



The effect of a short extended grazing period in the spring and straw allocation on the milk yield and composition of autumn calving dairy cows.

L.A. Sinclair & C. McAleer  
Harper Adams University College, Edgmond,  
Newport, Shropshire, UK

## Materials & method

- 36 autumn calving dairy cows
- 3 dietary treatments:
  - C: mixed ration indoors
  - CG: mixed ration + 2-3h grazing
  - CGS: mixed ration + 1 kg straw + 2-3h grazing
- Grazing cows restricted from feeding 4h prior to turnout
- Paddock not grazed since end Nov.
- Study commenced early March and lasted for 3 weeks

# Results

	<i>C</i>	<i>CG</i>	<i>CGS</i>	<i>s.e.d.</i>
Yield, kg/d	31.9	32.0	31.4	0.86
Fat, g/kg	42.7	42.0	41.6	0.18
True protein, g/kg	32.7	31.4	32.0	0.09
Lwt change, kg/d	1.12	0.44	0.27	0.445
TMR intake, kg DM/d	20.9 <sup>b</sup>	16.8 <sup>a</sup>	14.9 <sup>a</sup>	2.99

## Conclusions

- Allowing access to grazing for 2-3 h/d in the Spring had no effect on milk yield or composition
- Access to grazing reduced TMR intake by 5 kg DM/d
- No effect of adding straw to TMR + grazing on milk fat, possibly due to the high fibre content of the over-wintered grass.