I-INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ANIMAL SCIENCE IN SEMI-ARID REGIONS
Universidade Federal do Agreste de Pernambuco – UFAPE
July 03rd to 05th, 2024, Garanhuns-PE

Área do trabalho: Inovação e Sistemas de Produção Animal

Zootechnical indexes of properties in the dry and rainy seasons in the Semiarid zone of Pernambuco, Brazil

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Dairy cattle farming represents enormous importance in national agribusiness, this sector requires good management and investment, especially in the Northeast region of Brazil where there is irregularity and lack of rainfall, directly implying milk production seasonality due to the decrease in supply and quality of the forage. We aimed to evaluate zootechnical indexes of dairy cattle properties in municipalities in the Pernambuco's Sertão Region in the dry and rainy seasons. Monthly data collections were carried out from four properties, A and B located in the municipality of Bodocó and, C and D in the municipality of Granito, over a period of one year, carried out by workers from Empresa Efetiva Consultoria e Projetos LTDA, based in Piranhas, Alagoas, Brazil. The zootechnical indices evaluated were: total number of cows in the herd (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 total herd), dry cows/total ratio of cows (obtained by dividing the number of dry cows by the total number of cows in the herd), daily milk production (calculated from the volume of total milk produced divided by the number of days), monthly milk produced (obtained by dividing the total milk produced in the year per twelve) and productivity (which is the monthly quantity of milk produced divided by the total area used by the dairy activity in hectare), with its results separated according to the dry and rainy period of the municipalities where the properties are located. The results were subjected to Analysis of Variance and Tukey's mean comparison test at 5% probability. All properties did not show statistical significance in the variable owned area. When it comes to land leasing and total area used, property C showed significance in its averages, where it rented land in both periods, obtaining a total area of 14.6 ha in the dry season and 16.1 ha in the rainy season, highlighting that property C has the smallest area of its own among the properties studied. The variables regarding the characterizations of the herds on properties A, B and D did not present statistically significant results, remaining similar in the dry and rainy periods. Property A had an increase of 11.12% in its daily milk production during the rainy season. Property C did not obtain a statistically significant result in the variable of lactating cows in the herd, keeping its batch stable in both periods, but it presented significance in its result of cows in the herd with an increase of 22.18%, as well as in the number of dry cows arriving to triple its value during the rainy season, consequently its daily milk production decreased by 34.90%, a similar behavior occurs with the monthly production and its productivity in the same period, demonstrating an unexpected result. The result of good management of zootechnical indexes leads to planning to avoid inadequate management, always seeking the goals set by each farmer.
Keywords: water, production, cattle, semiarid.

Acknowledgments: Empresa Efetiva Consultoria e Projetos LTDA, Piranhas, Alagoas, Brazil.