

**Initial and residual sward height on high stocking rate dairy grazing system on a farmlet desing**G. Ortega<sup>1</sup>, P. Chilibroste<sup>2</sup> and Y. Lopez<sup>3</sup><sup>1</sup>Agronomy Faculty, Animal Science Department, Av Gral Eugenio Garzon 809, 12900, Uruguay, <sup>2</sup>Agronomy Faculty, Animal Science Department, Ruta 3 km 363, 60000, Uruguay, <sup>3</sup>Agronomy Faculty, Centro Regional Sur, Camino folle km 35500, 90300, Uruguay; gortegaconforte@gmail.com

A farmlet study was conducted to determine the effect of stocking rate and pasture management on milk and pasture production and feeding management of autumn calving grazing dairy cows. Four farmlets under a rotation of annual and perennial pastures were grazed by one of the four 2×2 factorial arrangements of treatments: two stocking rates 1.5 (MSR) or 2.0 (HSR) milking cows per hectare and two pasture managements: A (4 cm residual sward height all year round), and B (6 cm residual sward height for autumn and winter, and 9 cm for spring). The four treatments grazed during 2017 and 2018 from March till December. Ninety six cows were randomized to the farmlets based on parity (2.1 + 1.6; 2.5 + 1.1), BW (520 + 87; 548 + 80) and BCS (2.9 + 0.5; 3.7 + 0.6) for 2017 and 2018, respectively. Sward mass and mean growth rate (GR, kg DM/ha/day) of each individual plot in each farmlet was weekly assessed through the double sample technique. Additionally, mean sward height and phenologic stage before and after grazing were assessed on a daily basis. The data was analysed with a mixed model which included treatment and season as fixed effects and paddock as a random effect. Differences were declared significant when P<0.05 (Tukey). There was an effect of treatments (30.1 + 0.6 vs 28.6 + 0.6 cm for 2.0A and 2.0B) and season (31.1 + 0.8 vs 26.7 + 0.8 for spring and autumn respectively) on initial sward height. The treatments on the B management had greater residual sward height (8.7 + 0.3; 8.8 + 0.3 for 1.5B and 2.0B, respectively) than treatments on A management (7.6 + 0.3; 7.2 + 0.3). Mean sward mass between farmlets was higher for B (1,674 + 40.3 P<0.05; 1,608 + 40.3 P>0.05 kg DM/ha for 1.5B and 2.0B) than for A management (1,585 + 40.8 P>0.05; 1,581 + 40.8 P>0.05 DM/ha for 1.5A and 2.0A). However, neither phenologic stage before grazing (3.5 + 0.05 P=0.26) nor GR (27.2+5.8; P=0.67) were different between treatments. Productivity (GR) and phenologic stage before grazing were independent of the stocking rate and grazing management applied.

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**Utilizing dairy farmers' stated and realized preferences in AI bull selection**E.M. Paakala<sup>1,2</sup>, D. Martín-Collado<sup>3</sup>, A. Mäki-Tamila<sup>2</sup> and J. Juga<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Faba co-op, Urheilutie 6D, 01370 Vantaa, Finland, <sup>2</sup>University of Helsinki, Agricultural Sciences, Koetilantie 5, 00014 Helsinki, Finland, <sup>3</sup>Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentaria de Aragón, Avda. Montañana 930, 50059 Zaragoza, Spain; elina.paakala@helsinki.fi

In the Nordic Total Merit index (NTM) the traits are weighted according to their economic importance in the Nordic production environment. Farms may deviate from this in their production system and trait genetic levels. Hence customizing the total merit index to better reflect herd's characteristics and farmers' preferences could result in a faster economic response at the herd level. Dairy farmers' stated selection preferences in AI bull selection have been analysed increasingly in recent years. Taking the stated preferences into consideration in bull selection could improve customer satisfaction and increase the adoption of a coordinated breeding program at herd level; however, it is poorly known how farmers' stated preferences relate to their real choices. We compared the Finnish Ayrshire (AY) and Holstein (HOL) farmers' stated and realized preferences for bull selection. An Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) based online survey was conducted to find out farmers' stated preferences. The realized preferences were derived from the herds' insemination data. We found substantial differences between stated and realized preferences. Yield was the most important (AY) and the second most important (HOL) trait in realized selection but showed low relevance in the stated selection preferences analysis. Also conformation was more favoured in realized selection. Health and fertility were quite poorly favoured in realized selection considering that health had the highest stated preference and fertility had also high stated preference. There was, however, much consistency for longevity, it was the second most important trait in stated and most (HOL) or second most important (AY) trait in realized selection. We propose a recommendation system which is jointly using the information on both farmers' past realized and recent stated preferences in bull selection. This allows the modification of trait assessment to be compared to past selection preferences. The genetic merit of recommended AI bulls is compared to the expected NTM value.