Report of the ICAR Working Group on Lactation Calculation Methods

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Summary

Research carried out by Working Group members highlighted problems with using a single milk sample for 24-hour estimation of fat yield in AMS herds. Research has shown that collecting all samples unadjusted on a 16-hour test day was the optimal protocol when estimating 24-hour yields of fat and protein. However, problems with connection between the most accurate estimate of fat percent and milk yield remain unsolved. A more complete AMS data set is needed, which includes samples from at least three consecutive days every four weeks over an entire lactation. The activity of the Working Group has also focused on defining optimal guidelines for milk recording in herds with electronic milk meters. Finally some important refinement work was done for AM/PM milk recording.

Proceedings of the 34th ICAR Meeting. 2004