



The Effect of Climatic Condition on Area Preference of Animals in Dairy Cattle Houses[#]

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Abstract: Realizing design of appropriate structure for cow comfort is important to increase animal production. This study was carried out to determine shelter area choice of cows for loose housing and free stall housing between 2006-2008 in Konya. Behaviour of animals was investigated in two dairy cattle companies which have loose and free stall livestock buildings. It has taken 80 days (1920 h) totally, 40 days per company. Forty days were decided to represent 4 seasons (10 days per season). Behaviour of cows was observed by recording during 24 hours of a day with video cameras mounted at suitable places in investigated parts. Seasonal time budget and shelter field choice of cows was determined for each shelter company. As a result of the observations, it was determined that climate is an important factor for area preference of cows. It was observed that cows usually preferred barn facilities which had low air flow in cold climatic conditions, high air flow in hot climatic conditions.

Key words: Cattle Behaviour, Dairy Livestock Building, Time Budget, Area Usage of Cattle.

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