Influence sow bearing season on their reproductive value

Summary

Reproductive value of sows from breeding farm A and B was presented. The capacity of farms was 200-240 sows, which were born during four seasons of the year. They were divided on following groups: 1 - spring (March, April, May), 2 - summer (June, July, August), 3 - autumn (September, October, November), 4 - winter (December, January, February). 794 gilts were tested in the 1994-1999 and their reproductive result originated from 1995-2003 i.e. to their culling. Analysis included 3715 litters. Average temperatures in Warmia and Mazury district in 1996-2000 were in December and January -1.4 and -2.4°C, respectively. In July and August amounted to respectively 16.0 and 18.8°C. The photoperiod length on 21 December in Poland was 7 h 45 min. and on the 21 June 16 h 57 min. The sows born in the spring (group 1) from both (A, B) farms had a larger longevity than those born in other seasons, especially than sows born in winter (P<0.01). The sows of group 1 reached the highest life productivity expressed by the number of piglets born by one sow. In the farm B it was about 20.8 piglets more than the from sow of the 4 group (P<0.01) and 10.0 piglets/sow more in the A farm. The sows born in spring season have a better rearing conditions, what resulted in the earliest age of bearing their first litter in the farm A. The sows group 4 showed the lowest meatness (P<0.01) in A, B farms indicating that winter season of sow birth influenced growing fat in gilts. This phenomena is noted usually in the other experiments during winter fattening of pigs.