



E-ISSN: 2320-7078

P-ISSN: 2349-6800

www.entomoljournal.com

JEZS 2020; 8(2): 144-145

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Received: 19-01-2020

Accepted: 21-02-2020

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Health management practices of dairy cows in Villupuram district of Tamilnadu

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Abstract

The present study is related to health management practices of dairy cows in Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu. All the dairy farmers have awareness on detection of health and 80 per cent of the dairy farmers have awareness of disease management and 85.5 per cent of the dairy farmers have the facility of veterinary hospital availability and services and in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu dairy farmers following only vaccination against FMD and regular intervals of 6 months.

Keywords: Health management, dairy farmers, Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu

Introduction

Supervising livestock health practices followed by the farmers particularly in rural area is crucial to identify the basic hurdles of the animal rearing system and to work out appropriate intervention like deworming, vaccination, timely treatments, cleaning of shed and bathing of animals to ensure proper health of animals that promotes their productivity Rathore (2010) [2]. The present study was undertaken to gather information regarding existing health management practices in dairy animal husbandry and problems faced by dairy farmers in Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu,

Materials and Methods

Pilot study

The semi-structured interview schedule was designed to obtain data on the various parameters of the study. It was pre-tested among 20 dairy cattle owners. Based on the pilot study, some questions were modified, some deleted and some added.

The pilot study also gave an idea on the time taken to interview each respondent.

Awareness knowledge on detection of ill health: It refers to the farmer's knowledge on detection of ill health.

Awareness on disease management: It refers to the farmer's knowledge on disease management.

Vaccination details: it refers to dairy farmers following vaccination (against which disease/month of vaccination/ intervals between vaccinations).

Deworming details: it refers to dairy farmers following deworming (against month of deworming/ intervals between deworming).

Mortality rate: Number of cows or calf died during the last one year.

Disposal of carcass: It refers to the method of disposal of carcass (burying/ burning/ selling to butcher).

Results and Discussion

On perusal of data, it is found that all the dairy farmers have awareness on detection of health. More than 80 per cent of the dairy farmers have the knowledge on disease management and

adapted only FMD vaccination programme at 6 months interval. About 85.5 per cent of the dairy farmers availed the veterinary hospital services. Occasional deworming was followed by 60 per cent dairy farmers, whereas 39 per cent of dairy farmers have not dewormed their animals. There is no noticeable difference between urban and rural. Only 25 per cent of the dairy farmers were following burial system of disposal of carcass.

These findings are contradictions with the findings Divekar *et al.*, (2016)^[1] reported dairy farmers had adopted vaccination to prevent infectious diseases like HS, FMD and Brucellosis, and majority (96.00 per cent) and deworming of adult animals (69.00 per cent). Sabapara (2015)^[3] revealed that 96.33 per cent of the respondents practiced regular vaccination of their animals against Foot and Mouth Disease and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia disease, while 3.67 per cent of the respondents did not follow vaccination practice of their animals against these diseases in Surat district. Sabapara (2015)^[3] revealed that 50 per cent respondents practiced deworming to their milch animals at regular interval, whereas 36.67 per cent practice occasionally and 13.33 per cent did not practice deworming to their milch animals. Rathore (2010)^[2] reported that 4.25% of the respondent followed vaccination and deworming practice in Rajasthan. In Punjab most of the farmers (94.9, 100 and 100 per cent small, medium and large farmers practiced vaccination against infectious diseases. About 48.7, 76.7 and 68.8 per cent of farmers of small, medium and large category practiced dipping, whereas 46.2, 46.5 and 76.5 per cent of the farmers were deworming their adult lactating animals Singh *et al.*, (2011)^[4].

Conclusion

Timely intervention can prevent or drastically reduce the losses due to diseases or other conditions. Natural repellants like neem oil may be applied regularly to repel both biting flies and ticks. This does not have any harmful effects of chemicals and chances of resistance developing are also remote. Application should be always done against the direction of the hair and should cover the entire body, especially underbelly and legs. Remove sources of injury and keep feet dry and clean. Animals that are actively shedding infectious organisms should be isolated until signs of lameness have disappeared. Steps should be taken to ensure that areas around drinking troughs, gateways, and tracks are adequately drained. Preventive use of a footbath with an astringent and antiseptic solution like copper sulphate 5% & zinc sulphate 10%, gives good results.

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