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Characteristics of population of cows included in a programme of genetic resources protection of Polish Red-White breed cattle

S u m m a r y

The aim of the study was to analyze the structure of 360 cattle herds of Polish Holstein-Friesian of Red-White variety (RW) and of Polish Red-White (ZR) breed, and also to evaluate milk performance of ZR cows included in a the programme of genetic resources protection. Genetic structure, in class ranges to 25% and >25% of Holstein-Friesian breed cattle genes, amounted to 56.5% and 43.5% of the examined cows, respectively. The population of ZR breed cows in an assessment region of Parzniew was less numerous (49.3% of all cows), and more dispersed (245 herds in 6 provinces) than in the evaluated region of Poznań (50.7% of all cows), where their breeding was more concentrated (115 herds in 3 provinces). In a farm structure, most of cows of ZR breed (54.5% of all cows) are found in the herds consisting of 11-50 heads, and the least in herds >100 heads (10.9% of all animals). The average milk yield of ZR breed cows, assessed in 305-day lactations was equal to 5193 kg of milk with fat content 4.11 % and protein content 3.27%, FCM milk yield 5272 kg, and PFR index value was 0.79.