

Analysis of levels of Inbreeding in the Jamaica Hope Nucleus Herd

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[Abstract]

A pedigree file of 2,407 male and female cattle from the Jamaica Hope Nucleus Herd was investigated for the occurrence of inbreeding. Relative to the population base of 1942 the inbreeding coefficient ranged from 0 to 28.125%. Over the period, 1942 to 1996, trends for reaching a plateau of an average herd inbreeding level of 4.8% in average inbreeding within the nucleus herd is presently at a moderate level, albeit with an upward trend. Future breeding strategies should take cognizance of this reality.

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