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Profile of properties in Caturité - PB regarding the control of *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* ticks in dairy cattle

Tamyres Marcelino Lopes*¹, Lucas Santos da Silva¹, Artur Mineu da Silva Barbosa¹, Vitor Mineu Silva Barbosa¹, Andressa Gonçalves Silva¹, João Tiago Correia Oliveira¹

¹Universidade Federal do Agreste de Pernambuco, Garanhuns /PE, Brasil.

*tamyresml30@gmail.com

Brazil holds the largest commercial cattle herd in the world, with a significant percentage of dairy cows. The Northeast Region of the country contributes to this productive scenario, with the state of Paraíba. Various factors can compromise this productivity, including diseases related to cattle ticks, such as weight loss and decreased milk production. Thus, the objective of this research was to evaluate the profile of properties in relation to the methods of controlling *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* ticks in dairy cattle. The research was conducted in the municipality of Caturité, Paraíba, Brazil. A structured questionnaire, both qualitative and quantitative, was administered to gather information about how producers control ticks on their properties. In accordance with ethical standards, the anonymity of the respondents was preserved, and the research data were tabulated using Excel® software. Among the interviewed producers, 60% were over 50 years old. When asked about their educational level, 60% responded that they had only completed primary education, and the gross family income values ranged between 3.5 and 5 minimum wages. Regarding the breed pattern of the animals within the productive system, 50% of responses indicated they raised only Girolando, 10% Jersey, 50% various breeds, and 40% Holstein as the predominant breed. Concerning the application of active substances, 90% of the owners stated they administered the product to the entire herd, while 10% did so only to infected animals. Thus, there was unanimity in the application of compounds on the properties; the most used were Cypermethrin 40%, Ivermectin 40%, and Diflubenzuron 50%, respectively. Regarding the period of reapplication of the product, 80% reported doing so at intervals of more than 31 days, and 10% every 15 days. This short interval is concerning, as the ectoparasite can physiologically alter its organism, becoming resistant to the active substances. Concerning pasture disinfection methods on the properties, none of the respondents performed this, which is troubling since a large portion of the ticks are found in the environment and a minority on the animals. Regarding vaccination rates, it was found that all animals are immunised against foot-and-mouth disease, 90% against bovine rabies, and 80% against clostridiosis and brucellosis, respectively. Therefore, all producers treat *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* in the animals; however, a portion of them does not adequately respect the withdrawal period for using the active substances. Thus, it is necessary to incentivise the training of producers, promoting knowledge that contributes to improvements in rural properties.

Keywords: parasite control, production system, parasite resistance