

A STUDY ON FACTORS AFFECTING THE MILK
PRODUCTION OF RURAL CATTLE AND BUFFALO HERDS

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The objective of this study is to identify the factors affecting the milk production of cattle and buffalo herds under rural farming conditions.

A field survey was carried out in 3 A.G.A's divisions namely Kuliypitiya, Polgahawela and Nikeweratiya in the Kurunegala district, using a structured questionnaire with randomly selected cattle and buffalo farmers.

In order to determine the factors affecting milk production, a system of multiple regression equations were fitted and estimated by the method of ordinary least squares.

The concentrate feeding significantly increased the milk production of cattle and buffalo herds. The results suggested that the milk yield of rural cattle and buffalo could be increased by providing better housing facilities. The highland ownership, lowland ownership, farm gate prices of milk, distance to milk collecting centre, and availability of housing facilities were some of the major factors affecting the rearing of animals for milk in the rural cattle and buffalo herds.

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