

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF A GROUP OF DAIRY FARMS IN CATALUNIA IN THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Shannon Mariona Silvestre McCole

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AIMS OF THIS STUDY

1. To obtain an illustrative picture of the technical level of an important part of the dairy sector in Catalonia.
2. To compare the results of the farms which are federated in the FEFRIC₍₁₎, which also have greater and more official milk controls, with conventional farms.
3. If possible, to be able to assess the least productive farms to become more efficient with the obtained data

(1) Federació Frisona de Catalunya

MATERIALS & METHODS

Surveys performed by the Veterinary Medicine students of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona taking the optative subject of Bovine Production between the years 2004 and 2014.

RESULTS

Tables 1, 2, and 3 summarize the main results, obtained in this study, regarding different aspects considered in dairy production.

1. Basic characteristics and dimensions of the conventional (C) and Federated (F) farms.

	C	F
% Property	55,16	53,97
Distance to urban area (Km)	2,46	2,51
Main forage area (Ha)	58,63	71,12
Usable agricultural area (Ha)	61,79	86,79
Total Production (kT / year)	1.694	2.371
Milk quota (kT / year)	1.474	2.054
No. of cows	179	221
No. of replacement heifers	93	145
Bovine livestock units (BLSU)	257	314
Livestock units	263	369
BLSU / Forage area	8,89	8,67

RESULTS

2. Types of facilities and most frequent feeding systems in conventional (C) and Federated (F) farms.

	C	F
Lairage (%)		
Straw	85,4	52,2
Cubicles	35,4	68,1
Milking parlours (%)		
Herringbone	70,7	79,5
Tandem	10,9	4,5
Rotary	7,3	6,8
Robot	8,5	9
No. Milkings / day	2,14	2,27
Hours / milking	2,39	2,86
Feeding systems		
Forage + Concentrate	15,8	15,9
Total Mixed Ration (Unifeed)	85,2	84,1

3. Main productive and reproductive values in conventional (C) and Federated (F) farms.

	C	F
Milk production and quality		
Fat corrected milk prod. 4%	8.187	10.067
Milk fat (%)	3,72	3,65
Milk protein (%)	3,25	3,31
Somatic Cell Count (u / mL)	256.938	231.111
Colony Forming Units (u / mL)	40.881	27.397
Reproduction		
Artificial Ins. (A.I., % cows)	85,51	92,63
Inseminations / Conception	2,47	2,74
Days from calving to calving	390,5	408,7
Productivity		
L / Annual Work Units	395.143	529.840
L / Ha of Main Forage Area	59.830	591.026

CONCLUSIONS

1. Conventional farms are very different among themselves, whereas the federated group are more efficient and produce more milk and of better quality.
2. It is very difficult but also necessary to assess each producer individually in order to fix the global dairy sector.

