

Current status, use value and semen characteristics of boars used for artificial insemination in Poland

Summary

The aim of the study was to determine the breed breakdown and breeding value of boars used for artificial insemination. The four most important artificial insemination centres in Poland are the Animal Breeding and Insemination Station in Bydgoszcz, the Masovian Animal Breeding and Reproduction Centre in Łowicz, the Greater Poland Animal Breeding and Reproduction Centre in Poznań, and the Lesser Poland Biotechnology Centre in Krasne. These include separate, specialized branches, divisions, boar exploitation stations and sow insemination stations. The following performance traits of boars were analysed: number of teats, daily weight gains, meatiness, selection index from performance testing, BLUP index, and estimated weight gain during fattening. The sperm analysis included ejaculate volume, sperm concentration, percentage of spermatozoa with progressive motility, and the number of insemination portions produced. The research material included information from the websites of artificial insemination companies and the results of boar semen analysis at the Boar Exploitation Station in Częstochowa. The data presented in this study confirm the high use value of boars used for artificial insemination. The most popular breed is Polish Landrace, as in the mass population. The choice of the right boar for insemination is primarily determined by the production purpose.

KEY WORDS: pigs, boars, artificial insemination, ejaculate characteristics