Comparison of Protocols to Estimate 24 Hour Percent Fat and Protein

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Summary

Currently there are different protocols/methodologies used to estimate the 24-hour fat and protein yields for dairy cows, which are milked with an Automatic Milking System (AMS). These protocols include estimating 24-hour fat and protein yield from: single samples from all animals in the herd; single samples adjusted for covariates (fat) and single samples unadjusted for covariates (protein); all samples (adjusted and unadjusted) collected on test days where test days vary in length from 10 to 18 hours. An agreement analysis was performed for all protocols by examining observed and estimated yields. Analysis of the data suggests collecting all samples (unadjusted for covariates) on a 16-hour test day to be the optimal protocol when estimating 24-hour yields of fat and protein.

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