

MILK LEAKAGE FROM THE UDDER OF COWS ON DAIRY FARMS WITH AUTOMATIC AND CONVENTIONAL MILKING SYSTEM

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Abstract. The occurrence of milk leakage (ML) on farms equipped with automatic and conventional milking system was examined. The frequency of ML was higher in AMS (7.3%) compared to CMS (1.9%). A statistically significant relationship was detected between ML and the position of the cow in the resting and feeding area ($P=0.006$). Relationship between ML and the average and maximum milking speed was statistically unreliable. Significant relationship between milk yield and leakage was not observed, whereas the trait was statistically relevant only in cows milked in the parlour on the Farm C ($P=0.049$). Some linkage was found between ML and the age of a cow – older cows (≥ 4 parities) had higher probability of ML. The average somatic cell count score differed between cows with (3.03) and without (2.62) ML ($P=0.064$). The research indicated that despite the relatively low occurrence and repetitiveness of recorded ML during the observation period, ML may be a problematic issue in older cows.

Keywords: milk leakage, automatic milking system, conventional milking system, dairy cow, somatic cell count score, milking speed, milk yield, lactation number