



Animal husbandry practices followed by cattle owners in Karanja Tehsil of Washim district

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ABSTRACT : The present investigation was undertaken to know the various management practices adopted at the farmers level. A sample of 170 farmers was classified into three categories viz., small, medium and large, based on the land holdings, consisting 10 each in 17 villages in Karanja Tahsil group of 41-50 followed by 31-40 and 21-30 years. About 92.94 per cent farmers provided housing for local cattle whereas 94.11 per cent farmers provided housing for crossbred cattle. Majority of farmers (92.29%) used mangers for crossbred cattle. Similarly majority of farmer (94.11%) used mangers for local cattle. About 83.33 and 87.05 per cent farmers mated their local and crossbred cattle within 12 hrs while 16.66 and 12.94 per cent served cattle after 12 hrs of the induction of heat. The crossbred cattle farmers were well aware regarding health care practices viz., eradication of ectoparasites, regular vaccination, and regular deworming than local cattle farmers. There was a small feeding gap in respect of green fodder and concentrates in crossbred than local cattle farmers.

KEY WORDS : Management, Feeding, Breeding, Health and care, Feeding gap

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INTRODUCTION

Livestock plays a major role in the rural economy of the state. More than 70 per cent of rural people depend upon animal husbandry activity for their daily income and livestock rearing is the way of life in rural areas in the state. Hence, animal husbandry forms the backbone of rural economy especially when there is failure of monsoon (Policy Note 2009-2010). According to NDDDB figure per capita availability of milk in India had gone up to 246 g/day in 2006-2007. According to the basic animal husbandry statistics 2008 the average dairy milk production was 2.09 kg/day indigenous cow and 6.52 kg/day crossbred cow in 2007-2008. The Government is hopping to increase milk production in India to 180 million tones by 2021-2022, through National Dairy Plan drawn up by the NDDDB (Net Indian News Network New Delhi, December 2, 2009). The contribution of livestock sector to the gross state domestic

product is 2.88 per cent and to the agriculture and allied activities it is 25.70 per cent. The state contributes 5.3 per cent of total milk production (Policy Note, 2009-2010).

The Indian livestock, which are mostly dependent upon crop residues are normally offered different supplements without looking into their nutritive value depending upon the locally available feed resources and the prevailing animal husbandry practices the appropriate feeding strategies need to be developed (Samantha *et al.*, 2000). Dairy farming is essentially based upon the four pillars, normally innovating breeding, appropriate feeding, excellent management of cattle and well supervised health care practices. These dimensions need to be tailored with supporting services like milk marketing infrastructure and educational aspect of dairy farmers and with this consideration the present study was undertaken to fulfill the objectives.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to record the required information for the study from the selected livestock owners, a questionnaire was carefully drawn up. The data as regards to various aspects of study such as land holding, cropping pattern, livestock owned, availability of feeds and fodders, grazing facilities, milk yield,

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