

Analysis of selected reproductive performance parameters in large-scale production of Limousin cattle at Agro Bieganów

Summary

The results of calf breeding and rearing in the Agro Bieganów commercial herd, numbering over 450 cows, are comparable to those obtained in France, and in the case of rearing results and calving interval are even more favourable. Agro Bieganów recommends that breeders in Poland begin using heifers for breeding at the age of 23-25 months and a minimum weight of 550 kg, with good skeletal development (height, width at the hips and pins, and pelvis length) and body condition. Heifers in late pregnancy should be kept in groups in an area that enables plenty of movement. The feeding level should be adjusted to the animals' body condition, and mineral and vitamin supplements should be used during the winter feeding. The choice of a bull for natural mating or the purchase of semen for artificial insemination should be preceded by analysis of information regarding the calving ease of the bull from which the semen is obtained, or in the case of a bull for natural mating, that of its ancestors or its own predisposition. In herds with only minor problems associated with calving in heifers, with positive assessments of milk yield in the first stage of lactation, as well as stable body condition, primiparous cows should be allowed to mate within 2-3 months after calving. When calves are born with weak calf syndrome, the economic sense of treating and keeping them should be considered.

KEY WORDS: age at first calving, calving interval, calving ease, calf viability, calf deaths