Awareness among Polish farmers of the need to reduce greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from animal production

Summary

Ongoing climate change is caused by a significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions, e.g. carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, which affects the quality of human life. In the face of these problems, it is important to increase awareness within the agricultural industry of the causes and consequences of greenhouse gas emissions to the environment.

In Europe, comprehensive action is taken to raise awareness among farmers, and measures are proposed to reduce the negative effects of animal production on the environment on a large scale. In Poland, which is the fifth largest producer of greenhouse gases (CO2 equivalents) in Europe, there is also a need to intensify measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. An important factor in this process is the ecological awareness of farmers and, consequently, their actions, such as the use of new technologies. In view of the restrictive emission reduction programmes implemented in the European Union Member States, the introduction of sustainable agricultural practices in Poland to reduce emissions is justified.

The aim of the study was to analyse the knowledge and awareness of farmers of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural production. The farmers surveyed are aware of ongoing climate change and the negative effects of agriculture on the environment. Although farmers agree on the need to take action to protect the environment, most are not ready to introduce changes on their farms at the expense of income. Polish farmers do not agree to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by undertaking individual practices on the farm. The majority are in favour of systemic solutions with support from the state.

Given the agreement among Polish farmers in the perception of climate problems, solutions supported by state programmes could reduce environmental pollution and make it easier to comply with the legal restrictions respected in EU member states.

KEY WORDS: climate change, greenhouse gases, agriculture, animal production