EVALUATION OF LINEAR TYPE TRAITS FOR BROWN SWISS CATTLE REARED IN THE RESEARCH FARM OF ATATÜRK UNIVERSITY

Mete YANAR  Recep AYDIN  Naci TÜZEMEN  Feyzi UĞUR

Department of Animal Science, College of Agriculture, Atatürk University, Erzurum

SUMMARY: Brown Swiss cows reared in the Research Farm of Agricultural College at Atatürk University were scored linearly for 16 type traits. Differences between scorers were significant for some type traits such as chest width, angularity, foot angle, rear leg (side view), rump width, teat placement (side view) and udder depth. Regression on age at first calving was insignificant for all the type traits.

INTRODUCTION

Dairymen, extension personnel and researchers have argued importance of type traits involved in selection programmes for a long time. Although, milk yield is still the primary significant trait for selection, most breeders also consider type traits as important for selection purposes. Alleira and Henderson (1967) reported that some of type traits such as fore and rear udder attachments were important in culling decision in second and later lactations. Berger et al. (1973) indicated that phenotypic type score was 0.35 to 2.94 times as important as dystocia, age at first calving, days in milk were divided into five stages of lactation that were 1 (<2 months), 2 (2- <4 months), 3 (4- <6 months), 4 (6- <10 months) and 5 (>10 months) as suggested by Vij et al. (1990).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A total of 246 Brown Swiss cows from cattle herd of Research Farm of Agricultural College at Atatürk University were scored linearly for type traits. One of the type traits, stature (height at withers), was determined in 1929 (White, 1974). Then, it has undergone various changes from a single total score to unified score system. Recently, Uniform Functional Type Traits (UFTT) programme was recommended by Ad hoc Committee appointed by the National Association of Animal Breeders. The UFTT (linear system) programme was implemented in 1980 by Ayrshire, Guernsey and Jersey Breed Associations. The Holstein Friesian Association appointed by the National Association of Animal Breeders. The UFTT (linear system) programme was implemented in 1983. The National Association of Animal Breeders proposed scoring 14 traits on a 50-99 point basis, but the 50-99 point basis was later changed to 1-9 point basis. Each trait is scored uniformly on a 50-99 point basis from one biological extreme to the other (Thompson et al. 1983).

There are several advantages of the linear system over the unified score system. These are: (1) Linear system is simpler than the previous unified score system, (2) scores cover the biological range, (3) degree rather than desirability is recorded and (4) scoring allows analysis with continuous scale and mixed model evaluation, (5) a wide range of numerical scores is used, (6) Traits are scored individually rather than in combination (Norman et al. 1983; Hayes and Mao, 1987; Foster et al, 1988). But little work on this subject has been done in Turkey.

Researchers in the developed countries have studied the genetic importance of linear type traits and the environmental factors that influence them (Norman et al. 1983; Lucas et al. 1984; Thomas et al. 1985; Schaeffer et al. 1985; Hayes and Mao, 1987; Foster et al, 1988). But little work on this subject has been done in Turkey.

The present study undertaken to determined the linear type scores for various type traits and to investigate the effect of nongenetic factors on the linear type traits in Brown Swiss cattle reared in the Research Farm of Agricultural College at Atatürk University.
Tablo 1
The following statistical model was used to analyse each of 16 type traits.

\[ Y_{ijkl} = \mu + a_i + b_j + c_k + b (X_{ijkl} - X) + e_{ijkl} \]

Where;
- \( Y_{ijkl} \) = Individual cow type score,
- \( \mu \) = Overall mean,
- \( a_i \) = Effect of \( i^{th} \) scorer (\( i = 1, 2 \)),
- \( b_j \) = Effect of \( j^{th} \) parity (\( j = 1, \ldots, 6 \)),
- \( c_k \) = Effect of \( k^{th} \) stage of lactation (\( k = 1, \ldots, 5 \)),
- \( b \) = linear partial regression coefficient on age at first calving,
- \( X_{ijkl} \) = Effect of age at first calving of the \( ijkl^{th} \) cow,
- \( X \) = Mean age at first calving,
- \( e_{ijkl} \) = Random error.

The least-squares analysis and Duncan multiple comparison test were carried out by using two statistical package programs (Harvey, 1987 and SAS, 1986).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The results regarding with least-squares analysis and means for type traits are presented in Table 2. The classification of Brown Swiss cows in the Research Farm of Agricultural College on the basis of average score for each traits is given in Table 3.

Effect of Scorer
The differences between two scorers were statistically significant (P<0.05) for some traits such as foot angle, rump width and udder depth and highly significant (P<0.01) for chest width, angularity, rear legs (side view) and teat placement (side view) (Table 2). Lucas et al. (1984), Schaeffer et al. (1985), Lawstuen et al. (1987) and Vij et al. (1990) also reported significant differences between scorers for most of the form traits. However, in the present study, most of the udder traits for example, fore udder attachment, teat placement (rear view), teat length, suspensory ligament, rear udder width at attachment and rear udder height at attachment were not significantly affected by the scorers.

Effect of Parity
Type traits such as stature, foot angle, rear leg (rear view), rump angle, rump width, teat length and udder depth were significantly influenced by parities. As parities of the animals advanced, scores of the teat length gradually increased but, scores belonging to the udder depth gradually decreased (Table 2). There was also an increasing trend in the rump width. The results could be attributed to the growth of the animal, since animal advances in age and along with it in parity. Insignificant effects of the parity on the chest width, angularity, rear leg (side view), fore udder attachment, teat placement (rear and side view), suspensory ligament, rear udder width and rear udder height at attachment were observed in this study. The results were in agreement with findings of Vij et al. (1990) and Thompson et al. (1983). However, Schaeffer et al. (1985), Boldman and Famula (1985), Hayes and Mao (1987) reported significant effect of parity on all type traits.
Table 3. Classification of Brown Swiss Herd of Research Farm of Agricultural Collage at Atatürk University.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Average Score</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stature</td>
<td>1.7±0.10</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest Width</td>
<td>4.8±0.13</td>
<td>Intermediate width</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angularity</td>
<td>4.6±0.16</td>
<td>Intermediate angularity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foot Angle</td>
<td>4.7-0.15</td>
<td>Intermediate angle (40°-50°)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear Legs (Side View)</td>
<td>4.5±0.14</td>
<td>Intermediate Sickled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear Legs (Rear View)</td>
<td>4.6±0.13</td>
<td>Moderate toe-out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rump Angle</td>
<td>5.0±0.14</td>
<td>Moderate slope from hocks to pins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rump Width</td>
<td>5.4±0.14</td>
<td>Intermediate width of the pelvic area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fore Udder Attachment</td>
<td>5.6±0.15</td>
<td>Intermediate (neither strong not loose)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear Udder Width (at Attachment)</td>
<td>5.4±0.14</td>
<td>Intermediate width</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear Udder Height (at Attachment)</td>
<td>4.9±0.13</td>
<td>Intermediate height</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teat Placement (Rear View)</td>
<td>5.1±0.11</td>
<td>Centrally placed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teat Placement (Side View)</td>
<td>4.5±0.11</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teat Length</td>
<td>5.2±0.10</td>
<td>Intermediate length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspensory Ligament</td>
<td>5.3±0.12</td>
<td>Defined cleft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Udder Depth</td>
<td>6.0±0.11</td>
<td>Slightly above bock</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stage of Lactation**

The form traits of chest width, teat placement (rear view), rump width and fore udder attachment were significantly affected by the stage of lactation (Table 2). Lucas et al. (1984) also reported significant effects of stage of lactation on fore udder attachment, udder depth, and udder height but stage of lactation did not significantly influence other traits. Scores for teat placement increased as the stage of lactation advanced except for fourth stage. Similar result was determined by Vij et al. (1990). Thompson et al. (1983) reported that stage of lactation had a significant effect on the scores for all traits while udder traits were affected more than other traits.

**Regression of Type Traits on Age at First Calving**

Regression on age at first calving was not significant for all the type traits. The result indicated that anatomical and physiological growth of Brown Swiss cattle raised in the Research Farm of Agricultural College was completed before the cows initiated milk production.

**Correlations Among Type Traits and First Lactation 305 Days Milk Yield**

Phenotypic correlations among the type traits are tabulated and presented in Table 4. Most of the correlations were low to medium. Similar findings were reported by Norman et al. (1983), Vij et al. (1990). Stature had significant (P<0.05) correlation with rump width (r = 0.221). Also, some statistically significant (P<0.05) correlations between rear udder width and rump width (r = 0.376); rear udder width and rear udder height (r = 0.507); udder depth and rear udder width (r = -0.253); udder depth and rear udder height (r = -0.342); udder depth and teat placement (side view) (r = -0.247) were calculated.

Results of the study suggest that there is a variation between scorers and a need to train the people in this field. Also parity and stage of lactation have significant influences on the some of the type traits.
Tablo 4.
REFERENCES


Harvey, W., 1987. User's Guide For LSMLMM., PC-1 Version. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA.


