

Thesis Title Factors Affecting Knowledge and Practices of
Dairy Farmers in Changwat Chiang Mai

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to investigate the relationship between independent and dependent variables of dairy farmers. Independent variables included (1) age of farmer and duration of dairy raising, (2) net income, (3) educational level, group membership, and frequency of attendance to group meetings, (4) number of female dairy cows and average blood of the cows, and (5) kinds of roughage and sanitation of cleaning and dung draining. Dependent variables were knowledge, practices, and average of milk yields.

The samples in this research were 132 dairy farmers of the total number of 746 in Changwat Chiang Mai. They were selected by the non-proportional stratified random sampling method resulting in 90 from Amphur Sankamphaeng, 25 from Amphur Sansai and 17 from Amphur

Saraphi. The data was collected by interviewing the sample who had attended a dairy farming training course.

It was found that the average age of the farmer was 37 years, the majority of them finished primary education, three-fourths were members of a dairy cooperations or dairy promotion organizations and the net earnings from the dairy business was 45, 658 baht/year. Out of the total score of 40, the farmers earned 22.92 of dairy knowledge score and 24.58 of dairy practical score.

For test of significant the research used Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis. The following results were found :

(1) Knowledge of dairy farming were significantly related with educational level, group membership and net income.

(2) Practices of dairy farming were significantly related with knowledge of dairy farming and net income.

(3) Average milk yields were significantly related with average blood of the cows and net income.

The researcher provided some suggestions to improve the dairy cattle raising as follows :

(1) Dairy farmers who have low educational attainment and those who have not joined dairy cooperations or dairy promotion organizations should be a target of receiving dairy technical information that is suitable to their real situation.

(2) It should be the right direction to promote the dairy farmers to raise higher blood dairy cows because this has been proven to yield more milk; however, the contingency situation and the readiness of the farmers should be taken into consideration.