

Application of multiple trait analysis in animal breeding research

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The circumstances under which the use of multiple trait analysis is of advantage are discussed. The basic model for such analysis, as well as models and mixed model equations for six case studies, are formulated for the prediction of breeding values and the estimation of variances and covariances. The case studies revealed several patterns of equations. For each pattern, a computing strategy is suggested.

Relationships between lifetime milk production, productive life, level of production and a lifetime profit function in cows

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Regarding the Austrian conditions a simple function for the profit per lactation of herd life was derived. Some interesting results in connection with lifetime production criteria obtained from model calculations were as follows :

For a given level of milk production per lactation the profit decreases progressively when herd life goes down. consequently, the primary breeding task is here to avoid a decrease in herd life at all events.

Further, there is a quite remarkable variation of the expected profit per lactation for a given lifetime production. Hence, pure lifetime production can not be designated as an ideal economic measurement for dairy cows as it is sometimes interpreted.

Variation in lipolysis in milk from individual cows

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The free fatty acid (FFA) content in milk from 60 cows were determined. Fresh and stored samples from both evening and morning milkings were analysed. The results can be summarized as follows :

- a) There are considerable differences between cows in FFA-content of stored milk.
- b) The correlations between fresh samples collected within a 24 hour interval are low, 0.16-0.22, whereas the correlations for stored samples are high, 0.69-0.74. The correlation between fresh and stored samples from the same milking is low, 0.17.
- c) Within-cow correlations between testing weeks are in average found to be 0.75.