Effect of predipping on milk somatic cell count

Summary

The aim of the study was to determine the effect of predipping on somatic cell count in milk, with regard to cows’ age, lactation period and season of the year. The use of predipping had a favourable effect on milk somatic cell count, with mean LNSCC decreasing significantly from 11.84 to 11.73. Predipping was found to improve milk quality in both first calvers and primiparous cows, but the improvement was significant in the group of youngest cows only. Regardless of day of lactation, the use of predipping decreased milk somatic cell count and increased daily milk yield. Mean LNSCC decreased from 11.73 to 11.41 in early lactation cows and from 12.12 to 11.79 in advanced lactation cows. Milk quality was also found to be improved in successive seasons, with significant improvements in spring and autumn.