FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SUBCLINICAL MASTITIS IN POSPARTURIENT LACTATING COWS IN CHIANG MAI AND LUMPHUN PROVINCES

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Abstract The objective of this study was to determine factors associated with subclinical mastitis in postparturient lactating cows. Ninety-seven postparturient lactating cows (DIM < 60 d) of small holder dairy farms in Chiang Mai and Lumphun Provinces were studied from January to May, 2004. California Mastitis Test (CMT) was used to determine subclinical mastitis. A cow which positive to CMT (CMT score $\geq$1) was defined as subclinical mastitic cow. The questionnaires were administered by interviewing and observing about cow information, farm management, milking techniques and milking machine. Data were analyzed by logistic regression. Results showed that the prevalence of subclinical mastitis in postparturient lactating cows (DIM < 60 d) was 28.86%(28/97). Previous mastitic problem (OR=8.09), high number of milking workers (OR=8.13) and unappropiate vacuum level of milking machine (OR=8.82) were statistically significant factors associated with subclinical mastitis in postparturient lactating cows (*p*>*0.05*). From these results, we concluded that the surveillance of cow-udder health monitoring, milking manangement and milking machine efficiency might decrease the incidence of subclinical mastitis in postparturient lactating cows in this area. **Chiang Mai Veterinary Journal 2005;3:31-42.**

Keywords: Subclinical mastitis, Postparturient lactating cows