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FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO REPEAT BREEDING AND DELAYED CONCEPTION IN
DAIRYCOWS IN KAATO SUB COUNTY, MANAFWA DISTRICT

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Namonyo Nicholas declare that this dissertation is my original work and has never been submitted to this or any other University or institute of higher learning for academic award.

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my wife Ms. Nalyaka Betty my children Masette Felix Regan and Nakami pretty.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
AI	:	Artificial Insemination
UBOS	:	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
DVO	:	District Veterinary Officer
NGO	:	Non-Government Organization
MAAIF	:	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
SPSS	:	Special Package for Social Scientist Soft ware

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ABSTRACT

Livestock sub-sector plays a major role in lives of people. It also contributes to 17% - 19% of the agricultural GDP worldwide. Despite the contribution of the dairy sector, Repeat breeding (RB) and delayed conception has become the major source of economic loss among dairy farmers in Uganda particularly farmers in kaato sub county. The indicators has been shown that extra breeding costs, extra feeding costs, increased calving interval, increased treatment costs and increased culling rates occur as a result of repeat breeding. The cause of repeat breeding and delayed conception has not been empirically established. The aim of this study was to establish factors contributing to repeat breeding and delayed conception among dairy cows in kaato sub county Manafwa district. A sample of 100 farmers was selected using purposive sampling procedure and Data analysis was done using (SPSS). The factors that were significantly explain the cause of repeat breeding were mostly management factors with natural mating ranked the highest ($p= 0.000$), handling during and after parturition ($p= 0.000$), nutrition ($p=0.000$) and housing ($p= 0.000$). These findings will be more use full to stake holders of dairy sub sector to formulate policies that will improve production and reproductive rates among dairy animal hence minimizes losses incurred as a result of repeat breeding and delayed conception. The study concluded that management practices have more impact on repeat breeding than environment factors.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

This introductory part of this research dissertation will identify the key factors contributing to repeat breeding in dairy cows in Uganda with much emphasis on specific area of kaato Sub-County in Manafwa District.

1.1 Background

Agriculture contributes to 17% - 19% of the GDP worldwide (Eklundh, 2013). The livestock sub-sector plays a major role in lives of people for example over 200 liters of milk is needed per person per year (Larson *et al*, 2000). Repeat breeding (RB) is defined as cow's failure to conceive from 3 or more regularly spaced services in the absence of detectable abnormalities (Yusuf, 2010). It is a costly problem for the dairy producer and its prevalence in United States of America vary from 10% to 18% in past years and increases from 0.00% to 42.42% in current years (Robinson, 1977).

Repeat breeding is more pronounced in heifers than multiparous cows with 12.8% as being the percentage of multiparous cows and 26.6% for heifers implying that repeat breeding is more common in heifer as compared in multiparous cow (Zobel, 2010). However Africa especially Ethiopia repeat breeding has become the most remarkable reproductive disorder in dairy cows for example Out of the 384 animals studied in Ethiopia, a total of 28(27.44%) were heifers with repeat breeding, 18(7.53%) cross breed cows and 5(21.74%) local cows with repeat breeding (Guesh, 2014).

A dairy cattle breeding is an important technology in the enhancement and promotion of dairy production in Uganda. Most of the dairy breeds in Uganda are kept on smallholder units about 10 animals or less especially in kaato sub county Manafwa district. Although animal genetic improvement offers one of the most efficient and quickest ways of improving the productivity of dairy herds but its effective exploitation in Manafwa has not been achieved due to lack of a well planned and executed breeding program. (Mugisha *et al* 2014)

Historically, in Uganda, Because of rearing bulls and females together it has rendered extensive use of bulls indicating possibility of inbreeding. Realization of selective breeding in most

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