

Title

Morphometric, Productive and Reproductive Traits in Indigenous Cattle of Azad Jammu & Kashmir

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research was to study the morphometric measurements, productive and reproductive performances of indigenous cows and heifers in Northern Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K). A total 237 phenotypic characteristics was recorded visually. Five main coat colors (reddish brown, light brown, black, white and grey) were found with black muzzle and eye-lashes. The head length was 37.7 ± 0.2 cm with small horns (11 ± 0.3 cm). The positive correlation between horn length/horn base circumference, ear length/ear width, forehead width/horn length were found statistically significant ($p \leq 0.01$). The highest positive correlations were found between age/rump width (0.77), age/parity (0.66), body weight/ heart girth (0.62) and parity/rump width (0.60). The average age at puberty (41.02 ± 0.6 months), average age at first service (49.3 ± 0.7 months), age at first calving (58.54 ± 0.7 months), mean gestation period (279.6 ± 0.2 days), mean post-partum heat period (253.2 ± 14.8 days), mean service period (257.69 ± 5.8 days), mean calving interval (17.87 ± 0.4 months), mean service per conception (1.5 ± 0.06) and average milk yield per day (1.20 ± 0.06 litre) were also recorded. In conclusion, the indigenous cattle are short stature, reddish brown in color with poor reproductive and productive performance.

Key Words: Morphometric, Productive, Reproductive, Indigenous cattle, Azad Kashmir.