



The Study on Days Open and Some Reproductive Variables in Traditional Dairy Farms in Miandoab, West Azerbaijan Province, Iran

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: Traditional dairy farms produce low milk. Reproductive performance is very important for their economic viability. "Days open" is one of the reproductive performance measures, including the time between parturition and the next conception of a dairy cow.

OBJECTIVES: This study aims to investigate days open and some reproductive characteristics, and examine the effect of these characteristics on days open in traditional dairy farms.

METHODS: In this study, a questionnaire was used to collect data from 870 dairy cows belonging to 363 traditional dairy farms. This research was carried out in Miandoab County, in West Azerbaijan province, Iran. To determine the effects of ovarian cyst, dystocia, abortion, and parity of dam on days open, the multiple linear regression analysis in SPSS software was used.

RESULTS: In the cows, the mean days open in the last calving was 132.28 days, and the mean insemination for each pregnancy was 2.27 inseminations. Prevalence of dystocia, abortion, and ovarian cysts was 78%, 1.26%, and 1.95%, respectively. The results of Cox regression showed that parity, abortion, ovarian cysts, and dystocia significantly increased days open. The dystocia in the cows was prevalent mostly due to unknown causes and the owner's hasty intervention during the natural parturition process.

CONCLUSIONS: Dystocia, parity, abortion, and ovarian cysts have a significant effect on days open in traditional dairy farms. By training livestock farm workers on issues related to the reproductive management of dairy cows and their parturition period, we can expect an improvement in the reproductive performance of traditional dairy farms.

Keywords: Calving interval, Days open, Dystocia, Fertility, Traditional farms

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Figure Legends and Table Captions

Table 1. Definitions of the study variables in traditional dairy farms.

Table 2. The values of the study variables in traditional dairy farms at last calving.

Table 3. Regression coefficients for the effects of different study variables on open days (Cox regression model).

Figure 1. The causes of dystocia in traditional dairy farms.

Figure 2. The percentage of the presence of veterinarians for treating dystocia cases in traditional dairy farms.