

Standard Operation Procedures for Cattle Grazing and Dagana Dzongkhag

Objective

- To ensure the availability of roughage through proper grazing during the lockdown
- To ensure best protocol on grazing and herding during the COVID-19 lockdown for the herders

1. Procedures for Stall Feeding in Peri-Urban Areas during the Lock Down

- i. Animals shall be well stall fed or tethered in peri-urban areas during the lock down
- ii. The attendant shall follow cut and carry system during the lock down
- iii. The attendant is not allowed to enter other geog areas to harvest roughage for stall feeding
- iv. The animals left freely in the urban areas will be dealt as per the rules and regulations
- v. Outsiders are not allowed to enter into the cattle shed for any reasons
- vi. The welfare of the animals has to be considered by providing enough water, feed, bedding and other required essentials during this lock down.

2. Procedures for herding and grazing in the village during the lock down

- i) The owner shall graze their animals in their identified grazing land (Pasture land, Fallow land and Crop harvested field).
- ii) Animals shall be allowed to mix in the common grazing pasture, but herders shall strictly follow the COVID- 19 safety protocols.
- iii) The herder shall remain with the cattle throughout the day and return with their animals at the end of the day.
- iv) The herders shall ensure that the cattle don't enter into other Gewogs' grazing areas.
- v) No household shall be allowed to keep their scrub bulls and other unwanted animals in the forest.
- vi) During the lockdown, no migratory movement shall be allowed for grazing across other Gewog and international border unless special permit is obtained from the Incident Commander/Department of Livestock.
- vii) Herders shall follow basic safety protocols like wearing mask and maintaining physical distance while herding cattle with other herders.
- viii) The Gewog Tshogpa shall strictly monitor the cattle herding and migration in the Gewog.
- ix) In case of essential/emergency service related to animal health is required; Livestock Sector shall provide necessary services