



Effect of Twinning on Calving Ease and Viability of Calves

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Abstract: The aim of the current research was to evaluate the effects of twinning on calving ease and calves' viability in Romanian Spotted dual-purpose breed. The average incidence of twinning in herd was 7.14%, while the incidence of dystocia was 19.23%. The twin pregnancies proved to be the major factor related to dystocia (15% vs. 4.23%, $p \leq 0.001$). Stillborn incidence was the most prevalent in twin compared to single births (5% vs. 2.31%, $p < 0.001$). The twinning induced a significant increase of morbidity compared to single births (12.5% vs. 5%, $p < 0.001$).

• Introduction

Twinning is characterized by an upward tendency over time. Twinning represent an important issue, due the infertility, higher incidence of morbidity, stillbirths, issues that should be avoided in dairy farms.

Material and method

300 Romanian Spotted calves considered as viable, morbid or non-viable according to APGAR protocol. The proportion of calves and births category was investigated using chi square test (2x3 model).

• Results and discussions

Tab. 1 The share of the calves according to type of birth

Parameters	Viable calves %	Morbid %	Non-Viable %
Simple births	92.69	5	2.31
Twin births	82.5	12.5	5

Tab. 2 Incidence of dystocia according to type of birth

Parameters	Eutocya	Dystocia
Simple births %	95.77	4.23
Twin births %	85	15

• Conclusions

Twinning increase the dystocia incidence, also calves' morbidity or death. Although twinning does not directly affect the calves' viability. The induced dystocia it contributes significantly in this sense. Avoiding twinning in herds is a sure way to reduce the previously mentioned losses.

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