

## **Length of productive life of dairy cows in Poland and reasons for their culling**

### **Summary**

The length of the productive life of dairy cattle is important for breeding and economic reasons. Cows should be used for more than five lactations, but the study showed that over the last 30 years in Poland cows were used for a significantly shorter time – from 2.5 to 4.0 years. During that period cows were most often (20-48%) culled due to sterility and reproductive disorders. More attention should be paid to this functional trait in cattle farming.

**KEY WORDS:** cows, length of productive life, reasons for culling