

## Cow longevity and reasons for culling

### S u m m a r y

Longevity (lifespan, length of productive life, number of calvings and survival to different lactations) and reasons for culling were analysed in 25 231 cows from milk recorded herds in the Pomorze and Kujawy regions, which first calved in 1988 and 2000 and were culled until 1996 and 2008, respectively. GLM and FREQ procedures of the SAS package were used in the statistical calculations. It was found that considering the decrease in cow culling levels that has been observed for many years, the results obtained are due to improved longevity of the cows that first calved in 2000 compared to those that were first milked in 1988. It is of concern that during the study period, the proportion of cows culled for reasons unplanned by breeders increased from 67 to 83%. Cows were culled mainly for infertility and accidents. Culling levels in the cows from both populations were the highest after the second calving.