

NO WAY WITHOUT MILK RECORDING

WHAT HAPPENED



SUBSCRIPTION FOR ADVISORY SERVICES

In the beginning of 2015 PFCBDF introduced a new system of providing feeding advisory services. Breeders who are interested in being advised by a nutrition specialist from PFCBDF can now choose from two available plans. There is an advisory service in subscription - for farmers expecting permanent cooperation with the advisor, who is over a year obliged to monitor the herd i.e. pay 4 on-farm visits. Besides the aforementioned, an ad hoc option remains available, on a one-off basis, meaning an intervention of the advisor if a problem has been reported by a breeder.

ANNIVERSARY

In 2015, Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers celebrated its 20th anniversary. PFCBDF hosted many distinguished guests: farmers, representatives of authorities, employees and our close friends and co-workers. We celebrated the 20th anniversary in May 2015 during the XXVII National Breeding Animals Exhibition on the premises of Poznań International Fair. The event was quite a formal ceremony with touching speeches and honorary awards and recognitions being granted to employees and collaborators of PFHBi-PM - all well-deserved. There was also an artistic part performed by a dance-vocal group consisting of PFCBDF's employees. There were a lot of group photographs taken and of course best wishes. And what did we wish? Consecutive years of good cooperation and cows in milk recording as many as possible!



AWARDS GRANTED

During the 20th jubilee celebration the results of national milk recording achieved in 2014 were awarded too. The ceremony called a "Dairy Gala" gathered the leading Polish dairy breeders for the second time on. There were both the „tycoons” in dairy cattle breeding and production

and owners of family farms present. The breeders have been recognised in categories for the best average milk yield classified in peer groups according to the herd size and there were also separate peer groups for farms specialising in rearing other than Holstein BW cows. Altogether 54 farmers in 15 categories from the whole Poland were granted the statuette during the Dairy Gala.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ANIMAL RECORDING - MEETING IN KRAKÓW

About 350 experts - representatives of 46 countries, organizations and companies associated with animal breeding from all-over the world met in Kraków. Thanks to Mr. Leszek Hądzlik - the President of PFDCBF, Poland was the host of this prestigious and unique for the international animal production society event for the first time in history. The topic of the conference held in Kraków in June was: "Performance Recording in the Genotyped World" with the intention to underline the role of per-



formance recording of phenotype traits even in the era of genomic technology. During the topic sessions, the participants were able to learn more about the results of works carried out by different organizations, the latest scientific developments, technological and technical innovations in animal farming and breeding. Additionally, the attendants, during the technical tours visited Polish farms in Małopolska and Śląsk regions and discovered specificity, high level and diversity of Polish cattle breeding. The participants gave us quite a positive assessment appreciating the organization, the location and the level of running the conference. Their nice and warm comments and the recognition in the eyes of our foreign colleagues, were for PFCBDF, a testimony of a well done job, and the best reward.

FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN PIĄTNICA

In November Piątnica near Łomża hosted cattle breeders and milk producers for the fourth time in a row during the "Podlaskie Cattle Forum" - a specialist conference – this time dedicated to reproduction and genotyping of cattle. The participants of the Forum had a possibility to attend many interesting lectures and discussions, moreover they were able to meet and exchange their opinions with the best experts in this industry in our country. A wide range of ex-



hibition stands satisfied the various expectations of the visitors. There were more than 20 exhibitors presenting various products, machinery and farming equipment necessary in a modern animal production. On the course of the Forum PFDCBF's distinguished employees were honoured by a state award: the Silver Cross of Merit and honorary badge - Merit for Agriculture, and also the PFDCBF's Golden Badge of Honour. As every year, there was a nice touch to the event in a form of culinary workshop and chef Kuba Korczak's demonstration promoting the values of beef. This event was naturally finished with a degustation of prepared dishes.

PROBLEM: mastitis

The Milk Recording Department made a decision to develop a series of info-training leaflets aimed at bringing-up and explaining direct usefulness of milk recording results in everyday milk production on a farm. This decision was an answer to the needs and expectations of farmers. The first from many planned brochures; it deals with mastitis issues and is dedicated mainly to these farmers, who are struggling with a high level of somatic cells in their herds and to those who want to monitor the situation on a daily bases to be able to react in time. Next topic leaflets which will be developed by PFCBDF's specialists will cover issues related to nutrition and reproduction of cattle.

BANNER

In 2015, the Świętokrzyski Regional Breeders Association (SZHB) celebrated its 10th anniversary. The unique character of the event was underlined by a ceremony of blessing of the banner of SZHB,



which took place in October during a solemn mass celebrated in the Basilica of Holy Cross. This beautiful idea brought together the breeders from the whole country. This is already the fifth regional banner in the Federation, a proof of a growing attachment to our tradition, a manifestation of identity and values represented by breeders, being the base of our joint work.

SCHOOL: NOT IN NAME ONLY

In June, during the Regional Dairy Cattle Exhibition in Szeplietowo the finals of the II Podlasie Young Breeders School were organised. The initiative of Podlasie Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers Association and the Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers. is a very attractive project dedicated to young people aged from 13 to 21, from the area of Podlasie and Mazovia. During the training, young people were guided by top professionals; they learnt the craft and the arcana of an effective preparation of cattle for shows and professional presentation of animals. The main prize, for the outstanding students of the workshop was the opportunity to participate in the European Young Breeders School in Belgian Battice. In September, a representation of PFCBDF - seven young breeders - competed in European Young Breeders School (E.Y.B.S) as a one among 22 teams. In the teams' classification we took the fourth place, just behind Switzerland, Spain and Belgium. It was a highly motivating, well-deserved victory and a great experience for PFCBDF's team, debuting in international competition, which stimulates for further work and trainings. A real professionalism of our team was proved by the success of Damian Żyłowski, whose expertise in fitting was recognised by granting the cow prepared by him the 1st place in heifers group competition during Walloon Animal Exhibition.



A DOUBLE FOCUS ON SIMMENTAL

In October, on the basis of the authority of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, we started carrying-out the tasks related to beef performance recording of Simmental herds. Beef performance recording in terms of meat traits is carried out by „C” method, where tasks related to body weight measurements, muscularity level, and the relevant records in breeding documentation are performed by a breeder and an employee of PFCBDF simultaneously. Details on www.pfhb.pl

EXOTIC COOPERATION

In early August, we hosted a delegation from China. We were visited by representatives of research institutes, agricultural universities and representatives of enterprises involved in cattle breeding and milk production from the Middle Kingdom. Meeting one another, understanding common needs and a possibility to work together is the best base to build further communication and possible business relations. Presentation of our achievements, solutions applied and technical equipment met a sincere interest and appreciation of Chinese colleagues.

SARAIinMilk

Subacute ruminal acidosis (SARA), as well as subclinical ketosis, are two most frequent metabolic diseases in dairy cattle herds, which directly affect profitability of milk production. Taking into account the fact that SARA causes changes in milk composition produced by cows affected by this disorder, PFCBDF attempted to monitor SARA frequency and assess its risk on the basis of milk samples analysis - samples collected during a test milking. We hope that as a result of research launched in 2015, there will be a new relevant service of monitoring herd (like the ketosis service) made available for farmers in the future.



UNIVERSAL and RELIABLE

Over the year a pilot test of a new equipment - ORI-collector - was run in all three Milk Recording Regions. This universal device for milk sampling from milking robots was practically checked and tested by PFCBDF field technicians on recorded farms. ORI-collector® sampler is approved by ICAR to work with milking robots manufactured by Lely, DeLaval and GEA. It is a tool facilitating the work of field technicians during robotic test milking.. One of many strengths of this device is the ease of operation and maintenance, precision of measuring system, and what is the most important for us - reliability beyond its simple construction. There are plans for further purchase in 2016.

For more, see the company website
www.pfhb.pl