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THEME: THE CHALLENGES OF LIVESTOCK AND
POULTRY PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA IN THE 21ST
CENTURY

ESTIMATION OF 305-DAY YIELD FROM TOTAL MILK YIELDS IN BUNAJI AND FRIESIAN-BUNAJI CROSSES

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A crossbreeding programme involving the Bunaji and Friesian cattle commenced at Shika, Nigeria in 1964 using bulls imported from the United Kingdom. The data analysed consisted of 840 records on lactation length (LL), total lactation yield (TLY), estimated 305-day yield (305DY), days dry (DDRY), age at first calving (AFC), calving interval (CI) and 549 body weight records at birth, and at 3, 6, 9 and 12 months of age of ½ Friesian-Bunaji cows that calved over a twenty-three year period (1967-1989). Least squares means \pm S.E. of LL, TLY, 305DY, DDRY, AFC and CI were 250.563 \pm 5.8 days, 1988.695 \pm 108.7 kg, 2420.756 \pm 93.8 kg, 102.333 \pm 2.5 days, 35.638 \pm 2.3 months and 390.312 \pm 3.7 days, respectively, while the corresponding values of body weights at birth, 3, 6, 9 and 12 months of age were 26.723 \pm 1.3, 72.357 \pm 4.5, 112.883 \pm 6.9, 147.235 \pm 9.2 and 182.086 \pm 11.1 kg, respectively. Parity, season and year of calving significantly affected LL, TLY ($P < 0.01$) and 305DY ($P < 0.05$), but not CI. DDRY was only affected by season of calving ($P < 0.01$). Year of birth was highly significant ($P < 0.01$) in affecting body weights at all ages, while month of birth was not. Season of birth was significant ($P < 0.05$) for birth weight and body weights at 3 and 6 months of age.