

Contents

	Page No.
Summary	1
Acknowledgments	5
1- Introduction	7
2- Review of literature	9
2-1- Introduction of Friesian in the tropics	9
2-2- Health performance of Friesian in the tropics	9
2-2-1- Calf morbidity and mortality	10
2-2-2- Common cow and calf health problems	13
2-2-2-1- Suckling calf disease	13
2-2-2-2- Weaner calf disease	14
2-2-2-3- Grower calf diseases	15
2-2-2-4- Heifer calf diseases	15
2-2-2-5- Cow mortality	16
2-2-2-6- Cow disposal	17
2-2-2-7- Cause of cow culling	18
2-3- Lactation performance of Friesian in the tropics	18
2-3-1- Lactation milk yield	18
2-3-2- Lactation length	22
2-3-3- Peak lactation	22
2-3-4- Life production	23
2-3-5- Dry period	23
2-4- Reproductive performance	24
2-4-1- Age at first calving	25
2-4-2- Calving interval	26
2-4-3- Days open	27
2-4-4- Gestation length	29

	Page No.
2-4-5- No of services per conception	29
2-4-6- Conception rate	31
2-4 -7- Incidence and causes of abortion	32
2-4-8- Dystocia	33
2-4-9- Stillbirth	33
2-4-10- Twinning	33
2-5- Growth performance of Friesian	35
2-5-1- Birth weight	35
2-5-2- Weaning weight	36
3- Materials and Methods	38
3-1- Site of the study	38
3-2- Experimental animals and facilities	38
3-2-1- Origin of the herd	38
3-2-2- Housing	38
3-2-3- Health management	39
3-2-4- Reproductive management	39
3-2-5- Feeding management	39
3-2-6- Management of heifer calf	40
3-2-7- Data recorded	40
3-2-8- Statistical analysis	41
4- Results	46
4-1- Health performance	46
4-2- Calf survival	47
4-2-1- Survival at birth	47
4-2-2- Survival at first week	48
4-2-3- Survival at one month	48

	Page No.
4-3- Lactation performance	49
4-3-1- Lactation length	66
4-4- Reproductive performance	67
4-5- Growth performance	71
4-5-1- Birth weight	71
4-5-2- Weaning weight	71
5- Discussion	87
5-1- Health	87
5-2- Survival rate	87
5-3- Lactation performance	88
5.4 – Reproductive performance	89
5-4-1 Calving interval	89
5-4-2- Calving interval	89
5-4-3- Age at first calving	90
5-4-4- Conception rate	91
5-4-5- Number of services per conception	92
5-4-6- Gestation length	94
5-4-7- Calf loss	94
5-5- Still born	95
5-6- Abortion	95
5-7- Calving rate	95
5-8- Twinning rate	95
5-9- Growth performance	96
5-9-1- Birth weight	96
5-9-2- Weaning weight	97
6- Recommendations	99

List of Tables

Table No.		Page
Table 1	Distribution of diseases according to age, disease type, interaction of disease type with age, and season.	48
Table 2	Analysis of variance in survival at birth as affected by season, birth type, sex and interactions using birth weight as covariate.	49
Table 3	Analysis of variance in survival rate at one week as affected by birth type season sex and interactions using birth weight as covariates.	50
Table 4	Mean survival rate (\pm standard error) at birth, one week, and one month of age for sex, season, and birth type.	51
Table 5	Analysis of variance in survival rate at one month of age as affected by season of birth, birth type, sex, and their interactions on calf using birth weight as covariate.	52
Table 6	Distribution of the number of lactations, over parities and season together with corrected 305-d milk yield (kg), lactation length (days) ,peak milk yield (kg) and calving interval (days).	53

Table No.		Page
Table 7	Correlations between lactation length, peak milk yield and calving interval.	53
Table 10	Analysis of variance in factors affecting milk yield, daily peak milk yield, lactation length and calving interval.	59
Table 11	Analysis of variance in factors affecting milk yield, daily peak milk yield, lactation length, for winter and summer calving cows.	60
Table 12	Mean (\pm standard errors) milk yield (kg), daily peak milk yield (kg), lactation length (days) in cows that calved in winter and summer and also of cows from group 1 (1 - 4 parities) and group 2 (with more than 4 parities).	61
Table 13	Mean (\pm standard errors) milk yield (kg), peak milk yield (kg), lactation length (day) and calving interval (day) for season \times group interaction.	62
Table 14	Mean (\pm standard errors) milk yield (kg), peak milk yield (kg), lactation length (days), adjusted for differences in lactation length and times of peak lactation.	63
Table 15	Mean (\pm standard errors) corrected 305 -day milk yield (kg) of cows in parities 1 to 7.	63
Table 16	Mean (\pm standard errors) 305-day milk yield (kg), peak daily milk yield (kg), lactation length(days) and calving interval (days).	64

Table No.		Page
Table 17	Mean (\pm standard errors) calving interval (days), peak milk yield (kg), lactation length (days) and 305-day milk yield (kg) as affected by season \times parity interaction.	72
Table 18	Percentage of cows that had their peak daily milk at Time 1 and Time 2 in winter and summer.	73
Table 19	The distribution of the number of cows that had their peak lactation at time 1 or 2 in summer and winter.	73
Table 20	The distribution of the number of cows that had their peak lactation at Parity 1 and 2 in summer and winter.	74
Table 21	The distribution of the number of cows that had their peak lactation at Parity 1 and 2 in summer and winter.	74
Table 22	Analysis of variance in peak milk yield as affected by lactation length, calving interval, age at first calving, year, season, parity and interactions.	75
Table 23	Mean values (\pm standard errors) for lactation length (day) and milk yield (kg) in Summer and Winter for Parity 1, and 2, Time 1, and 2, and interactions.	76
Table 24	Analysis of variance in factors affecting age at first calving.	77
Table 25	Mean (\pm standard errors), age (days) at first calving in summer and winter.	77
Table 26	The number of calves born to young and old cows classified according to birth type (single or twin).	77

Table No.		Page
Table 27	Distribution of the number of new born calves according to season, sex and birth type.	78
Table 28	Distribution of the number of new born calves according to birth type and sex in young and old cows.	78
Table 29	The number of calves that was lost to abortion, still-birth and death at birth in young and old cows.	79
Table 30	The number of inseminations to successful conceptions in young and old cows.	79
Table 31	Number of inseminations required to pregnancy in old and young cows.	80
Table 32	Prenatal calf losses between 1990-1997.	80
Table 33	Mean (\pm standard error) maximum and minimum values of the length of interval (day) between calving and first insemination), calving to last insemination and first heat to last insemination and number of inseminations.	81
Table 34	Correlations, between calving interval and time to first insemination, calving to last inseminations first heat to last insemination and the number of inseminations.	81
Table 35	Effect of cow status, year, and season on mean interval between calving and first insemination, number of inseminations before conception, time between calving and last insemination and first	82

Table No.		Page
	heat to last insemination.	
Table 36	Variation in gestation length in relation to, parity, year, season of pregnancy, cow status and year of pregnancy.	83
Table 37	Analysis of variance in birth weight using parity, milk yield and year of birth as covariates.	84
Table 38	Analysis of variance in weaning weight as affected by sex, season, type of birth and their interactions using parity, milk yield and year of birth as covariates.	85
Table 39	Mean (\pm standard errors) birth and weaning weights kg of Friesian calves.	86
Table 40	Mean (\pm standard errors) Birth weight (kg) and weaning weight of Friesian calves.	86

List of Figures

Figure No.		Page
Table 1	Milk yield (mean SE) relationship with parity for all cows.	58