O26. East African zebu as a dairy cow

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Abstracts
The zebu cattle constitute about 80.8% of the total cattle population in Kenya but only contribute 13.2% to the annual total milk production. Conversely the exotic dairy cattle population constitutes about 19.2% of the total population and contributes 74.6% of the total milk produced per annum. The Zebu cattle are mostly found in arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) which take about 80% of the total landmass. Milk production from this group remains very low and the communities that rear the cattle mostly the subsistence ones remain poor and food insecure. 1957 African farmers were allowed to use A.I to upgrade their E.A Zebu to improve production. However since then indiscriminate crossbreeding with exotic cattle either using AI or natural service has remained a continuous process of erosion of the genetic material in the Zebu population. The small East African zebu cattle germplasm must be conserved to retain the resistance to disease and draught genetic benefit. The small east African zebu remains relatively unfavourable in most of production parameters that are carefully selected for in exotic cattle breeds. The reason is that there has been very little work put on design of proper breeding schemes to upscale the productivity parameters, conduct detailed study on reproductive physiological parameters and conserve the unique germplasm of the EAzebu. Consequently, EAzebu farmers having no direction in breeding apart from crossing with exotic cattle continue to breed their animals indiscriminately giving rise to inbred smaller and low producing cattle. Time has come to focus on the EAzebu cattle taking into account their unique genetic benefit and draw a breeding programme that involves selection of the best individuals in milk production and multiply them using biotechnological techniques like embryo transfer.

PARASITOLOGY

O27. Occurrence and lesions associated with echinostoma revolutum in free-range indigenous chickens in Kenya

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Abstracts
The study was carried out between November 2008 and April 2009 to investigate the occurrence and pathology due to Echinostomum revolutum in free-range indigenous chickens. One hundred and fifty six (156) indigenous chickens were purchased from various farms (108) and markets (48) in Nairobi, Thika and Kiambu districts using randomised purposive sampling method. The distribution of the 108 birds from the farms was Nairobi (36), Thika (36) and Kiambu (36) birds. Birds were transported alive in cages to University of Nairobi, Department of Veterinary Pathology, Microbiology and Parasitology, Kabete for laboratory examination. A thorough post mortem examination was performed on each bird and the isolated worms from the caeca, large intestines, cloaca and oviduct were identified and quantified. Tissues were collected for histopathology, processed, examined and the severity of the lesions determined. Echinostoma revolutum was recovered in the caeca and large
intestines of 3/156 (1.9 %) birds but not in cloaca and oviduct. The affected birds originated from market in Kiambu District. Birds from the other areas did not have E. revolutum. The parasites caused haemorrhages and typhlo-enteritis in the affected birds. Other worms observed from these organs were Ascaridia galli, Heterakis gallinarum, Heterakis isoloncha, Heterakis dispar, Subulura brumpti, Raillietina echinobothrida and Hymenolepis contaniana. The trematodes are reported in Kenya for the first time.

**O28. Prevalence of haemoparasites in free-range local ducks**

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Abstracts

A study was conducted between November 2008 and March 2009 to determine the prevalence of haemoparasites in different age and sex groups of free-range local ducks in Nairobi and its environs. The ducks were categorized into ducklings (<2 months), growers (2 to 6 months) and adult ducks (>6 months). A total of 47 adults, 50 growers and 48 ducklings comprising 77 females and 68 males were sampled. Two thin blood smears were prepared from each bird, processed and examined for haemoparasites. Data obtained was analyzed as number of ducks of different age and sex groups infected with a particular haemoparasite. Haemoparasites were observed in 70/145 (48.28 %) of the ducks. Four haemoparasites identified were Aegyptinella pullorum 59/145 (40.69 %), Leucocytozoon caulleryi 10/145 (6.90 %), Haemoproteus species 1/145 (0.69 %) and Eperythrozoon species 5/145 (3.45 %). Their prevalence was 38.57 % (27/70), 24.29 % (17/70), 20.0 % (14/70) and 17.14 % (12/70) (p>0.05) for Embakasi, Westlands, Kasarani and Thika districts, respectively. Grower ducks had a prevalence of 35.71 % (25/70), adults, 34.29 % (24/70) and ducklings, 30.0 % (21/70) (p>0.05). Male and female ducks had an equal prevalence of 50.0 % (35/70). This study has demonstrated the occurrence of haemoparasites in different sexes and age groups of apparently healthy appearing ducks for the first time in Kenya. Their impact on duck productivity need further investigation and control strategies initiated to improve the industry.

**O29. Prevalence, intensity and pathological lesions associated with contracaecum species infection in farmed and wild catfish in the upper Tana river basin, Kenya**

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Abstracts

A total of 108 randomly selected farmed and wild Clarias gariepinus (catfish) obtained from the upper Tana river basin were examined for intestinal helminthies between July 2007 and April 2008. Over fifty nine point three per cent (59.3 %) of the catfish had Contracaecum species larval worms in the abdominal and branchial cavities. The prevalence of the parasite in farmed fish was 18.5 %, wild catfish 40.7 % (p < 0.05), whereas adult catfish had a prevalence of 37.0 % while young had 22.2 % (p < 0.05). There was no significant difference in the Contracaecum spp. infection between
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and
The 46th Kenya Veterinary Association Annual Scientific Conference
and
The 12th World Veterinary Day celebrations

Programme and Abstracts

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