

Effect of extended lactation on culling levels and reasons for culling cows

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Summary

The aim of the study was to analyze the effect of lactation extension in cows on culling levels, including the reasons for culling according to the SYMLEK system. Analysis included milk performance and culling levels in 22906 Black-and-White cows improved with the Holstein-Friesian breed. The cows belonged to the active population in Pomerania and Kujawy, first calved in 2000 and 2001, and were used or culled until 2008. Prolongation of the lactation period beyond the standard 305 days resulted in a two-fold increase in the proportion of cows culled for infertility and reproductive disorders, a three-fold decrease in the proportion of cows culled for udder diseases, and a downward tendency for the proportion of cows sold for further breeding, which were culled for low milk yield, disease and old age.

KEY WORDS: cattle / lactation / culling