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September-December, 2021

CONTENTS

Unrevealing the role of epistasis through Triple Test Cross in Indian mustard NARENDER SINGH, USHA PANT, NEHA DAHIYA, SHARAD PANDEY, A. K. PANDEY and SAMEER CHATURVEDI	330
Testing of InfoCrop model to optimize farm resources for mustard crop under <i>tarai</i> region of Uttarakhand MANISHA TAMTA, RAVI KIRAN, ANIL SHUKLA, A. S. NAIN and RAJEEV RANJAN	335
<i>In vitro</i> evaluation of endophytes and consortium for their plant growth promoting activities on rice seeds DAS, J., DEVI, R.K.T. and BARUAH, J.J.	342
Effect of subsurface placement of vermicompost manure on growth and yield of wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L. Var. UP 2526) ABHISHEK KUMAR and JAYANT SINGH	348
Assessment of different nutrient management approaches for grain yield, gluten content and net income of common bread wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.) in Western Himalayan region of Uttarakhand BHAWANA RANA and HIMANSHU VERMA	359
Suitability assessment of land resources for cassava (<i>Manihot esculenta</i> L.) and yam (<i>Dioscorea spp</i> L.) cultivation in Khana LGA, Rivers State, Southern Nigeria PETER, K.D., UMWENI, A.S. and BAKARE, A.O.	367
Biophysical and biochemical characters conferring resistance against pod borers in pigeonpea PARUL DOBHAR, R. P. MAURYA, PARUL SUYAL and S.K. VERMA	375
Population dynamics of major insect pest fauna and their natural enemies in Soybean SUDHA MATHPAL, NEETA GAUR, RASHMI JOSHI and KAMAL KISHOR	385
Fumigant toxicity of some essential oils and their combinations against <i>Rhizopertha dominica</i> (Fabricius) and <i>Sitophilus oryzae</i> (Linnaeus) NIDHI TEWARI and S. N. TIWARI	389
Long term efficacy of some essential oils against <i>Rhizopertha dominica</i> (Fabricius) and <i>Sitophilus oryzae</i> (Linnaeus) NIDHI TEWARI and S. N. TIWARI	400
Management strategies under chemicals, liquid organic amendments and plant extracts against black scurf of potato caused by <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> Kühn in <i>tarai</i> regions of Uttarakhand SURAJ ADHIKARI, SHAILBALA SHARMA, R. P. SINGH, SUNITA T. PANDEY and VIVEK SINGH	408
Effective management strategies against ginger rhizome rot caused by <i>Fusarium solani</i> by the application of chemicals, bioagents and Herbal <i>Kunapajala</i> in mid hills of Uttarakhand SONAM BHATT, LAXMI RAWAT and T. S. BISHT	417

Distribution and morphological characterisation of isolates of <i>Fusarium moniliforme</i> fsp. <i>subglutinans</i> causing Pokkah Boeng disease of sugarcane in different sugarcane growing areas of Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand HINA KAUSAR, BHAGYASHREE BHATT and GEETA SHARMA	429
Biointensive management of <i>Meloidogyne enterolobii</i> in tomato under glasshouse conditions SHUBHAM KUMAR, ROOPALI SHARMA, SATYA KUMAR and BHUPESH CHANDRA KABDWAL	435
Effect of pre-harvest application of eco-friendly chemicals and fruit bagging on yield and fruit quality of mango KIRAN KOTHIYAL, A. K. SINGH, K. P. SINGH and PRATIBHA	447
A valid and reliable nutrition knowledge questionnaire: an aid to assess the nutrition friendliness of schools of Dehradun, Uttarakhand EKTA BELWAL, ARCHANA KUSHWAHA, SARITA SRIVASTAVA, C.S. CHOPRA and ANIL KUMAR SHUKLA	452
Potential of common leaves of India as a source of Leaf Protein Concentrate RUSHDA ANAM MALIK, SHAYANI BOSE, ANURADHA DUTTA, DEEPA JOSHI, NIVEDITA, N.C. SHAHI, RAMAN MANOHARLAL and G.V.S. SAIPRASAD	460
Job strain and muscle fatigue in small scale unorganized agri enterprises DEEPA VINAY, SEEMA KWATRA, SUNEETA SHARMA and KANCHAN SHILLA	466
Drudgery reduction of farm women involved in weeding of soybean crop SHALINI CHAKRABORTY	475
Childhood obesity and its association with hypertension among school-going children of Dehradun, Uttarakhand EKTA BELWAL, K. UMA DEVI and APARNA KUNA	482
Spring water and its quality assessment for drinking purpose: A review SURABHI CHAND, H.J. PRASAD and JYOTHI PRASAD	489
Spatial distribution of water quality for Indo-Gangetic alluvial plain using Q-GIS SONALI KUMARA, VINOD KUMAR and ARVIND SINGH TOMAR	497
Application of geospatial techniques in morphometric analysis of sub-watersheds of Nanak Sagar Catchment AISHWARYA AWARI, DHEERAJ KUMAR, PANKAJ KUMAR, R. P. SINGH and YOGENDRA KUMAR	505
Evaluation of selected carbon sources in biofloc production and carps growth performance HAZIQ QAYOOM LONE, ASHUTOSH MISHRA, HEMA TEWARI, R.N. RAM and N.N. PANDEY	516
Calcium phosphate nanoparticles: a potential vaccine adjuvant YASHPAL SINGH and MUMTESH KUMAR SAXENA	523
Factors affecting some economic traits in Sahiwal Cattle DEVESH SINGH, C. B. SINGH, SHIVE KUMAR, B.N. SHAHI, BALVIR SINGH KHADDA, S. B. BHARDWAJ and SHIWANSHU TIWARI	528
The effect of probiotics and growth stimulants on growth performance of Murrah Buffalo SAMEER PANDEY, RAJ KUMAR, D.S. SAHU, SHIWANSHU TIWARI, PAWAN KUMAR, ATUL SHARMA and KARTIK TOMAR	532

Factors affecting some economic traits in Sahiwal Cattle

DEVESH SINGH¹, C. B. SINGH², SHIVE KUMAR³, B.N. SHAHI⁴, BALVIR SINGH KHADDA⁵, S. B. BHARDWAJ⁶ and SHIWANSHU TIWARI⁷

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ABSTRACT: The present study was conducted on 308 Sahiwal cows sired by 38 bulls spared over a period of 32 years (1981- 2012), maintained at the Instructional Dairy Farm and AICRP on cattle -Sahiwal (field unit) at G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand, and ChakGanjaria Government Cattle Farm Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The overall least- square means for first lactation milk yield (FLMY), first lactation length (FLL), first peak yield (FPY), days attain to first peak yield (DAFPY), age at first calving (AFC), first calving interval (FCI) and first service period (FSP) were as 1927.50±36.68 kg, 290.42±5.57 days, 11.15±0.39 kg and 41.78±2.97 days, 1281.89±15.57 days, 426.70±8.53 days and 140.85±8.90 days, respectively. The season was found to influence the first lactation milk yield at 5% level of significance. The period of calving significantly ($P < 0.05$) influenced first peak yield and age at first calving while it was non-significantly influencing FLL, FLMY, DAFPY, FCI and FSP.

Key words: Lactation traits, non-genetic factors, reproductive traits, Sahiwal cattle

Livestock sector plays an important role in the national economy and in the socio-economic development of the country. Cattle are the most important livestock in India and play a vital role in agriculture related economy. Among them Sahiwal is considered as the best milch dairy breed of the country and is well adapted to the tropical and sub-tropical conditions of Indian sub-continent. The Sahiwal breed is being utilized widely for improvement of local stock or for initial crossbreeding of indigenous stock with European breeds in many warm humid countries of the world because of its well-known resistance to tropical diseases, endurance to hot climate of tropics, low cost of maintenance and higher milk constituents. The primary objective of the animal breeder is to maximize genetic improvement in economically important traits which can be achieved through proper selection and breeding system. The genetic composition of a population can be studied by considering the relative importance of hereditary and environmental factors affecting the performance of an individual in the population. The genetic parameters estimates are helpful in determining the best method of selection, to

predict the direct and correlated response to selection and in choosing a breeding policy to be adopted for future as well as in the estimate of genetic gain. Milk production of a cow is a function of its genotype and environment under which the animal is brought up and maintained at a given time and age. The selection of the superior animals with maximum accuracy is of utmost importance for any breed improvement programme where performances of first lactation traits are of utmost importance. In present investigation an attempt was made to evaluate the production performance of Sahiwal cows maintained at multi-locational herds and to estimate their genetic parameters.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The data for present investigation on 308 Sahiwal cows were collected from pedigree cum history sheets of three herds namely Instructional Dairy Farm (IDF) of G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology Pantnagar (Uttarakhand), ChakGanjaria Government Cattle Farm Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), and animal maintained under All

India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Cattle Sahiwal under field condition nearby area of Pantnagar (Uttarakhand). The data set were spread over a period 32 years (1981-2012), at a class interval of 8 years and first lactation records were considered for investigation. Each year was further delineated into three seasons namely rainy (July- October), winter (November-February) and summer (March-June). The first lactation and reproductive traits under investigation were first lactation milk yield (FLMY), 305 days first lactation milk yield (305 FLMY), first lactation length (FLL), first peak yield (FPY), and days attain to first peak yield (DAFPY), age at first calving (AFC), first calving interval (FCI) and first service period (FSP). The effect of various genetic and non-genetic factors on different traits were further analyzed using mixed model least-squares and maximum likelihood computer program (LSMLMW PC-1 version) for fitting constant to overcome the difficulty of disproportionate sub class frequencies and non-orthogonal of data designed by Harvey (1990). The difference between means was tested for significance by Duncan's multiple range test by Kramer (1957).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The overall least squares means for first lactation milk yield (FLMY), first lactation length (FLL), first peak yield (FPY), days attain to first peak yield (DAFPY) were as 1927.50 ± 36.68 kg, 290.42 ± 5.57 days, 11.15 ± 0.39 kg and 41.78 ± 2.97 days, respectively (Table 1). The results in agreement with results reported by Sreedhar (2011), Manoj *et al.* (2012) and Dongre *et al.* (2013) in Sahiwal cattle. The effect of farm was highly significant ($P < 0.01$) on first lactation milk yield (FLMY), and first peak yield (FPY). These results are in close agreement with finding of Chawla and Mishra (1982) in Sahiwal cattle. Cows reared under field condition and IDF Nagla had highest first lactation milk yield (FLMY) with their mean value 2248.48 ± 80.42 kg and 2261.67 ± 59.85 kg, respectively. Whereas Cows at Chank Ganjaria farm Lucknow had lowest

1430.19 ± 60.85 kg. The cows at field condition had longest first lactation length (FLL) of 295.96 ± 12.23 days, whereas, cows at Lucknow farm had shortest first lactation length (FLL) of 286.71 ± 9.25 . The higher level of milk production in first lactation at field and IDF farm may be due to better managerial and breeding practices coupled with superior germplasm.

The effect of season of calving was non-significant of first lactation length (FLL) whereas, it was highly significant ($P < 0.01$) on first lactation milk yield. Cows calving during winter season had more first lactation milk yield (1998.26 ± 46.22 kg) whereas; summer calves had less FLMY (1867.17 ± 43.83 kg). The winter calves had minimum energy loss due to low temperature humidity and persistently stay in milk for longer duration. Whereas, early dry up of summer calves due to hot climatic conditions and high humidity. The non-significant effect of season of calving on first lactation length were in close agreement with findings of Singh *et al.* (2005), Manoj *et al.* (2012) and Narwaria *et al.* (2015) However, Bhoj (2012) found significant effect of season of calving on FLMY in Sahiwal cattle.

Period of calving had highly significant ($P < 0.01$) effect on FPY which was in close agreement with findings of Dhaka *et al.* (2002) and Dhawan *et al.* (2016) in Sahiwal cattle. Whereas, rest of all production trait i.e. first lactation milk yield, first lactation length (FLL) and days attain to first peak yield (DAFPY), the effect of period was found to be non-significant which was comparable with Singh *et al.* (2006) and Manoj *et al.* (2012). Cows calving during period 1997-2004 had highest least squares means for FLMY with their value being 1963.08 ± 92.59 kg, respectively; whereas, during period 1989-1996 the estimate of least squares means, were lowest being 1889.89 ± 83.71 kg, respectively.

The overall least squares mean for age at first calving (AFC), first calving interval (FCI) and first service period (FSP) were 1281.89 ± 15.57 ,

426.70±8.53 and 140.85±8.90 days, respectively (Table 1). The results are in agreement with results reported by Banik (2004), Manoj (2009) and Raja (2010) in Sahiwal cattle. However, higher estimates of FCI than the present study were reported by Bhoj (2012) and Singh and Singh (2016).

The effect of farm was highly significant ($P<0.01$) on age at first calving (AFC), first calving interval (FCI) and first service period (FSP). These results are in close agreement with finding of Vinno *et al.* (2005) in Ongole cattle. Cows at ChakGanjaria Government cattle farm had highest age at first calving (AFC), first calving interval (FCI) and first service period (FSP) with their mean value 1313.22±26.12, 481.30±14.15 and 197.54±14.76 days, respectively. Whereas, cows reared at field condition had lowest AFC, FCI and FSP with their mean value 1243.19 ±34.39, 379.59±18.71 and 97.73±19.51 days, respectively. The lower level of traits in at field condition may be may be due to individual care and better managerial practices.

The effect of season of calving was non-significant on age at first calving (AFC), first calving interval (FCI) and first service period (FSP). Cows calving during winter season had more age at first calving (1290.55±19.84 days), first calving interval (435.34±10.75) and first

service period (FSP) (149.60±11.21 days) whereas; rainy calvers had less FCI (418.60±11.52 days) and FSP (132.68±12.01 days). The non-significant effect of season of calving on AFC, FCI and FSP were also reported by Singh *et al.* (2005) and Manoj *et al.* (2012) and Singh and Singh (2016).

Period of calving had highly significant ($P<0.01$) effect on AFC whereas, effect period of calving was found to be non-significant on first calving interval (FCI) and first service period (FSP). The differences among period could be due to management practices followed during the different periods and varied climatic conditions. These results are in close agreement with findings of Singh *et al.* (2005), Manoj *et al.* (2012) and Singh and Singh (2016) in Sahiwal cattle.

CONCLUSION

The significant effect of non-genetic factors like farm, season and period may be attributed to the non-uniform feeding system and management practices followed in different farms during the study period. The optimum potential for productive and reproductive traits in dairy cattle may be exploited by following proper feeding, management practices and adopting strict diseases control measure throughout the year and season.

Table 1. Least-squares means and their standard error for various production traits in Sahiwal cattle

Source of Variation	No of obs.	FLMY(Kg)	FLL(Days)	FPY(Kg)	DAFPY(Days)	AFC (Days)	FCI (Days)	FSP (Days)
Overall mean	308	1927.50±36.68	290.42±5.57	11.15±.39	41.78±2.97	1281.89±15.57	426.70±8.53	140.85±8.90
Season		**	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Summer	109	1867.17±43.83	286.41±6.66	10.90±.40	42.72±3.03	1271.73±18.76	426.17±10.19	140.26±10.63
Rainy	86	1917.06±49.52	289.22±7.5	11.42±.44	40.07±3.39	1283.38±21.25	418.60±11.52	132.68±12.01
Winter	113	1998.26±46.22	295.64±7.03	11.14±.45	42.55±3.43	1290.55±19.84	435.34±10.75	149.60±11.21
Period		NS	NS	*	NS	*	NS	NS
1981 to 1988	191	1949.97±51.86	307.11±7.8	10.56±.49	42.49±3.77	1304.32a ±22.27	443.22±12.06	156.83±12.58
1989 to 1996	20	1889.89±83.71	292.49±12.74	9.85±.47	45.03±3.55	1368.14a ±35.74	436.95±19.49	153.21±20.33
1997 to 2004	17	1963.08±92.59	281.58±14.08	11.36±.54	39.46±4.11	1236.09b ±39.60	410.36±21.54	122.81±22.47
2005 to 2012	80	1907.05±47.24	280.51±7.18	12.85±.42	40.13±3.17	1219.00b ±19.77	416.28±10.99	130.51±11.46
Farm		*	NS	*	NS	*	*	*
LKO	169	1430.19±60.85	286.71±9.25	-	-	1313.22a ±26.12	481.30a±14.15	197.54a±14.76
IDF	106	2103.82±37.16	288.59±5.65	11.86±.16	45.12±1.25	1289.25b ±15.95	419.23b±8.64	127.27 b±9.01
Field	33	2248.48±80.42	295.96±12.23	9.90±.34	44.31±2.62	1243.19c ±34.39	379.59c±18.71	97.73c±19.51

Note: Estimates with different superscripts differ significantly. F statistic of corresponding effects as ** -highly significant ($P<0.01$), * - Significant ($P<0.05$), NS- Non-significant. AFC- Age at first calving, 305, FLMY- 305 Days first lactation milk yield, FPY- First peak yield, DAPY- Days attain to peak yield, FLL- First lactation length, FSP - First service period, FDP- First dry period, FCI- First calving interval

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