

INVESTIGATION OF WATER USE ON DAIRY FARMS

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Water use assessment on a dairy farm is a comprehensive task. However, there are factors which influence it directly or indirectly such as chosen breed, herd size, keeping, feeding and milking technology. Productivity level of milked cows, number of daily milkings and type of litter (straw or liquid manner) have impact on water use of technology and cattles. If these factors are assessed and their proportion within the total water use are identified, dairy farmers are able to analyse water management precisely. As a result, they realise which are the points where they can find more water efficient solutions. Thus, water use of their dairy farms become more sustainable environmentally, as they save water and in economic way, since they save the cost of that water use. Challenges related to water are more serious on areas experiencing water scarcity and overexploitation of freshwater resources. Mitigation strategies should consider social, ecological and economic contexts at the same time. In areas where water availability is low there is competition for water between different types of users, thus making water use of dairies more efficient is crucial for future.