



# Impact of Supplementing Fatty Acids on Performance and Digestibility in Dairy Cows

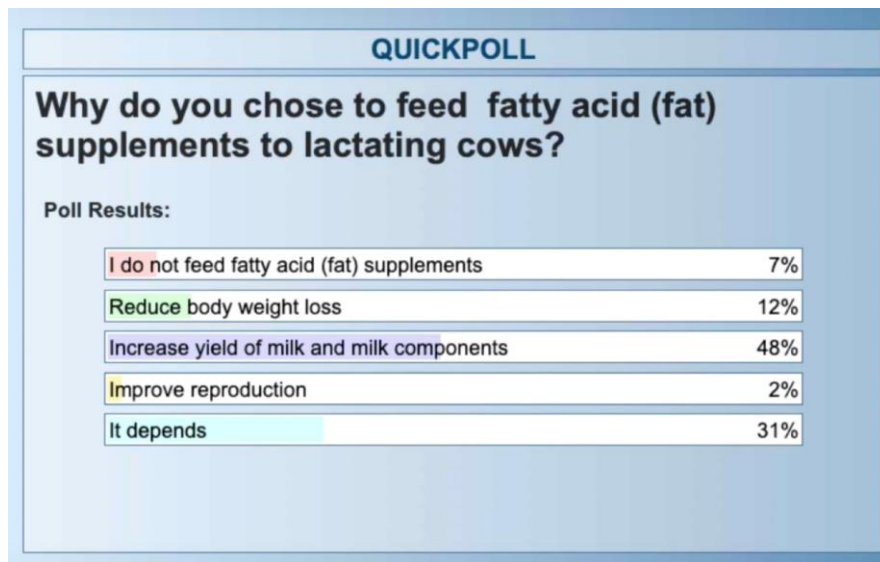
Jonas de Souza, PhD

*Director of Tech Services and R&D*

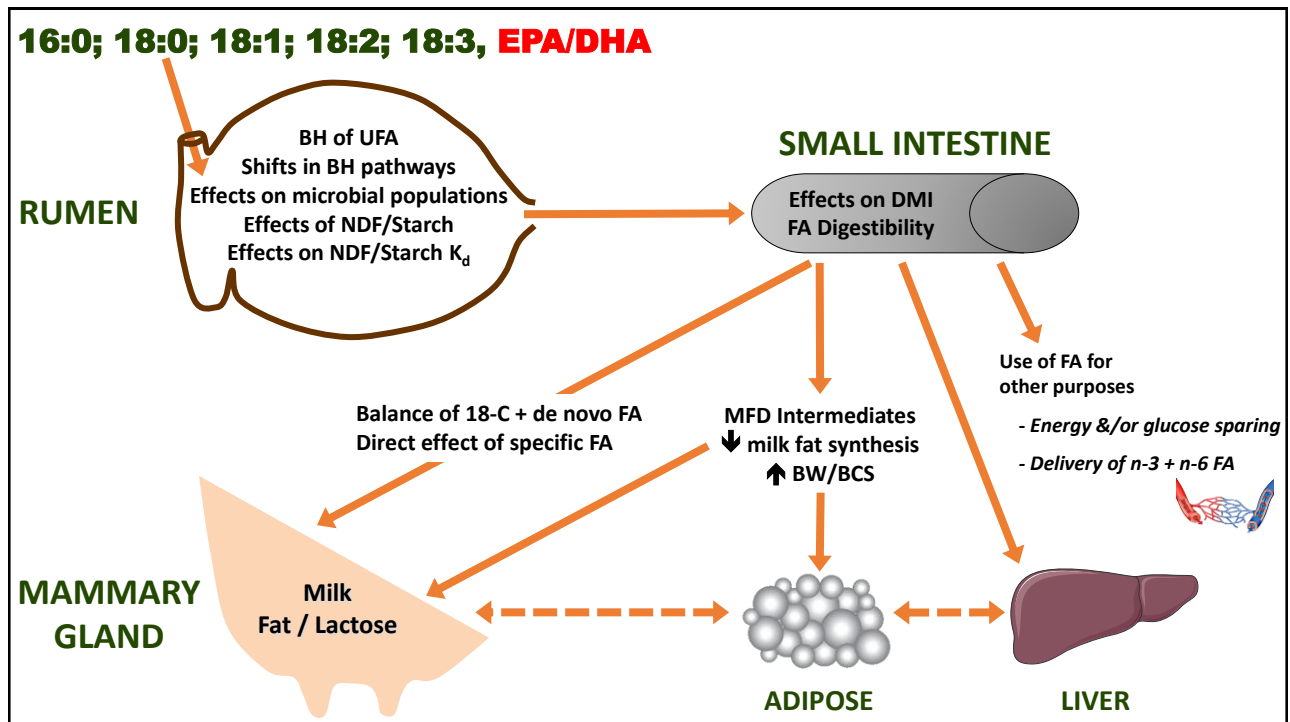
*Perdue Animal Nutrition*

1

## Why do We Feed Fatty Acids to Dairy Cows?

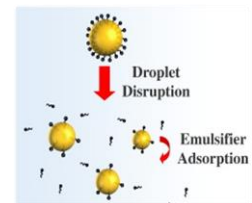
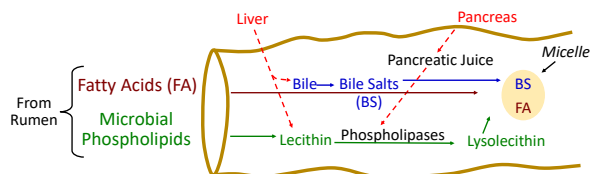


2



3

## What Limits/Impacts FA Digestibility?



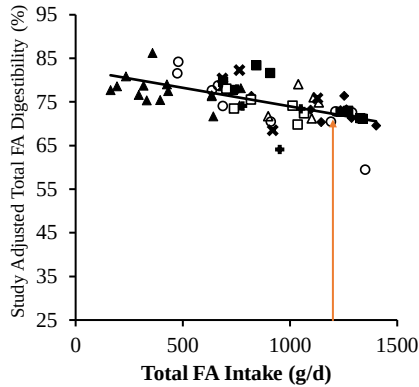
- Profile of FA reaching the duodenum
- Emulsification capacity
- Total FA flow to the duodenum
- Degree of esterification/physical form

- The ability of ruminants to absorb SFA is much higher than that of non-ruminants
  - In most feeding situations, C18:0 is the predominant FA available for absorption
  - **The greatest opportunity will be to improve C18:0 absorption and/or limit its effects on the absorption of other FA**

4

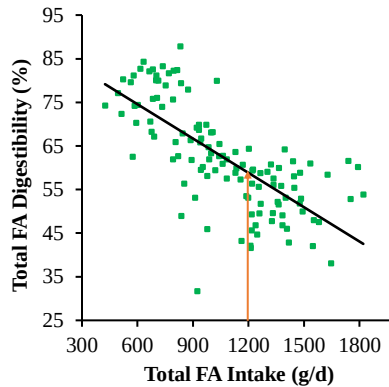
# Apparent Intestinal Digestibility of Fatty Acids

Intestinal Digestibility  
Meta Analysis



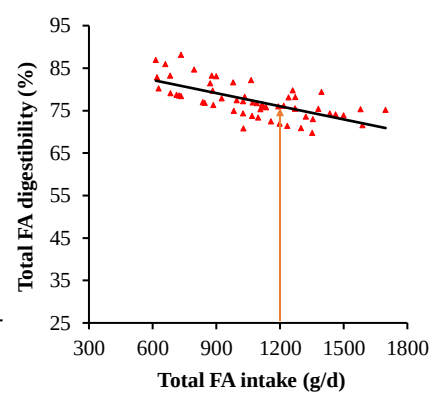
Boerman et al. 2015.  
J. Dairy Sci. 98:8889–8903

Dose Response C18:0  
Supplementation Study



Boerman et al. 2017.  
J. Dairy Sci. 100:1-10

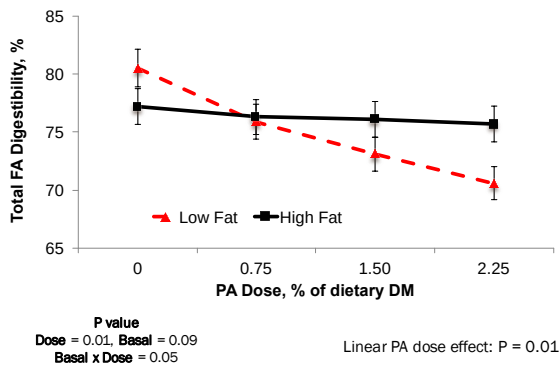
Dose Response C16:0  
Supplementation Study



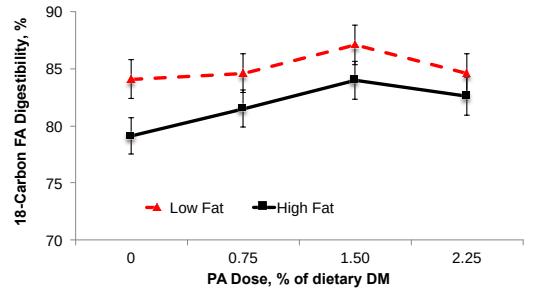
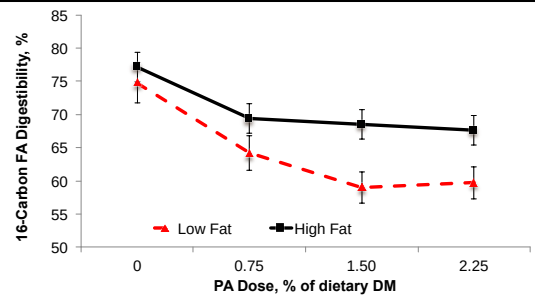
Rico et al. 2017.  
J. Animal Sci. 95:436-446

5

## Effect of C16:0 Intake and Basal diet on FA Digestibility

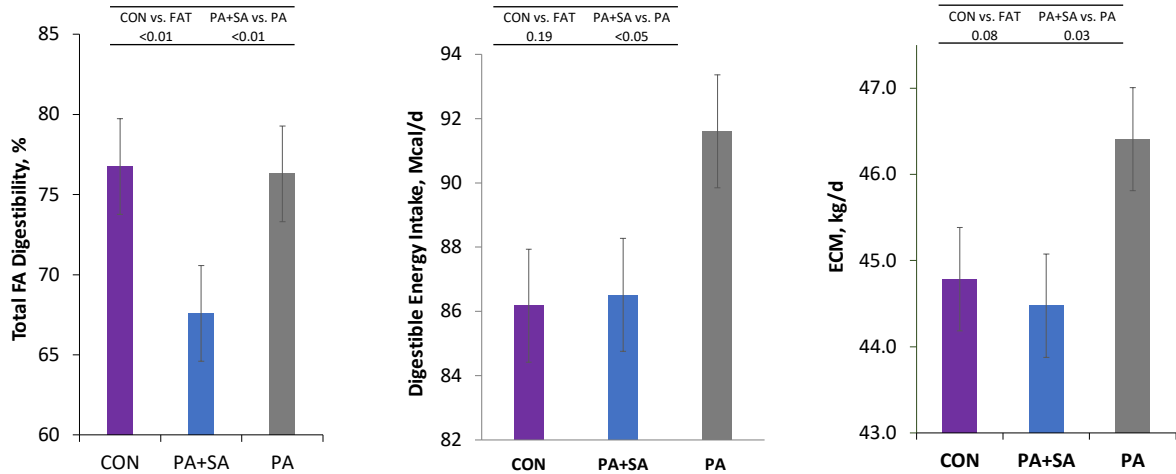


Rico et al. 2017. J. Animal Sci. 95:436-446



6

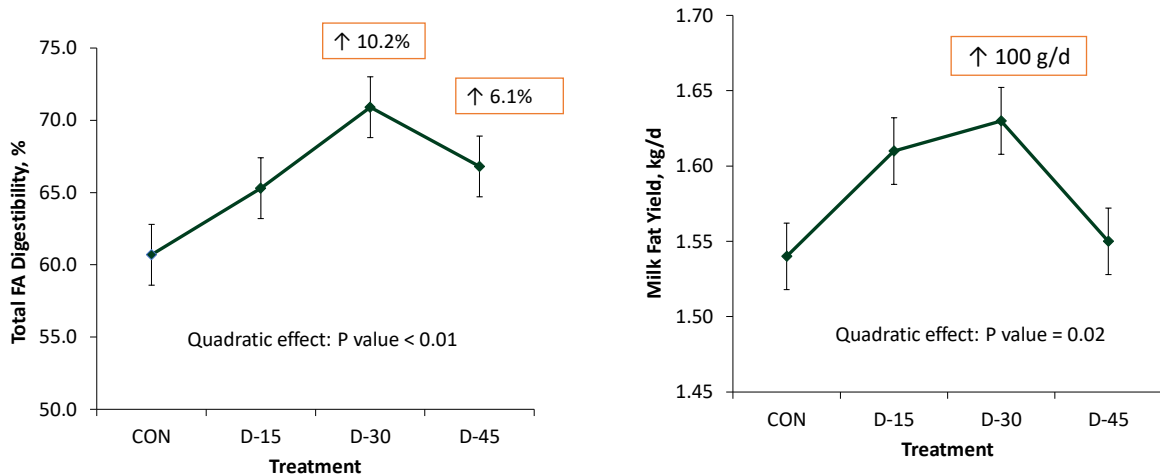
## Effect of Altering the FA Profile of the Supplement on FA Digestibility and Performance



Western et al. 2020. J. Dairy Sci. 103: 5131–5142

7

## Abomasal Infusion of an Exogenous Emulsifier



de Souza et al. 2020 J. Dairy Sci. 103:6167–6177

8

## Association of Feeding Lysophospholipids and FA Supplements

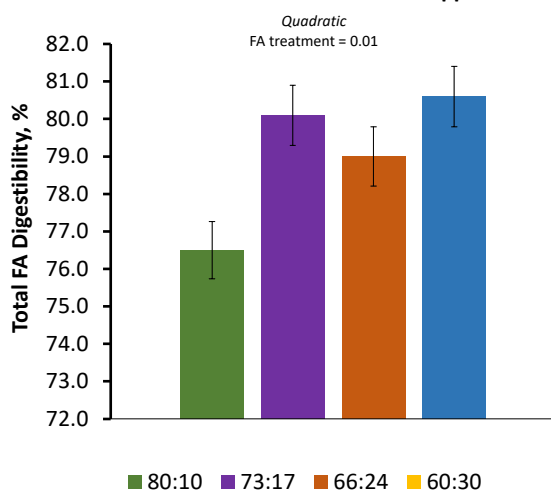
|                  | PA   | PA+SA | No   | LPL  | SEM   | FA    | LPL  | Int  |
|------------------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|
| DMI, kg/d        | 27.3 | 27.5  | 27.6 | 27.5 | 0.81  | 0.84  | 0.84 | 0.21 |
| Milk yield, kg/d | 40.4 | 38.7  | 39.8 | 39.3 | 2.65  | 0.21  | 0.70 | 0.42 |
| ECM, kg/d        | 39.7 | 36.8  | 38.1 | 38.4 | 1.03  | 0.02  | 0.81 | 0.34 |
| ECM/DMI, kg/kg   | 1.44 | 1.35  | 1.38 | 1.40 | 0.027 | <0.01 | 0.54 | 0.75 |
| Fat, kg/d        | 1.60 | 1.42  | 1.50 | 1.52 | 0.05  | <0.01 | 0.82 | 0.32 |
| Protein, kg/d    | 1.30 | 1.26  | 1.28 | 1.28 | 0.058 | 0.38  | 0.91 | 0.54 |
| Lactose, kg/d    | 1.96 | 1.91  | 1.96 | 1.92 | 0.147 | 0.48  | 0.60 | 0.47 |
| Fat, %           | 4.00 | 3.74  | 3.83 | 3.91 | 0.277 | 0.12  | 0.64 | 0.68 |
| Protein, %       | 3.24 | 3.30  | 3.24 | 3.30 | 0.08  | 0.42  | 0.39 | 0.84 |
| Lactose, %       | 4.84 | 4.93  | 4.90 | 4.87 | 0.042 | 0.03  | 0.49 | 0.79 |
| BW initial, kg   | 691  | 686   | 696  | 681  | 22.2  | 0.72  | 0.35 | 0.63 |
| BW final, kg     | 703  | 701   | 709  | 694  | 18.8  | 0.91  | 0.33 | 0.99 |

Porter et al. 2024 J. Dairy Sci. In Press

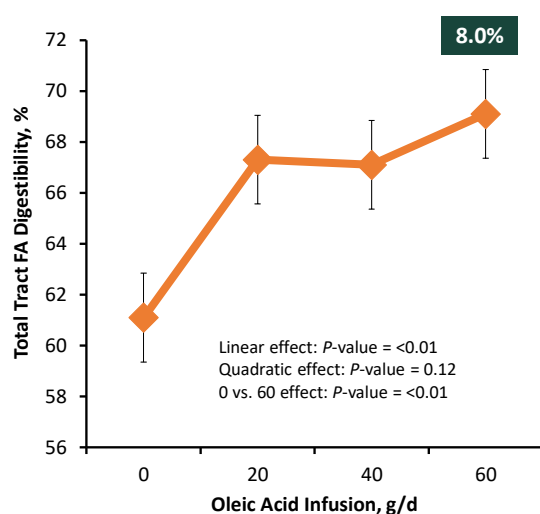
9

## Oleic Acid Improves Total Tract FA Digestibility

Ratio of Palmitic to oleic acid in the supplemental fat



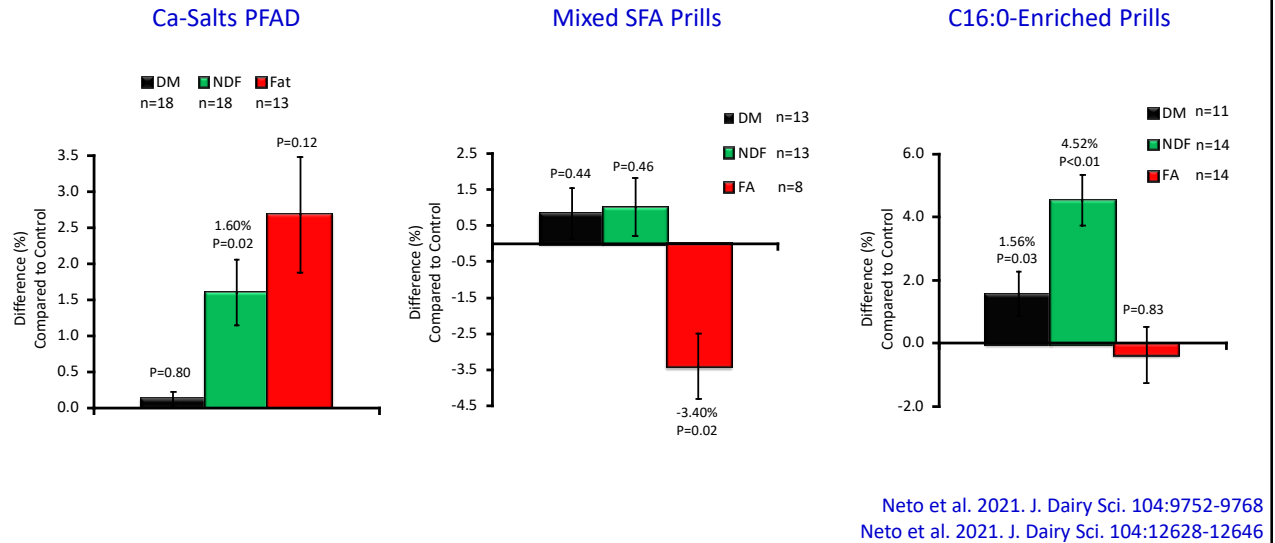
de Souza et al. 2019. J. Dairy Sci. 102:9842–9856



Prom et al. 2021. J. Dairy Sci. 104:12616–12627

10

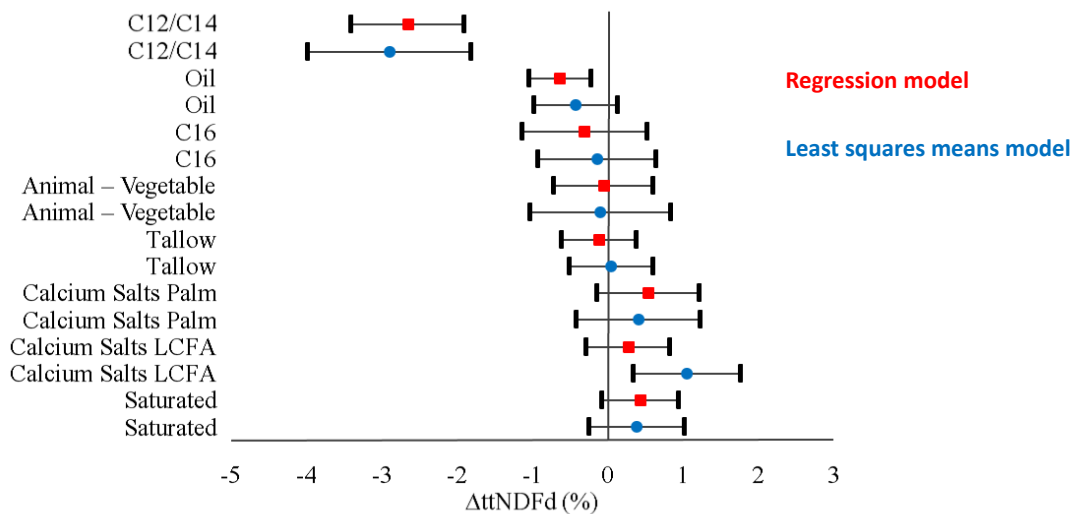
## Effect of FA Supplements on Nutrient Digestibility



11

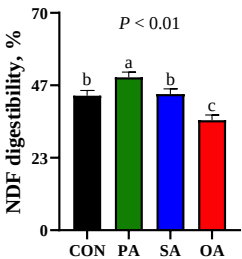
## Effect of Fat Supplementation on Fiber Digestibility

Slide courtesy of Lou Armentano, University of Wisconsin

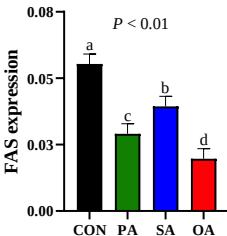
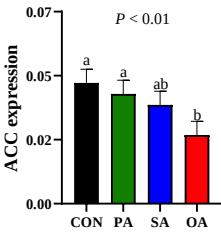
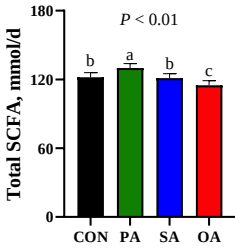


12

# Effect of Individual FA on Fiber Digestibility

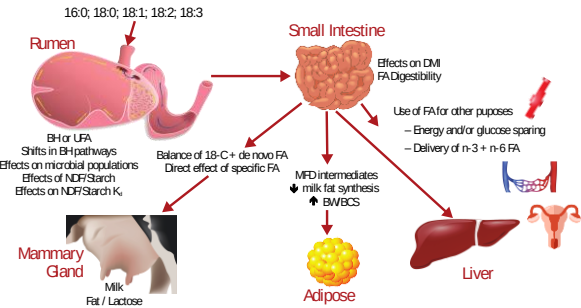


|                   | CON                | PA                 | SA                 | OA                | P     |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Prevotella        | 18.3 <sup>B</sup>  | 22.7 <sup>A</sup>  | 17.4 <sup>B</sup>  | 18.0 <sup>B</sup> | <0.01 |
| Megasphaera       | 1.76 <sup>B</sup>  | 2.06 <sup>B</sup>  | 2.22 <sup>B</sup>  | 3.10 <sup>A</sup> | 0.05  |
| Fibrobacter       | 0.71 <sup>AB</sup> | 1.07 <sup>A</sup>  | 0.70 <sup>AB</sup> | 0.28 <sup>B</sup> | 0.01  |
| Acidaminococcus   | 0.30 <sup>AB</sup> | 0.36 <sup>AB</sup> | 0.57 <sup>A</sup>  | 0.17 <sup>B</sup> | 0.02  |
| Pseudobutyrvibrio | 0.33 <sup>B</sup>  | 0.44 <sup>B</sup>  | 0.35 <sup>B</sup>  | 0.62 <sup>A</sup> | 0.02  |
| Anaerovibrio      | 0.07 <sup>B</sup>  | 0.07 <sup>B</sup>  | 0.07 <sup>B</sup>  | 0.17 <sup>A</sup> | 0.02  |
| Ruminococcus      | 1.29               | 1.16               | 1.42               | 1.36              | 0.53  |
| Butyrvibrio       | 1.09               | 0.96               | 0.77               | 0.90              | 0.34  |



Sears et al., 2024. JDS. 107:902-916

13



# Effect of Dietary FA on Performance

14

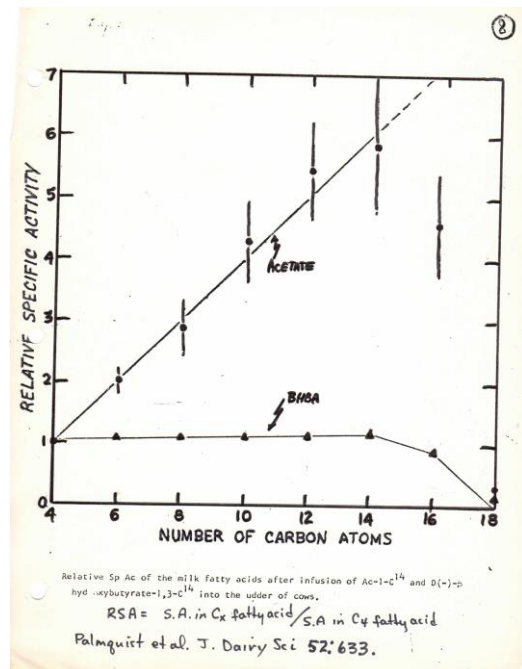
## Source of Milk Fatty Acids

### • De novo synthesis

- C4 to C14
- Part of C16
  - Acetate
  - B-hydroxybutyrate

### • Uptake of preformed fatty acids

- Part of C16
- All long chain
  - Absorbed from digestive tract
  - Mobilized from body fat

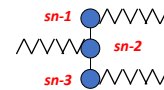


15

## Milk Triglycerides

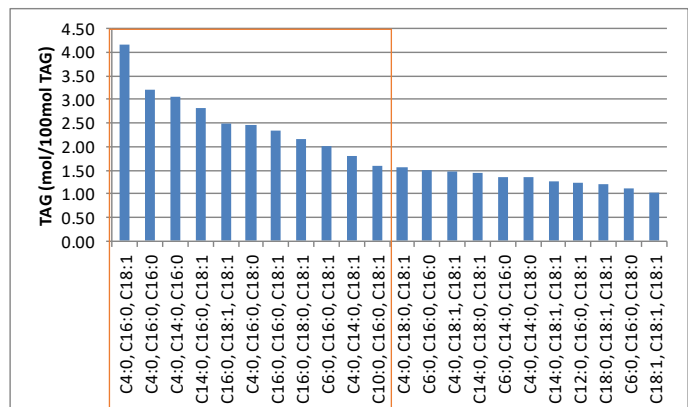
mol/100mol fatty acid<sup>1</sup>

|      | C4:0 | C6:0 | C8:0 | C10:0 | C12:0 | C14:0 | C16:0 | C18:0 | C18:1 |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| sn-1 | 1.6  | 3.1  | 10.3 | 15.2  | 23.7  | 27.3  | 44.1  | 54.0  | 37.3  |
| sn-2 | 0.3  | 3.9  | 55.2 | 56.6  | 62.9  | 65.6  | 45.4  | 16.2  | 21.2  |
| sn-3 | 98.1 | 93.0 | 34.5 | 28.2  | 13.4  | 7.1   | 10.5  | 29.8  | 41.5  |



Major TAG in bovine milk fat<sup>2</sup>  
 Only TAG > 1% are shown  
 Position of individual FA on glycerol backbone may vary

**Lipid synthesis is highly coordinated in order to produce a fluid milk fat**



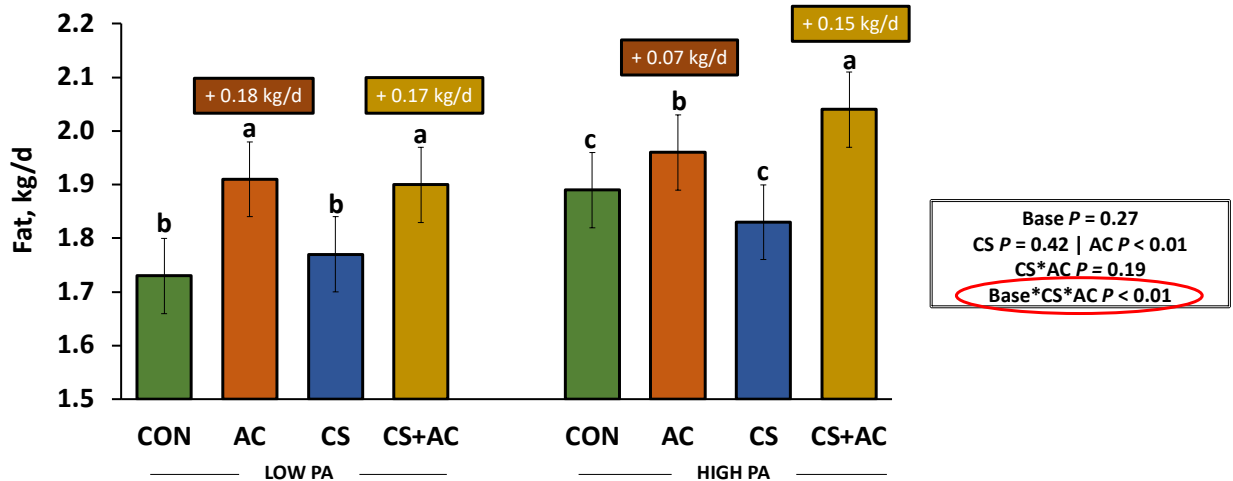
1. Calculated by Jensen (2002) J. Dairy Sci. 85: 295-350 from Australian butter reported by Parodi (1979) J. Dairy Res. 46:75-81

2. Gresti et al. (1993) J. Dairy Sci. 76: 1850-1869. Normandy summer milk

16



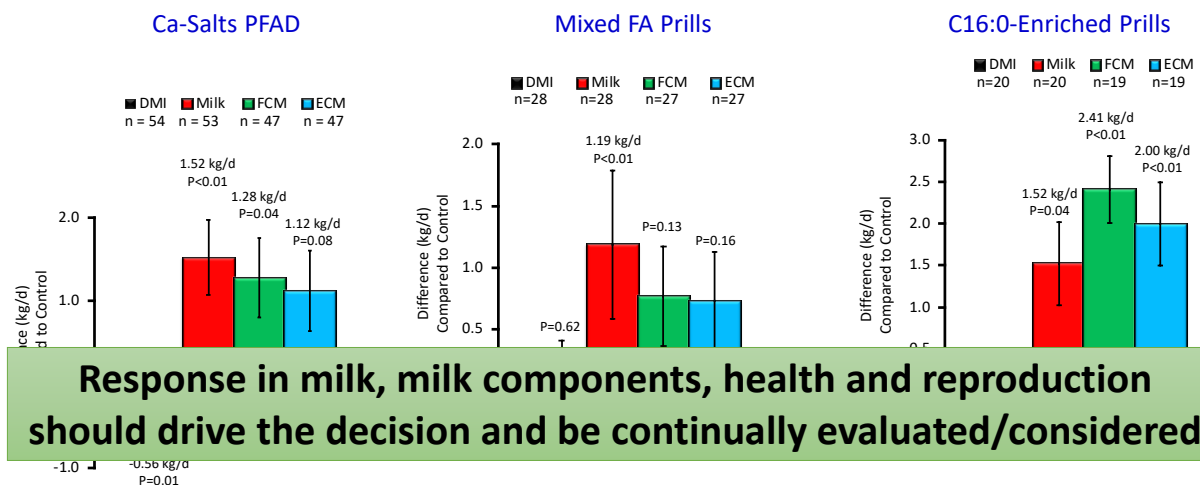
## Altering the Dietary Supply of De Novo and Preformed Fatty Acids



Benoit et al. (ADSA Abstract 2023)

17

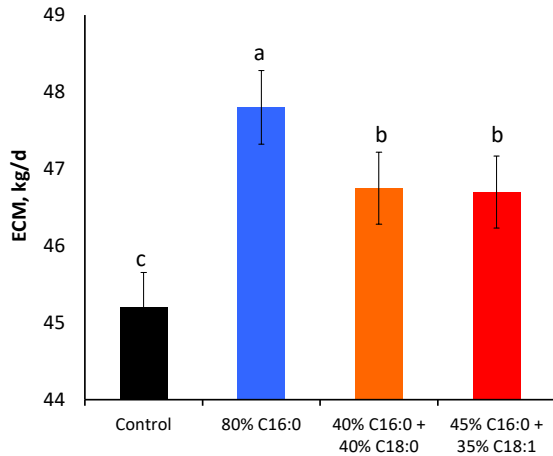
## Effect of FA Supplements on DMI and Milk Yields



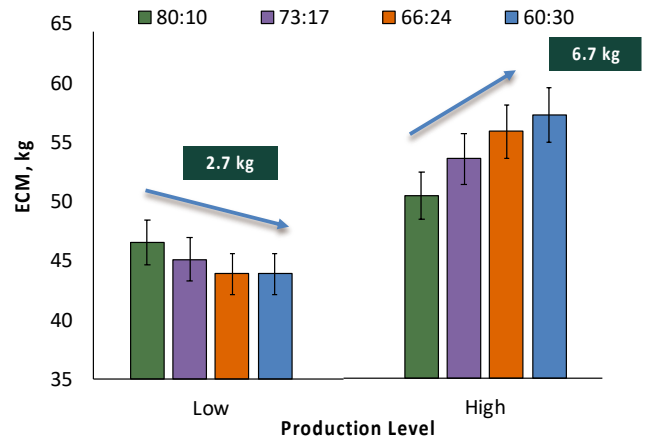
Neto et al. 2021. J. Dairy Sci. 104:9752-9768  
 Neto et al. 2021. J. Dairy Sci. 104:12628-12646

18

## Effect of Palmitic, Stearic, and Oleic Acids in Post-Peak Cows



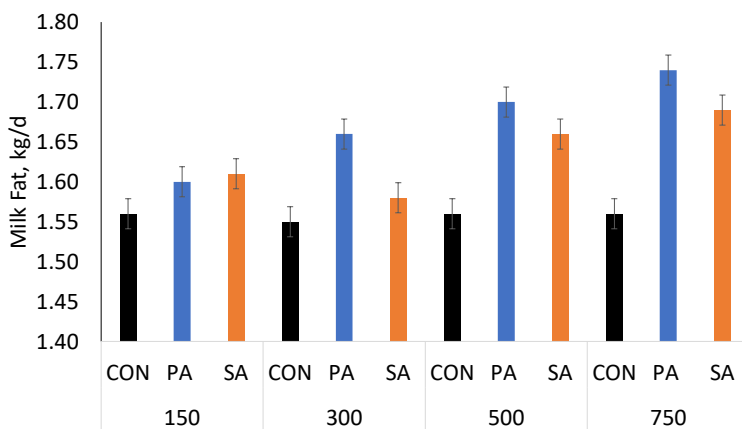
de Souza et al. 2018. J. Dairy Sci. 101:172–185



de Souza et al. 2019. J. Dairy Sci. 102:9842–9856

19

## Milk Fat Responses to Level and Profile

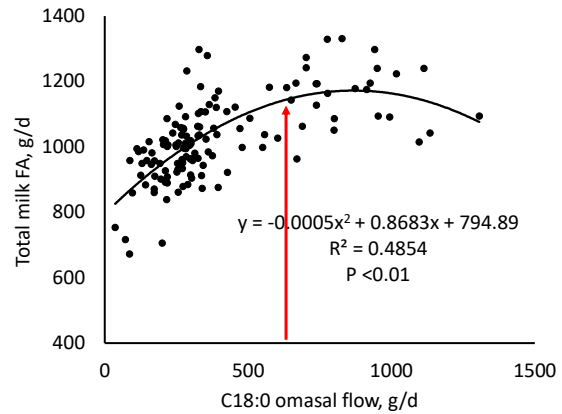
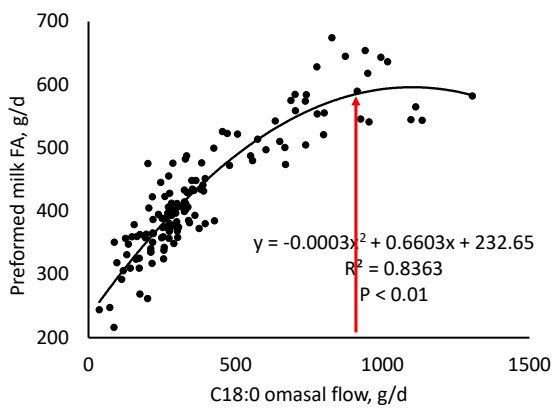


Staffin et al., 2023 (ADSA Abstract)

|     | Transfer, % |      |
|-----|-------------|------|
|     | PA          | SA   |
| 150 | 0.27        | 0.33 |
| 300 | 0.39        | 0.10 |
| 500 | 0.28        | 0.20 |
| 750 | 0.24        | 0.17 |

20

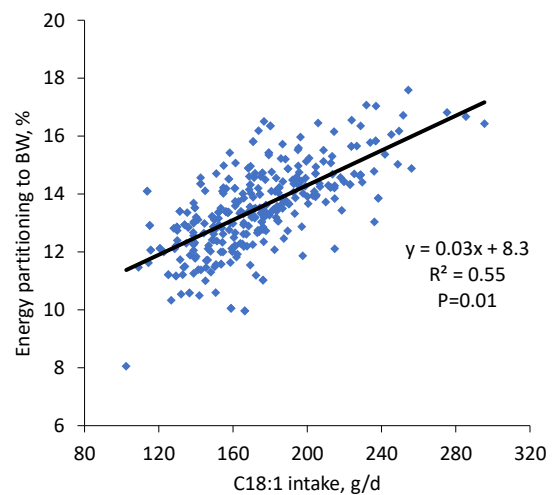
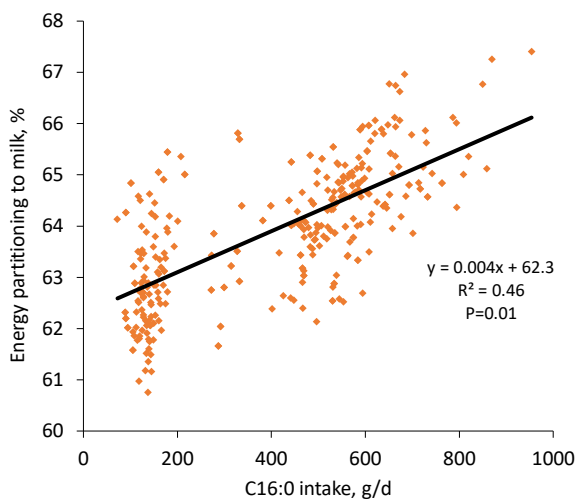
## Relationship Between C18:0 Omasal Flow on Preformed and Total milk FA



De Souza et al., 2018 (ADSA Abstract)

21

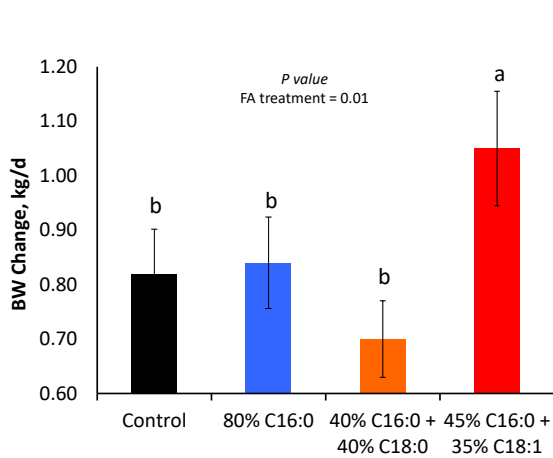
## Palmitic and Oleic Effects on Energy Partitioning (Post Peak Cows)



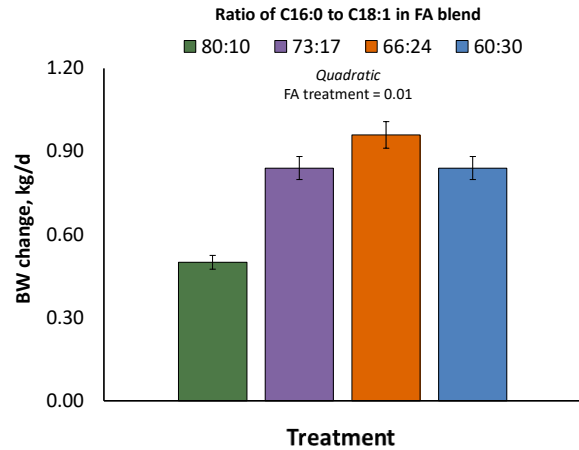
de Souza & Lock (Unpublished)

22

## Effect of Palmitic, Stearic, and Oleic Acids in Post-Peak Cows



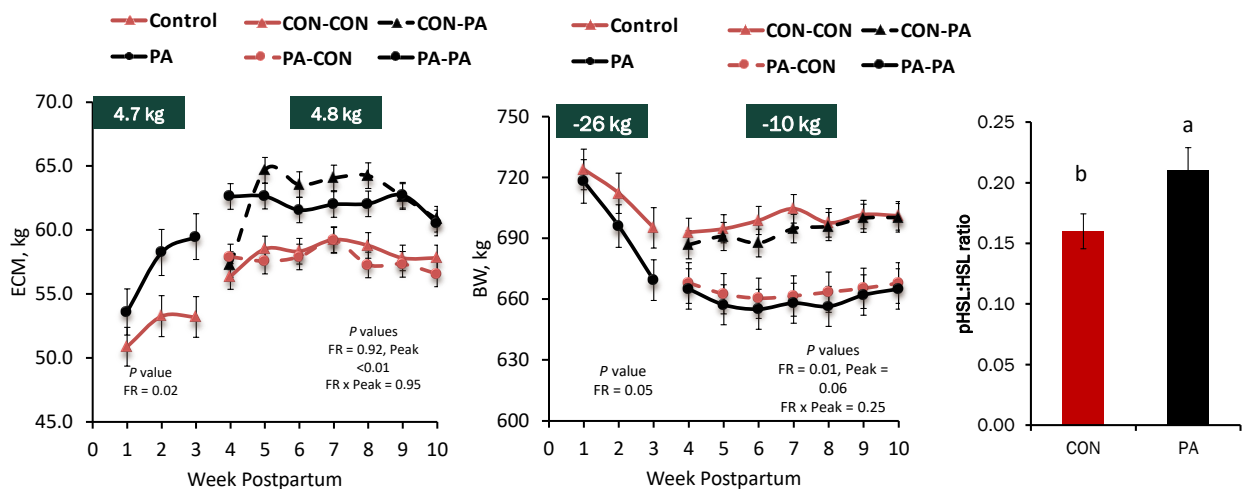
de Souza et al. 2018. J. Dairy Sci. 101:172–185



de Souza et al. 2019. J. Dairy Sci. 102:9842–9856

23

## Effect of Palmitic Supplementation – Early Lactation

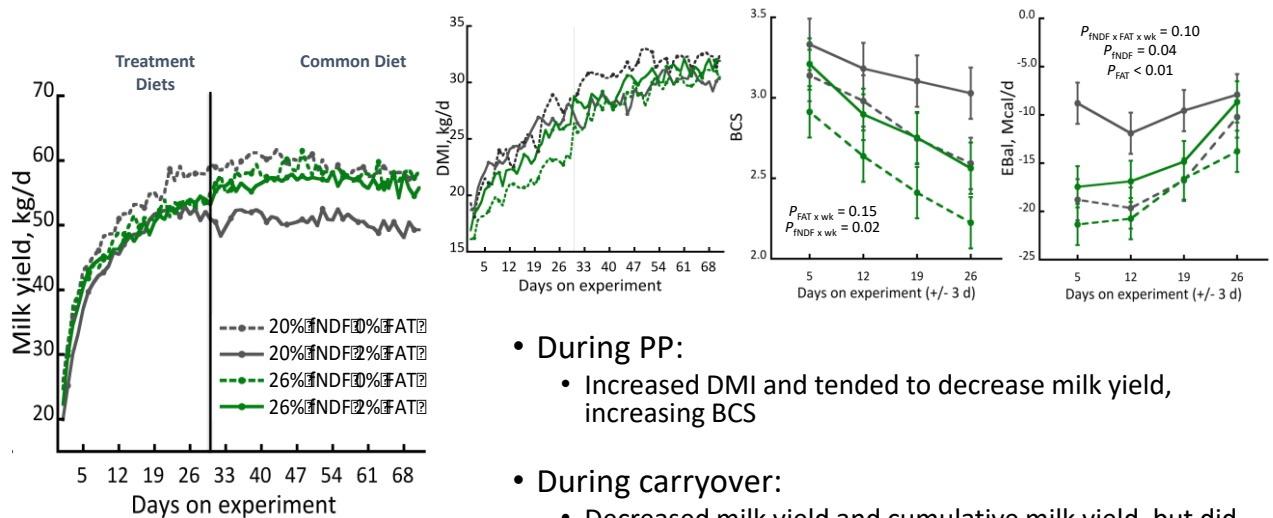


de Souza & Lock. 2019. J. Dairy Sci. 102:260-273

de Souza et al. 2019. J. Dairy Sci. 102:274-287

24

## Effect of a C16:0 + C18:0 FA Supplement in Early Lactation



### • During PP:

- Increased DMI and tended to decrease milk yield, increasing BCS

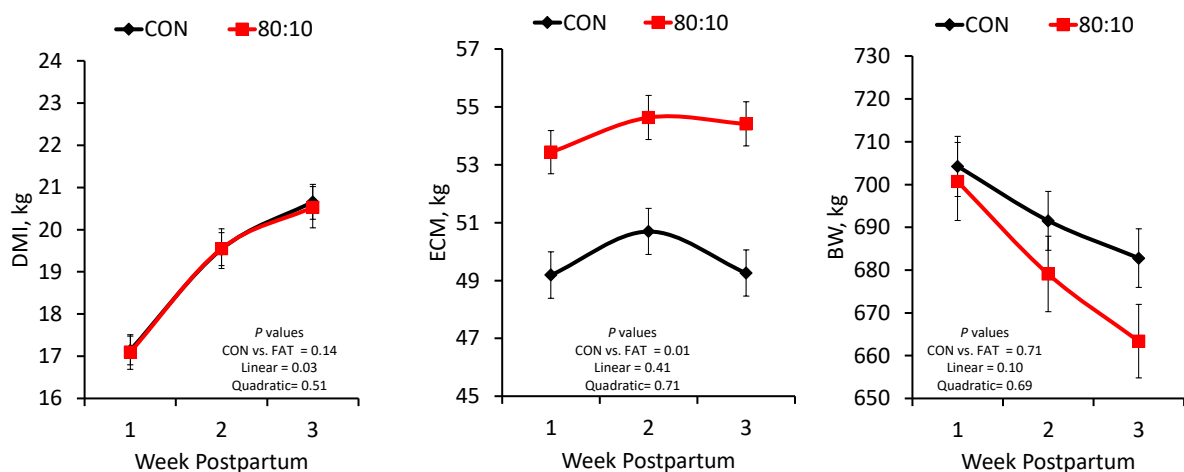
### • During carryover:

- Decreased milk yield and cumulative milk yield, but did not affect DMI, increasing BCS

Piantoni et al. 2015. J Dairy Sci. 98:3309–3322; Piantoni et al. 2015. J Dairy Sci. 98:3323–3334

25

## Effect of Altering the Palmitic to Oleic Ratio of Supplemental Fats to Fresh Cows

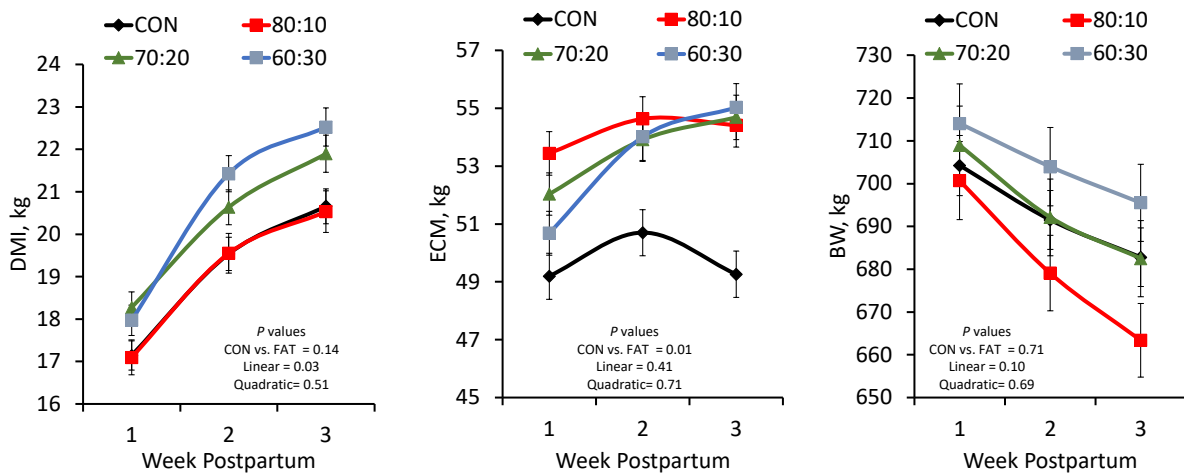


- CON: Control diet (no supplemental fat)
- FA supplement blends fed at 1.5% DM
- Supplemental fat blends fed from calving for first 3 wk of lactation

de Souza et al., 2021. JDS 104:2896

26

## Effect of Altering the Palmitic to Oleic Ratio of Supplemental Fats to Fresh Cows



- CON: Control diet (no supplemental fat)
- FA supplement blends fed at 1.5% DM
- Supplemental fat blends fed from calving for first 3 wk of lactation

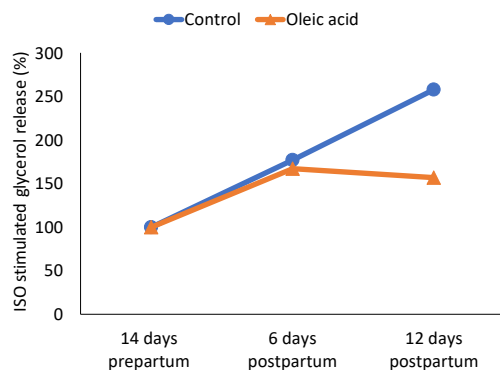
de Souza et al., 2021. JDS 104:2896

27

## Abomasal Infusion of Oleic Acid in Fresh Cows

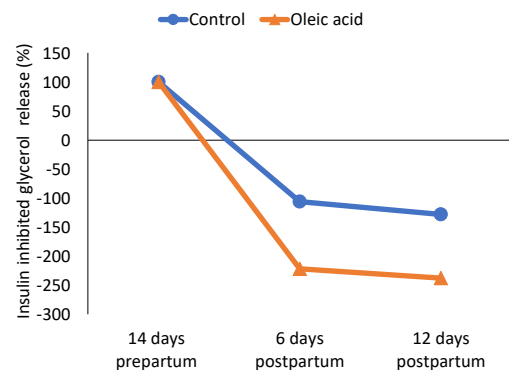
### Lipolytic Response

(Adipose Explants)



### Insulin Sensitivity

(Adipose Explants)



- Results suggest that oleic acid supplementation immediately postpartum may reduce lipolytic responses and improves insulin sensitivity of AT in early lactation dairy cows

Abou-Rjeileh et al. 2023. J. Dairy Sci 106:4306–4323

28

# Fatty Acids and Repro

## SYMPOSIUM: OPTIMIZING ENERGY NUTRITION FOR REPRODUCING DAIRY COWS

### Influence of Supplemental Fats on Reproductive Tissues and Performance of Lactating Cows<sup>1</sup>

C. R. STAPLES,<sup>2</sup> J. M. BURKE, and W. W. THATCHER  
Department of Dairy and Poultry Sciences,  
University of Florida, Gainesville 32611

| Item                                        | RR or SMD (95% CI)                                            | <i>I</i> <sup>2</sup> | <i>P</i> -value |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Proportion pregnant to service <sup>2</sup> |                                                               |                       |                 |
| Overall                                     | 1.20 (1.04 to 1.38)<br>1.27 (1.09 to 1.45)<br>(Knapp-Hartung) | 19.9                  | 0.19            |
| Oilseed                                     | 1.14 (0.91 to 1.43)                                           | 0.0                   | 0.51            |
| CSFA                                        | 1.05 (0.78 to 1.42)                                           | 31.8                  | 0.16            |
| Tallow                                      | 1.09 (0.53 to 2.24)                                           | 63.3                  | 0.07            |
| CLA                                         | 1.29 (0.89 to 1.88)                                           | 0.0                   | 0.84            |

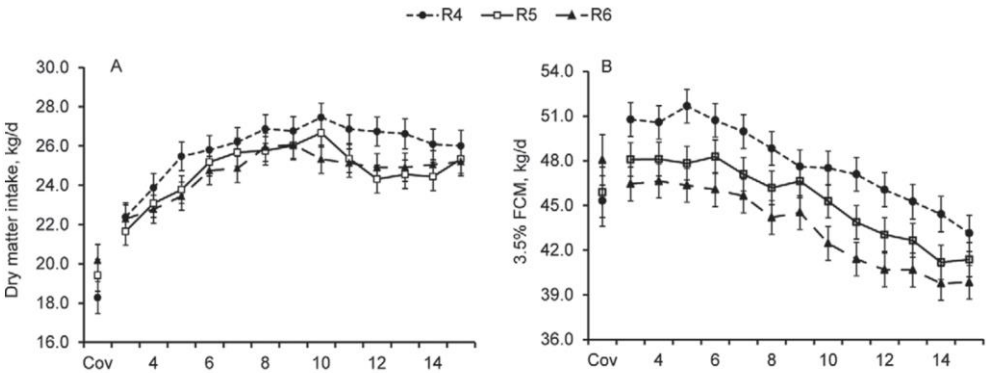
Rodney et al. 2015. J. Dairy Sci 98:5601–5620

29

# Altering n-6 to n-3 Fatty Acids in Early Lactation

| Item                        | Treatment <sup>1</sup> |                     |                     | SEM  | <i>P</i> -value <sup>2</sup> |          |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------|------------------------------|----------|
|                             | R4                     | R5                  | R6                  |      | Trt                          | Trt × Wk |
| DMI, kg/d                   | 26.1 <sup>a</sup>      | 24.6 <sup>b</sup>   | 24.7 <sup>b</sup>   | 0.5  | 0.07                         | 0.46     |
| FA intake, <sup>3</sup> g/d | 931.5                  | 952.9               | 975.0               | 24.1 | 0.45                         | 0.46     |
| Linoleic                    | 298.1 <sup>a</sup>     | 320.5 <sup>a</sup>  | 369.4 <sup>a</sup>  | 8.6  | <0.001                       | 0.50     |
| EPA + DHA                   | 21.3 <sup>a</sup>      | 14.9 <sup>a</sup>   | 10.0 <sup>a</sup>   | 0.3  | <0.001                       | 0.44     |
| Total n-6                   | 300.6 <sup>a</sup>     | 332.0 <sup>b</sup>  | 371.9 <sup>a</sup>  | 8.6  | <0.001                       | 0.50     |
| Total n-3                   | 77.3 <sup>a</sup>      | 67.3 <sup>b,c</sup> | 62.8 <sup>b,c</sup> | 1.7  | <0.001                       | 0.38     |
| Milk, kg/d                  | 46.8 <sup>a,b</sup>    | 44.8 <sup>a</sup>   | 43.2 <sup>b</sup>   | 0.7  | <0.01                        | 0.66     |

- Treatment diets fed from 14 DIM

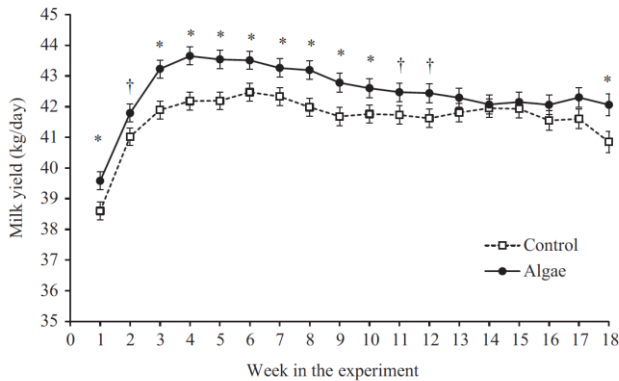


Greco et al. 2015. J Dairy Sci. 98:602–617.

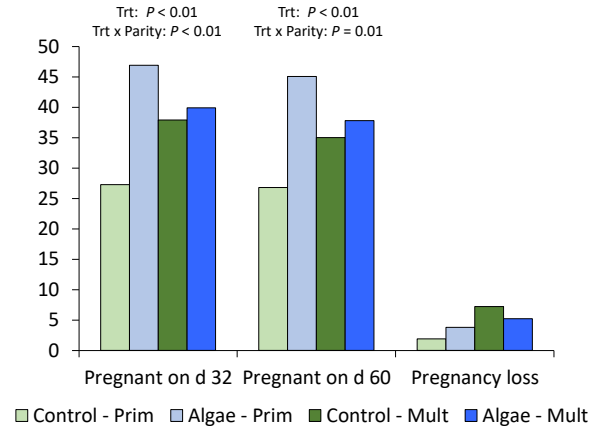
30

## Feeding Algae Rich in DHA (C22:6 n-3)

### Milk Yield



### Pregnancy per AI



- Treatments started  $27 \pm 5$  d postpartum and lasted 120 d
- Treatments supplied 10 g of DHA per cow per d

Sinedino et al. 2017. Reproduction. 153:707–723.

31

## What Ingredients Should I use to Provide FA?

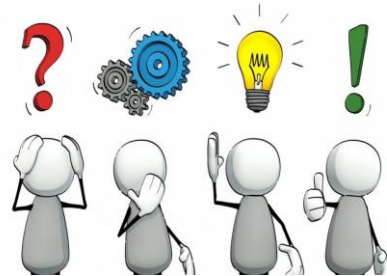
|         | First Source          | Second Source          |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| C16:0   | Supplements           | Oilseeds (Cottonseed)  |
| C18:0   | Basal diet (rumen BH) | Supplements            |
| C18:1   | Supplements           | Oilseeds (HO soybeans) |
| C18:2   | Basal diet            | Oilseeds (Cottonseed)  |
| C18:3   | Basal diet            | Supplements, oilseeds  |
| Omega 3 | Supplements           | Oilseeds               |

32



## Considerations for Supplemental Fat

- Fresh / Peak lactation
  - ECM milk response
  - Managing BCS and repro
  - ***Positive ROI***
- Post-peak lactation
  - Primarily milk fat response
  - Depending on production level of the herd
  - ***Likely positive***
- Late lactation cows
  - Consider energy content of diet
  - ***Likely negative ROI***



33

# Thanks!

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34