

THE ESTIMATE INDEX OF WELFARE AT DAIRY CATTLE

INDICATORI DE APRECIERE A BUNĂSTĂRII LA VACA DE LAPTE

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We have described in this paper the impact of closing elements of the shelter over the dairy cattle. After an analysis of animal waist, it is verify the way in which the stand, the limitation bars and the distance between the bars influence the behavior, as a welfare index. Next, the floor impact over the expression mode of the sudden movement and also over the heat manifestation was analyzed.

Key words: shelter, comfort, dairy cattle.

Introduction

The welfare assurance of dairy cattle is one of the considerations that have to be accomplished to obtain productions, consequently the benefit. Sainsbury define the welfare as a growth system of animals which is healthy favorable if it's applied, according the behavior demanding of animals and a high zootenical managerial standard.

The 205/2004 low, regarding the animal protection foresaw at the 5 article (1) the obligation of animals owners to provide a) an adequate shelter and c) and the possibility of an enough movements, that's way we will underline the impact of this demanding over the welfare of dairy cattle (4).

Materials and Methods

To be able to make appreciations at any level, it is needed a questionnaire with index that can quantify the followers parameters and than to classified the analyzed situation.

The system of welfare appreciation it's different in function of the choosing way of the index and the measuring methods, which will reflect the perception mode of the phenomena and of course of the welfare (5).

The welfare appreciation system which are used in present and which take's in consideration the shelter and the management are: Animal Needs Index (ANI), the RSPCA system on the bases of the five liberties, The Danish Institute of Agriculture Since system (DIAS) (1,2).

For the comfort appreciation of the dairy cattle we looked the answers at the following questions (3):

1. How easy can the cattle come in the shelter?
2. The crossover accomplishes a light pass or is it a border?
3. If yes, which is their measure?
4. They hit something?
5. The cattle can easily move, or not?
6. There is any down seating attitude wound or of other nature?
7. At the rising and lying the movements are made easily?
8. There is an adequate space?
9. The floor can assure the possibility of a sudden move?

Results and Discussions

The experiment was made on 1250 dairy cattle from four farms in which was followed the answers of the above question. At all four farms there was no problem at the first four questions, because the crossover accomplishes a light pass and the cattle can easily come into the shelter.

Regarding the way of animal movement was known a very large difference from a farm to another. The cattle from A and B farms are moving very hard (98%) because of the presence of the dejection on the alley, but also because of the lack of hoof cleanness (75%). The cattle from the C and D farms had in change almost a normal behavior, the movement is more relaxed, and the cattle of D farm have very good movement, conditions which maintain the normal aspect of the spine.

Regarding the wounds of down seating attitude or of other nature, only the cattle from D farm hasn't presented these wounds. All the other cattle had presented different kind of wounds, abscesses and excoriations of different dimension.

To answer the next question (7), was measured in each farm the stand size and the size of the 25% of the effective and it was ascertain that the animal length and width had varied between 20 and 30 cm. From here results the stand effect over the rising and lying possibility of animals.

The stand length should count over the animal dimension because the animal length is proportional with his weight, and the stand length influence the standing way. The limitation bars admit a correct position of the cow in the stand, maintaining the back part of the animals in the defecation area. It is easier to put this bar to make from a long stand a shorter stand, rather than to make a large stand from a small one.

The width of the stand is recommended to be at 1, 22 m because these assure the cattle comfort and decrease the accidents in concomitant with the assurance of the adequate space for cleaning without hitting the bars.

To answer the last question we had to follow the heat symptoms of the cattle. It was different in each farm but in the same way as the movement, namely:

- at A farm where the cattle are sitting only in the shelter, it is made a seasonal reproduction, which is way there isn't any concern to assure the expressing condition of the sexual behavior.
- at the B farm where the expressing condition were the same, trout the fact that the animal had access to the paddock, it was known an increase of the sexual behavior (76%)
- at the C farm where also the cattle has access to the paddock, but the floor was closer to the normal condition the sexual behavior was express in proportion of 84%
- at the D farm where is apply a management the expressing of the sexual behavior was 95 %, fact which was known also in the reproducing activity.

Conclusion

1. at a bind length and width of the stand, the limitation bars can influence the comfort of the diary cattle.
2. the rigorous elimination of the dejection influence the quality of the floor surface and the animals movement
3. the quality of the layers is directly proportional with the number and the size of the contusions and the subcutaneous abbesses.
4. the heat express is correlated with the floor quality

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