

DIFFERENCES IN MILK PRODUCTION FROM FARMS THAT USE SILAGE AND FORAGE IRRIGATION TO THOSE THAT DO NOT USE, THE CASE STUDY IN KOSOVO

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Abstract

Silage and fodder irrigation create high benefits in milk production on farms and make high differences in production and efficient production. The purpose of the research was to analyse the use of silage in feeding dairy cows and watering fodder concerning milk production in different farms operating in Kosovo.

The research includes 237 farms with a random sample throughout the territory of Kosovo and all the farms subject to this research are market-oriented. The research was conducted from January to October 2021 and includes the period for the years 2019/2020. For the quantitative data, a questionnaire was used and the data were collected through face-to-face interviews with the farmers, while the qualitative data were collected through discussions with the farmers, and observations on farms.

In 2020 and 2019, out of 237 farms, 198 used silage in feeding dairy cows, while 39 farms did not use silage. Out of 237 farms, 80 of them had access to and irrigated fodder, while 157 farms did not have access to irrigation and did not irrigate fodder at all. In farm-based analyses, the average milk production in 2020 of farms that used corn silage was 80,237.12 liters of milk or 5,861 liters per cow, while the average milk production of the farms that did not use silage was 25,726.29 liters of milk or 1,879.19 liters per cow. The average milk production in 2019 of all farms that used silage was 81,704.83 liters or 5,733.6 liters per cow, while the average milk production of farms that did not use silage was 29,468.07 liters of milk or 2,067.9 liters per cow. The farms that had access to irrigation in 2020 produced an average of 106,700.9 liters of milk or 7,794 liters per cow. On the other hand, farms that did not have access to irrigation produced 53,211.4 liters of milk on average per farm or 3,889.8 liters per cow. The differences in milk production for farms that used silage and had access to irrigation were high when compared to farms that did not use silage and did not have access to irrigation.

Advisory services should inform and train milk producers about the role and importance of fodder, especially for silage and irrigation of fodder. Finally, institutions should allocate more funds for the irrigation of agricultural systems.

Key words: Milk Production, Farm, Silage, Fodder Irrigation, Kosovo.