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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IV

Book of Abstracts



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THE DIFFERENCES IN SUBCLINICAL MASTITIS PREVALENCE AND EFFECT ON MILK PRODUCTION DUE TO COWS' BREED AND BREEDING REGION

Vesna Gantner¹, Vera Popović², Zvonimir Steiner³, Ranko Gantner⁴,
Klemen Potočnik⁵

Abstract

The objective of this study was to investigate how breed (Holstein or Simmental) and breeding region (Central, Eastern, and Mediterranean) affect the prevalence of subclinical mastitis and its impact on milk production. To achieve this, the study analysed a total of 4,922,751 test-day records of Simmental cows and 3,953,637 test-day records of Holstein cows. As indicator of subclinical mastitis, the daily lactose content was used.

The results of the study indicated that there were significant differences in subclinical mastitis rates based on both breeding region and breed. Holstein cows from the Eastern region had the lowest prevalence. Furthermore, the lowest daily milk yield was observed on the test-day when subclinical mastitis was detected in both breeds and all regions. However, subsequent milk recordings showed an increase in milk yield that varied based on the breed and breeding region. The highest total increase in milk production was observed in Holstein cows from the Eastern region.

These findings suggest that recovery potential varies significantly based on breed and breeding region. Holstein cows from farms in the Eastern region had the lowest incidence of mastitis-related issues and the highest chance of recovery and restoration of production to their genetic potential. Therefore, this study suggests

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that dairy cows recover more effectively when bred at large, specialized dairy farms that are prevalent in the Eastern region.

Key words: *Dairy cows, subclinical mastitis, prevalence, daily milk production.*

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