



MILKING CONTEST OF CATTLE AT MALEGAON (MS), INDIA

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ABSTRACT: As India is an agricultural country, the main economic source of the farmer is farming and keeping the livestock. So, milk production is a joint business of the farmer, for which they have to focus on milk-yielding cattle. For the same purpose cattle, buffaloes milking contest has been also organized by Government at Malegaon (Nanded) each year. This Malegaon yatra is the second biggest animal fair in the country. A grand fair is organized in honor of Lord Khandoba known as 'Malegaon Yatra' held on 14 (Dec/Jan) for the last 500 years. Thousands of tourists attract from various parts of the country and visit the fair in which horses, dogs, asses, camels, cattle, etc. are brought in large numbers. Every year exhibitions, buying, and selling of animals have been done. Since cattle and their milk are very important for humans, the present study was undertaken to explain the milking capacity of four dominant cattle of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, India, to aware of their rearing, well keeping, conservation, etc.

Key words: - milking contest, Holstein Friesian, Red Kandhari, Jarsi, Devani, Malegaon

INTRODUCTION:

Our earth planet is covered by 71% of water and 29% by land. Out of global land area, 12% is currently used for cultivation and crops. India is an agricultural country. A farmer depends on the agricultural source and keeping the livestock to obtain economic support. So, milk production is a joint business of farmers. India is the largest producer of milk followed by the USA, China, Pakistan, Brazil. India is the top country in the production of milk in the world. As of 2020, the production of milk in India was 194,8400 thousand tonnes that account for 40.56% of the world's production of milk. So, farmers have to focus on milk-yielding cattle, their nutrition, good health, etc. For this purpose, a milking contest of cattle and buffaloes has been organized every year by the Government of India at Malegaon (Nanded). Malegaon is a village situated at Loha Taluka at a distance of about 57 km from the Nanded City. Nanded is one of the historical places in the Marathwada region of the Maharashtra State in India situated on the north bank of the Godavari River. A grand fair is organized in honor of Lord Khandoba known as 'Malegaon Yatra' held in Margashirshvadya 14

(Dec/Jan). The fair is also known for its biggest animal market that attracts tourists from various parts of the country. At the time of the Fair horses, asses, cows, buffaloes, parrots, turtles, camels, goats, dogs, rabbits, hen, cock, duck, monkeys, squirrels, etc. are brought in large numbers. Thousands of people visit the Fair. Another type of animal contest was also organized. The Malegaon yatra is the second biggest animal fair in the country after Rajasthan's Pushkar Mela. (S. Harpal Singh, 11.1.2016 02:13 IST).

Cattle or Cow is considered sacred, worshipped in Hindu Dharma. The five products (Panchtatva) of the cow -Ghee, milk, butter (curd), urine, and dung are useful. Cattle milk is an important alternative food source. Milk is an excellent source of vitamins and minerals, including "nutrients of concern," which are under-consumed by many populations. It provides potassium, B12, calcium, and vitamin D, which are lacking in many diets. Milk is also a good source of vitamin A, magnesium, zinc, and thiamine (B1).

Livestock is the main wealth of Indian farmers. The livestock population in the country has

slowly and steadily grown over the years from 445.28 million in 1987 to 470.14 million in 1992. The total livestock population consisting of Cattle, Buffalo, Sheep, Goat, Pig, Horses and Ponies, Mules, Donkeys, Camels, Mithun, and Yak in the country is 512.05 million numbers in 2012. The total livestock population has decreased by about 3.33% over the previous census. The number of animals in milk, cows, and buffaloes, has increased from 77.04 million to 80.52 million showing a growth of 4.51%. (19th Livestock Census, Report 3.9.2014). Livestock fairs are organized under the State Livestock Fair Act, 1963; 227 Livestock fairs-cum-livestock exchange markets are organized under the authority of local bodies like Municipality, Nagar Parishad and Gram Panchayats. The veterinary health facility for livestock care was found in 96.55 % of livestock fairs. It included the services of veterinarians/stockmen on the site treatment, vaccination, issue of the health certificate, and attestation. It was observed that veterinary facilities made available in these fairs were perfunctory.

MATERIAL AND METHOD:

Cattle were under observation at the contest place to check any malpractices. Milk was collected between 4 to 7 January 2019 and calculated by taking its average.

Investigator collected the related information by internet primary data, from Z.P. office, Nanded, review of articles, media, personal interviews, visits to the field, etc. The research includes first-hand observations of the Fair, past literature on Malegaon Fair including published reports, generic newspaper reports. This work was carried out during (Dec/Jan) 2019.

Review of articles

Malegaon fair served as a meeting place for the scattered families of communities like Vaidu, Kaikari, Potharaju, Masanjogi, Chudbudkewale, Wadderas, and Pardis from the Telangana-

Marathwada-Karnataka regions. Apart from the trade-in cattle, the fair was also an occasion to hold panchayats to settle disputes among the scattered communities. 'Initially, horses and camels from the north and elephants from the south were traded but later on, the trade was extended to even cats, dogs, monkeys, squirrels, and what have you,' said one of the traders. This year, however, only about 1,500 camels and only 2,500 donkeys were put on sale at the yatra, a drop of about 50 percent. Fewer camels were brought from Patan in Rajasthan as it is becoming increasingly difficult to find dry fodder, said a camel trader from Hyderabad. (S. Harpal Singh, 11.1.2016).

A similar fair also has been held at different places in India.

India's Top Largest animal Fair:

Sonepur Cattle Fair

It is held on Kartik Purnima in November in Sonepur, Bihar. It is held on the confluence of river Ganges and Gandak. To date, it is the biggest cattle fair in Asia and stretches from fifteen days to one month. Many farm animals can be brought from all breeds of dogs, buffaloes, donkeys, ponies, horses, rabbits, goats, and even the occasional camel. Many varieties of birds and poultry are also available. The major attraction is the Haathi Bazaar where elephants are lined up for sale. A wide variety of goods were kept in the stalls, ranging from garments to weapons and furniture, toys and agricultural implements, jewelry, and handicrafts.

Pushkar Fair

The Cattle Fair or Pushkar Melaheld in Pushkar town of Rajasthan state is one of the largest fairs in India. Pushkar Fair is the world's largest camel fairs and apart from buying and selling livestock. It is an important tourist attraction of the state due to other competitions such as matka phod, camel race, and longest mustache and "bridal competition"

Sarangkheda Fair

Sarangkheda is a village in Shahada taluka on the bank of Tapti River, in the Nandurbar district of Maharashtra state in India. The village hosts a Horse trading fair every year in December on the occasion of Datta Jayanti called 'Sarangkheda Chetak Festival'. This tradition has been going on since recorded in history over 300 years ago. The fair attracts thousands of people all over Maharashtra and outside states in the country for many purposes like horse riding, farming, etc.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

During the present study, the investigator observed that Deoni cattle, Red Kandhari cattle, Holstein Friesian- Hybrid Cow, Jarsi Sankarit Cow, Gir, Seiwal, Khillari, Tharparkar Kathewadi cattle have participated in milking contest. Out of these participated cattle, Holstein Friesian- Hybrid Cow showed maximum milking capacity (29.800 Average Ltr. milk capacity/ day) and Red kandhari cattle showed minimum (9.166 Average Ltr. milk capacity/ day) milking capacity. Next to Holstein Friesian- Hybrid Cow was Jarsi Sankarit Cow, which showed milking capacity as 25.600 Average Ltr. milk capacity/ day and Deoni cattle milking capacity followed by Jarsi Sankarit Cow (10.200 Average Ltr. milk capacity/ day), table 2, graph 1.

Following cattle Deoni and Red Kandhari in the Malegaon fair were mostly dominated.

Deoni cattle

Other Names: Surti, Dongarpati, Dongri, Deccani, Wannera, Waghyd, Balankya, and Shevera.

Deoni cattle is a native breed of India. It is originated in the talukas of Basavakalyan, Bidar, and Bhalki of Bidar district in Karnataka and adjoining Latur district of Maharashtra state. The name is derived from the Deoni Taluka of the Latur district of Maharashtra. It is considered an important dual-purpose cattle breed in India. And they are known to be both draft animals and good milk yielders (Table 1). They are very hardy

and the bullocks are very good for heavy work. In India, the Deoni cattle are usually kept by grazing in fallow lands, drylands, or bunds of the farms. It has higher disease resisting power especially tick-borne diseases and has good heat tolerance power, (to direct sunlight and radiation.). It is well adapted to their breeding tract and Indian climate and constitutes an important cattle genetic resource of India. The average lifespan of Deoni cattle is up to 15 years.

It is believed that 'the Deoni cattle has been developed from a strain descended from a mixture of Dangi, Gir and local cattle'. Deoni cattle crosses with Holstein and Jersey are very good milk yielders. The cattle breed is now quite popular in the tracts of Telangana and adjoining districts of Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Government Farms

Deoni Cattle Breeding Farm, Gudgaripalli, Andhra Pradesh. Govt Farm, Kampasagar, Andhra Pradesh. Livestock Research and Information Centre (Deoni), Hallikhed (B), KVAFSU, Bidar, Karnataka. Govt. Farm, Udgir, Maharashtra. Livestock Farm, Parbhani, MAFSU, Maharashtra.

"This breed can be developed on the lines of Ongole cattle if the government focuses on increasing the milk yield of these cows", said Laxma Reddy, Joint Director of the Animal Husbandry Department.

Red Kandhari

Originated from Kandhar tehsil in the Nanded district of Maharashtra, Red Kandhari is also known as "Lakhalbunda". It is a draught breed of cattle. Its breeding tract comprises Ahmadnagar, Parbhani, Beed, Nanded, and Latur districts of Maharashtra.

They are the most popular, pure Indian breed, medium-sized, and have an almost universal deep red colored coat. The coat is devoid of any patches. This red kandhari breed is found in the purest forms in Kandhar, Loha, Mukhed, Biloli, tahsil of Nanded District. Ahemdpur, Latur,

Parbhani, Hingoli, district of Marathwada, Akola, Amravati, (Maharashtra state), Adilabad, Nizamabad, District of Andhra and Bidar district of Karnataka state. It is a low producer of milk (Table 1) but has amazing high breeding efficiency. The Animal is energetic, vigorous, and are usually docile. The animals are maintained under an extensive management system on grazing only in small herds. A small amount of concentrate is offered to bullocks, male calves, and milking animals. The bullocks are used for heavy agricultural work like ploughing, carting, and transportation.

CONCLUSION:

Awards and prizes were declared to winners by the government to encourage for enhancement of milk production, keeping, rearing cattle. Competitions holding purposes were to aware fodder, nutrition, vaccine, diseases, breed, artificial insemination, sperm bank, different government schemes, health, and hygiene, deworming. Nowadays during environmental issues, the owner has to be aware of their cattle wealth richness so such competitions were organized, which was open to all.

Cattle are one of the important biotic factors and our valuable wealth so the owner should be aware of their rearing, wellkeeping, conservation of healthy species by knowing genetic engineering, sperm bank, cloning, artificial insemination, cross-breeding, vaccination, different available government facilities so that they can improve their livestock wealth status.

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Table 1: Specific characteristics of dominated cattle Deoni and Red Kandhari

Sr. No.	Ability	Deoni cow	Red Kandhari cow
1	Age at first calving	from 894 to 1,540 days	1274 days
2	Inter-calving period	447 days	472 days
3	Lactation period	300 days	278 days
4	Daily lactation in peak period	8 Lit /day	3 Lit /day
5	Lactation Yield	1590 kg. & 1800 kg with good practices	600 to 800 kg. in 280 days
6	Dry period	160 days	198 days
7	Gestation period	280 days	280 days
8	Milk fat :	4.5 %	5 %

Table 2: Milk contest of cattle- first prize owner list

Type of cattle	Average Ltr. milk capacity	Name of owner	Place	Total contestants
Holstein Friesian Hybrid Cow	29.800	Jalindar Govind Nagane	Methi, Ahamadpur, Latur	14
Jarsi Sankarit Cow	25.600	Chandrasah Sambhaji Bamne	Somthana, Ahamadpur, Latur	8
Deoni Cow	10.200	Chandrasah Sambhaji Bamne	Somthana, Ahamadpur, Latur	5
Red Kandhari Cow	9.166	Prabhakar Devrao Dawale	Bori (Khu)Kandhar, Nanded	10

*Source: Cattle, Horses, Dogs and Poultry Contest Malegaon, Tq. Loha, Dist. Nanded,

Animal Conservation Department, Zilla Parishad, Nanded

Graph 1. Average Ltr. milk capacity