Field level farm practices for calf rearing by dairy farmers in Palus tahsil of Sangli district of Maharashtra state (India)

P.V. PATIL AND M.K. PATIL

ABSTRACT: The present study was carried out in 10 selected villages of Palus tahsil of Sangli district of Maharashtra state. A total of 100 farmers were selected for this study. Out of which 50 farmers owning less than 5 numbers of farm animals and 50 farmers owning more than 5 farm animals were selected for the present study by using proportionate random sampling method. Data were collected through personal interview schedule. Data were analyzed employing simple statistical techniques. It was observed that there was lack of adequate scientific knowledge in overall all calf rearing managerial practices, only few of the farmers were adopted scientific managerial practices. It is concluded that effective calf rearing programme definitely makes dairy farming more profitable, but there is need of percolation of scientific knowledge and package of practices regarding calf rearing upto farmers doorstep for further development of dairy farming.

KEY WORDS: Dairy farmers, Field level, Calf rearing

of milk to cow calves and 1-2 liters milk/day to buffalo calves. Regarding period of milk feeding 90 per cent farmers have sufficient knowledge, also practiced milk feeding to calves upto 3-6 months of age. Only 7 per cent respondents had knowledge regarding feeding of milk replacer/calf starter to calves and also adopted the same practice. 93 per cent respondents not practiced/adopted calf starter feeding to calves. 56 per cent respondents adopted weaning practice for cow calves and 44 per cent respondents not adopted weaning practice, adopted suckling practice (Vasseur et al., 2010). Regarding weaning of buffalo calves no one respondents adopted weaning practice.

The deworming of calves was practiced by 76 per cent of farmers, 24 per cent farmers not practiced the deworming at all. Only 29 per cent farmers maintained record regarding vaccination, deworming, body weight gain in calves, 71 per cent farmers not maintained any type of record.

Regarding calf mortality, 97 per cent respondents were suffered with calf mortality problem. 3 per cent respondents had not noted single calf mortality. Calf mortality was observed more in buffalo calves than cow calves, it may be due to insufficient feeding of milk to buffalo calves, not adopting the calf starter feeding practice and more worm infestation in buffalo calves. Similar observations were reported by Tiwari et al., 2007. 85 per cent respondents had not sufficient or no knowledge regarding reasons of calf mortality.

99 per cent respondents had knowledge regarding age of puberty and age of pregnancy.

Only 17 per cent respondents knows the importance/need of calf rearing in profitable dairy farming, 83 per cent respondents were unaware of importance/need of calf rearing.

It is concluded that effective calf rearing programme definitely makes dairy farming more profitable, but there is need of percolation of scientific knowledge and package of practices regarding calf rearing upto farmers doorstep for further development of dairy farming.

LITERATURE CITED


WEBLIOGRAPHY

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