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RESEARCH PAPER

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Effect of stage of lactation on pre and post milking udder, teat and milk vein characteristics in gaolao cattle

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ABSTRACT

An experiment was conded to estimate the pre- and post- udder characteristics like udder length, udder width, udder depth, teat characters like length. The animals were selected on the basis of lactation number and stage of lactation. Lactation A includes animals 1 to 3 lactation and lactation B animal includes above 3 lactation numbers. Animals were divided in to three stages according to stage of lactation as early lactating, mid lactating and late lactating as up to 90 days (S_1), from 91 to 180 days (S_2) and above 181 days (S_3) respectively. It was observed that, the highest udder length (35.250 cm) was recorded in early stage (S_1) which gradually declined to 33.670 cm in S_2 and 32.475 in S_3 stage. Thus the result indicated that udder measurements would decrease with the advancement of lactation

KEY WORDS : Lactation, Teat, Udder, Gaolao.

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INTRODUCTION

Indian cattle breeds are described on the basis of colour, shape, body size, horn but very little information is available on udder characteristics. In India systematic data on type and confirmation on teat and udder is not available for different breeds. Stage of lactation is one of the most effective factors which is responsible for production traits of the milking animals.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sixty animals were selected at Government Cattle Breeding Form, Hitikundi, Dist. Wardha, on the basis of lactation number and stage of lactation. Lactation A included animals 1 to 3 lactation and lactation B animal included above 3 lactation numbers. Animals were divided in to three stages according to stage of lactation as early lactating, mid lactating and late lactating as up to 90 days, from 91 to 180 days and above 181 days, respectively.

Udder measurements was taken as per Saxena (1973 a and b). Udder length was measured with a cloth tape from rear attachment of the udder to front of udder along with sole, where fore udder blends smoothly with the body. Udder width was measured with a cloth tape as a distance between two lateral lines of attachment of the udder to the abdominal wall beneath the flank. The udder depth was obtained by taking difference of distance from barn floor to the base of udder and distance from barn floor to the lowest point of udder where teats are attached. Teat length was measured from its basal attachment to opening of teat. Teat diameter was measured at mid point of teat by vernier caliper. Teat distance between front rear and lateral was taken from base of one teat to base of another teat. The milk vein length was taken from udder where it is attached to the heart region till it is prominent and milk vein diameter was measured with help of vernier caliper.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From Table 1 it is clear that udder measurements were significantly influenced by stage of lactation. The highest udder length (35.250 cm) was recorded in early stage (S_1) which gradually declined to 33.670 cm in S_2 and 32.475 in S_3 stage. Similar trend was noticed in a