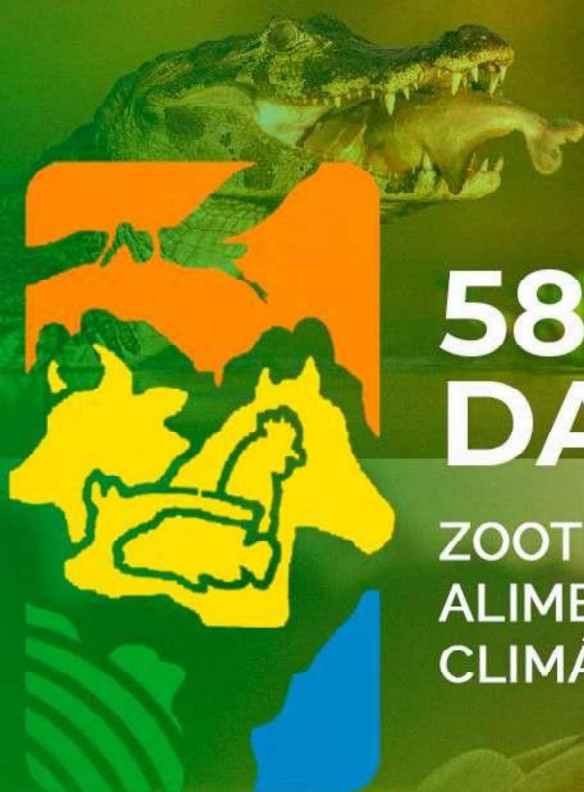


P R O C E E D I N G S



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Milking management of dairy cows in the Chico Mendes settlement, Rondônia: an exploratory study

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To enhance milking management, it's crucial to have a thorough understanding of the practices already employed by producers. This empowers technicians to make key decisions. This study goal was to outline the milking management procedures implemented in the milk production units (MPUs) of the Chico Mendes settlement, located in the municipality of Presidente Médici, Rondônia. A quantitative and exploratory research approach was utilized, employing two technical procedures.: i) A cross-sectional survey applied to producers from 30 MPUs, with a data collection instrument containing structured questions regarding milking management characterization, focusing on animal health and udder hygiene; ii) Field research conducted for employing the black strip cup test to check for clinical mastitis and the California Mastitis Test (CMT) for diagnosing subclinical mastitis in 185 mammary quarters. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics with the Microsoft Office Excel® package. The test results indicate that 15.13% (28/185) of the animals were positive for subclinical mastitis and 0.54% (1/185) for clinical mastitis. It was found that 80.00% (24/30) of the properties used manual milking; 10.00% (3/30) used bucket milking machines, and 10.00% (3/30) used pipeline milking machines. In all properties (30/30), milking occurred with the calf at the cow's side. 77.00% (23/30) of the properties carried out one milking per day, while 23.33% (7/30) conducted two milkings daily. Moreover, 75.00% (21/28) of the animals with subclinical mastitis belonged to properties with only one milking per day. Similarly, the unique cow (1/185) with clinical mastitis was milked once a day. The majority of producers, constituting 73.33% (22/30), did not implement any form of teat sanitation protocol. Only 26.66% (8/30) of the sampled properties practiced teat washing; however, they did so without employing pre-dipping and post-dipping procedures. Only 20.00% (6/30) of producers used the black strip cup test, while no more than 16.66% (5/30) applied the CMT. Although the occurrence of clinical mastitis is within the acceptable range, the incidence of subclinical mastitis exceeds the recommended level according to the literature, indicating the necessity of adopting good practices in sanitary management to improve mammary gland health and potentially the profitability of the system.

Keywords: dairy herds, udder hygiene, management practices, mastitis tests, Rondônia.

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