The effect of classical music on daily behaviour and pre-milking behavioural characteristics of Brown Swiss cows

Jale METİN¹, Naci TÜZEMEN²

¹Erciyes University, College of Agriculture, 38039 Kayseri, Turkey (e-mail: jalemetin@hotmail.com)  
²Atatürk University, College of Agriculture, 25040 Erzurum, Turkey

Abstract

The aim of this study is to determine the effect of classical music milking behaviour and daily behavioural characteristics of Brown Swiss cows. In this study, 60 Brown Swiss cows were divided into 6 groups, each consisted of ten cows, and 3 groups were allocated as music and the other 3 groups as control group. The cows were listened to the classical music during the milking every morning and evening in the milking room. Any special feeding program has not been applied. The data for each animal were taken once a week and the study continued for 14 weeks. Daily behavioral activities were both watched and recorded by a system with 14 cameras through 24 hours. Feeding, standing-rumination, sitting-rumination of daily behaviours and sleeping duration were analyzed and the behavior of waiting for milking was observed.

It was that the effect of activity on feeding behaviour was significant (P<0.005) and it was very significant on sitting-rumination and sleeping behaviour (P<0.01). The duration rate of daily behaviours was observed as 23%-23% in feeding, as 43%-42% in standing rumination, as 19%-21% in sitting ruminating and as 14%-15%. There was significant difference -in favor of music group- between groups in the behaviour of waiting for milking both in morning and evening (P<0.01). These values were calculated as 4.30±0.18 min. in music group and 2.44±0.16.5min. in control group 10 minutes before in the morning while 5.04±0.20min. in music group and 3.70±0.24min. in control group 10 minutes before in the evening and 5.91±0.18min. in the music group, 4.18±0.20min. in the control group 5 minutes before in the evening.

Key words: Brown Swiss, classical Music, behavioural characteristics, daily behaviour, watch and record

SA2012_A0711