

The course of milk production during lactation in cows depending on the length of the period to reaching peak milk production after calving and on the daily milk yield at lactation peak

S u m m a r y

The course of lactation of 1081 Black-and-White cows, maintained in the herds of the south Podlasie region was examined. The influence of the length of periods between calving and the peak of lactation and milk yield at the peak of lactation on the daily production, persistency of lactation and lactation (FCM kg) milk yield was evaluated. In 83% of all examined animals the peak of lactation occurred at the first or the second month after parturition. For the cows with the lactation peak in the second month after calving the highest daily milk production and persistency of lactations indices were found. The corresponding mean data were: 22.3 and 18 kg; 45.8 and 41.2%, respectively. The highest FCM milk yield in 305-day lactation (6657 kg) and full lactation (FCM kg) for the cows with the second month peak production was stated. The higher rate of increasing milk production up to the peak of lactation was associated with the higher rate of declining milk production after the peak for the cows with the peak production occurring at the second or third month after parturition. Among the cows with the peak production occurring at the second or third month of lactation a positive relationship between the rate of increasing daily milk yield till the peak and declining milk production after the peak was found. For the cows reaching the lactation peak slower (below 2.0 kg from the start to the peak of lactation) the lowest persistency indices were found (29.7 and 26.5%). The differences between the compared groups of cows were statistically significant at $P \leq 0.05$.