Twenty-four-hour activity of selected cattle breeds fed once or twice a day

Summary

Behavioural observations (standing, left lateral recumbency, right lateral recumbency, feed and water intake, defecation and urination) included of 36 cows: 15 Polish Black-and-White Holstein-Friesian, 7 Simmental, and 14 Aberdeen Angus. First 3-day observations were conducted for once-a-day delivery of feed, followed by twice-a-day allotment of the same amount of feed. The trial was repeated after a one-month adaptation. In Simmental cows, feed intake was 55 minutes longer for twice-a-day feeding (446 minutes) compared to once-a-day feeding (391 minutes). The observed cows of different breeds spent more time standing when fed twice-a-day. For Aberdeen Angus and Holstein-Friesian cows, these differences were 48 and 28 minutes, respectively. Our study showed that a change in the feeding system had no effect on the frequency of defecation and urination. Water was consumed by the cows from 5 to 8 times per 24 hours with once-a-day feeding. After the frequency of feeding was changed, the cows used waterers from 6 to 8 times on average.