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Zootechnical indexes of dairy properties in the Semiarid region of Pernambuco, Brazil

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Dairy cattle farming has great economic importance in the national agribusiness scenario, generating direct and indirect jobs and monthly income for the producer. However, in the Semiarid region of Pernambuco, Brazil, the difficulties of producing food for animals and assure their welfare are even more evident. As a tool, zootechnical indices offer the necessary support so that producers can detect and resolve possible future bottlenecks in advance. We aimed to evaluate the zootechnical indexes of dairy properties in municipalities in the Semiarid region of Pernambuco. Monthly data collections were carried out over a period of one year, carried out by workers from the company Efetiva Consultoria e Projetos LTDA, from four properties, A and B located in the municipality of Bodocó and, C and D in the municipality of Granito. The zootechnical indexes evaluated were: cows in the herd, being calculated by the number of cows divided by the total herd; lactating cows in the herd, calculated by the total number of lactating cows divided by the number of animals in the herd; dry cows in the herd obtained by the amount of dry cows divided by the total number of cows in the herd, the ratio of lactating cows/total cows, obtained by dividing the number of lactating cows by the total number of cows in the herd. All calculations mentioned were multiplied by 100. The ratio milk sold/milk produced was obtained with the total volume of milk sold divided by the volume of total milk produced. Milk production per cow/day was calculated from the total volume of milk produced divided by the number of lactating cows and the result divided monthly. The results were subjected to analysis of variance and Tukey's mean comparison test at 5% probability. There was a statistically significant difference between properties in the results of the variables total number of cows in the herd, lactating cows in the herd, relationship between milk sold and milk produced and milk produced per cow/day. Regarding the total number of cows in relation to the herd, property C presented an average of 44.32%, being the largest and; 39.06% the rest of properties, all below 50% of the total number of cows in the herd. Regarding the percentage of lactating cows in relation to the herd, an average of 36.75% was observed as the highest result for property C and an average of 30.51% for properties A, B and C, where the recommended is 42% of cows in lactation in the herd. When evaluating dry cows and lactating cows in relation to the total number of cows, farms obtained averages of 19.36% and 79.04%, respectively. Regarding the ratio of milk sold/milk produced, property B obtained the highest result with 93.72% and property C had the lowest percentage of 88.62%; on the variable average of daily milk production they presented 15.87 L/day on property A; 8.81 L/day on property B; 8.33 L/day on property C and 11.22 L/day on property D. All properties have herds made up of crossbred animals, the zootechnical indexes obtained demonstrated that the percentages of cows in the herd and lactating cows are below the recommended, influencing the other results.

Keywords: cattle, milk, production, semiarid.

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