

The development of livestock production in the light of current conditions

Summary

The paper presents development trends in livestock production, taking into account the globalization of the world economy. According to forecasts by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in the coming years the demand for food, including products of animal origin, will increase. Supply also will show an upward trend. However, there is spatial variation in projected changes in both demand and supply. The demand for food will increase mainly outside Europe, especially in countries with a lower level of consumption of animal products. The spatial structure of supply of these products will change as well. Production and supply in non-European countries will grow more rapidly than in Europe. This will mean new challenges for European producers of foods of animal origin, including Polish producers. The situation of livestock production in Poland is varied. Producers of poultry, and probably milk as well, have better prospects than producers of pigs or sheep, although this could change. There is no doubt that in order to strengthen their competitive advantage all groups of producers need to improve their production systems, e.g. through concentration of production, implementation of biological progress and modern technology, development of integration structures, strengthening existing specialties and seeking for new ones (including local products, direct sales and local processing), and seeking new markets, not only in Europe.

KEY WORDS: OECD forecasts, animal production, consumption of animal products, local products