INCIDENCE OF RETENTION OF FETAL MEMBRANES IN CROSSBRED DAIRY COWS IN MIZORAM.

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ABSTRACT

The overall incidence of retained fetal membranes in 216 cross-bred dairy cows studied was 42 (19.44 %). Out of 42 cows having retained fetal membranes, 15 cows (35.71 %) were having temperature above 102.6 °F and most of these cows were showing reduced appetite to off-feed resulting in reduced milk secretion. Out of 27 cows attempted for manual removal of retained fetal membranes, 70.37 % could be removed on the first visit without much difficulty, 14.81 % needed 2nd visit, 11.11 % needed 3rd visit and 3.7 % needed more than three visits. Out of the 42 cases of retained fetal membranes studied, 12 cases (28.57 %) were following abortion.

Key words: Retained fetal membranes, Manual removal, Crossed bred dairy cows, Reduced milk secretion, Abortion.

INTRODUCTION

Retention of fetal membranes is one of the most common conditions occurring in dairy cows following parturition. It is commonly followed by delayed involution of the uterus; drop in milk production, infertility resulting economic loss to the owner. The incidence of retention of fetal membranes in crossbred dairy cows has not been studied in Mizoram. The present study is therefore, undertaken to record the incidence of retention of fetal membranes in crossbred dairy cows in Mizoram.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The data were collected from the individual reproductive records maintained by the private breeders in different parts of Mizoram. A total of 216 calving records of crossed bred dairy cows (HF x Jersey) maintained under uniform feeding and management were studied. Cows that failed to expel the fetal membranes spontaneously with 12 hours postpartum were considered to have retained fetal membranes. The presence of clinical symptoms viz. fever, off-feed, reduce milk secretion were also recorded on the 2nd or 3rd days after parturition. The cows having retained fetal membranes were first attended on 2nd or 3rd day for manual removal of the retained fetal membranes. If the retained fetal membranes could not be removed easily the subsequent attempts were made every 12 hours until it could be removed easily. The case of retention of fetal membranes following abortion, irrespective of the causes and stage of abortion, were also recorded.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The overall incidence of retained fetal membranes in 216 cross-bred dairy cows studied was 42 (19.44 %) which is comparable with the report of 19.13 % in Friesian x Sahiwal (Narayanan et. al., 2000), 18.82 % in Sahiwal (Saxena et al., 1991) and 6.9 – 19.1 % in Hariana and its crosses (Patil et al., 1983). The present finding is higher than the report of 11.84 % in HF x Sahiwal (Mandal et
al., 2001), 10.44 % in HF x Gir (Pandit et al., 1981) and 13.90 % in Jersey x Gir (Kaikini et al., 1981). The differences in the report of incidence of retained fetal membranes may be due to the difference in the management.

Out of 42 cows having retained fetal membranes, 15 cows (35.71 %) were having temperature above 102.6 °F and most of these cows were showing reduced appetite to off-feed resulting in reduced milk secretion.

Out of 27 cows attempted for manual removal of retained fetal membranes, 70.37 % could be removed on the first visit without much difficulty, 14.81 % needed 2nd visit, 11.11 % needed 3rd visit and 3.7 % needed more than three visits.

Out of the 42 cases of retained fetal membranes studied, 12 cases (28.57 %) were following abortion which is in agreement with the report of 28.37 % (Mehrotra and Day, 1998) and comparable to the report of 30.50 % (Roberts, 1982).

REFERENCES