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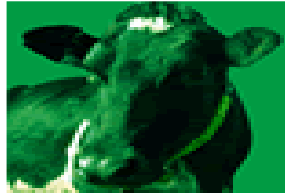
Meeting the challenges for pasture-based dairying

Associations between body size, body condition score and milk production in pasture-fed holstein cows

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Meeting the challenges for pasture-based dairying

Objectives:

- describe the variation in body size parameters in Holstein cows in Victoria
- assess their association with body condition score and milk production

Materials and Methods:

- 4300 cows 16 commercial dairy herds
- hip height and hip width
- body condition score 4 occasions
- milk production
- pearson's correlation coefficient



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Results and Discussion:

- variation in body size between cows was low
(mean height **141±4.8cm**; mean width **44±3.9cm**)
- height v body condition score: **-ve**
- height v milk production: **+ve**
- width v body condition score: **+ve**
- width v milk production: **+ve**
- ***further investigations involving health, fertility and survival would be warranted to determine value of utilising body size in selection decisions in pasture-fed Holstein cows***