

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

HORIZONTAL ARRANGEMENTS AND DAIRY FARMER'S KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MILK QUALITY

Bruna SESCO de MENDONÇA^{*1}, Vinicius Donizeti Vieira da COSTA², Raiane Real MARTINELLI², Marcela CASALI¹, Marcio Gregório Rojas dos SANTOS², Ferenc Istvan BÁNKUTI³, Julio Cesar DAMASCENO³

*corresponding author: b_sesco@hotmail.com

¹ Aluno(a) de Pós-Graduação em Produção Sustentável e Saúde Animal - Universidade Estadual de Maringá, campus de Umuarama, Paraná, Brasil

² Aluno(a) de Pós-Graduação em Zootecnia – Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Paraná, Brasil

³ Professor (a) do Departamento de Zootecnia – Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Paraná, Brasil

In 2016, 34.65 billion liters of milk were produced in Brazil, which left the country in fourth place in the world ranking. Several variables influence the quality of raw milk, including Somatic Cell Count (SCC) and Standard Plate Count (SPC). Somatic cells involve white blood cells and epithelial cells of desquamation. The increase in these cells is directly related to mastitis, a disease that affects milk production in both quantity and quality. The SPC informs the bacterial milk content (CFU/mL), being an indication of hygienic care during milking and the handling of milk. The horizontal arrangements are defined as the organization between agents of the same level in a productive chain, such as the organization of milk producers in cooperatives and associations. It is assumed that producers participating in these arrangements have greater knowledge about technical and economical aspects of production, once the exchange of information is facilitated. The objective of the study was to verify if milk producers in the State of São Paulo, who participate in horizontal arrangements, have better knowledge about the meaning of SCC and SPC of milk in comparison with those that do not participate in these arrangements. A total of 143 semi structured forms were applied to dairy production systems (DPS) between January and March of 2018. The data collected were tabulated and statistically analyzed. The DPS were divided into two groups: those who participate in horizontal arrangements and those who do not participate. From this, the amount of knowledge of milk producers was analyzed in relation to the following quality parameters: SCC and SPC. From 143 interviewees, 65 participate in horizontal arrangements and 78 do not participate. In relation to the question: "Do you know what SCC is?" 73.8% of those who participate in horizontal arrangements do not know, 21.6% know little and 4.6% know fully. Of those who do not participate, 61.5% do not know, 29.5% know little and 9% know fully. In relation to the question: "Do you know what SPC is?" 73.8% of those who participate do not know, 21.6% know little and only 4.6% know fully. Of those who do not participate, 55.1% do not know, 21.6% know little and 9% know fully. The results showed that there was no significant difference between the two groups analyzed ($p > 0.05$), so participating in horizontal arrangements did not influence the knowledge of the producers about the meaning of SCC and SPC.

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