



# Health and fertility experiments with dairy cows

## Aim

- Effect of:
  - concentrate feed or additive
  - under practical conditions
- On:
  - health and fertility parameters
  - milk production and composition

## Execution

- 1 to 3 dairy farms
  - 9000 to 10500 kg/305d
  - 200 to 250 animals/farm
- Basal diet: according to common practise
- Individual feeding of concentrate with automated feeder system
- Milkings: according to common practise

## Lay out

- 2 treatments
  - control feed (pelleted)
  - test product (in 1 – 4 kg pelleted feed)
- 200 to 600 dairy cows
  - heifers and older animals
- Complete randomised block design
  - with or without pre-period
  - dry period up to lactation

## Results

	Mean	SED
<b>Production</b>		
Milk (kg/d)	35.0	0.6
Protein (%)	3.30	0.03
Fat (%)	4.00	0.06
<b>Fertility</b>		
Calving – heat (d)	60	0.07
Expected ICI (d)	385	0.02
N insemination/cow	1.9	0.07
<b>Health (n cases/total)</b>		
Locomotion	0.10	0.35
Problem ovaries	0.55	0.20
Mastitis	0.02	0.45
Metabolic problems	.00035	0.25
Alimentary tract	.00050	0.02



## Observations

- Amount of test product supplied
- Milk production (DHI, 4 or 6 wks interval)
- Milk composition (DHI, 4 or 6 wks interval)
  - fat, protein, lactose, urea, SCC
- Body condition score
- Health and fertility data parameters registered in the management system

