and thus decrease considerably the rate of poverty in rural areas. This booklet is a part of this programme.



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Feedback

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Yours truly,

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What is hay?

Reduce the moisture content of green fodder to 10% or lower:

As it is evident from its name, "hay or dried fodder" means drying the green fodder so much that the moisture percentage decreases to 10% or to a lower level.

After drying if it is stored properly, fungi does not grow and its nutritional value is also not affected, infact its nutritious contents are preserved.

Hay is prepared from grasses of different kinds and crops like barley, oats, alfalfa and barseem. In our country, alfalfa and barseem are abundantly available during winter season. The farmers, with a little planning, can make hay of the excessive fodder which can be easily used, when needed.



Hay Making:

The following points must be kept in view during hay making:

1. The weather must be dry; there should be no chance of rain and dew.
2. Keep in view the maturity of the crop; the crop should be neither of the start nor the end of the harvest.
3. Alfalfa and barseem should be harvested at the start of blooming stage, which means 10% blossoming in the crop.
4. Harvest the fodder and arrange it in rows.
5. Nutrients are more in the leaves than in the stems. Leaves dry more quickly than the stems during the drying process. Shedding of leaves occurs when they are dried in a very hot season, thus causing the loss of nutritious value of the fodder. So, do not leave the harvested crops in the sun for a long time; otherwise, both the leaves and the stem turn into bales.
6. If there is high moisture in the harvested field then spread the fodder on a clean and dry field.
7. The fodder dries in 2-3 days during the summer season and in 5-6 days in the winter season.
8. If the process of drying the fodder is done carefully and without delay, the possibility of the loss of any sort would be the minimum.
9. The moisture in the hay should be 10-12 percent.



Storage of hay:

After preparing the hay, store it in the form of bales in a shady and well-ventilated place. Earlier bales of the hay were prepared with hand, but now bales of different sizes are made with the help of machines in developed countries, and it is easy to protect these bales from water and rain.



Feeding Hay:

The prepared hay can be fed immediately. It can also be mixed with green fodder. For an adult animal, according to weight, 10-15 kilograms of hay can be fed daily.

Precautions during hay making:

- During hay making rain can deteriorate its quality; therefore, hay should be prepared when the weather is favourable.
- Keep in view the intensity of the weather because the nutritious value of the hay is lost if it is prepared during a very cold or a very hot weather.
- The place where hay is stored should be neat, clean and dry because the risk of fungal growth is higher if it is stored in a damp place.
- Store the heaps or bales of the hay in a shady, open and well-ventilated place and protect it from rainwater.
- In many countries, artificial temperature and fans are used to make hay.



Advantages of Hay:

- Unlike fallen crops, hay is a fungus-free fodder because crops are usually raked during the process of preparing the hay, so that air should pass through the fodder and it should dry equally.
- The hay-making process reduces the harmful effects of pesticides sprayed on green fodder.
- Fodder full of nutrition is available the whole year round.
- The availability of fodder/hay for the whole year makes the farmer tension-free and mentally comfortable.

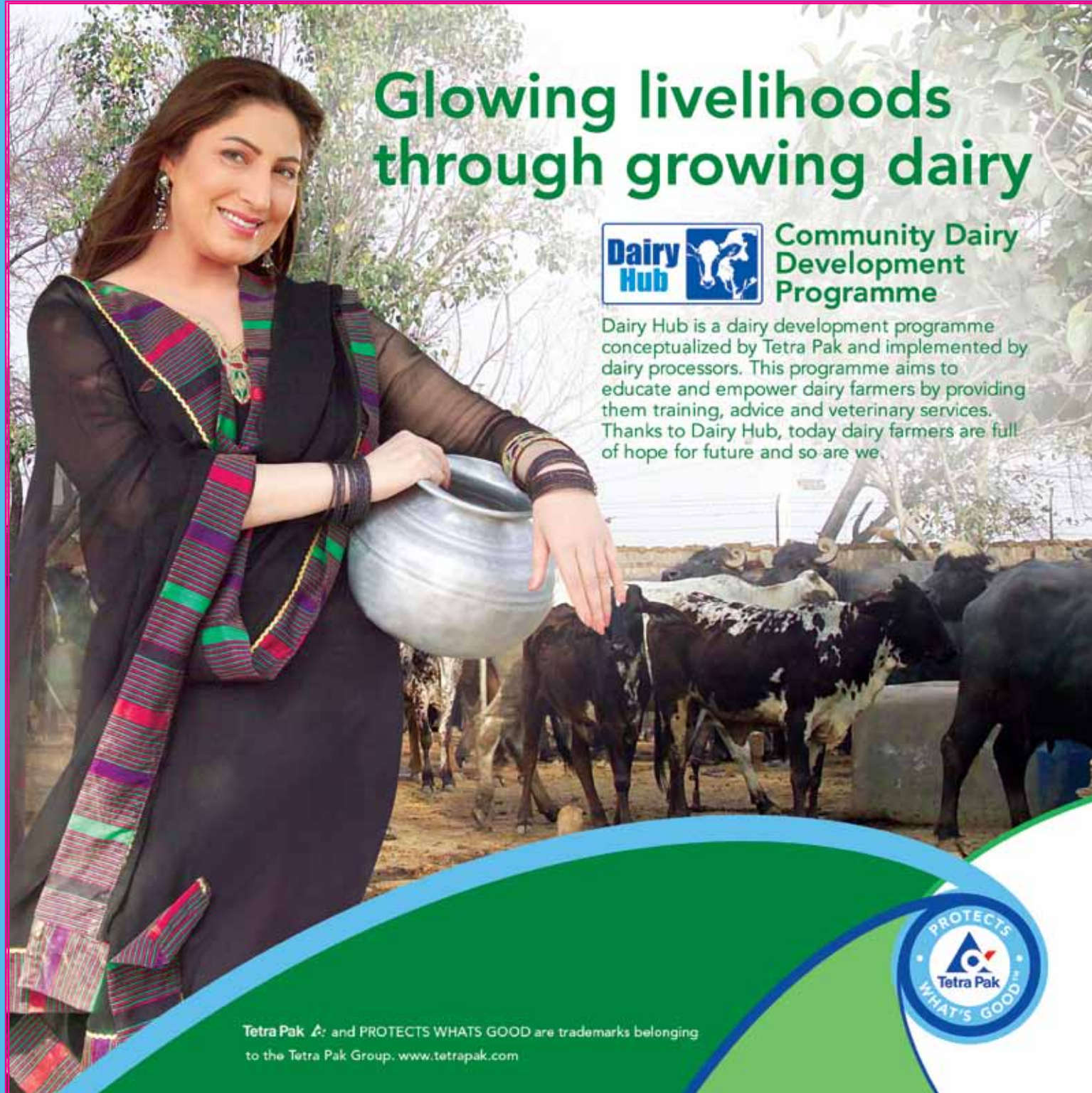


Glowing livelihoods through growing dairy



Community Dairy Development Programme

Dairy Hub is a dairy development programme conceptualized by Tetra Pak and implemented by dairy processors. This programme aims to educate and empower dairy farmers by providing them training, advice and veterinary services. Thanks to Dairy Hub, today dairy farmers are full of hope for future and so are we.



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Dairy Hub is an important step by Tetra Pak towards the well-being of dairy-farmers. It will certainly open new vistas of progress for dairy farmers. I congratulate Tetra Pak on the opening of a new era for the prosperity of dairy farmers. All these training booklets are a part of this developmental programme and they have been written specially for the help and guidance of dairy farmers.

Based on various topics, these training booklets contain important pieces of information and suggestions which will help the farmers in better rearing of their animals, protecting them from different diseases and to increase their milk production.

I do hope that this effort by Tetra Pak will be useful for the prosperity of the farmers and help them solve their problems regarding health of their animals.

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