

Length of reproductive quiescence period and milk performance efficiency of cows in a high-yielding herd

Summary

The aim of the study was to estimate the relationship between the length reproductive quiescence period (<60, 60-79, 80-99, 100-120 and >120 days) and the milk performance efficiency of first calvers and older cows. A total of 180 Polish Holstein-Friesian cows of Black-and-White variety with an average yield of 11 600 kg milk per lactation were investigated. In most cows, the period of reproductive quiescence lasted 60-79 days. Shortening this period resulted in lower fertility (especially in older cows) and a decrease in milk yield. Lengthening the period of reproductive quiescence had a favourable effect on lactation yield, especially in the first calvers when it was longer than 99 days. In older cows, the yield increased consistently as the period of quiescence was lengthened to 120 days. Regardless of the age of cows, there was a positive and statistically significant relationship between the period of reproductive quiescence and calving interval. Positive correlations between the length of the period of reproductive quiescence and lactation period, milk yield, fat yield and protein yield were statistically significant only in older cows.