The AJAS THE ASIAN JOURNAL OF ANIMAL SCIENCE
December, 2011 | Vol. 6 | Issue 2 | 94-96

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Productive and reproductive performance of Gir cow in Akola district

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ABSTRACT : A detail study was carried out to study the productive and reproductive performance of Gir cow maintained by Kathewari in Akola district (Maharashtra). During the study data were collected from 37 Gir herd owners settled in Akola district on lactation period, lactation yield, average milk yield, age at first calving, dry period, inter - calving period, gestation period, peak milk yield and milk composition. From the study it was revealed that lactation period was in the range of 276 to 300 days, age at first calving 1401 to 1600 days, dry period 121 to 150 days, inter - calving period 401 to 402 days, gestation period 284 to 286 days and peak milk yield per day was observed in the range of 7 to 9 lit/day and the mean values of fat, SNF and TS content were 4.29,8.94 and 13.23 per cent, respectively.

Key words : Peak milk yield, Dry period, Gestation period

How to cite this article - Gaikwad, J.S., Jadhav, R.M., Torawane, Kranti B. and Todmal, Suvarna, B. (2011). Productive and reproductive performance of Gir cow in Akola district. *Asian J. Animal Sci.,* **6**(2): 94-96.

Article chronicle - **Received :** 6.5.2011; **Sent for revision:** 4.6.2011; **Accepted :** 15.8.2011

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INTRODUCTION

The Gir is a famous milk producing cattle breed of India. Original home tract of Gir breed is the Gir forest of Gujarat. In Maharashtra there are approximately 40 lakh migrated Gir animals found settled in Vidarbha, Khandesh and Marathwada regions (Anonymous, 2005).

Gir herds are maintained by Maldharies (Kathewaries).The data were collected to study the different productive and reproductive traits of Gir breed from the Kathewaries settled with their herds in Akola district (Maharashtra).

RESEARCH METHODS

During the investigation there were 37 migrated Gir cattle herds covering 1110 Gir animals comprising 360 milch, 126 dry cows, 194 heifers, 315 calves, 47 breeding bulls and 42 bullocks in Akola district (Maharashtra).

The data were collected by personal contacts and interviews in the form of questionnaire with individual herd owners. Collected data were tabulated and analyzed by simple tabular technique. The data were grouped in various categories and percentages were drawn for each group to work out majority values. To estimate mean values of fat, SNF and TS representative milk samples were collected from each herd and were analyzed in the laboratory.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

The results of the present study as well as relevant discussions have been presented under following sub heads:

Lactation period (days):

The data collected on lactation period were grouped in six categories (Table 1). Majority of the observations (37.84%) were in the range of 276 to 300 days. There were 16.22 per cent observations in each group having the range 251 to 275, 276 to 300, 326 to 350 days. Casian D'Souza *et al.* (1978) reported 257 ± 4.6 days lactation period in Gir cows. Gaur *et al.*(2005) and Dave (1958) reported 326 ±11 and 350 days lactation period in Gir cow, respectively.

Lactation yield (lit.):

Majority of the observations (40.54 per cent) were in the range of 2001 to 2500 lit. milk yield. Lactation yield 1501 to 2000, 1000 to 1500 and 2001 to 2500 lit. was observed in 37.84, 10.81 and 10.80 per cent cases respectively (Table 1) Gaur *et al.* (2005) reported, 2063±114 lit. lactation yield in Gir cow. Dave(1958), Malik and Ghei (1977) and Nanavati and Singh (2004) reported