SOME FACTORS INFLUENCING MILK PRODUCTION TRAITS OF
PURE AND CROSSBRED COWS IN THE TROPICS

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ABSTRACT
10 year record of 879 lactation yield of three breeds of cows comprising
Brown Swiss (pure), White Fulani (indigenous) and Brown Swiss x N'Dama
(crossbred) raised and maintained at the teaching and Research farm of the
University of Ibadan was used to investigate effect of some factors on milk
production traits. Breed exerted significant (P<0.01) effect on all the
production traits. Lactation milk yield, milk yield per day and lactation
length was significantly (P<0.05) affected by calving interval while the age
at first calving had significant (P<0.05) effect on production years and
lifetime yield indicating that where calving interval had significant effect,
age at first calving had no significant effect and vice versa!. The seasonal
effect (P>0.05) had no influence on the production traits except on the
lactation milk yield. Calving interval and age at first calving did not follow
any trend of effect, however on the average 16-18 months calving interval,
23-32 month age at first calving was best for most of the production traits.
The phenotypic and genetic correlation coefficients amongst the milk
production traits revealed a high genetic association between the genes
controlling these traits with exception of productive years.