

## The influence of herd origin on growth rate of Limousine calves

### S u m m a r y

Growth rate of Limousine calves kept in two herds in Poland and Finland in the years 2000-2005 was analyzed. Statistically significant influence of herd origin, calving number, calf sex, calving season as well as delivery course on calf body weight at birth was noticed. Calves born in Finnish herd were heavier average by over 11 kg than in Polish herd. Herd origin had highly significant effect on body weight and daily gains of calves up to 210 days of age. In Finnish herd the calves at weaning had average body weight higher by as much as 125 kg than in Polish herd as well as higher daily body weight gains (1480 and 914 g/day respectively). Both in Finnish and Polish herds the calves delivered by heifers had slightly lower body weight at weaning and lower daily gains during the rearing period. Nevertheless it should be emphasized, that calves coming from Finnish heifers were heavier at weaning by almost 111 kg than calves delivered by multipara in Polish herd and had daily body weight gains higher by 580 g/day. Statistically significant influence of herd origin on body weight and daily gains of calves up to 365 days of age was stated. In Finnish herd average body weight of calves aging 365 days was higher by almost 160 kg than in Polish herd as well as their daily body weight gains were considerably higher in the period from birth to 365 days of age (1241 and 818 g/day respectively). Average daily body weight gains of the calves were lower than those obtained before weaning.