Abstract:

The present investigations were conducted to study the main reasons for removal of cows from dairy herd at Dairy Land Farm, Sudan. This investigation covered the period from 1996-1999. Data were from 540 Holstein-Friesian cows removed from the herd. Main reasons for removal were deaths with a rate of 39.5% and culling with a rate of 24.8% from the total herd.

The most important diseases that caused higher percentages of deaths were found to be pneumonia (28%), theleria (27.1%), and emaciation and weakness (15.7%) from the total deaths. While infertility, mastitis, low milk yield, and accidents were the main reasons for culling. They represented 28.9%, 3.7%, 2.4%, and 3.3% respectively. Moreover, deaths and culling occurred at higher rates during the first four lactations than later lactations. Age of disposal was found to be 5.95 years, which is equivalent to 2.96 lactations. The highest losses occur during Summer season (43.7%) compared to that occurred during Winter (35%) and Autumn (21.3%). Similarly comparisons of losses in all lactations were also compared according to seasons.