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Calf Losses on the University of Ibadan Farm, Nigeria, 1968-1977

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ABSTRACT

The results of a study of calf losses in the indigenous and exotic cattle at the University of Ibadan over a 10-year period, 1968-1977 are presented. Fetal mortality rates (FMR) for German Brown X Ndama (GBN) and the German Brown X German Holstein (GBH) crosses were 2.0 and 4.5 %, respectively. The FMR for the White Fulani (WF), German Holstein (GH) and German Brown (GB) were 7.2, 20.8 and 23.1 %, respectively. The breed specific calf mortality rates (CMR) for WF, GBN, GH, GBH and GB were 15.0, 21.4, 26.0, 28.6 and 44.6%, respectively. Male CMR were higher than female CMR for the GB, GH and GBH. The disease conditions commonly associated with postnatal calfhood losses on the farm included neonatal weakness, foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), septicaemia, parasitic gastro-enteritis (PGE) and pneumonia. Overall, the WF performed significantly better than the GB, GH; and GBH with regard to fetal and calf mortalities. The performance of the WF was not significantly different from that of the GBN cross.

Keyword

Fetal and calf mortality rates· Indigenous and exotic cattle· Diseases