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# Study Regarding Calves Health Practice from Birth to Weaning on Romanian Dairy Buffalo Farms, Considering Farm Size

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**Abstract:** This study investigates health management practices for dairy buffalo calves in Romania, emphasizing preventive strategies and disease incidence based on farm size. Data collected from a limited number of farms show that preventive measures like vitamin and selenium supplementation are common, but vaccination is rarely practiced, especially in small farms. The occurrence of diseases such as renal disorders, diarrhea, and respiratory issues remains low, suggesting that more structured preventive programs could improve health outcomes, particularly in smaller farming operations.

## Aim

To **evaluate** the **rearing practices** adopted in dairy farms in Romania, thus considering **buffalo farms: small and medium** (5 - 50 heads); **large** (> 50 heads)

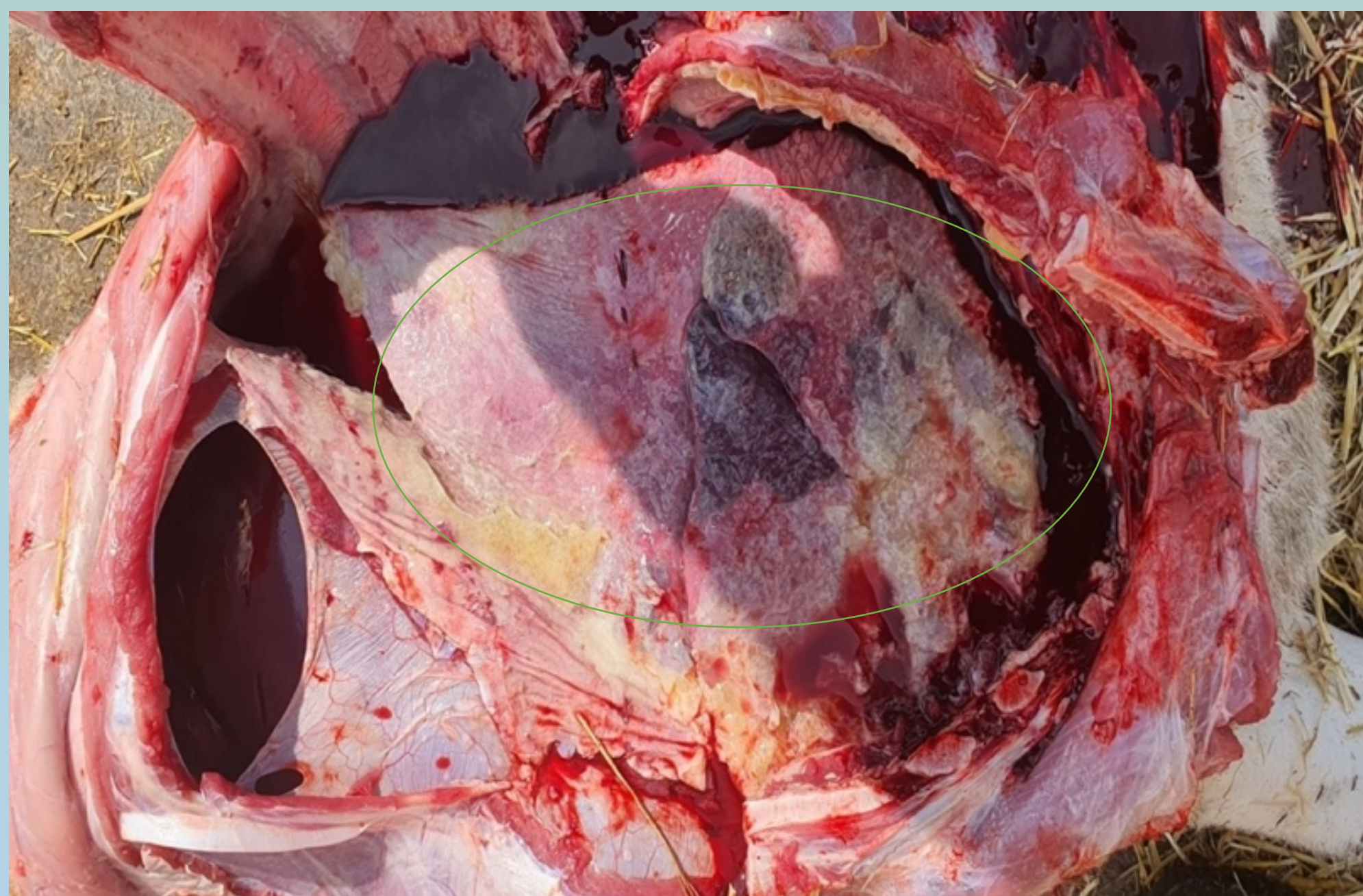
## Materials and methods

**1. Study Population:** questionnaire **from May 2020 to April 2021** (**8** respondents, **799** buffaloes)

### 2. Method:

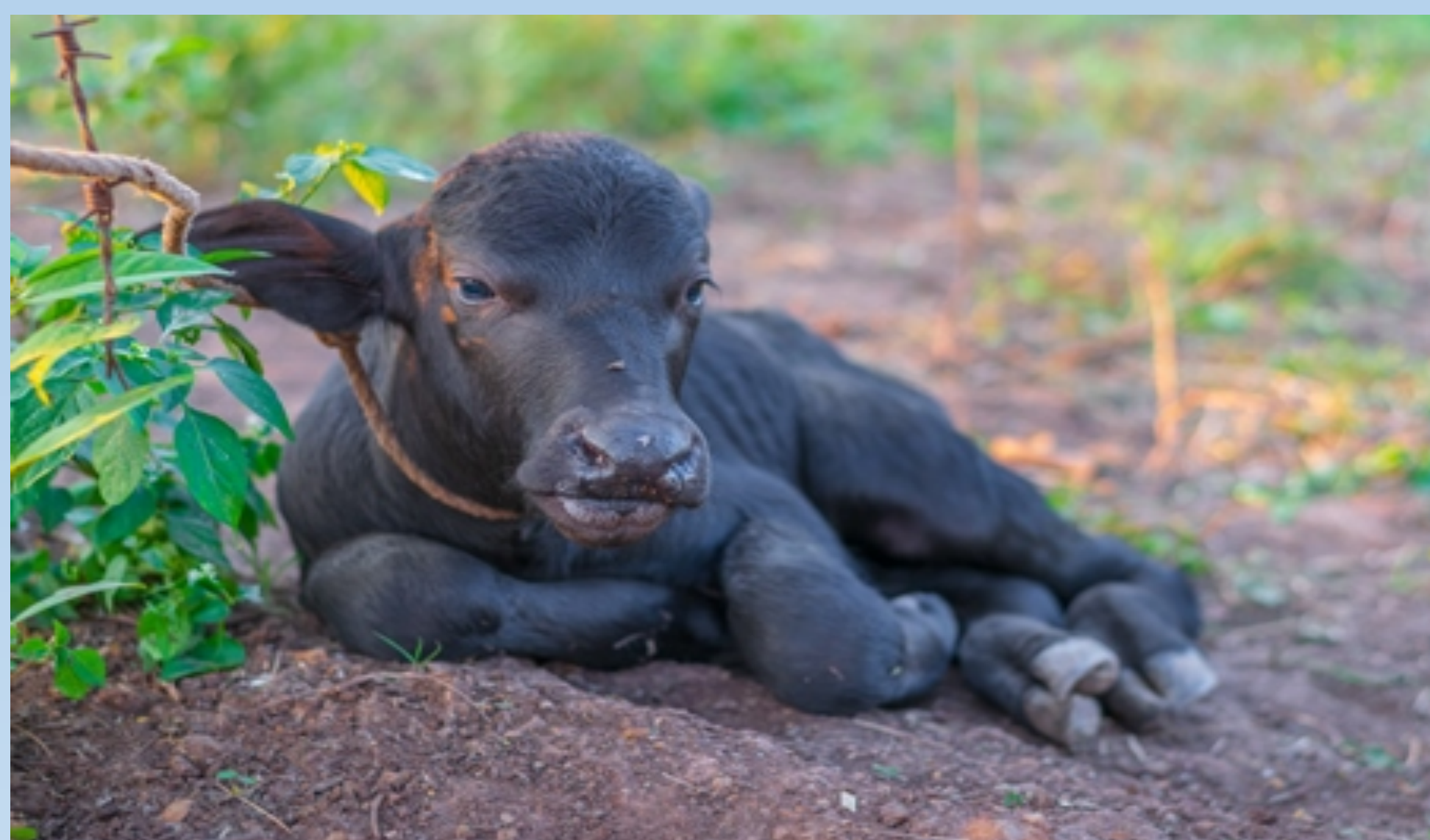
- 40 questions regarding the growth technologies and health of 0-3-month-old calves
  - **small farms** (5-50 buffalo heads with a total of **5 farms**)
  - **large farms** (over 50 heads, with a total of **3 farms**)
- used parameters : incidence of diarrhea, respiratory diseases, deworming and vaccinations and method of preventing technopathies

**3. Data analysis:** **chi-square test of independence** was performed to determine the relationships between the health of the buffalo calves and the size of the farm



## Results and discussion

**Table 1. Farm size influence on the incidence of calves diarhea, respiratory diseases and renal affections, from dairy buffalo farms**



**Table 2. Farm size influence on the calves technopathies preventions, vaccination and deworming, in dairy buffalo farms**

Farm size	Diarrhea incidence (%)				Respiratory disease incidence (%)		Kidney disease incidence (%)	
	< 5%	5–15%	25–35%	Not applicable %	< 5%	Not applicable %	< 5%	Not applicable %
Small farms	75	0	0	25	60	40	60	40
Large farms	33,33	33,33	33,33	0	100	0	100	0
TOTAL	62,5	12,5	12,5	12,5	75	25	75	25
Small vs. Large farms	NS (0,204)				NS (0,205)		NS (0,205)	

Farm size	Calves technopathies prevention (%)			Vaccination (%)		Deworming (%)	
	Vitamin. (%)	Se intake (%)	Environmental corrections (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)
Small farms	40	20	40	0	100	60	40
Large farms	66,66	0	33,33	66,66	33,33	100	0
TOTAL	50	12,5	37,5	25	75	75	25
Small vs. Large farms	NS (0,641)			* (0,035)		NS (0,205)	