We market our products in Europe, the USA und many other countries around the world. The knowledge we gain through this is compiled and given back to you in the form of helpful tips. Send us your suggestions - we count on them to help us give you a better product!

Thank you very much from your KRAIBURG research & development

INSUFFICIENTLY MAINTAINED DEEP-LITTER BOXES

Problem:

Cubicles are frequently insufficiently maintained on farms. The question is whether this causes shorter lying times and affects well-being. Dairy cows are supposed to lie **12 to 14 hours** per day in their cubicles. A study of the Bavarian Research Centre for Agriculture shows the effects of bedding maintenance on the lying times of the cows.

Methods:

This study aimed to comparing different levels of straw bedding (good: straw bedding 20 cm; bad: bedding 5 cm, around 3600 cm² without bedding) to soft lying mats (KRAIBURG KEW Plus) regarding lying behaviour and preferences. Data were collected in a dairy house with 60 cows (Bavarian Fleckvieh) and a robotic milking system.



- The occupancy of the deep-litter boxes declined by more than half.
- The lying times per cow and day decreased more than 2 hours.

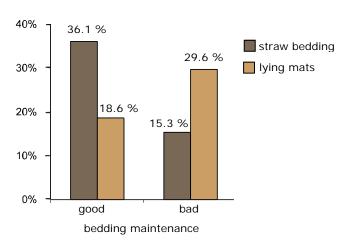


good straw bedding maintenance



bad straw bedding maintenance

Preferences of straw bedding levels and lying mats



Lying time (h) depending on different straw bedding level



Conclusion:

In conclusion reduced bedding levels affects the cows lying behaviour and lying position. High straw bedding quality is important for a good welfare in dairy cattle. If farmers have not enough time for cleaning and littering the straw beddings they should use soft rubber mats.

Source: Reiter, K., Freiberger, F., Abriel, M., "Straw bedding maintenance: Effects on lying behaviour and preferences of dairy cattle", LfL Grub, 2006



