

## Introduction



Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers was established in 1995 as a merger of 18 regional breeding organizations from over the whole country. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2004 PFCBDF is keeping the herdbooks for dairy cattle. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2006 our organization is performing milk recording of dairy cattle and dual purpose breeds. Today milk recording is carried out in three Milk Recording Regions, subjected directly to the Office in Warsaw.

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2007 Polish Federation is performing type classification of dairy cattle, as well. In the middle of the year 2008 the Polish Federation initiated feeding advice, as a new service for the breeders in milk recording. The aim of this service is to help our breeders in an objective way to reach better milk production results at lower production costs.

Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers is running milk recording of dairy cattle in Poland on the basis of current animal regulations and the directives of the European Union, the guidelines of International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) and also internal PFCBDF procedures of carrying out milk recording. This proceeding guarantees our breeders getting full, credible and reliable information about the results for each cow individually as well as for the whole herd. Moreover, it assures high level of services, making up the condition of quality and correctness of milk recording results in recorded herds.

The first part of this study is a summary of the entire milk recording results in Poland in 2009. This study is addressed to national recipients, in particular, the cattle breeders and milk producers, representatives of scientific centers, research institutes, the educational centers, as well as all vividly interested in matters regarding Polish agriculture and breeding.

The publication has an exclusively informative character, data are presented in nationwide cross-section, regional, voivodship, breeds and sectors, often also in relation to previous years. It presents reliable and objective data, allowing essential evaluation of potential national active population of dairy cows, it makes possible the analysis of tendency and foresee prospect of development in breeding and animal production.

\* \* \*

We take the opportunity with present publication to warmly congratulate our Breeders on results achieved in 2009 and to thank them for the close and satisfying co-operation aiming at the improvement of polish dairy cattle breeding.

We wish you further success in your work, prosperity as well as good luck in private life.

Milk Recording Department  
Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers

## The results of milk recording in Poland in 2009

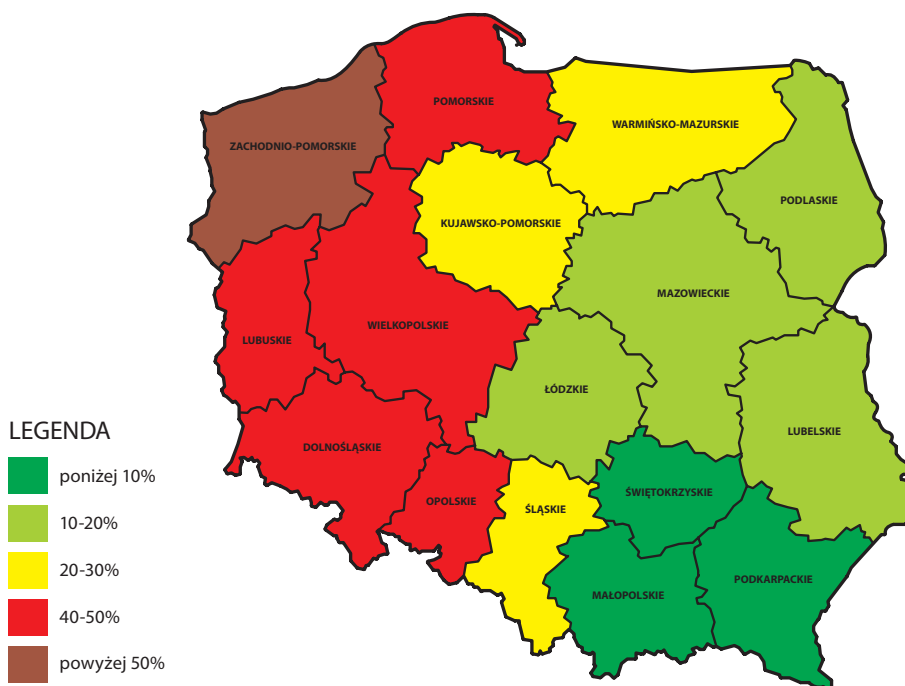
The population of dairy cattle in milk recording in December 2009 reached **582.067** heads. In relation to figures dated at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 it shows an increase on the number of dairy cows with 7.137 animals (+1,24%).

In December 2009 the total livestock population of dairy cows reached **2.584.794** heads what makes up 96,5% of cows in general livestock in Poland. Similarly like in previous years there is a tendency of decrease of the total number of dairy cattle. In comparison to the same period in 2008, reported decrease about 71.176 heads.

The recording population of dairy cows, according to information dated at 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2009, represents **22,52%** of national livestock in total, what in relation to analogous period in 2008 makes up growth in part about 1,20%. Despite of continuous growing tendency of recorded population in our country, in relation to figures from others European countries we are still at the end of the list.

The highest participation of recorded dairy cows in relation to the national livestock in total has been observed in north–western part of Poland and the lowest in south–eastern part of the country.

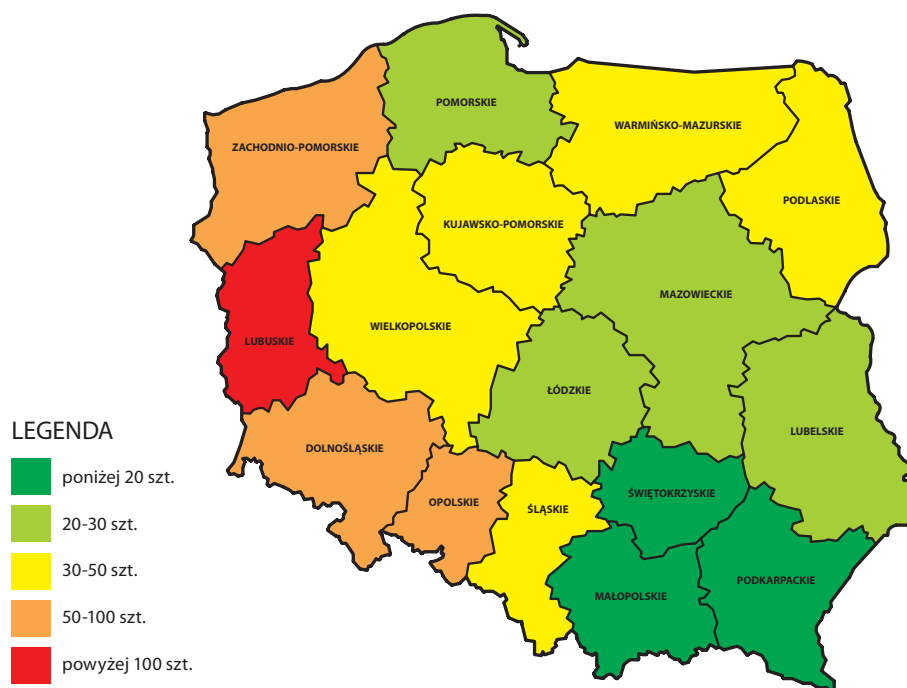
**The figure No. 1 represents graphic comparison of recorded population size dated at 31st December 2009 in relation to dairy cows livestock in total, according to voivodships.**



More detailed data relating the recorded population of dairy cows in Poland represents the table No.12. (tabular part of study).

In 2009, the average size of recorded herd reached **30,00 heads**. Invariably since years, the largest herds are observed in Lubuskie, Opolskie, Dolnośląskie and Zachodniopomorskie. The smallest herds: in Małopolskie, Podkarpackie and Świętokrzyskie.

**Figure 2. The average herd size in milk recording population in comparison between voivodships, according to data on 31st December 2009 .**



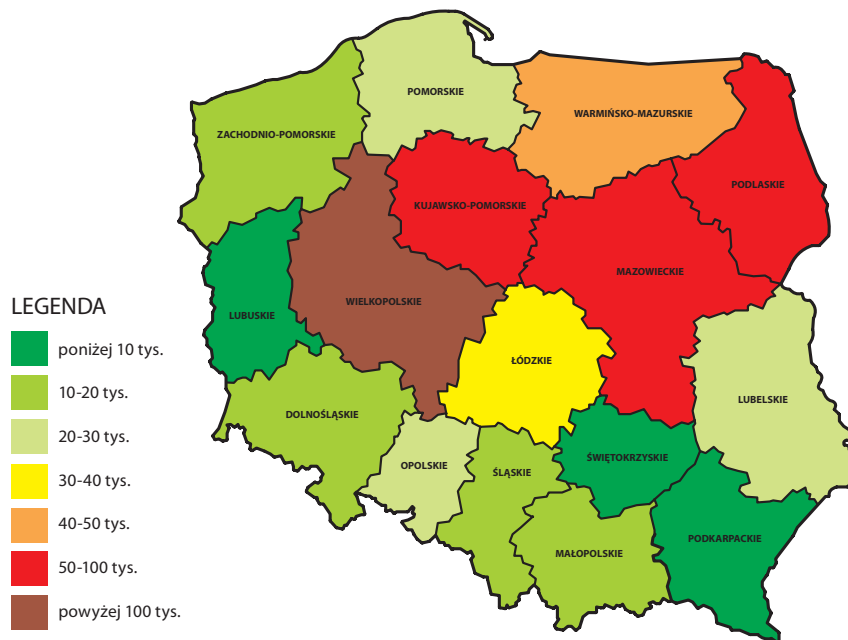
There are more than 91,9% of recorded farms in Poland, that keep over 10 animals. Most of the recorded herds, around 45,7%, are situated in the interval 20 – 50 heads per farm.. According to information from 31 December 2009, there are 10,4% of recorded herds owning more than 50 heads on average, that shows slight tendency of increase of the average herd size.

Tables No. 15 and 16 represent more detailed information relating the herds structure.

The current data from 2009 shows, that the proportional participation of recording performance methods in Poland, are as follows:

|     |               |        |
|-----|---------------|--------|
| A4  | 169.620 heads | 29,14% |
| AT4 | 366.226 heads | 62,92% |
| A8  | 46.221 heads  | 7,94%  |

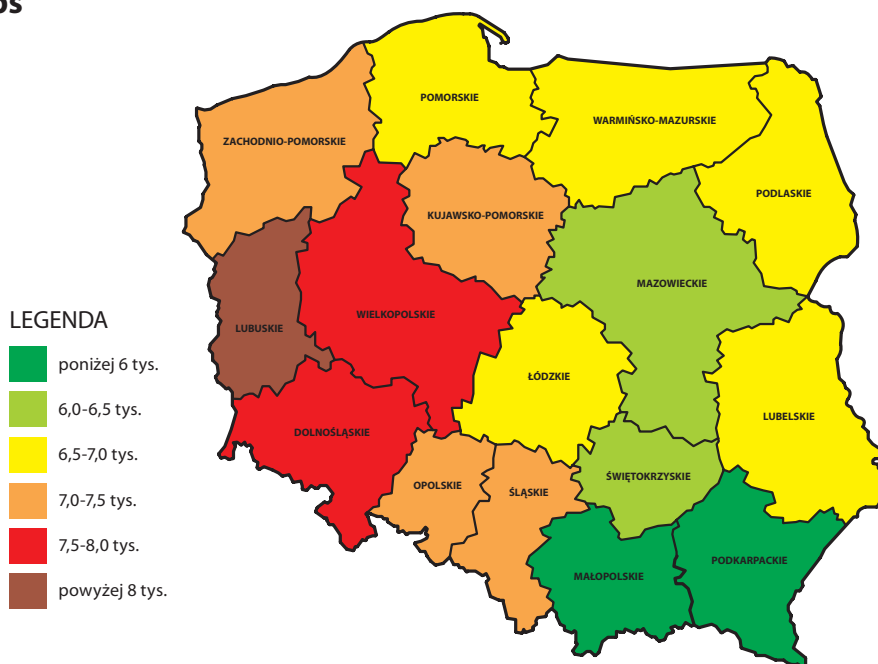
**Figure No. 3 represents graphic comparison of the number of dairy cows, according to information noted down on the end December 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, regarding of applied methods.**



For more information see the table No. 11 and 14 (tabular part of study).

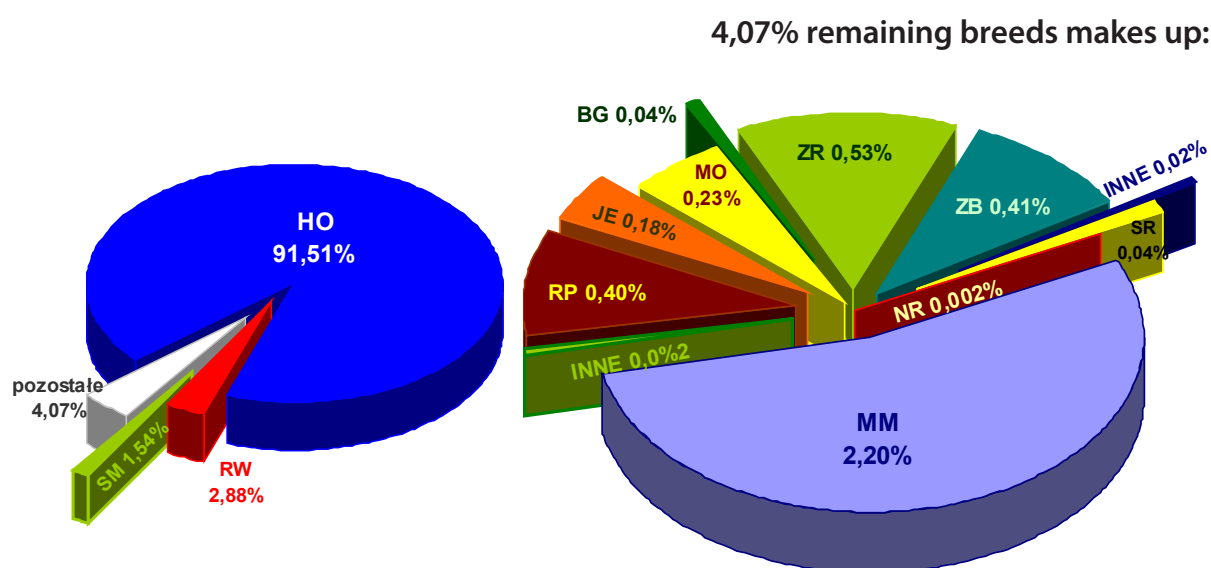
According to current data **on average**, in 2009 there were **579.909,7 dairy cows recorded in 19 299 herds**, what in comparison to 2008 makes up average increase of the active population about **12.432,9** animals, that means (+ 2,19%).

**Figure No. 4 The average number of recorded cows in Poland in 2009. According to voivodships**



The predominant dairy breed recorded in 2009 in Poland invariably is the Holstein – Friesian (HO) – 91,51% in the active population. But from the other hand, there is still strong interest in colored breeds such as: Simmental, Montbeliarde and indigenous robust breeds like Polish Red, Polish Black–White and Polish Red-White. Above mentioned direction shows, that breeders are interesting in cattle, characterized with high resistance, longevity and also tolerance on nutritional factors and environmental requirements.

**Figure No. 5 Shows the structure of breeds in recorded population of dairy cows in 2009.**



For more figures see the table No. 3 and 17 (tabular part of study).

The table below shows structure of breeds in recorded population of dairy cows in 2008, according to voivodships:

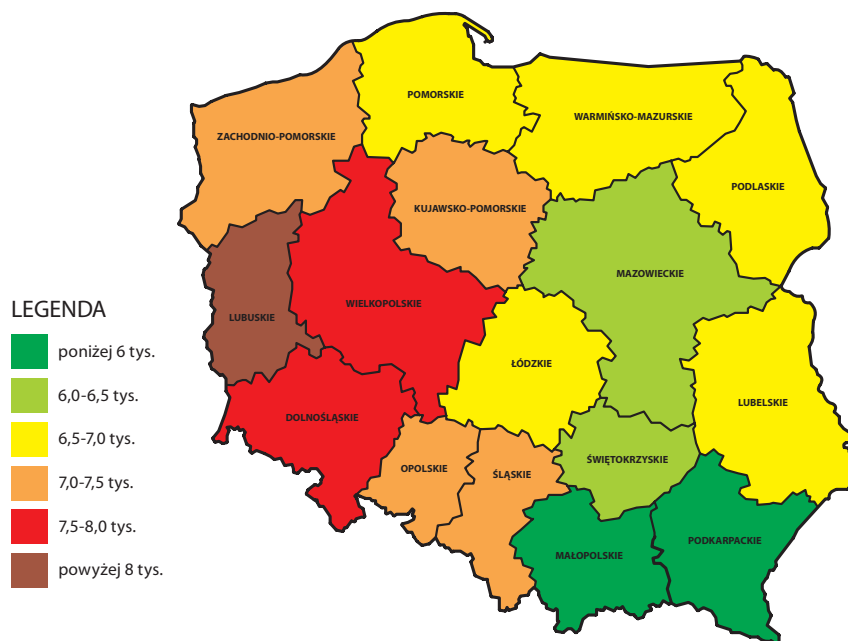
The main aim of the milk recording is data collecting and processing, in order to provide as much as possible accurate and credible data for farmers, which will be useful for right decision making process in herd management.

The comparison of milk yield during several last years in recorded population introduces as follows:

| Year         | Average number of cows | Milk kg      | Fat        |               | Protein    |               |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
|              |                        |              | kg         | %             | kg         | %             |
| 2006         | 520 666                | 6 664        | 279        | 4,18          | 221        | 3,32          |
| 2007         | 526 888                | 6 688        | 282        | 4,22          | 223        | 3,33          |
| 2008         | 567 477                | 6 817        | 282        | 4,14          | 228        | 3,34          |
| 2009         | 579 910                | 6 935        | 282        | 4,17          | 231        | 3,33          |
| <b>+ / -</b> | <b>+ 12 433</b>        | <b>+ 118</b> | <b>+ 7</b> | <b>- 0,03</b> | <b>+ 3</b> | <b>- 0,01</b> |

In 2009, similarly as one year ago, in ranking of voivodships, where breeders achieved the best average results of kg milk performance, the best was Lubuskie with the **average milk yield of 8 150 kg of milk, 322 kg of fat and 272 kg of protein.**

**Figure No, 6. Comparison of average milk yield in recorded population in 2009 according to voivodships**



**Figure No, 7. Comparison of average yield of fat and proteins in recorded population in 2009 according to voivodships**

