

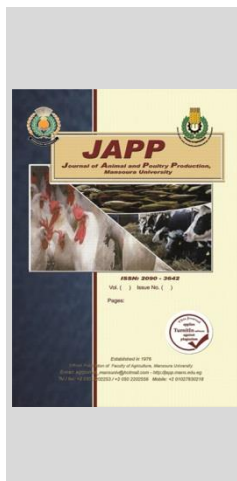
## Journal of Animal and Poultry Production

Journal homepage & Available online at: [www.japppmu.journals.ekb.eg](http://www.japppmu.journals.ekb.eg)

### Genetic Parameters of Direct and Maternal Effects for Birth Weight of Friesian Calves under Egyptian Farm Conditions

Shereen K. Genena<sup>\*</sup>; M. H. El-Sawy; A. M. Shaarawy and A. A. Mehany

Animal Production Research Institute, Dokki, Giza, Egypt.



#### ABSTRACT

A total of 4889 birth weight (BW) records on calves of 1609 Friesian cows in Sakha experimental farm were collected between 1975 and 2020 year. The analytical model included the fixed effects of the parity, calving year and season, age at first calving, gestation period length and calf sex. Variance components, heritabilities, direct maternal correlations and breeding values (BV) were estimated using VCE6 program. Genetic trends of calves BW were evaluated by regressing BV on years of calving using GLM process of SAS software. Results showed highly ( $P \leq 0.001$ ) significant effects of all studied fixed effects on BW. Direct ( $h^2_a$ ), sire ( $h^2_s$ ), maternal ( $h^2_m$ ) and total ( $h^2_t$ ) heritabilities and direct maternal correlations ( $r_{am}$ ) estimates were 0.01, 0.10, 0.05, 0.09 and 0.01, respectively. Estimated BVs of calves, sires and dams ranged from -6.71 to 6.84, -6.04 to 4.38 and -7.29 to 8.86 kg, respectively. Range of BVs for dams was higher than for sires and calves, but the accuracy of calves BVs were higher than others. The genetic trend was not different from zero showing no indication of change in the genetic merit of BW in this farm during the period of study. Dam selection proved to be important for inducing high genetic progress in BW during the subsequent generation. Moreover, BV estimates of calves BW achieved higher accuracy ranging from 0.69 – 0.81% comparing to those for sires and dams by indirect selection. However, improvement in calves BW may also be achieved by practicing better management programs in this herd.

**Keywords:** Calves, birth weight, direct and maternal effects, heritability, genetic trends.

#### INTRODUCTION

There is no doubt that the calf birth weight (BW) is a critical aspect for livestock breeding issues that meaningfully influences the future milk and beef production of a herd (Bakır *et al.* 2004a), BW along with the subsequent growth performance are traits that commonly should be considered when setting the selection standards. BW is influenced by a collection of heritable, parental and management factors. Some influences may be coupled with the action of genes of both calf and the dam or with managerial factors that shape the calves and/or the dams (Sahin *et al.* 2017). However, it is one of the major determinant measures of calving ease rating. Also, Chud *et al.* (2014) emphasized the role of the dam heritable capacity in determining the calf function ability for a character like BW.

Several studies (Kamal *et al.*, 2014; Lopez *et al.* 2020; Atashi *et al.*, 2021) investigated various genetic and phenotypic traits effective for calves BW which mostly depended not only on animal genetics, but also on environmental conditions which they are exposed to. Therefore, maternal and direct genetic factors effective for BW have to be under concern for achieving optimal genetic improvement in livestock breeding programs. Beside, avoiding bulls with superior breeding value for BW as they may cause delivery obstacles or dystocia due to overweight births and likewise, inferior sires with minimal breeding values because their offspring will likely be below optimal weight, conceding their lives modest fitness.

The present paper aimed to evaluate the direct genetic aspects, maternal impacts and various environmental factors

that influence on calves birth weight in an experimental dairy farm.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

##### Dataset

Records on birth weight (BW) calves of Sakha Experimental Farm were taken from the Animal Production Research Institute databank, Agricultural Research center; Agriculture Ministry and Land Reclamation. A total of 4889 BW records on calves of 1609 cows giving birth between 1975 to 2020 year were analyzed. The calves BW averaged  $31.2 \pm 5.2$  (Table 1).

**Table 1. Descriptive statistics of birth weight data.**

Number of base animals	501
Number of non-base animals	4890
Total number of animals	5391
Number of sires	258
Numbers of dams	1609
Total number of calves	4889
Number of male calves	2486
Number of female calves	2403
Mean birth weight of calves ( $\pm$ SD,kg)	$31.2 \pm 5.2$
Maximum birth weight of calves (kg)	57.0
Minimum birth weight of calves (kg)	12.0

##### Statistical analyses

The effectiveness of systematic environmental factors on BW trait were evaluated by a fitting the fixed effects of parity (PR), season (SC) and year (YC) of calving, age at first calving (AFC), gestation period length (GPL) and calf sex using the linear model:

<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding author.

E-mail address: genena71@yahoo.com.

DOI: 10.21608/japppmu.2022.142502.1040

$$Y_{ijklmno} = \mu + A_i + B_j + C_k + D_l + F_m + P_n + e_{ijklmno}$$

Where,

$Y_{ijklmno}$ : the phenotypic record of a provided trait on animal.

$\mu$ : the overall mean.

$A_i$ : the fixed effect of  $i^{\text{th}}$  parity ( $i=1, 2, \dots, 6$ ).

$B_j$ : the fixed effect of  $j^{\text{th}}$  calving season ( $j=1$ (Jan. - Mar.); 2(April - June); 3 (July - Sept.) and 4(Oct. - Dec.) .

$C_k$ : the fixed effect of  $k^{\text{th}}$  calving year ( $k=1$ (from 1975-1990); 2 (from 1991-2000); 3(from 2001-2009) and 4(from 2010-2020).

$D_l$ : the fixed effect of  $l^{\text{th}}$  age at first calving ( $l \leq 29$ ; from 29–31; from 31–35 and  $> 35$  months).

$F_m$ : the fixed effect of  $m^{\text{th}}$  gestation period length ( $m \leq 272$ ; from 273–277; from 278–282 and  $> 282$  days).

$P_n$ : the fixed effect of  $n^{\text{th}}$  sex ( $n=1$ (male) and 2(female).

$e_{ijklmno}$ : random residual assumed to be independent, naturally distributed with mean zero and variance  $\sigma^2_e$ . The significant fixed factors were applied to create contemporary groups (CG) for the trait, which were involved in genetic aspects calculations.

Components of variance, heritabilities and breeding values were evaluated by VCE6 program (Groeneveld *et al.*, 2010).

The model was designed in a matrix symbols as follow:

$$y = Xb + Za + Sm + Ws + e, \text{ and}$$

$$\text{var} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ m \\ s \\ e \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A\sigma^2_a & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & A\sigma^2_m & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A\sigma^2_s & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & I_t\sigma^2_e \end{bmatrix}$$

Where  $y$ : a vector of observations,  $b$ : a vector of fixed effects with an incidence matrix  $X$ ,  $a$ : a vector of random animal effects with an incidence matrix  $Z$ ,  $m$ : a vector of random dam effects with an incidence matrix  $S$ ,  $s$ : a vector of random sire effects with an incidence matrix  $W$ , and  $e$ : a vector of random residual effects.  $A$  the numerator relationship matrix between animals,  $I$  an identity matrix,  $\sigma^2_a$  is the direct additive genetic variance,  $\sigma^2_m$  is the maternal additive genetic variance,  $\sigma^2_s$  is the sire additive genetic variance, and  $\sigma^2_e$  is the residual variance. The total heritability was estimated according to Willham (1980) using the following formula:

$$h^2_t = (\sigma^2_a + 0.5 * \sigma^2_m + 0.5 * \sigma^2_s) / \sigma^2_p, \text{ where}$$

$h^2_t$  = total heritability,  $\sigma^2_a$  = direct additive genetic variance,  
 $\sigma^2_m$  = maternal additive genetic variance  
 $\sigma^2_s$  = sire additive genetic variance  
 $\sigma^2_p$  = phenotypic variance

#### Prediction of breeding values:

Predicted breeding values (PBVs), predicted error variance (PEV) (i.e. standard errors, SE) and prediction accuracies ( $r_{A\hat{A}}$ ) for the animals were estimated from REML using the statistical packet PEST (Groeneveld *et al.*, 2001) for the same design to estimate the variance components and the heritability values.

Solution for an animal equation was calculated from the pedigree file, single animal at a time for animals with or without records (sires and dams). A diagonal element ( $d_i$ ) and an adjusted right-hand side ( $v_i^*$ ) were collected from each pedigree file record for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  animal. For animal with or without records, the formula used to estimate the PBV was (Kennedy, 1989):

$$\text{PBV} = [v_i/d_i]$$

The predicted error variance (PEV) for the predicted ( $\text{PBV}_p$ ) were evaluated for each individual as:  $\text{PEV}_p = d_j\sigma^2_e$  (Korsgaard *et al.*, 2002). The accuracy of PBV for each animal was calculated according to Henderson (1975) as:

$$r_{A\hat{A}} = \sqrt{1 + F_j - d_j\alpha_a}$$

Where  $r_{A\hat{A}}$  = the accuracy of prediction of a given animal breeding value;  $F_j$ =inbreeding coefficient of animals (supposed fit to be zero);  $d_j$ =the  $j^{\text{th}}$  diagonal element of inverted of the fitting block coefficient matrix; and  $\alpha_a = \sigma^2_e/\sigma^2_a$ .

Genetic trend of BW was evaluated through regressing BV on years of calving by GLM technique of SAS software (SAS, 2014).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As shown in Table 1. the average mean of BW was  $31 \pm 5.2$  kg in sequence with the findings of (Atil *et al.*, 2005; Ali *et al.*, 2019 ; Magwaba *et al.*, 2019), but lower than a range of 34 -40 kg reported by several authors (Kaygisiz *et al.*, 2012; Yaylak *et al.*, 2015; Abdel Fattah *et al.*, 2019; Almasri *et al.*, 2020 ; Atashi *et al.*, 2021), and higher than 28.6 kg (Safaa and Gharib, 2017 and Hussein *et al.*, 2022) in Friesian cows.

#### Factors affecting calve birth weight

Table 2 presents least squares means  $\pm$  standards errors of environmental factors affecting calves BW.

#### Effect of parity (PR):

Parity highly influenced BW ( $P < 0.001$ ). Steady similar increases in BW ( $P < 0.001$ ) were attained after the first parities due to dams maturity. Similar results were obtained by different investigators (Kaygisiz *et al.*, 2011; 2012; Sahin *et al.*, 2012; Dhakal *et al.*, 2013; Kamal *et al.*, 2014; Safaa and Gharib, 2017; Selvan *et al.*, 2018 ; Almasri *et al.*, 2020; Hussein *et al.*, 2022 ). Also, BW increased with advancement of PR number (Raja *et al.*, 2010; Sahin *et al.*, 2012) as calf BW is a function of dams stage of maturity . Therefore poor BW calves are usually progeny of premature dams .However, Almasri *et al.* (2020) reported that late PR old dams may produce low BW calves due to aging. While, Vallejo *et al.* (1990) ; Kaygisiz (1996) and Srivastava *et al.* (2020) indicated that PR had no meaningful effect on BW of calves.

#### Effect of season of calving (SC):

SC affected calves BW ( $P < 0.001$ ). Winter and spring calvings showed higher ( $p < 0.001$ ) BW than summer and autumn. These results were similar to those of Kaygisiz *et al.* (2011, 2012), Sahin *et al.* (2012), Kamal *et al.* (2014), Sanad and Gharib (2017), Zulkadir *et al.* (2018) , Selvan *et al.* (2018), Hussein *et al.* (2022) .While, Almasri *et al.* (2020) noticed that the lightest BW were found in Autumn probably depending on the availability of the dietary and climate conditions for the good production. While, Manoj *et al.* (2014) and Magwaba *et al.* (2019) reported non-significant influence of SC on BW due to time changes of birth and population capacity.

#### Effect of year of calving (YC):

YC influenced calves BW ( $P < 0.001$ ). The period from 1991-2000 exhibited the highest BW relative to other years of data collection. The current YC effects agreed with the results of many authors (Kaygisiz *et al.*, 2011, 2012; Yaylak *et al.*, 2015; Safaa and Gharib, 2017; Zulkadir *et al.*, 2018; Magwaba *et al.*, 2019; Hussein *et al.*, 2022), but are in contrast to those of (Sahin *et al.*, 2012; Almasri *et al.*, 2020; Nurgartningsih *et al.*, 2020) ,who obtained non-significant effects of YC on BW of calves.

#### Effect of Age at first calving (AFC):

The AFC effect on BW was highly significant ( $P < 0.001$ , Table 2) and complied with the results of Stefano *et al.* (2000), Kamal *et al.* (2014), Magwaba *et al.* (2019), and Atashi *et al.* (2021). BW of calves increased with the advancement of AFC of dams (Zulkadir *et al.*, 2018; Atashi *et al.*, 2021), while, Sahin *et al.* (2012) reported decreasing in BW by increasing AFC.

#### Effect of gestation period length (GPL)

GPL had significant ( $P < 0.001$ ) influence on BW. This was in agreement with the results of Kamal *et al.* (2014), Selvan *et al.* (2018) and Rezende *et al.* (2020). Also, Wattiaux, (1996)

emphasized that for each day extension in GPL will cause 0.5 kg increase in BW. Moreover, Lopez *et al.* (2020) recorded

positive genetic association of 0.53 and moderate phenotypic correlation of 0.21 between BW and GPL.

**Table 2. Least square means (LSM) and standard errors (SE) for factors affecting calves birth weight.**

Factor	LSM±SE					P-value	
	1	2	3	4	5	≥6	
Parity	29.52±0.12 <sup>c</sup>	31.42±0.14 <sup>b</sup>	32.16±0.17 <sup>a</sup>	32.45±0.20 <sup>a</sup>	32.6±0.26 <sup>a</sup>	32.34±0.2 <sup>a</sup>	<.0001
SC	1 (Jan. - Mar.)	2 (April - June)	3 (July - Sept)	4 (Oct. - Dec.)			<.0001
	32.22±0.13 <sup>a</sup>	32.24±0.15 <sup>a</sup>	31.24±0.15 <sup>b</sup>	31.3±0.14 <sup>b</sup>			
YC	1975-1990	1991-2000	2001-2009	2010-2020			0.0003
	31.51±0.14 <sup>c</sup>	32.24±0.13 <sup>a</sup>	31.58±0.14 <sup>b</sup>	31.67±0.17 <sup>b</sup>			
AFC	≤ 29	> 29-31	> 31-35	> 35			0.0002
	31.45±0.15 <sup>b</sup>	31.42±0.13 <sup>b</sup>	32.11±0.14 <sup>a</sup>	32.01±0.16 <sup>a</sup>			
GPL	≤ 272	273-277	278-282	> 282			<.0001
	30.23±0.14 <sup>c</sup>	31.72±0.13 <sup>b</sup>	32.64±0.14 <sup>a</sup>	32.41±0.16 <sup>b</sup>			
Sex	Male	Female					<.0001
	32.33±0.10 <sup>a</sup>	31.16±0.10 <sup>b</sup>					

SC=season of calving; YC=year of calving; AFC=age at first calving in months; GPL=gestation period length in days.

### Effect of gender:

Sex of calves affected BW ( $P<0.001$ ). Male and female calves averages were  $32.33\pm0.10$  and  $31.16\pm0.10$  kg, respectively (Table 2), with about 1.17 kg increase in BW favoring ( $P<0.001$ ) males compared to females. These results confirmed those of Kaygisiz *et al.* (2011, 2012), Sahin *et al.* (2012), Dhakal *et al.* (2013), Kamal *et al.* (2014), Yaylak *et al.* (2015), Soydan (2018), Zulkadir *et al.* (2018), Selvan *et al.* (2018), Magwaba *et al.* (2019), Nurgartiningasih *et al.* (2020), Almasri *et al.* (2020), Atashi *et al.* (2021) and Hussein *et al.* (2022). Also, similar to our results (Yaylak *et al.*, 2015; Soydan, 2018; Hoka *et al.*, 2019; Nurgartiningasih *et al.*, 2020; Atashi *et al.*, 2021; Hussein *et al.*, 2022) obtained higher BW for males compared to females.

Soydan (2018) indicated that such high male calves BW resulted probably from the male gender anabolic hormones effects (Uzmay *et al.* 2010) during the prenatal growth stages of calves which usually possess longer GPL than females. Controversially, Bakır *et al.* (2004b), Kaygisiz and Tümer (2007), Rezende *et al.* (2020) and Srivastava *et al.* (2020) revealed non-significant effects of gender on BW ( $P>0.05$ ).

### Heritability estimates :( $h^2$ )

Table 3 displays the estimates of variance components and genetic parameters of the studied trait. Direct ( $h^2_a$ ); sire ( $h^2_s$ ); maternal ( $h^2_m$ ) and total ( $h^2_t$ ) heritabilities and direct maternal correlation ( $r_{am}$ ) were 0.01, 0.10, 0.05, 0.09 and 0.01, respectively. The present values revealed that sire heritability was higher than maternal and direct heritability, while, maternal heritability was higher than direct heritability.

**Table 3. Variance components, heritability and direct maternal correlation estimates of calves birth weight**

Items	BW	SE
$\sigma^2_a$	0.27	0.51
$\sigma^2_s$	2.37	0.42
$\sigma^2_m$	1.18	0.32
$\sigma^2_e$	20.46	0.53
$\sigma^2_p$	24.28	1.01
$h^2_a$	0.01	0.02
$h^2_s$	0.10	0.02
$h^2_m$	0.05	0.01
$h^2_t$	0.09	0.02
$r_{am}$	0.01	0.03

$\sigma^2_a$  = direct genetic variance;  $\sigma^2_s$  = sire genetic variance;  $\sigma^2_m$  = dam genetic variance;  $\sigma^2_e$  = residual variance;  $\sigma^2_p$  = phenotypic variance;  $h^2_a$  = direct heritability;  $h^2_s$  = sire heritability;  $h^2_m$  = dam heritability; Total heritability= $h^2_t$ ;  $r_{am}$ =direct maternal genetic correlation; BW= birth weight; SE=standard error

The current results on sire heritability ( $h^2_s$  = 0.10  $\pm$  0.02) were lower than 0.24 and 0.62 obtained by Akbulut *et al.* (2001) and Aksakal *et al.* (2012). Moreover, Bahashwan *et al.* (2015) revealed high positive ( $p<0.01$ ) association between sire birth weight category and calves growth features with high positive Pearson correlation coefficient of (0.84) with calves BW.

The direct heritability ( $h^2_a$ ) estimate of BW (0.01) was nearly in line with 0.04 found by Kaygisiz *et al.* (2012) and within the limit of 0.02 to 0.48 stated by Karabulut *et al.* (2012), but lower than the range of 0.12 to 0.26 obtained by Johanson *et al.* (2011), Sahin *et al.* (2012) and Soydan (2018), and that of 0.07 to 0.11 reported by Sahin *et al.* (2017).

In general, as presented in Table 3,  $h^2_a$  estimate of BW was lower than the maternal heritability ( $h^2_m$ ) estimate and in disagreement with the results of Sahin *et al.* (2017), who revealed reverse results.

The present  $h^2_m$  estimate of BW was  $0.05\pm0.01$  within the limits of 0.04 to 0.09 calculated by Jamrozik *et al.* (2005), Tilki *et al.* (2008) and Sahin *et al.* (2017), but lower than of 0.08 to 0.19 reported by Johanson *et al.* (2011), Sahin *et al.* (2012), Sanad and Gharib, (2017), Soydan (2018), Zulkadir *et al.* (2018) and Selvan *et al.* (2018), but higher than 0.002 ;0.02 reported by Kaygisiz *et al.* (2012) and Chin-Colli *et al.* (2016), respectively. Furthermore, Kamal *et al.* (2014) revealed that 26.2% of the variation in BW of calves born were made by the dam.

The total heritability estimate ( $h^2_t$ ) of BW was around  $0.09\pm0.02$  within the range of 0.09 to 0.26 stated by Sahin *et al.* (2017), but greater than 0.06 found by Almasri *et al.* (2020), but lower than 0.12 to 0.32 reported by Kaygisiz *et al.* (2012), Sanad and Gharib (2017), Selvan *et al.* (2018), Zulkadir *et al.* (2018) and Udeh *et al.* (2020).

### Genetic correlations between direct and maternal effects:

As presented in Table 3, direct maternal genetic correlation ( $r_{am}$ ) was weak positive approaching zero ,lower than the limits from -0.39 to -0.76 as found by Sahin *et al.* (2012), Vostry *et al.* (2014), Sahin *et al.* (2017) and Yin and König, (2018) and than from -1.0 and 0.96 reported by Zulkadir *et al.* (2018) and Soydan (2018).

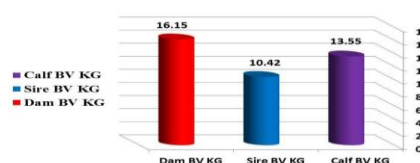
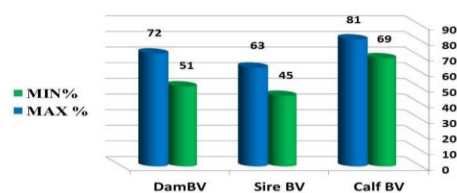
### Breeding value (BV):

Expected BV of BW estimated from calves; sires and dams are given in Table (4). The estimates ranged from -6.71 to 6.84, -6.04 to 4.38 and -7.29 to 8.86 kg for calves, sires and dams, respectively. The BV estimates for sire were lower than -4.40 to 6.85 as estimated by Magwaba *et al.* (2019).

**Table 4. Range of calves, sires and dams predicted breeding values (BV) with their accuracy for birth weight**

	Calves-BV	Sire-BV	Dam-BV
Minimum	-6.71	-6.04	-7.29
Maximum	6.84	4.38	8.86
Range(kg)	13.55	10.42	16.15
Accuracy %	0.69–0.81	0.45–0.63	0.51–0.72

The ranges of BV for dams were higher than those for sires and calves in accordance with the results of Zulkadir *et al.* (2018). Table 4 and Fig 1. showed the magnitude of dam BV, as it provided the highest limit of BV for BW. Hence, selection of dams for BW in the following generation is supposed to cause the highest heritable progress in the studied herd. However, Sanad and Gharib (2017) revealed that the range of calves BV was higher than that for dams and sires.

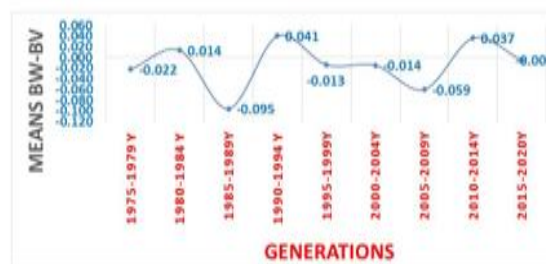
**Range of breeding values for calves, sire & dam of birth weight****Accuracy % of calf, sire & dam birth weight breeding values****Fig (1) . Range of predicted breeding values of calves, sires and dams and their accuracy for birth weight**

The accuracy of BV for calves BW were higher than those of sires and dams, being from 0.69 to 0.81%, 0.45 to 0.63 and 0.51 to 0.72 %, respectively. This trend agreed with the results of Sanad and Gharib (2017), who obtained BV range from 79-80, 74-78, and 68-77% for calves, sires, and dams, respectively and the trend results of Hussein *et al.*, (2022). This suggested that, the possibility of genetic improvement should be effective through calves which had the highest accuracy compared to sires and dams. High accuracy levels of BVs should help animal breeders to practice genetic improvement in their herds. However, Zulkadir *et al.* (2018) showed that the accuracy of sire BV was higher than those of dams and calves probably due the greater number of offspring per sire available.

#### **Genetic trend for calves across generations:**

Figure 2 presents an evaluation for means of calves BV values for BW according to years of study. In general, irregular fluctuations were observed for genetic trend in BW by years and the values were negative in some years and positive in others, revealing no particular genetics plans have been practiced for improving BW in the studied herd. Thus, there was no heritable progress in calves BW. Fluctuations

appearing in BW by years may be caused by random drift or by changes in environmental conditions as suggested by Kaygisiz *et al.* (2012).

**Fig.2. Mean calf breeding values of birth weight according to years**

## **CONCLUSION**

According to the current results, the environmental aspects of parity, calving year and season, age at first calving and gender should be taken into consideration when calves are evaluated for BW. In addition, improvement in calves BW could be achieved through better feeding, housing system and management practices of pregnant cows during dry off period.

The weak heritability estimates of BW in the current study may justify the poor selection results of BW in the dairy herd under study. Genetic improvement could be more efficient, under good feeding and management practices for dams during the late stage of gestation.

Dam BVs for calf BW possessed the highest range. Therefore, dam selection should cause better genetic improvement in this herd in the subsequent generation. Moreover, high accuracy of calf BV relative to sire's or dam's (0.69–0.81%) may achieve more improvement in BW by indirect selection and good management.

There is no evidence of apparent systematic improvement or modification in the inherited merit of BW during the period of this study, as there were no direct selection plans or any other genetic tendency was practiced for altering the genetic makeup of the herd. Thus, effective breeding strategies should be applied on calves BW associated with more advanced herd managements. However, it is recommended, that selection should be practiced for moderate BV of calves BW, management practices should be controlled well and the cows selection should be applied in a modest way since large BW are not recommended to avoid dystocia.

## **REFERENCES**

- Abdel Fattah, F. A.; Mohammed, H.H.; Youssef, M.; Saleem, A.Y. and Youniss, I. 2019. Assessment the calf's welfare due to the gender, number of offspring and calving status in Holstein calves. *International Journal of Veterinary Sciences*, 2 (1): 119-130.
- Akbulut, O.; Bayram, B. and Yanar, M. 2001. Estimates of phenotypic and genetic parameters on birth weight of Brown Swiss and Holstein Friesian calves raised in semi intensive conditions. *J. Lalahan Livest. Res. Inst.*, 41:11-20.
- Aksakal, V.; Bayram, B.; Yanar, M. and Akbulut, O. 2012. Estimation of variance components and heritability of birth weight through different methods in Swedish red and white cattle. *The Journal of Animal and Plant Sciences*, 22(1): Page: 39-43.

- Ali, I.; Muhammad Suhail, S. and Shafiq, M.2019. Heritability estimates and genetic correlations of various production and reproductive traits of different grades of dairy cattle reared under subtropical condition. *Reprod Dom Anim.* 2019; 54:1026–1033. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rda.13458>
- Almasri,O; AL-Dakkak, M.; Abou-Bakr, S. and Ibrahim, M. A. M. 2020.Genetic and environmental influences on birth weight, weaning weight and average daily gain of Holstein calves in Syrian coast conditions. *Egyptian J. Anim. Prod.* 57(3):127-132.
- Atashi, H.; Asaadi, A.and Hostens, M. 2021.Association between age at first calving and lactation performance, lactation curve, calving interval, calf birth weight, and dystocia in Holstein dairy cows. *PLOS ONE* | <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0244825>January 4.
- Atil, H.; Khattab, A.S. and Badawy, L. 2005.Genetic parameter of birth and weaning weights for Friesian calves by using an animal model. *Arch.Tierz., Dummerstorf.* 48 (3): 261-269.
- Bahashwan, S.; Alrawas , A .S. and Alfadli, S. 2015.Impact of sire birth weight on Dhofari calves growth characteristics from the Salalah livestock research station. *Asian Journal of Animal Sciences* 9 (6): 448-453.
- Bakır,G.; Kaygısız,A.and Ulker H. 2004a.Estimation of genetic parameters of milk yield in Brown Swiss and Holstein Friesian cattle. *Pak J Biol Sci.* 7:1198–1201.
- Bakır,G.; Kaygısız, A. and Ulker, H. 2004b. Estimates of genetic and phenotypic parameters for birth weight in Holstein Friesian cattle. *Pakistan J Biol Sci* 7: 1221-1224.
- Chin-Colli,R.; Estrada-León,R.; Magaña-Monforte, J.; Segura-Correa, J. and Núñez-Domíngue, R. 2016. Genetic parameters for growth and reproductive traits of Brown Swiss cattle from Mexico .e.r.a. 3(7):11-20. [www.ujat.mx/era](http://www.ujat.mx/era).
- Chud, T.C.S.; Caetano, S.L.; Buzanskas, M.E.; Grossi, D.A.; Guidolin, D.G.F.; Nascimento, G.B.; Rosa, J.O.; Lôbo, R.B.; Munari, D.P.2014. Genetic analysis for gestation length, birth weight, weaning weight, and accumulated productivity in Nelore beef cattle. *Livest. Sci.*, 170, 16–21.
- Dhakal, K.; Maltecca, C.; Cassady, JP.; Baloch, G.; Williams ,CM. and Washburn, SP. 2013. Calf birth weight, gestation length, calving ease, and neonatal calf mortality in Holstein, Jersey, and crossbred cows in a pasture system.*Journal of Dairy Science.* 96(1): 690-698.
- Groeneveld, E.; Kovač, M. and Mielenz, N. 2010. VCE 6 Users Guide and Reference Manual, Version 6.0.2. Institute of farm animal genetics, Neustadt, Germany.
- Groeneveld, E.; Kovac, M. and Wang, T. 2001. PEST, Users guide and reference manual, Version 4.2.3.
- Henderson, C.R. 1975. Best linear unbiased estimation and prediction under a selection model. *Biometrics* 31(2): 423-447.
- Hussein, E.M.A.; Kamal El-den, M.A.; Sanad ,S. and Shehab El-Din,M.I.2022.Estimation of direct and maternal genetic parameters for preweaning growth traits in Friesian calves. *Archives of Agric. Sci. j.* 5(2):58-71.
- Hoka, A.I.; Gicheru , M. and Otieno, S. 2019. Effect of cow parity and calf characteristics on milk production and reproduction of Friesian dairy cows. *Journal of Natural Sciences Research.*9 (10):41-46.
- Jamrozik,J.; J. Fatehi ; G. J. Kistemaker, and L. R. Schaeffer. 2005. Estimates of genetic parameters for Canadian Holstein female reproduction traits. *J. Dairy Sci.* 88:2199–2208.
- Johanson, J. M; Berger, P. J.; Tsuruta,S. and Misztal,I.2011. A Bayesian threshold-linear model evaluation of perinatal mortality, dystocia, birth weight, and gestation length in a Holstein herd. *J.Dairy Sci.* 94:450–460.
- Kamal,M.; Eetvelde ,V.; Depreester ,E .; Hostens, M.; Vandaele ,L. and Opsomer,G. 2014.Age at calving in heifers and level of milk production during gestation in cows are associated with the birth size of Holstein calves .*J. Dairy Sci.* 97:5448–5458
- Karabulut,O.; Mundan, D.and Sehar, Ö. 2012. Variance components and breeding values of birth weight in Holstein calves. *Harran Univ J Faculty Vet Med.*1:28–34.
- Kaygısız, A. 1996.Genetic and phenotypic parameter estimates for birth weight in Holstein cattle raised at Kahramanmaraş State Farm. *Journal of Lalahan Livestock Research Institute,* 36 (1), 43–50.
- Kaygısız, A. and Tümer, R. 2007. Determination of colostrum quality in Holstein cattle. *Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam Üniversitesi Araştırma Projeleri Yönetim Birimi Başkanlığı, Proje No:* 2005/4-12.
- Kaygısız, A.; Bakır, G.; Yilmaz,I. and Vanl,V.2011. Estimation of variance components and genetic parameters for direct and maternal effects on birth weight in Brown Swiss Cattle. *Pak Vet J,* 31(1): 70-74.
- Kaygısız, A.; Bakır,G.and Yilmaz, G.2012.Genetic parameters for direct and maternal effects and estimation of breeding values for birth weight of Holstein Friesian calves. *Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science,* 18 (No 1) 117-124, Agricultural Academy.
- Kennedy, B. W. 1989. Animal Model BLUP - Crasmsus intensive graduate course. University of Guelph, Dublin.
- Korsgaard, I.R.; Andersen, A.H. and Jensen, J. 2002. Prediction error variance and expected response to selection, when selection is based on the best predictor for Gaussian and threshold characters, traits following a Position mixed model and survival traits. *Genet. Sel. Evol.*, 34:307-333.
- Lopez, B.; Santiago ,K.G.; Seo ,K.; Jeong,T.; Park,JE.; Chai,H.; Park,W. and Lim , D.2020.Genetic parameters of birth weight and weaning weight and their relationship with gestation length and age at first calving in Hanwoo. *Animals,* 10, 1083; doi: 10.
- Magwaba, T.; Sungirai, M.; Hove, K. and Awala,S. K. 2019..Genetic and non-genetic factors influencing birth weight in the Tuli cattle breed of Zimbabwe. *WIJAS* 1: 49–58.
- Manoj, M.; Gandhi, RS.; Raja, TV.; Verma, A.; Singh, A.; Sachdeva, GK. and Kumar, A. 2014.Genetic parameters of body weights at different ages in Sahiwal heifers. *Indian Journal of Animal Research.* 48(3): 217-220.



- Nurgiartiningih, V. M. A.; Furqon, A.; Rochadi, I.; Rochman, A.; Muslim, A. and Waqid, M. 2020. Evaluation of birth weight and body measurements of Madura Cattle based on year of birth and breeding system in Madura breeding Centre, Indonesia. The 4th Animal Production International seminar earth and environmental Science 478:
- Raja, T.V.; Venkatachalapathy, R.T.; and Kanan, A. 2010. Estimates of genetic and phenotypic parameters on birth weight of crossbred cattle raised under organized farm conditions. Journal of Animal and Veterinary Advances, 9 (17), 2275–2278.
- Rezende, E.V.; Reis, G.J.; Campos, C.C.; Santos, R.M. 2020. Influence of gestation length, seasonality, and calf sex on birth weight and placental retention in crossbred dairy cows. Cienc. Anim. Bras. v.21, e-52881
- Sahin, A.; Ulutas, Z.; Yilmaz Adkinson, A. and Yilmaz Adkinson R.W. 2012. Estimates of phenotypic and genetic parameters for birth weight of Brown Swiss calves in Turkey using an animal model. Trop. Anim. Health Prod. 44:1027–1034.
- Sahin, A.; Ulutaş, Z. and Uğurlutepe, E. 2017. The application of six different models to estimate the genetic parameters, variance components and breeding values for birth weight of Holstein calves. Journal of applied animal research, vol. 45, no. 1, 598–602.
- Sanad, S. and Gharib, M. G. 2017. Estimation of genetic and phenotypic parameters for growth traits of Friesian cattle raised in Egypt. J. Animal and Poultry Prod., Mansoura Univ., Vol. 8 (8): 253 – 259.
- SAS, 2014. SAS Institute Inc. SAS User's Guide, Statistics. Cary, NC, USA.
- Selvan, A.; Tantia, M.; Kumaresan, A.; Kumar, A.; Kumar, D.; Karuthadurai, T. and Upadhyay, A. 2018. Phenotypic and genetic parameters estimation for birth weight in Zebu and crossbred calves born under organized farm conditions in India. International Journal of Livestock Research, 8(6), 48–58. doi: 10.5455/ijlr.20170706104426.
- Soydan, E. 2018. Variance components due to direct and maternal effects for birth weight of Brown Swiss cattle. Indian J. Anim. Res., 52(10): 1400–1404.
- Srivastava, A.K.; JB Patel; KJ Ankuya; HD Chauhan; AP Chaudhary; JK Patel and JP Gupta. 2020. Non genetic factors affecting gestation length and birth weight in Kankrej cattle. Ruminant Science. Vol9, No 1, 151–154.
- Stefano, B.; Riccardo, B. and Raimundo, M. 2000. Environmental effects on birth and weaning weights of Gyr and Guzera cattle in the northeast of Brazil. Ciencia Agronomica, 31, 65–74.
- Tilki, M.; Saatci, M. and Colak, M. 2008. Genetic Parameters for direct and maternal effects and estimation of breeding values for birth weight in Brown Swiss cattle. Turkish. J. Vet. Anim. Sci.; 32(4): 287–292.
- Udeh, I.; Onowhakpor, C. and Sorhue, G.U. 2020. Estimation of genetic parameters and breeding values for body weight and linear body measurements of mixed flock of cattle breeds. Animal Science and Biotechnologies, 53 (2): 105.
- Uzmay, C.; Kaya İ. and Ayyılmaz, T. 2010. Analysis of risk factors for dystocia in a Turkish Holstein herd. J. Anim. Vet. Adv. 9 (20): 2571–2577.
- Vallejo, M.; Sanchez Gracia, L. and Fuente, L.F., 1990. Reproduction traits in Galician Blonde cows: 3. Gestation period, sex ratio and calf birth weight. Animal Breeding Abstracts, 58 (9), 840.
- Vostrý, L.; Veselá, Z.; Svitáková, A. and Vostrá vydrová, H. 2014. Comparison of models for estimating genetic parameters and predicting breeding values for birth weight and calving ease in Czech Charolaise cattle. Czech J. Anim. Sci., 59, 2014 (7): 302–309.
- Wattiaux, M.A. 1996. Technical dairy guide. Reproduction and genetic selection. Babcock Institute for international dairy research and development, University of Wisconsin.
- Willham, R. L. 1980. Problems in estimating maternal effects. Livest. Prod. Sci., 7: 405–418.
- Yaylak, E.; Orhan, H. and Daşkaya, A. 2015. Some environmental factor affecting birth weight and daily live weight gain of Holstein calves. Turkish Journal of Agriculture-food Science and Technology. 3(7) 17–22.
- Yin, T. and König, S. 2018. Genetic parameters for body weight from birth to calving and associations between weights with test-day, health, and female fertility traits. J. Dairy Sci. 101:2158–2170.
- Zulkadir, U.; Keskin, D. and Khattab, A. 2018. Estimation of phenotypic and genetic parameters and effect of some factors on birth weight in Brown Swiss calves in Turkey Using MTDFREML. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/267784094>.

**المعالم الوراثية للتأثيرات المباشرة والأمومية على وزن الولادة في عجول الفريزيان تحت ظروف المزرعة المصرية.**  
**شيرين كمال السيد جنينة و محمد حمادة محمد عبد الحميد الصلوى و المعز بالله محفوظ مصطفى شعراوى و اشرف علي مهني اسماعيل.**  
**معهد بحوث الانتاج الحيواني - مركز البحوث الزراعية - وزارة الزراعة - الدقي - الجيزة**

### الملخص

تم تحليل عدد 4889 سجلًا للعجول المولودة لعدد 1609 بقرة فريزيان بين 1975 إلى 2020 في محطة بحوث سخا (مزرعة حكومية بكفر الشيخ) لتقدير المعالم الوراثية للتأثيرات المباشرة والأمومية ولدراسة تأثيرات العوامل البيئية المختلفة وهي ترتيب موسم الولادة وموسم وسنة الولادة، والعمر عند أول ولادة، وطول فترة الحمل، وجنس العجل المولود على وزن العجل عند الولادة. تم تقدير مكونات التباين والمكافئ الوراثي والقيم التربوية باستخدام برنامج VCE6 (Groeneveld et al. 2010)، وتم تقدير الاتجاهات الوراثية لهذه الصفة بتقدير انحدار القيم التربوية للأوزان على سنوات الولادة باستخدام GLM لبرنامج (SAS, 2014). أظهرت الدراسة معنوية التأثيرات ( $P \leq 0.001$ ) البيئية المدروسة على وزن العجل عند الولادة. بلغت قيم المكافئ الوراثي المباشر للعجل ( $h^2_a$ ) وللطفلة ( $h^2_p$ ) والكلي ( $h^2_T$ ) بالأوزان  $0.01 \pm 0.10$ ؛  $0.05 \pm 0.09$ ؛  $0.05 \pm 0.09$  على الترتيب ولمعامل الارتباط المباشر الأمومي ( $r_{am}$ ) 0.01. تراوحت القيم التربوية لهذه الصفة من -6.71 إلى 6.84 كجم ومن -6.04 إلى 4.38 كجم ومن -7.29 إلى 8.86 كجم للعجل والطلائق والأمهات على التوالي. كانت تقديرات القيم التربوية للأمهات أعلى من مثيلاتها للطلائق والعجول. بينما كانت نسبة دقة تقدير القيم التربوية للعجل أعلى من مثيلاتها للطلائق والأمهات وكانت قيم الاتجاهات الوراثية كإنداز للقيم التربوية للأوزان على سنوات الولادة تقارب الصفر وكان ذلك متوقعًا لعدم وجود انتخاب مباشر أو اتجاه وراثي لتحسينها. ففي هذه الدراسة، يوصى بتطبيق استراتيجيات تربية وإدارة فعالة للقطعان الحكومية مع اتباع برامج تحسين حقيقية لأوزان العجل بعد الولادة وذلك لعلاقتها بتحسين الأداء الانتاجي والتناسلي وطول الحياة الانتاجية بماشية اللبن.