



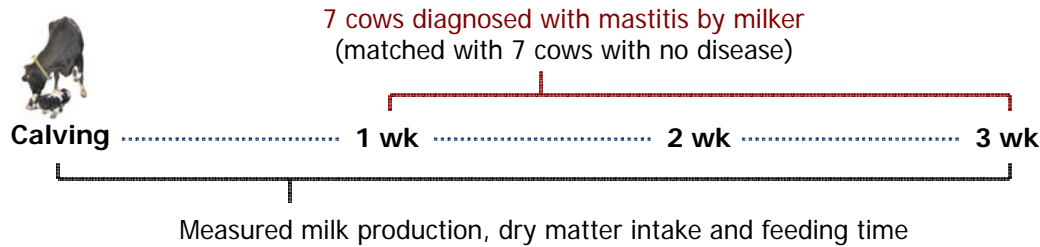
Can milk production or feeding behavior serve as an early indicator of mastitis?

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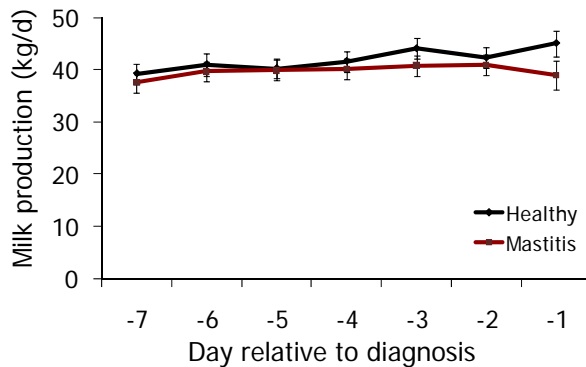
Mastitis is one of the most costly diseases to occur in early lactation of dairy cows, as it is directly associated with milk loss. Early detection of this disease could aid in timely treatment, yet it is unclear which measurements can identify cows that are becoming ill.

Aims: to determine if cows that develop mastitis in early lactation differ in milk production, feed intake and feeding time prior to clinical diagnosis of the disease compared to cows that remain healthy.

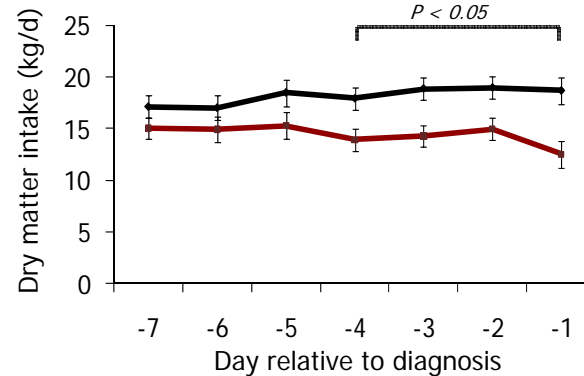
Methodology:



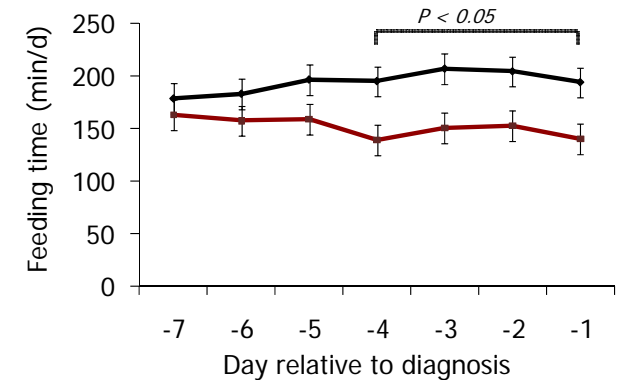
Milk Production



Dry Matter Intake



Feeding Time



Milk production does not differ between cows that develop mastitis and those that remain healthy before diagnosis of the disease.

Cows that develop mastitis eat less and spend less time eating than healthy cows beginning four days before diagnosis.