

A large number of mares (35 %) have a retained placenta for more than 6 hours. Preliminary calculations lead to the conclusion that the more closely related the parents of a foal are, the more frequently these problems occur.

Certain combinations of bloodlines showing a 30 % increase of the probability of under-developed ovaries in the mares.

Suggestions are being made for a breeding programme for the *Friesian* horse.

**Genetic parameters of selection criteria in horses.  
The effects of different calculative methods on the heritability estimates  
of racing ability of *Thoroughbred* horses**

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Heritabilities of handicap weights of *Thoroughbred* horses were calculated using different mathematical methods. Twenty  $h^2$ -values were obtained which were in a range from 0 to 0.60. Calculative methods exert a systematic influence on heritability estimates according to the structure of population, therefore his fact must be taken into consideration when evaluating the figures of such calculations.

SESSION V b

AMÉLIORATION DES BOVINS LAITIERS

**Testing of dairy sires at different production levels**

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Herds were divided into two groups according to their mean heifer milk yield. Analyses of variance on heifer yields were conducted within levels on 9 775 daughters of 225 unproven bulls, using 12 610 daughters of widely used tested sires to generate additional connections. For milk, fat and protein yield greater heritabilities were obtained in the high than in the low level group of herds, but there was little difference for fat or protein percentage. Genetic correlations between performance in the two levels were close to one for all traits.