

## INFLUENCE OF MASTITIS AGENTS ON MILK TRAITS OF COWS

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**Abstract.** The present study was conducted to determine the presence of major mastitis agents in dairy cows herds in Lithuania and to investigate their influence on milk traits of cows. The research was carried out in the herds (n=85) of the dairy cows (n=4323), at the State Laboratory for Milk Control “Pieno tyrimai“, at the Centre of State Rural Business Development and Information and at the Laboratory of Establishment of Animal Breeding Value and Selection of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. The most frequent mastitis pathogens in herds of Lithuanian cows were mixed microflora agents (23.8 %) and *Staphylococcus aureus* (15.3%). The increase class of milk SCC has influenced the increase of frequency of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus agalactiae* ( $P < 0.0001$ ). Pathogens of mastitis cause many changes for milk composition of infected cows ( $P = 0.007-0.0001$ ) and depend on invasion of pathogens to the tissues of mammary gland.

**Keywords:** cows, milk, udder, mastitis, pathogen