

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

CLASS: S S 3

WEEK: 4

TOPIC: PRINCIPAL OF ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT

#### MEANING OF DISEASE

Disease is a deviation or departure from the normal state of health of an animal presenting visible signs inwardly or outwardly. Or disease is an illness affecting humans, animals and plants which are often caused by infections. Animal's disease is generally caused by;

1. Microorganisms like bacteria, viruses and protozoans etc.
2. Parasitic organisms (external and internal parasite).
3. Nutritional deficiencies or malnutrition.

A disease may be contagious in nature. A contagious disease is transmitted by contact between sick and healthy animals. Infectious disease is spread from the sick to the healthy without direct contact.

#### CAUSES OF LIVESTOCK DISEASES

The following are the major factors that predispose animals to disease;

1. Health status of animal
2. Nutrition
3. Management
4. Injury
5. poison
6. Living organism or pathogen.

#### HEALTH STATUS OF ANIMALS

The health condition of farm animals should be monitored on a regular basis so as to prevent the animals from diseases. Irregular checking of animals' health status will expose farm animals to serious disease that might cause their death.

#### NUTRITION

Feeding is a factor which has a great effect on the health of farm animals. Poor feeding method have negative effects on animals. Too little feeding will lead to loss in production and in several cases may lead to malnutrition and death from starvation.

#### INJURY

Injury is a harm done to animals' body. Injury can be a source or cause of disease, if an animal get injured in a way that it cannot function properly, it will have adverse effects on its health status.

## POISONS

Poison cause chemical processes to occur inside the animals and this leads to degeneration and death of body cells. There are two types of poisons. The first type is those that are present in plants eaten animals some weeds which grow in pasture can be a problem. The second type of poison are those which are chemicals (e.g. pesticides) which contaminates the animals feed by accident.

## LIVING ORGANISMS

This is the commonest cause of ill-health in animal. The organisms involved are; microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, viruses and protozoa. Parasites such as worms, tick, lice etc. Animals should be prevented from bacteria and fungi in order to maintain their good health status.

## REACTION OF ANIMALS TO DISEASES

This entails farm animal's susceptibility and resistance to diseases. The following factors are what make animals susceptible and resistant to diseases.

1. Age
2. Nutrition
3. Environment
4. Stress
5. Genetic background

## AGE

Individual animal's within a specie can show different susceptibility or resistance to pathogen when compared to others .the age of individual animals can have an overall effect on disease resistance e.g. the young and the old being more variety of disease causing organisms.

## NUTRITION

Poor nutrition is another factor that can suppress the immune system. Animals that lack some essential nutrients such as protein and other vitamins have low immune resistance to diseases. Animals with poor nutrition have less resistance to diseases.

## ENVIRONMENT

Environmental factor is a serious factor in rearing of farm animals.

## STRESS

Stress is a form of extreme exertion and the animals that undergo stress will have low immune resistance to disease.

## GENETIC BACKGROUND

The difference in genetic background of animals can also have influence on susceptibility. an animal that has a good genetic background has high resistance.