BIRTH OF HETEROZYGOUS TWINS IN AN ONGOLE CROSSBRED COW

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ABSTRACT

A case of heterzygous twins is reported in an Ongole cross bred cow. The incidence was 0.03% in the herd. The obstetrical problems encountered were dystocia due to simultaneous presentation, uterine inertia and retention of placenta.

Though cow is not well equipped to deal with multiple births, the frequency of twin births in cattle ranges from 1-5% (Mc Donald and Pineda, 1989). Moreover, the twinning in cattle brings more reproductive problems (Morrow, 1980). The incidence of twin births in cattle varies among breed and according to factors such as age and environment (Gordon, 1996). Besides this, occurrence of heterozygous twin births is rare condition in Ongole cross bred cows and the scanning of the literature revealed paucity.

Hence the present report is to place on record, the incidence of twin births as well as various reproductive complications encountered while handling twin pregnancy in cross bred animal.

A cross bred cow (H.F 50% x Jersey 25% x Ongole 25%) was brought to the gynaecological ward of the livestock Research Station with a history of vaginal discharges and rupture of the first water bag in its fifth calving.

Per vaginal examination revealed that there were four limbs and one head in the birth canal. On careful examination, it was diagnosed as bicornual twin fetuses. The twin fetuses were observed to be presented in simultaneous presentations. The bicornual fetuses were found to be met at junction of uterine horns and their progress was stopped at the pelvic outlet which resulted in uterine inertia due to overstrecthing of myometrium.

The delivery was achieved by repelled the posteriorly presented fetus and the other anteriorly presented advanced fetus at the same time by guarded traction. The retropropelled fetus was born with little assistance.

Both the calves were alive and of different sexes (fig). The male calf which born first weighed 32 kgs and female 27kgs. Sinclair et al., (1995) reported heavier calves with bilateral twins. The gestation length was 278 days which was 6 days earlier compare to average of 284 days in the herd which is in agreement with Sreenan and Beechan (1976) who reported shorter gestation length in cows bearing twins. The twin birth in this study was a single occurrence among 3783 calvings which accounts 0.03% in a triple cross bred cattle. O’ Farrel et al., (1990) reported 7% dystocia cases due to twins, but in the present study, it was 2.6%.

Yadav et al., (1989) reported the incidence of twin births as 0.76 % in a herd consist of Sahiwal, Tharparkar, Redsindhi, Brown Swiss, Holstein, Jersey and Karan Swiss. The placenta was not expelled after 24 hours of delivery due to uterine inertia and it was manually removed which was not uncommon in twin pregnancies (Morrow, 1980 and Jackson, 1995).
number of fetal cotyledons were 48 and 39 in male and female calves' placentae, respectively. The weight of the placentae of males and female calves were 4 and 3 kgs, respectively. Rowson et al., (1971) recorded the number of fetal cotyledons ranged from 47 to 128 in bicornual pregnancies.

Morrow (1980) observed impaired production and reduced fertility in the dam. But in the present case, milk production and fertility were within the normal range this might be due to adequate energy status at parturition as reported by Chassagne and Barrnouin (1992). It was concluded that the twinning may have no deleterius affect on fertility when animals were maintained in scientific manner.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
The authors are grateful to the Senior Scientist, Cattle Poject, Lam Farm, Guntur for providing the facilities.

REFERENCES