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Let A be a noetherian ring equipped with an automorphism α , and let $B := A[[y; \alpha]]$ denote the corresponding skew power series ring. We prove that A is semiprime if and only if B is semiprime. Next, assuming A is semiprime, we prove that the Goldie rank of B is equal to the Goldie rank of A . The same conclusions hold true when B is replaced by the skew Laurent series ring $A[[y^{\pm 1}; \alpha]]$. (Received August 24, 2009)