EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AFFECTING CALF MORTALITY IN BUNAJI AND FRISIAN X BUNAJI CROSSBRED

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ABSTRACT
The study investigated the environmental factors affecting calf mortality in Bunaji and Friesian x Bunaji crossbred. Data on calving records were obtained from National Animal Production Research Institute (NAPRI), Shika, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. The data were analysed using the mixed model procedure of the SAS package (Restricted Maximum Likelihood, REML) to estimate the variance components of the traits. Mortality rate of 14.0% and 2.38% from birth to weaning were obtained in Bunaji and Friesian x Bunaji herds respectively. The result of the least square means showed that sex of calf and season of birth significantly (P<0.05) affected calf mortality in Bunaji and Friesian x Bunaji calves. Parity of dam had significant (P<0.05) effect on calf mortality from birth to weaning in Bunaji and Friesian x Bunaji crossbred calves. In conclusion, some environmental factors significantly affect calf mortality in these herds. Therefore, improvement in calf survival can be achieved by ameliorating the managerial and environmental conditions.

Key words: Bunaji, environment, Friesian x Bunaji, mortality
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