STUDY OF THE AGE AT FIRST CALVING IN ABERDEEN ANGUS BREED

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Abstract
The aim of this paper was the estimate the breeding value of the age at first calving in a population from Aberdeen Angus breed. This breed is the most widespread and appreciated beef breed in the world. The age at first calving is an important economic trait in beef breeds. The age at first calving influences the production traits in beef breeds. Aberdeen Angus cows are characterized by precocity. The data were from 329 cows from Aberdeen Angus Association Romania. The mean value and standard error for age at first calving in the studied population was 830.34±4.86 days. This trait depends on the management of the farm. The information source for breeding value estimation was own performance. The breeding values for age at first calving ranged between -21.868 and 33.932 days. The method of selection of cows for age at first calving from the studied population was the selection on own performances. The improve of this trait can be realized by choice of the best cows for reproduction.

Key words: *age at first calving, beef cattle, breeding value*