

Wojciech Neja, Mariusz Bogucki, Sylwia Krężel-Czopek, Sebastian Kunert

Effect of housing system on cow performance

S u m m a r y

This study analysed the effect of housing system (loose vs. tethered) on milk yield, fat and protein percentage, milk urea content and somatic cell count. Loose-housed cows were characterized by higher daily production of milk (29 kg) with a higher protein percentage (3.49) and lower somatic cell count (LnSCC 11.79), whereas the milk from tethered cows (daily yield of 27.4 kg milk) contained more fat (4.19%) and urea (208 mg/l). First-calf heifers and third-lactation cows from the loose housing system showed higher productivity (27.9 and 32.1 kg, respectively) compared to their tethered contemporaries (24.3 and 30.7 kg, respectively). Regardless of lactation, higher fat content of milk was characteristic of tethered cows. In both housing systems, the concentration of milk fat and protein increased with advancing lactation.