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## ClieNFarms EIP-AGRI Practice Abstracts

# Pregnancy test in dairy cows to increase feed efficiency

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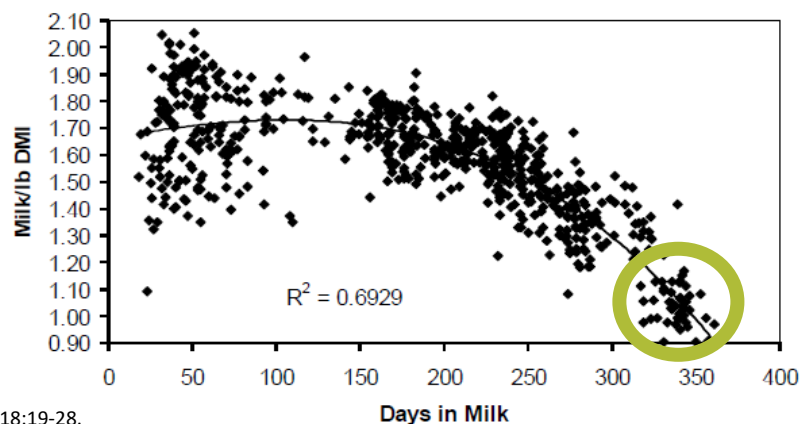
Between 10 and 15% of dairy cows positive to pregnancy lose their calf between diagnosis and day 100 after positive fecundation day. This means in economics terms over 4,5 euros per cow and day lost.

Milk Pregnancy Test offers to farmers the possibility to check through milk if cows are in calf or not. This analyse is based on pregnancy-associated glycoproteins in milk.

Every four months, eleven lead commercial farms in Spain are visited and milk samples are taken in cows that after veterinary revision are in calf (positives) and have less than 100 days after positive insemination. It is estimated that around 15% of dairy cows in milk fulfil these requirements.

In 24 to 48 hours, information of this not-invasive pregnancy test is delivered to farmers, avoiding not intentionally open days on cows. With this information, the days in milk of herd are going to be shortened and feeding efficiency of herd will be improved .

Efficiency is key in regard to carbon emissions. When cows are beyond 300, circle in graph, days in milk, their efficiency in terms of transforming dry matter into milk drops dramatically as show in graph.



<sup>1</sup> WCDS Advances in Dairy Technology (2006) Volume 18:19-28.

Two visits were rendered so far. On November 22 and March 23, 541 samples were taken and, after being analysed, 4.8% of cows that were supposed to be in calf were empty. Between these eleven farms dispersion of results is quite high, where in three farms no empty cows were detected, as opposed to two of the farms where almost 20% of the cows were empty. In terms of results gap goes since three farms where no empty cow was detected to two farms where empty cows were almost 20%.



**Figure 1** : AGACAL staff taking samples on one of the farms.



**Figure 2** : Pregnancy test equipment.



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