



## Effect of Region and Herd Size on Dairy Herd Performance Parameters in Punjab

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**Abstract:** A field study was conducted on 45 dairy farms of Punjab for one year to assess the dairy herd performance parameters. The average lactation yield was not significantly different among regions; however it was significantly higher (5062 litres) at large herd size farms (>99 milch animals) and lowest (4232 liters) at small herd size farms (20-49 animals). The wet average varied significantly among different herd size farms whereas the herd average differed significantly among regions. The herd size had significant effect on days open as the small farms were having the maximum days open 112 days followed by the medium and large farms. The region as well as herd size had no effect on the somatic cell count in milk. Income over feed ratio was not significantly different among regions and farm sizes, however, value was highest for Majha region and large size herds. It may be concluded that the large herd size had significant effect on average lactation yield, wet average, days open, somatic cell count and average annual income where as region significantly affect the herd average and price of milk only.

**Key Words:** Dairy farming, Herd performance, Herd size, Income over feed ratio

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