SaluVet
Natürliche Tiergesundheit

Case Study

A multicomponent herbal feed additive improves somatic cell counts in dairy cows

Overview

This study consisted of two parts. Firstly in a dose finding study (DF) with 62 cows on 11 commercial farms were fed 50g (HFA-50) or 100g (HFA-100) of a herbal feed additive or a Placebo daily. In the following field trial (FT) 280 cows from 30 commercial farms received either 100g of the herbal feed additive (HFA) or a Placebo (PL).

After randomly assigning to the groups in both parts of the trial the cows received the feed additive doses or placebo daily from 14 days pre- to 300 days post-calving.

Invastigated parameters were milk performance data (milk yield,, protein content, fat content, urea), body condition, milk acetone, somatic cell count, lameness, calving intervals and culling reasons. Data were analysed with mixed effects models.

Impact

A tendency towards lower milk urea for HFA-compared to PL ($p = .06$) was found in DF. HFA significantly reduced elevated milk acetone observations in the first 10 lactation weeks (HFA-100: 4%; HFA-50: 4%; PL: 12%) in DF. HFA-50 significantly reduced lameness incidence (HFA-100: 11%; HFA-50: 2%; PL: 14%) in DF.

Calving intervals were 15 days shorter in HFA compared to PL in both trials, which could be confirmed by tendency ($p = .07$) in FT. In both trials, the proportion of test days with elevated somatic cell score (≥3.0) was significantly lower in HFA compared to PL which is also reflected by tendency ($p = .08$) in lower culling rates due to udder diseases in FT.

Supporting Material

- A multicomponent herbal feed additive improves somatic cell counts in dairy cows - a two stage, multicentre, placebo-controlled long-term on-farm trial

*This sustainability-related case study was provided by **SaluVet**.*

*To learn more, visit **saluvet.de**.*