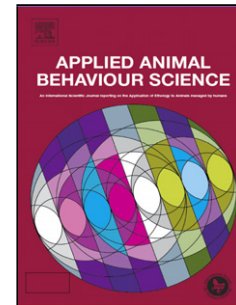


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On-farm factors associated with cross-sucking in group-housed organic Simmental dairy calves

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Highlights:

- Cross-sucking (CS) occurred in 94% of farms
- Occurrence of CS was reduced by similar age within group
- Likewise CS was decreased with extended sucking during milk meal
- The number of veterinary treatments was not associated with CS

Abstract

In EU organic dairy farming, group housing of calves is required after the first week. Especially in Simmental herds, this is perceived as a risk factor for cross-sucking (CS), i.e. sucking the udder-region or the scrotal area or any other body part of another calf, which may reflect frustrated motivation, lead e.g. to umbilical infections or be continued after

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