

**Factors affecting reproductive performance of dairy cows in a pasture-based, automatic milking system research farm: a retrospective, single-cohort study**

*S. Talukder<sup>A,B</sup>, P. Celi<sup>A</sup>, K. L. Kerrisk<sup>A</sup>, S. C. Garcia<sup>A</sup> and N. K. Dhand<sup>A</sup>*

<sup>A</sup>Faculty of Veterinary Science, The University of Sydney, Private Mailbag 4003, Narellan, NSW 2567, Australia.

<sup>B</sup>Corresponding author. Email: stal8977@uni.sydney.edu.au

**Table S1.** Univariable analyses of factors affecting the interval from calving to first oestrus in dairy cows in a pasture-based automatic milking system research herd based on Cox proportional regression model analyses

Predictor variables	Class	HR	95% CI	<i>P</i> -value
Year	Year 1	1.00*	-	<0.001
	Year 2	1.32	0.9-1.8	
	Year 3	0.88	0.6-1.3	
	Year 4	0.54	0.4-0.8	
	Year 5	0.32	0.2-0.5	
Parity	1	1.00*	-	0.001
	2	1.63	1.1-2.4	
	3	2.01	1.4-2.9	
	4	1.89	1.2-2.9	
	5	2.45	1.6-3.8	
	≥6	1.56	1.0-2.3	
100 d milking frequency	≤1.5	1.00*	-	0.001
	1.6 to 1.9	1.72	1.2-2.5	
	2.0 to 2.2	1.69	1.2-2.4	
	≥2.3	2.07	1.4-3.0	
100 d milk yield (kg)	≤ 1950	1.00*	-	0.005
	1950 to 2521	1.70	1.2-2.5	
	2522 to 3044	1.89	1.3-2.7	
	>3044	1.63	1.2-2.4	

Results are presented as (HR), confidence interval (CI) and probability values.

\* Reference category.

**Table S2.** Univariable analyses of factors affecting the interval (days) from calving to first insemination in dairy cows in a pasture-based automatic milking system research herd

Predictor variables	Class	n	LSM	SEM	95% CI	<i>P</i> -value
Interval from calving to first oestrus, days	Continuous*	669	0.007 <sup>a</sup>	0.0004 <sup>b</sup>	0.0004-0.007	<0.001
Season of calving	Summer	180	89.1	2.4	84.6-90.0	<0.001
	Autumn	209	72.2	1.8	68.8-75.9	
	Spring	111	84.3	2.9	78.8-90.2	
	Winter	169	81.2	2.3	76.9-85.8	
Season of insemination	Summer	96	89.1	3.3	82.8-95.9	0.013
	Autumn	252	77.5	1.8	74.0-81.1	
	Spring	173	79.8	2.2	75.5-84.3	
	Winter	148	82.6	2.5	77.8-87.6	
100 d milking frequency	≤1.5	148	86.8	2.6	81.9-92.1	0.055
	1.6 to 1.9	185	80.7	2.2	76.6-85.1	
	2.0 to 2.2	157	80.6	2.3	76.1-85.3	
	≥2.3	144	77.4	2.3	72.9-82.1	
100 d milk yield (kg)	≤ 1950	153	85.7	2.5	80.8-90.8	0.13
	1950 to 2521	156	80.3	2.4	75.8-85.1	
	2522 to 3044	159	77.8	2.3	73.4-82.3	
	>3044	155	81.0	2.4	76.5-85.8	

Results are presented as least square means (LSM), confidence interval (CI) and probability values.

<sup>a</sup> Represents estimate

<sup>b</sup> Represents standard error

**Table S3.** Univariable analyses of factors affecting the interval from calving to conception in dairy cows in a pasture-based automatic milking system research herd<sup>A</sup> based on Cox proportional regression model analyses

Predictor variables	Class	HR	95% CI	<i>P</i> -value
Interval from calving to first oestrus, days	Continuous	0.994	0.991-0.996	<0.001
Season of calving	Summer	1.00*	-	0.005
	Autumn	1.31	1.1-1.6	
	Spring	0.96	0.8-1.2	
	Winter	0.98	0.8-1.2	
100 d milking frequency	≤1.5	1.00*	-	0.72
	1.6 to 1.9	1.08	0.9-1.3	
	2.0 to 2.2	0.99	0.8-1.2	
	≥2.3	1.09	0.8-1.4	
100 d milk yield (kg)	≤ 1950	1.00*	-	0.63
	1950 to 2521	1.14	0.9-1.4	
	2522 to 3044	1.07	0.9-1.3	
	>3044	1.03	0.8-1.3	

Results are presented as hazard ratio (HR), confidence interval (CI) and probability values.

\* Reference category.

**Table S4.** Univariable analyses of factors affecting number of inseminations per conception in dairy cows in a pasture-based automatic milking system research herd

Predictor variables	Class	n	LSM	SEM	95% CI	<i>P</i> -value
Season of conception	Summer	93	1.7	0.1	1.5-2.1	<0.001
	Autumn	208	1.4	0.1	1.3-1.6	
	Spring	170	1.6	0.1	1.5-1.8	
	Winter	240	1.8	0.1	1.6-2.0	
Twin	Yes	23	2.2	0.4	1.6-3.5	0.015
	No	688	1.6	0.1	1.5-3.7	
100 d milk yield (kg)	≤ 1950	163	1.5	0.1	1.4-1.7	0.055
	1950 to 2521	169	1.6	0.1	1.4-1.7	
	2522 to 3044	168	1.8	0.1	1.6-2.0	
	>3044	165	1.6	0.1	1.5-1.8	
100 d milking frequency	≤1.5	160	1.6	0.1	1.4-1.8	0.78
	1.6 to 1.9	195	1.7	0.1	1.5-1.9	
	2.0 to 2.2	166	1.7	0.1	1.5-1.9	
	≥2.3	155	1.6	0.1	1.4-1.8	

Results are presented as least square means (LSM), confidence interval (CI) and probability values.

**Table S5.** Univariable analyses of factors affecting submission by 80 days in milk in dairy cows in a pasture-based automatic milking system research herd

Predictor variables	Class	n	OR	95% CI	<i>P</i> -value
Season of calving	Summer	184	1.00*	-	<0.001
	Autumn	214	2.88	1.9-4.3	
	Spring	117	1.18	0.7-1.9	
	Winter	171	1.43	0.9-2.2	
Season of first insemination	Summer	98	1.00*	-	0.018
	Autumn	260	2.03	1.3-3.3	
	Spring	178	1.48	0.9-2.5	
	Winter	150	1.4	0.8-2.3	
100 d milk yield (kg)	≤ 1950	169	1.00*	-	0.076
	1950 to 2521	174	1.28	0.8-2.0	
	2522 to 3044	175	1.78	1.2-2.8	
	>3044	168	1.43	0.9-2.2	
100 d milking frequency	≤1.5	162	1.00*	-	0.070
	1.6 to 1.9	197	1.66	1.1-2.6	
	2.0 to 2.2	171	1.50	1.0-2.4	
	≥2.3	156	1.71	1.1-2.7	

Results are presented as odd ratio (OR), confidence interval (CI) and probability values.

\* Reference category.

**Table S6.** Univariable analyses of factors affecting conception by 100 days in milk in dairy cows in a pasture-based automatic milking system research herd

Predictor variables	Class	n	OR	95% CI	<i>P</i> -value
Year	Year 1	131	1.00*	-	<0.01
	Year 2	131	0.69	0.4-1.1	
	Year 3	115	0.61	0.4-1.0	
	Year 4	143	0.35	0.2-0.6	
	Year 5	166	0.41	0.3-0.6	
Season of calving	Summer	184	1.00*	-	<0.01
	Autumn	214	1.97	1.3-3.0	
	Spring	117	0.85	0.5-1.4	
	Winter	171	1.15	0.8-1.8	
100 d milking frequency	≤1.5	153	1.00*	-	0.31
	1.6 to 1.9	188	1.19	1.8-1.9	
	2.0 to 2.2	162	0.99	0.6-1.6	
	≥2.3	147	1.45	0.9-2.3	
100 d milk yield (kg)	≤ 1950	157	1.00*	-	0.89
	1950 to 2521	162	1.17	0.8-1.8	
	2522 to 3044	163	1.07	0.7-1.7	
	>3044	157	1.00	0.6-1.6	

Results are presented as odd ratio (OR), confidence interval (CI) and probability values.

\* Reference category.