

Body condition of Black-and-White cows at calving versus their performance

S u m m a r y

The study was performed on 1227 Black-and-White cows with a high proportion of Holstein-Friesian genes, kept in two cowsheds with tying stalls and two cowsheds with free stalls. The objective of the study was to determine the effects of body condition of cows at calving on the course of labor, and fertility and productivity of cows, taking into account maintenance system. The cows whose body condition score varied from 3.25 to 3.75 were characterized by the lowest rate of difficult calving, and the highest milk, fat and protein production. The highest rates of difficult calvings, retention of placenta, stillbirths and culling, and the lowest productivity were recorded in animals described as extremely emaciated or thin (≤ 2). The free stall system contributed to reducing some negative effects of poor body condition of cows.