



DAIRY SCIENCE 2007

Meeting the challenges for pasture-based dairying

Extending lactations to 670 days in pasture-based dairying systems

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- **Aim:**
 - Determine the effect of cow genetics and nutrition on achieving extended lactations of 670 d on pasture-based diets
- Two-year lactations possible on pasture
- North American (NA) HF more suited than NZ HF
 - Differences greatest at highest nutrition level
- NA HF fed moderate-high levels of concentrate produced as much as in two single-year lactations
- Variation between cows to extended lactations



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- Production EL indicators during 300-d lactation
 - High total MS yield and high daily MS at peak
 - **High daily MS and low BCS at normal dry-off date**
- Physiological EL indicators during 300-d lactation
 - High plasma NEFA post-calving
 - Low plasma glucose, insulin and IGF-1 post-calving
- High-producing cows that partition energy towards milk production rather than BCS gain will undergo successful extended lactations