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KEY WORDS (at least 5 words)

- ✓ Robotic milking
- ✓ Milk production
- ✓ Longevity
- ✓ First breeding age
- ✓ Reproductive performance

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EFFECT OF FIRST INSEMINATION AGE ON PRODUCTIVE LIFE AND PRODUCTIVITY IN ROBOTIC MILKING DAIRY FARMS

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THESIS ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the impact of AFC on yield attributes and productive life in robotic milking dairy farms in Turkey. A total of 2233 lactation data from 1579 dairy cows, spanning the years 2013 to 2018 from four farms was procured, and based on their AFC, the cows were grouped into five categories (24, 25, 26, 27, ≥ 28 AFC, respectively). Results show that the 24 months of AFC cows have the highest average milk yield (9140.31 ± 145.55 kg), and cows with 27 months of AFC shows the lowest yield (8534.55 ± 131.00 kg), and results were statistically significantly different among the groups ($p < 0,05$). Cows that were 28 months old had an average service period in the first lactation that was longer (158.92 ± 7.28 days) than cows that were 26 and 27 months old (131.96 ± 4.45 and 130.51 ± 54.97 days, respectively) ($p < 0,05$). The 26-month-old at AFC cows had more lactations (2.52 ± 0.09) than did cows that were 24 and 28 months old (2.03 ± 0.15 and 2.18 ± 0.09 , respectively) ($p < 0,05$). At different lactations, replacement rates did not change significantly ($p > 0,05$). Mastitis and reproduction were the most common causes of culling in all groups.

APPLICATION AREAS OF THE THESIS RESULTS

It is expected that the first insemination age will affect the performance of the animals and the profitability of the enterprises in robotic milking dairy farms, whose numbers are increasing day by day, and thus contribute to the sector in determining the management strategies of the enterprises

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

İlhan, G., Çavuşoğlu, E., & Orman, A. (2022). What is the best first-calving age of cows in robotic milking farms?, *Italian Journal of Animal Science*, 21:1, 324-330, DOI: 10.1080/1828051X.2022.2031319

İlhan, G., Çavuşoğlu, E., & Orman, A. (2022). Robotlu Saçım Sistemi Kullanılan Süt İneği İşletmeleri İçin Optimum İlk Buzağılama Yaşı Ne Olmalı? 7. Ulusal, 3. Uluslararası Sürü Sağlığı ve Yönetimi Kongresi, 20-23 Ekim 2022, Antalya.