



OptiMIR Workshop Tuesday 27th November 2012

Conference Room 1 Teagasc Moorepark Ireland





Time	Activity / Speaker	Title of Presentation
10:30 - 11:00	Tea & Coffee on Arrival	
11:00 - 11:15	Brian Wickham (Chairperson, OptiMIR Steering Committee)	What is OptiMIR?
11:15 - 11:40	Sinead McParland - Teagasc	The ROBUSTMILK project.
11:40 – 12:05	Brendan Horan – Convenor of OptiMIR Expert Group	Priorities for Sustainable European Milk Producers.
12:05 – 12:25	Xavier Massart – OptiMIR Project Manager	Action 1 - Survey.
12:25 – 13:00	Donagh Berry – Leader of "Health" in OptiMIR Research & Development Action.	Milking the Milk!!
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:50	Open Discussion	
14:50 - 15:00	Conclusions	



Program

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What is OptiMIR?

Brian Wickham
Chairperson, OptiMIR Steering
Committee

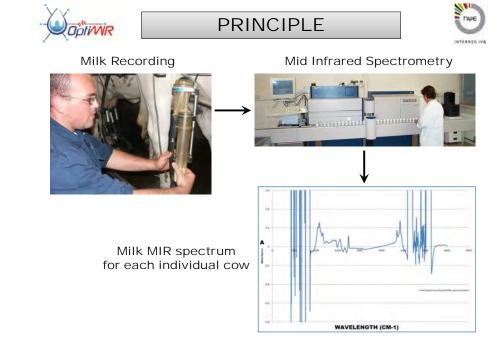
www.optimir.eu

Objective:

To extend the use of Milk Recording as a management tool for dairy farming with particular emphasis on:

- Sustainability &
- Profitability.

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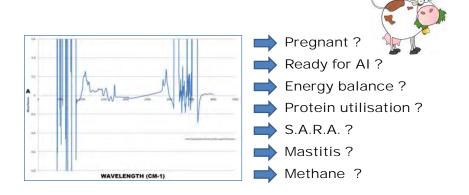




PRINCIPLE



Mid-Infrared (MIR) spectrum of a milk sample of an individual cow at one specific time can provide information on the cows
Fertility, Feeding, Health and Environmental impact.



How?

By working collaboratively with other milk recording organisations and research partners.

By pooling our data and expertise.

By utilising Interreg funding and our own resources in a 50:50 partnership (€7.5 million).

Five year commitment (2011 to 2015).



PARTNERS















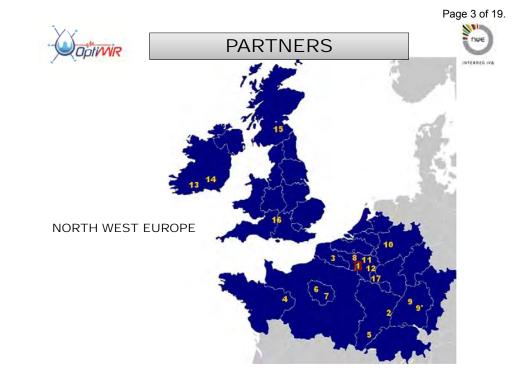
- 17 partners
 - 11 Milk Recording Organizations (MRO)
 - 6 Research Centres or Universities
 - 1 Laboratory

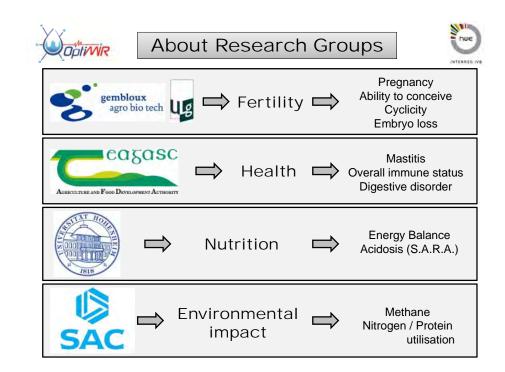
MROs	Country
AWE asbl	BE
Chambre régionale Agriculture Alsace	FR
ADECL62 (Pas-de-Calais)	FR
CLASEL (Sarthe & Mayenne)	FR
SCL25 (Doubs et territoire de Belfort)	FR
France Conseil Elevage	FR
LKV Baden-Württemberg	DE
LKV Nordrhein-Westfalen	DE
National Milk Recording	UK
Irish Cattle Breeding Federation	IR
CONVIS	LU

Laboratory	Country
Comité du Lait asbl	BE
Research Centres	Country
Institut de l'Elevage	FR
Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (ULg)	BE
CRA-W (DVPA)	BE
TEAGASC	IR
Scottish Agricultural College	UK
Université de Hohenheim	DE

OptiMIR Actions

- 1. Survey of Stakeholders
- 2. Advisory Committee
- 3. Transnational Database
- 4. Statistical Information
- 5. Dairy Management Indicators
- 6. Tools for Use by Farmers & Advisors
- 7. Validation on Pilot Farms
- 8. Implementation
- 9. Roll-out





13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 14:50 Open Discussion 14:50 - 15:00 Conclusions

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Milking the Milk!!







The ROBUSTMILK project

Sinéad McParland

sinead.mcparland@teagasc.ie



The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority

RobustMilk

12:25 - 13:00 Donagh Berry - Leader of "Health" in

OptiMIR Research & Development Action.

http://www.robustmilk.eu

"Develop genetic and phenotypic tools to breed healthier cows that produce healthier milk"

- Combined expertise of Ireland, Scotland, Belgium, The Netherlands & Sweden
- Pooled research data from these countries
- Irelands role?
 - Develop methods to predict milk quality and animal robustness routinely
- This presentation outlines relevant results to the OptiMIR project



Background

Milk is a nutritious, healthy product Consumer demand shifting towards "lower fat" foods - dairy products under scrutiny Lots of questions being asked

- · Can we make milk "healthier"?
- In doing so what effects for the cow?
- How do we know if milk being produced is healthier?
- How do we know how "healthy" our cows are?

One Answer - - - -- Mid Infrared Spectrometry



What is mid-infrared spectrometry?

Method of choice to determine fat, protein, lactose Bulk & individual samples

Milk recording procedure

- Milk sample taken
- · Analysed by MIR machine
- Light shone through milk
- Absorbance light through the milk at different wavelengths = Spectrum

Can we use the spectrum for more?

Eg. Milk fatty acid content & robustness



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Why look at milk fatty acid content?

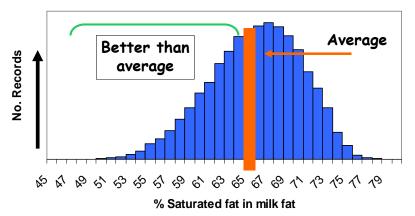


- ·Would be preferable to have less saturates
- ·Irish cows more favourable milk FA profile
 - Grass fed, increased unsaturated fats
- ·Can we prove this and improve competitiveness??
- ·Can we breed for improved milk fat composition??



The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Variation in Moorepark Curtins herd for % saturated fats in milk fat



COSOSC Acasanna and Food Distribution Acasanni

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Using Mid-Infrared Spectrometry to predict fat composition

Equations to predict fatty acids in the milk have been developed

Spectrum generated by the MIR machine

Data from Ireland, Belgium and Scotland

- Several breeds
- Concentrate fed cows & grass fed cows

Variance explained - external validation

Fatty acid	ROBUSTMILK	Dutch	Ireland
	n=250	n=190	n=144
C4:0-C12:0	0.83 to 0.90	0.84 to 0.92	0.82 to 0.93
C14:0	0.91	0.94	0.92
<i>C</i> 16:0	0.86	0.93	0.90
Saturated	0.98	0.99	0.98
Mono-unsat	0.96	0.92	0.90
Poly-unsat	0.83	0.48	0.69
Short chain	0.91	0.96	0.93
Medium chain	0.91	0.96	0.96
Long chain	0.91	0.87	0.91

Can we genetically select for milk fatty acids in the national herd?

variation passed from parent to offspring?

If there variation in the national herd for the ratio of saturated to unsaturated fats?







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So we have all we need for breeding BUT . . .

We must ensure that selection for a "healthier milk profile" will not impact on . . .

Other characteristics of the cow

Health and fertility



Other characteristics of the milk

- · Milk processing ability
- Cheese making ability
- Stability

Breed quality project



Energy Balance - fertility indicator

- Energy balance = difference between energy ingested and energy used
 - Milk production, maintenance, live weight ...
- A known indicator of health & fertility
- Negative energy balance (output > intake)
 - mobilise body reserves to maintain production
 - How does this change the ratio of fats in milk?



Energy Balance - fertility indicator

- But
 - Measurement not feasible on commercial herds
 - Little data available









- Indicators of energy balance proposed
 - Fat: protein ratio of milk



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Milk fat content Milk protein content

Predicted Energy Balance

Example of energy balance prediction



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Energy balance prediction equations

- ·Records of "true" energy balance from
 - Ireland (n=844)
 - Scotland (n=2,989)
- *Accuracy of prediction of energy balance 0.69
- ·Accuracy of prediction of energy intake 0.80
- ·Accurate given inaccuracies of "true" energy balance

Lactoferrin - indicator of immunity

- ·Milk protein favourably associated with immunity
- ·Equations developed from 2,499 samples
 - Ireland (n=1658), Scotland (n=731) & Belgium(n=110)
- •Accuracy of prediction = 0.77
- ·Slight improvement in mastitis detection when combined with information on SCC

The Breed Quality Project

- ·Commenced November 2012
- ·Teagasc, ICBF & UCD (& international collaborators)
- ·Can we use MIR for more milk quality measures
 - Protein profile
 - Micronutrients
 - Functional properties
 - Coagulation
 - Heat stability



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Limitations to using the MIR

- ·Volume of predictand in the sample
- ·Accuracy of "gold standard" used to develop prediction equations
 - More accurate gold standard = more accurate equations



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To Conclude

·RobustMilk provided equations to predict

- Individual milk F
- Groups of milk F4
- Lactoferrin
- Energy status

Work ongoing to improve accuracy

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MIR useful to predict milk & animal characteristics

DURING ROUTINE MILK SAMPLING



For more information. . . ***ROBUSTMILK**

http://www.robustmilk.eu

Sinead.mcparland@teagasc.ie Donagh.berry@teagasc.ie

This work was carried out as part of the RobustMilk project that is financially supported by the European Commission under the Seventh Research Framework Programme, Grant Agreement KBBE-211708

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Objective

to direct and advise on the priority areas for investigation (within the areas of animal nutrition and the environment, animal fertility, animal health and product quality) and to review the project progress along with the results



OptiMIR Expert Group Meeting 04/04/12

Priorities for Sustainable European Milk Producers



The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority

The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority

The Expert Group

Full Name	Employer	Knowledge
Tom Beresford	Teagasc	Food Research
Donagh Berry*	Teagasc	Geneticist
Laure Brun-Lafleur	Institut de l'Elevage	Animal Nutrition
Philippe Faverdin	INRA	Animal Nutrition
Pierre Dardenne*	Centre wallon de Recherches agronomiques	MIR
Frédéric Dehareng*	Centre wallon de Recherches agronomiques	MIR
Richard Dewhurst	Teagasc	Bioscience
Koenraad Duhem	Centre National Interprofessionnel de l'Economie Laitière	Food sector
Nicolas Gengler*	Gembloux Agricultural University	Geneticist
Xavier Massart*	Centre wallon de Recherches agronomiques	Milk recording
John Newbold	Provimi Holding	Animal Nutrition
John O'Sullivan	Irish Dairy Farmer	Dairy Farming
Olga Trofimtseva	Verband der Deutschen Milchwirtschaft	Environment
Brian Wickham*	ICBF	Genetics



Expert Group Evaluation Process

1 Identify & agree priorities (based upon potential impact and profit

contribution) in the areas of:

Nutrition and the environment

Fertility

Health

Product Quality

2 Further explore the potential measurements within each of these agreed areas

based on expert knowledge



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Nutrition & Environment

Contribution	Profit	Impact
1 Protein/Nitrogen utilisation MUN/ Renal Clearance Rate	High	High
2 Energy Cost & Balance DM intake	High	Medium
3 Digestibility	High	Low
4 Methane	Low	Medium



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Fertility

Contribution	Profit	Impact
1= Pregnancy Diagnosis	Medium	High
1= Loss of pregnancy	Medium	High
3 Ready to inseminate	Low	Medium

Health

Contribution	Profit	Impact
1= Mastitis	High	Medium
1= Digestive	Medium	High
3 Immune Status/Robustness	High	Low



Product Quality

Contribution	Profit	Impact

1 Terroir/ dietary inventory High High

2 Specificity/ Value add of milk High Low

Fatty acid composition – technofunctional characteristics Protein composition and profiles – cheeseability Minerals – P, K, Mg, Ca, Na

3 Avoid negatives/ contaminants High Low



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		*



ACTION 1 - SURVEY

From January 2011 to September 2015



WITH THE SUPPORT OF





Introduction

PERCEPTION AND OPINION

Objectives

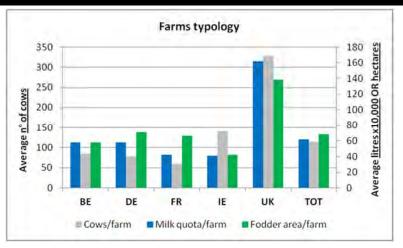
- 1. Coping Strategies and Priorities for ensuring dairy farming profitability and sustainability.
- 2. Baseline on the utilisation and perception of computerized farming management tools (applications on local or through the web).

Scale

Country		Surveyed farmers	Average age of farmers	Surveyed consultants	Average age of consultants
Belgium	BE	203	45	27	47
Germany	DE	258	46	56	46
France	FR	193	43	53	40
Ireland	ΙE	200	45	50	41
United Kingdom	UK	100	46	0	N/A
TOTAL		954	45	186	42

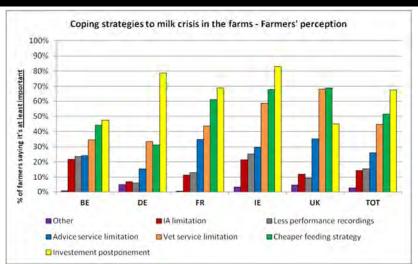
OntiMIR Workshop Presentations

Introduction

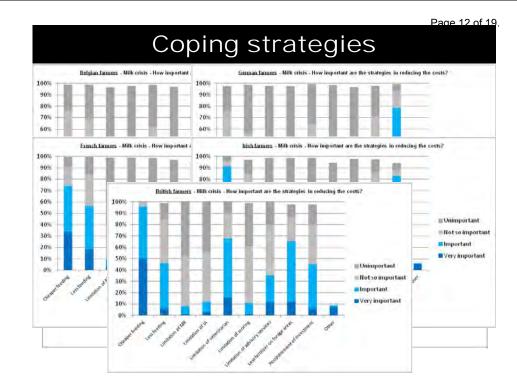


France, Germany and Belgium are quite similar. Ireland is different, with more cows to fill the quota, and with grasslands. UK has here bigger farm with less cow food self-sufficiency.

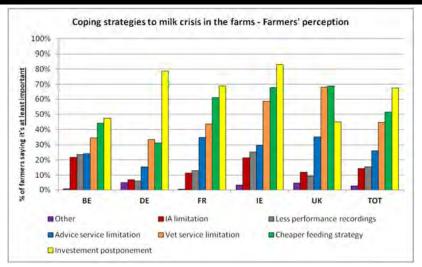
Coping strategies



The postponement of investment is the most important strategy implemented in the farm when facing low selling prices of milk, except in UK. OptiMIR tools have therefore to be free or low cost to be adopted.



Coping strategies

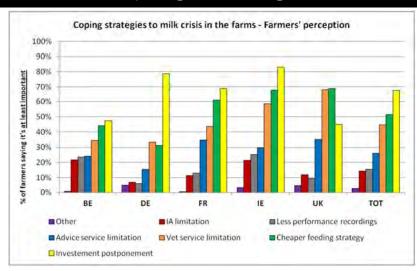


Limitation of the performance recordings is not an important coping strategy.

Doors widely open for innovative management tools based on the Milk

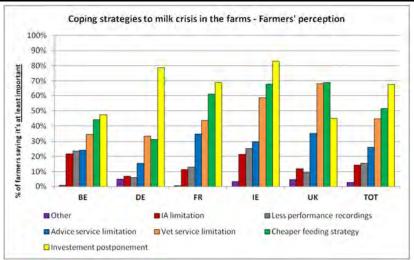
Recording service. Careful with Belgium and Ireland.

Coping strategies



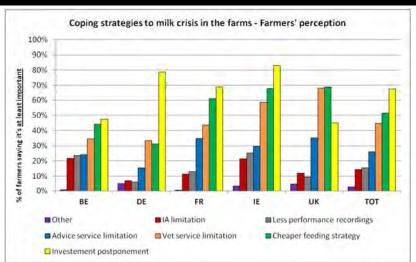
1 farmers out of 4 pointed the limitation of advice services → more important than ever to access easily, quickly to free or low costs information

Coping strategies



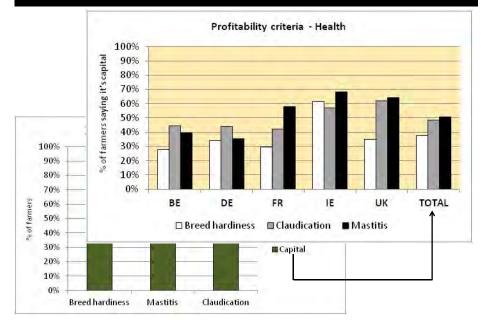
The decrease of feeding costs as the second highest topics in reducing the costs. OptiMIR has a big room for manoeuvre on animal nutrition (EB and protein utilization to rationalize the costs).

Coping strategies

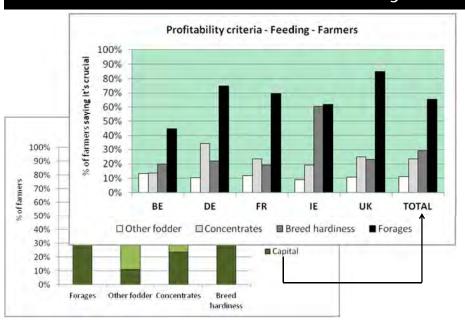


Limitation of veterinary service as the third highest topics in reducing the costs. Opportunity in the case e.g. of a pregnancy diagnosis but challenge e.g. in the case of a disease diagnosis requesting a prescription from the vet.

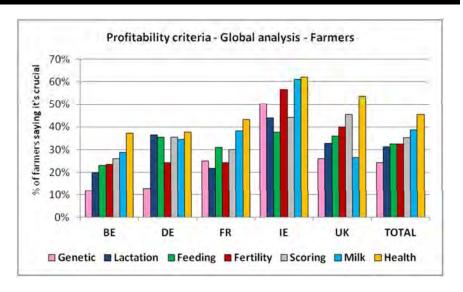
Priorities for sustainability



Priorities for sustainability



Priorities for sustainability

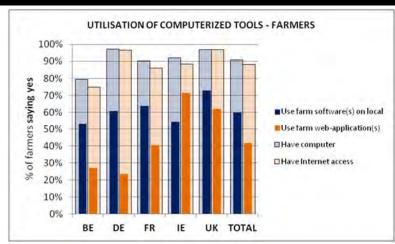


Priorities for sustainability

Profitability criteria highlighted by farmers and farm consultants

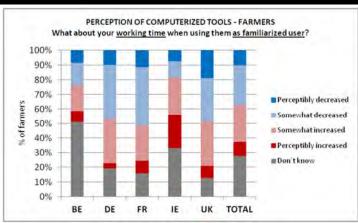
Priority	Category	Subpriority	Topics identified for OptiMIR
4	1114-	1	Mastitis indicator
1	Health	2	Sub-Acute Ruminal Acidosis indicator
2	Milk	4	Feeding management to improve fat (and maybe protein) rate
2	IVIIIK	ı	Methane indicator
		1	Energy Balance and Protein Utilization to optimize forages
3	Feeding	2	Energy Balance and Protein Utilization to rationalize concentrates
			Pregnancy diagnosis
4	Eortility (1	Ability to conceive indicator
4	Fertility		Cyclicity indicator
		2	Embryo loss indicator

Computerized tools



Future potential users of the OptiMIR tools are mainly familiarized with computerized tools. The implementation of OptiMIR tools and the familiarization by users should be the easiest in UK and Ireland.

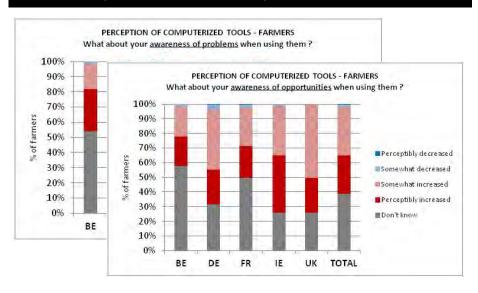
Perception of computerized tools



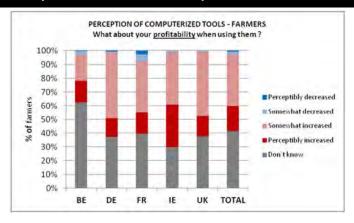
When got used with a computerized tool:

- •Half of French, German and British think the overall working time will decrease
- ■Irish farmers mainly think exactly the opposite
- Belgian farmers especially don't know.
- •It's here interesting to notice that Ireland shows the highest rate of computerized tools utilization while Belgium shows the lowest one.

Perception of computerized tools

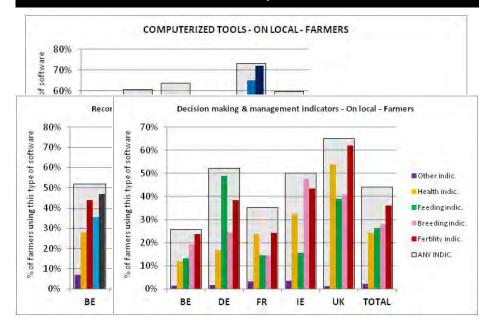


Perception of computerized tools

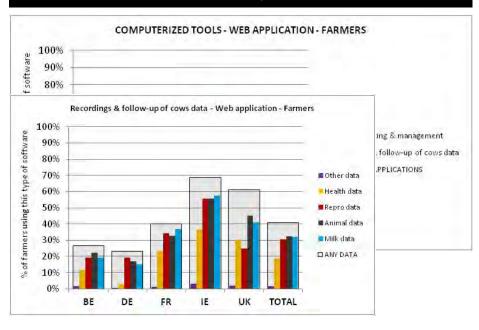


- •Around 40% of farmers told they don't know if computerized tools can help them to increase the profitability and therefore to sustain their business: from 60% for Belgian farmers to 30% for Irish farmers.
- Good news for OptiMIR as the main part of farmers giving an answer told the profitability will increase. No need to convince them.

Utilization of computerized tools



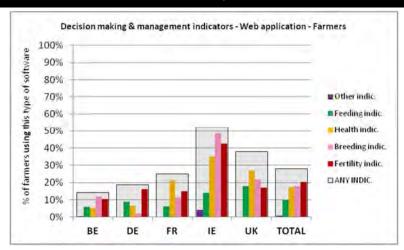
Utilization of computerized tools



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Utilization of computerized tools



- OptiMIR = Web-applications for decision making.
- ightharpoonup >50% and >35% in IE and UK → challenge to bring added value compared to what they already use.





Milking the milk!!!

Donagh Berry Teagasc, Moorepark

OptiMIR Workshop, Moorepark, Nov 2012

http://www.optimir.eu



Principle

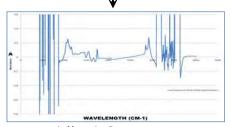


Milk Recording

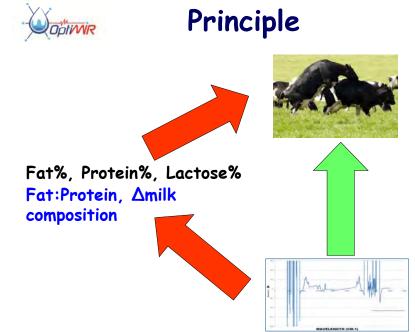
~2 million cow samples annually routine bulk milk samples!

Mid Infrared Spectrometry





Milk MIR spectrum for each individual cow





Choice of traits



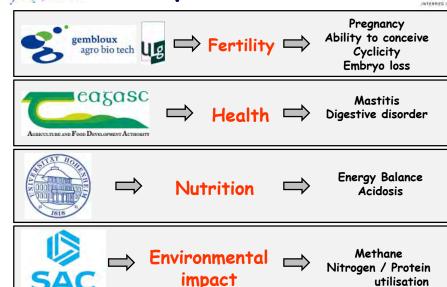
- Relative importance
 - Advice from expert group
- Potential feasibility to be predicted from MIR
- 1. Fertility
- 2. Nutrition
- 3 Health
- 4. Environment



Responsibilities



utilisation

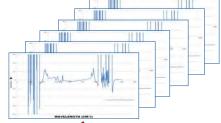




Research Approach







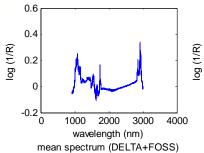


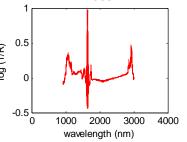


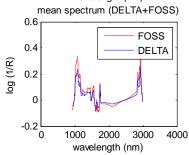
Robust (international) prediction equations

Machine standardisation









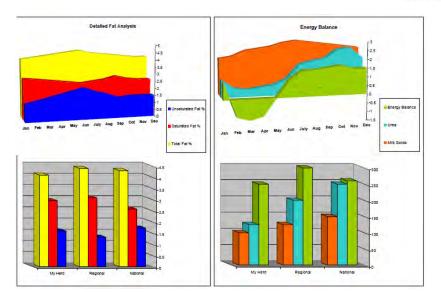
Standardisation needed to ensure prediction equations are transmissible

Ring test



Implementation







Implementation

Decision Management



Shinagh Milk Services Bandon Co. Cork Tel 023/8820218 Herd Owner Herd No. Print Date

J. Smith IE12345567 Scheme: A4 25/11/2010

1. Animals for Culling

The following animals should be considered for culting.

Cow ID Cow name	Calving Date Age	DIM Tests			Last	Test !	Day L	ifetime	1 305	day p	redic	ted				Late	st : Lifetime Av	erage	Index	Reason
Sire ID	Preg. Status	Lact	Milk kg	Tota %	al Fat kg	Satu %	rated kg	Unsat %	urated kg	Pro %	tein kg	Cas %	sein kg	Lac	kg	Urea mg/litre	SCC (1000 celts/ml)	Energy Balance	EBI € Fertility €	
IE123456780487 Highfield Dalsy GMI	05-APR-10 4y 2m Not Pregnant	233 3 6	14 6300 7200	4.56 4.56 4.56	0.64 287.28 328.32	3.64 3.33 3.45	0.51 209.79 248.4	0.92 0.8 0.92	0.13 50.4 66.24	3,82	241	4.78	0.67 301 344	4.12	0.58 260 297	200 400	1390 1150	4	75 32	Chronic Mastitis
E123456780241 Highfield Molly GMI	02-Mar-10 4y 3m Not Pregnant	300 3 6	21 6300 7200	4.56 4.56 4.56		3.82 3.91 3.75	0.8 246.33 270		0.19 57.96 66.24	3.82 3.82 3.82	241	4.78 4.78 4.78	301 344	4.12	0.87 260 297	400 350	1390 1150	4	81 11	Chronic Mastiti
IE123456780243 Highfield Mo GMI	02-Mar-10 4y 3m Not Pregnant	300 3 3	21 6300 7200	4.56 4.56 4.56		3.56 3.64 3.95	0.75 229.32 284.4	0.92	0.19 57.96 66.24	3,82	241	4.78 4.78 4.78	301 344	4.12	0.87 260 297	400 350	1390 1150	4	56 -13	Low Fertility

2. Animals that require additional dietery monitoring

The following animals require close montoring of feed intake.

Cow ID Cow name	Calving Date Age	DIM Lact			Last	Test [Day L	ifetime	305	day p	redict	ted	1	,		Lates	st : Lifetime Av	erage	Index	Reason
Sire ID	Group	Tests	Milk kg	Tota %	l Fat kg	Satu %	rated kg	Unsat %	urated kg	Prof %	tein kg	Cas %	sein kg	Lac %	tose kg	Urea mg/litre	SCC ('000 cells/ml)	Energy Balance	EBI € Fertility €	
IE123456780487	05-Sep-10	60	20	4.56	0.91	3.98	0.8	0.92	0.18	3.82	0.76	4.78	0.96	4.12	0.82	120	250	-3	72	
Highfield Lilly GMI	4y 2m Pregnant 30 days	3	6300 7200			3.64 3.64			57.96 66.24	3.82		4.78	301 344			190	240	3	36	Negative Energy Balance
IE123456780241	02-Oct-10	33	19	4.56	0.87	3.39	0.64	0.92	0.17	3.82	0.73	4.78	0.91	4.12	0.78	150	190	-2	101	
Highfield Ruby GMI	4y 3m Not Pregnant	3	6300 7200	4.56 4.56	287.28 328.32	3.64 3.64			57.96 66.24	3.82		4.78	301 344	4.12		200	200	4	12	Negative Energy Balance
IE123456780243	02-Oct-10	33	23	4.56	1.05	3.56	0.82	0.92	0.21	3.82	0.88	4.78	1.1	4.12	0.95	90	200	-2	93	MUN below
Highfield Sally GMI	4y 3m Pregnant 30 days	3	6300 7200	4.56 4.56	287.28 328.32	3.44	216.72 262.08		57.96 66.24	3.82		4.78	301 344	4.12	- 533	160	180	4	44	optimal level



Implementation



Detailed Milk Analysis Report

Shinagh Milk Services Bandon Co. Cork Herd Owner J. Smith Herd No. IE12345567 Print Date 25/11/2010

Scheme: A4

Cow ID Cow name Sire ID	Calving Date Age Group	Days Lact Test	Milk Kg	Tota Saturated Fat %	Fat % Unsaturated Fat %	Protein %	Casein %	Lactose %	Urea mg/litre	SCC ('000 cells/ml)	EBI €	Energy Balance
IE123456780487 Highfield Daisy GMI	05-APR-10 4y 2m Spring	233 3 6	14	65	.56 35	3.82	3.06	4.78	160	250	100	7
IE123456780488 Highfield Doris AHD	11-MAR-10 4y 7m Spring	258 3 7	- 11	67	33	4.15	3.32	4.73	180	270	108	+1
IE123456780489 Highfield Mabel RUU	11-FEB-10 3y 2m Spring	286 2 7	-11	69	31	4.09	3.27	4.71	200	290	116	4
IE123456780490 Highfield Cindy AHD	17-MAR-10 5y 2m Spring	252 4 7	9	66	.99 34	4.58	3.66	4.71	170	260	104	+2
IE123456780491 Highfield Lulu GMI	02-FEB-10 4y 2m Spring	295 3 7	7	71	29	4.29	3.43	4.72	220	310	124	à-
IE123456780433 Highfield Nora RUU	18-FEB-10 4y 1m Spring	279 3 6	12	68	32	4.16	3.33	4.63	190	280	112	- 1
IE123456780484 Highfield Molly RMB	27-JAN-10 4y 2m Spring	301 2 7	13	73	27	3.42	2.74	4.68	240	330	132	4
E123456780455 Highfield Anna RMB	24-MAY-10 4y 2m Spring	184 3	14	69	31	3.7	2.96	4.72	200	290	116	+4
E123456780445 Highfield Lilly ESZ	18-FEB-10 4y 2m Spring	279 3	9	74	.02	4.16	3.33	4.75	250	340	136	77

Time	Activity / Speaker	Title of Presentation
10:30 - 11:00	Tea & Coffee on Arrival	
11:00 – 11:15	Brian Wickham (Chairperson, OptiMIR Steering Committee)	What is OptiMIR?
11:15 – 11:40	Sinead McParland - Teagasc	The ROBUSTMILK project.
11:40 – 12:05	Brendan Horan – Convenor of OptiMIR Expert Group	Priorities for Sustainable European Milk Producers.
12:05 – 12:25	Xavier Massart – OptiMIR Project Manager	Action 1 - Survey.
12:25 - 13:00	Donagh Berry – Leader of "Health" in OptiMIR Research & Development Action.	Milking the Milk!!
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 14:50	Open Discussion	
14:50 - 15:00	Conclusions	





Conclusions



- Milk sample is a huge potential source of biological information of the cow
 - By-products of rumen fermentation and precursors for milk production
- Fatty acid predictions already available
 - + fat, protein, lactose, casein, urea
- Ireland has a natural competitive advantage in many traits
 - ... need to prove this!