

Analysis of the influence of selected factors on  
dry period length of cows and the relationship  
with milk performance traits

S u m m a r y

In this paper, the influence of successive lactation, length of lactation and milk yield in standard lactation and also in last experimental milking before the drying off on the length of pause between lactations were analyzed. There was also analyzed the relationship between the length of dry period and milk yield, milk composition and lactation curves. The research included 346 production cycles (dry periods and lactations) and 3127 results of experimental milking of 229 Polish Holstein-Friesian var. black-and-white cows. The animals were kept in free-stall system and were fed with TMR system. Cows were averagely dried for 62 days, and in 1/3 cases this period was longer than 60 days, and for 5.8% of cows dry period lasted 21 days maximally. It was found that dry period length was the most influenced by the successive lactation and milk yield in last experimental milking before next calving. From the regard of milk yield in standard and complete lactations and peak milk yield, the most favorable was 43-60 day dry period. The lowest milk yield and the highest fat and protein content were found for the cows dried for three weeks. The shortest dry period was connected with the highest lactation persistency.

**KEY WORDS:** drying-off period / yield / lactation curves