

Variation of foremilk colour during lactation

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In an experimental herd from week 2 to week 53 of lactation 1644 samples of foremilk of 14 cows were evaluated for somatic cell count, electrical conductivity and milk colour according to the procedure CIE-lab.

Colour of foremilk, like other parameters, e.g. electrical conductivity of milk, was found to be affected by somatic cell count of milk, but also by the status of lactation.

Absolute values of colorimetric parameters, based on a single measurement, were not suitable for efficient detection of mastitis. Monitoring the variation of colorimetric parameters of individual cows over progress of lactation in combination with electrical conductivity is expected to be more efficient.