



Farmer's Perception About the Effect of Rangeland Management on Dairy Herd Health

Abdon L. Schmitt¹, Alan Rizzoli², Giliane Basco², Rafael Knabem¹ and Juan Pablo³; (1) University of Santa Catarina, Brazil, (2) Companhia Integrada de Desenvolvimento Agrícola de Santa Catarina, (3) Gund Institute, University of Vermont; Contact Author Email: abdonfilho@hotmail.com

The purpose of this study was to analyze farmer's perceptions about dairy herd health when they change from extensive grazing with high concentrate supplementation to pasture based dairy with rotational grazing on naturalized pastures of Santa Catarina Brazil. A hundred and ten (110) farmers were surveyed in 2004 and 2006. Organic milk was produced in 17.1% of the farms, and 48.6% of conventional farmers were interested in moving to organic production in 2004, and 81.8% in 2006. On the properties diagnosed in 2006, 80.5% of the farmers used allopathic medicines to treat they herd, half of these also used alternative medicines, and 18.2% used only alternative medicines. Concerning the ticks, 57.2% of the farmers surveyed in 2004 suggested that pasture based dairy contributed to the reduction of problems. On the properties diagnosed in 2006, 74.7% of the farmers noted such decrease. Farmers also noted a decrease in mastitis when they switched to pasture based dairy with rotational grazing, 54.3% of them noted a reduction in mastitis in 2004, and 72.1% observed such a decrease in 2006. Most farmers interviewed observed a decrease in health problems related with ticks and mastitis when they adopted rotational grazing on rangeland of Santa Catarina State in Southern Brazil.

2009. 62nd Society for Range Management Annual Meeting. Paper No. 30-8.