

PROBLEMS OF ECOLOGICAL FARM

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Summary. Because of a great variety of reasons European and world farmers more and more often turn to the direction of ecological agriculture. At the moment in Lithuania chemical pollution in agriculture is reduced at a great extent therefore it is an auspicious moment to go over to ecological agriculture. Another thing is ecological animal husbandry, without which ecological agriculture could not be imagined. After the conditions for farming have changed and farms have become smaller can we ensure the animal welfare that would correspond to the principles of ecological animal husbandry? The studies of cow housing conditions in Kaunas region showed that small farms of 1-5 cows form even 97,84 percent of total farms. Stables in such farms are dark, stalls are not installed, and animals do not have outdoor access. However, because of individual maintenance and low animal concentration cow morbidity is even 18,12 percent less than in large farms. New EU directives for ecological animal husbandry are strict enough. Seeking to improve present conditions for animal housing it will be necessary to go over to loosing cow housing system. New buildings should be low cost, built of light structures, but comfortable for animals.

Keywords: ecological farm, conditions of cow housing, microclimate, morbidity.