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## Effect of cow housing system on lifetime production efficiency

### S u m m a r y

The effect of housing system (tethered vs. loose) and herd size on lifetime production efficiency of 11 505 cows was investigated in 1742 farms of the Pomorze and Kujawy regions. Loose housing proved more beneficial in cowsheds with <50 and 50.1-200 cows (19 and 35% better lifetime milk yield, 21 and 27% better yield per day of productive life, 21 and 51% better yield per year of productive life) compared to the tethered system. Loose-housed cows calved more frequently and their productive life was longer. In cowsheds with >200 animals, tethered cows proved better milk yielders during their lifetime (by 26%), per day of productive life (by 19%) and per year of productive life (by 6%). Regardless of the number of cows per herd, loose-housed cows were characterized by better fertility.