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Reproduction results' analysis of multibreed beef herd maintained in the system of free grazing grasslands of National Park “Warta Mouth”

S u m m a r y

Analysis of reproduction and rearing results in the beef cattle herd (1617 suckler cows and 1546 calves data) included results from 3 years of research (2004-2006). The calving rate during the three year period of studies amounted to 96.5%, while losses of calves as still born or dead during the first day after birth reached 1.5%. The highest calving rate was recorded for Salers cows (98.7%). Crossbred, Limousine, Hereford and Simmental cows demonstrated similar results (96.3-97.9%), while cows of the Charolaise breed had calving rate significantly ($P \leq 0.01$) lower (94.1%). Moreover, in the group of Charolaise cows the largest percentage of still born calves (2.3%) occurred. Calf losses during the rearing period (still born and as result of emergency slaughter) reached 10.6%. Bull calf losses (9.5%) were significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) lower than those of heifer calves (12.4%). A comparison of calf rearing results (jointly for heifers and bulls) proved that more favourable results ($P \leq 0.05$) were obtained in the groups of crossbred, Salers and Hereford dams (95.6, 94.6 and 94.1%, respectively) than in the Limousine, Charolaise and Simmental dams (88.0, 85.7 and 85.5%). The ratios heifers to bulls born and reared by the dams until day 210 of life were not balanced and amounted to 40:60 and 39:61, respectively. The least heifers were born to and reared by Limousine cows (28.3 and 29.2%, respectively), while Salers cows gave birth and reared more heifers than bulls (53.6 and 54.7%, respectively). Compared to the data in the available literature, reproduction results obtained for the years 2004-2006 in the large cattle herd, maintained the year round without buildings on the grasslands of the National Park “Warta Mouth” were satisfactory.