

ANALYSIS OF DISEASE PREVALENCE AND MORTALITY OF CATTLE IN LITHUANIA

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Summary. An analysis was conducted to describe the features of morbidity and mortality of cattle population in Lithuania. At the last decade total cattle population in Lithuania continuously decreased. However, the average milk yield per cow increased from 3228 to 4003 kg/year. In Lithuania, most dairy farms (>95%) are owned and run by small family farms with average from 1 to 9 dairy cows.

It is estimated, that the proportion of diseased cattle varies from 11.1% to 13.9%. Prevalence of enteric, respiratory organ diseases and mastitis was prevailing, and the prevalence of such diseases decreased from 5.0%, 2.6% and 2.8% in 1999 to 3.5%, 1.8% and 2.6% in 2002, respectively. The death rate of cattle have shown tendency to decrease from 0,08 in 1999 to 0,053 in 2002. The cattle mortality due to enteric and respiratory organ diseases was significantly higher compared to the death rate from reproductive, metabolic diseases or mastitis ($p < 0.05$).

Keywords: cattle, disease prevalence, mortality.