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Dairy farm milk quantity, quality and revenue within a private organization in Central Thailand

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SUMMARY

Monthly farm records (34,133 records) collected from September 2003 to December 2007 in 1,151 dairy farms supported by a private organization in Central Thailand were used to determine effects of milk quantity and quality on revenues.  

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Dairy farms in this study produced an average of 2,532 ± 3,503.26 kg for MF and 368.9 ± 953.39 kg for MF. Farms ranked 37,521.88 and 36,841.97 kg for MF and PP, respectively. The significant milk traits were fat (FP), protein (PP), somatic cell count (SC), and milk yield per day (MD).  

Year-season LSM trends for milk quality traits were low but favorable (FP: 0.015 ± 0.005%/year-season; PP: 0.004; PP: 0.003 ± 0.005%/year-season; PP: 0.01; LP: 0.024 ± 0.019%/year-season; P: 0.01; SC: 0.021 ± 0.020%/year-season; P: 0.02; TS: 0.023 ± 0.022%/year-season; P: 0.01; except for SC (11.21 ± 10.73 cells/ml/year-season; P: 0.004).  

Year-season LSM for MC were also above the recommended maximum of 200,000 cells/ml. Thus, improving management and health care of dairy cows to reduce and maintain SC below the recommended maximum should be a priority for farmers in this private organization. This will likely result not only in lower SC but it may also increase milk production.  

In dairy farm settings in Thailand, the milk farm size and/or location may affect milk quality and revenue.  

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