

Changes in the growth rate and carcass tissue composition of young cattle depending on breed

S u m m a r y

Studies were performed on four cattle breeds: Holstein-Friesian (HF), Polish Red (PC), Hereford (HER) and Limousine (LIM). HF bulls originated from the herd owned by the IGiHZ. Bulls of remaining breeds came from sales. Fattening test was started at the age of 6 months completed. Animals were slaughtered at the age of 12 months. After dissection of the right carcass side, indices of slaughter characteristics and meat quality were determined. The results of the investigations indicate that carcass and meat quality of tested animals can be included to the intermediate category between beef and veal. Presented data indicate that the fattening performance of different genotypes depends in the considerable degree on the fattening system and slaughtering weight. Adopted fattening system was profitable for PC breed while in case of HF bulls the slaughter age was premature. Indigenous breed of Polish Red cattle, evaluated in 12-month – fattening test showed good fattening and slaughter performance compared with other tested genotypes.