

Effect of milking frequency on milk yield, chemical composition and quality

S u m m a r y

The aim of this study was to compare daily milk yield, milk composition and somatic cell count after increasing milking frequency (from twice to three times daily) with regard to cows' age, lactation period and season of the year. The change in milking frequency caused a marked (10.7%) increase in daily milk yield, from 28.9 to 32.1 kg. The increase in milking frequency and daily milk yield had no negative effect on mammary health. The mean LNSCC decreased slightly, from 12.68 to 12.65. When three times daily milking was adopted, milk protein content decreased by 0.11% and fat and solids content increased by 0.28% and 0.18%, respectively. In each age group, cows milked three times daily produced more milk than when they were milked twice daily. Considering milk somatic cell count, significant differences were only found for first lactation cows, in which LNSCC decreased from 12.20 to 12.05. With regard to milking frequency as well as lactation period and season of the year, daily milk yield was found to increase significantly, with differences in milk composition.