

Purulent Vaginal Discharge in cattle: How to Reduce its Occurrence and Improve Farm Economics

What it is: Vaginal discharges in your heifer/cow may be occasionally seen at any point of time. This may not always be pathological (as in the case of discharge during heat) and rather indicates some kind of disorder inside the genital tract. Vaginal discharges may be of different types and some are indicative of different disease conditions of the female genital tract.



A cow showing Purulent Vaginal Discharge

How it affects your farm:

If pathological type of discharge, it will always cause some financial loss by making you to spend money on treatment and medication of the disorder. The extent of your financial loss may depend on the causative factor.

- In case of infection in the reproductive tract, you will have to bear the expenses on treatment and medication;
- In case of repeat breeders, the cost will even be more. Here, in spite of making expenses on treatment and medication, you will have to bear extra expenses during the unproductive period through incurring cost on feeding, labour, management, etc.;
- You will waste your valuable time which otherwise could have been invested in other productive work;
- If you inseminate your heifer/ cow when the discharge is clear and watery, it may repeat because of insemination done in early heat;

What may cause Vaginal discharges:

- Transparent and moderately viscous extending to ground without breach-indicates the cow may be in heat. To confirm by correlating with other symptoms;
- Transparent and watery- indicates the cow is in early heat. To confirm by correlating with other symptoms;
- Transparent and viscous, cuts off in the midway- indicates the cow is in late heat. To confirm by correlating with other symptoms;
- Profuse watery- indicates mucometra;
- Cloudy and with variable degree of consistency- indicates infection in the reproductive tract;
- White or whitish-yellow mucopurulent vaginal discharge (comes out when a diseased cow sits down) - indicates severe endometritis;
- Transparent and viscous discharge in late pregnancy- indicates calving is nearing. To confirm by correlating with other symptoms;
- Frequent and copious vaginal discharge than normal, opaque or whitish-grey in colour- indicates cyst in the ovary;
- Bloody –indicates acute and severe endometritis

The “Dos” and “Don’ts” to reduce the occurrence of Vaginal discharges:

Dos	Don’ts
Isolate the cow if possible, or if there is not sufficient space in the cow-shed, keep the cow with discharges a little bit away from the others;	Do not touch the discharge with bare hands;
Disinfect the floor with a good disinfectant like phenyl, pot, permanganate solution, etc.;	Never consider that the cow is in heat and will never go for natural service or AI.
Consult with the nearby veterinarian.	Do not ignore the problem nor treat the animal of your own