EFFECT OF TYPES OF FLOOR AND BEDDING ON GROWTH PERFORMANCE OF SAHIWAL CALVES DURING WINTER SEASON

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Housing management study experiment was conducted at Livestock Experiment Station, Fazilpur for twelve weeks on thirty six Sahiwal female calves fed green fodder ad-libitum and concentrate @ 1% of body weight daily. The DMI in calves kept on sodic floor, concrete floor, concrete floor on rice straw bedding and sand bedding treatments was 2.99±0.01, 2.97±0.01, 2.77±0.01 and 2.66±0.01 kg and showed a daily gain of 0.409±0.01, 0.373±0.01, 0.404±0.01 and 0.427±0.01 kg, respectively. Statistically highly significant (P< 0.01) difference was observed in DMI and weight gain between treatments. Hoof width was significant (P< 0.05) between treatments. The data on body height in calves on treatment A, B, C and D was 1.21±0.07, 1.00±0.07, 1.03±0.07 and 1.12±0.07 inches, respectively. Statistically significant difference (P< 0.05) in body height was observed. Body girth changes in calves on treatment A, B, C and D were 4.39±0.14, 4.01±0.14 4.69±0.14 and 5.23±0.14 inches, respectively. Body length measurements in calves on treatment A, B, C and D were 2.99±0.08, 3.04±0.08, 3.23±0.08 and 3.09±0.08 inches, respectively. The calves kept on sodic floor, sand bedding and paddy straw showed no skin lesions. The calves feel more comfortable on deep rice straw bedding due to high temperature and softness of straw bedding than others in cold season. The calves managed on Katcha floor were always neat and clean due to the dryness of the floor and they looks good and attractive appearance as compared to concrete. It is concluded that the performance of calves on concrete floor along with deep straw bedding and on Katcha floor was best than on concrete floor and sand bedding. During winter season better performance of Sahiwal calves can be attained by managing them on Katcha floor or on concrete floor alongwith application of deep rice straw bedding.