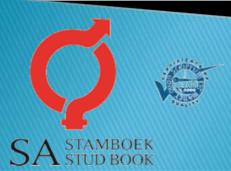
New developments in using Milk Recording Information in South Africa

Session: T3 Wed 30 May 16:30.

Information Systems for Providing Farmers (and Breeders) with Information Needed to Increase Profitability.



Japie van der Westhuizen* Bobbie van der Westhuizen Schalk Greyling Suretha Francis



Brief background

- Since 1 January 2012, industry financed and owned recording system.
- Logix_{Animal Recording}
 - First priorities for Logix_{Milk}
 - Use of recorded data for immediate management intervention in dairy herds.
 - Faster turn-around time.
 - Web integration off all services.
 - All services in one organisation.
 - Partnership with science and academic institutions, laboratories, Al organisations, pharmaceuticals, feed companies, etc.



Principles Logix_{Milk}

- Interactive Web based
 - Allow different levels of access herd owner driven
 - Involve all technical advisors to create unique reports and interact.
- Levels of response:
 - Mobile text message
 - eMail with 3 files: SCC, Ketosis and Acidosis 'alert'
 - Series of graphs and tables available on Web
 - Detailed report and comments by dairy expert (pdf)



Bencmarking

- New to SA dairy farmers
- Benchmarking herds users' own choice
 - Typical:
 - · Herds in own area
 - District
 - Study group
 - Herds with similar production system
 - Within breed
 - Combination



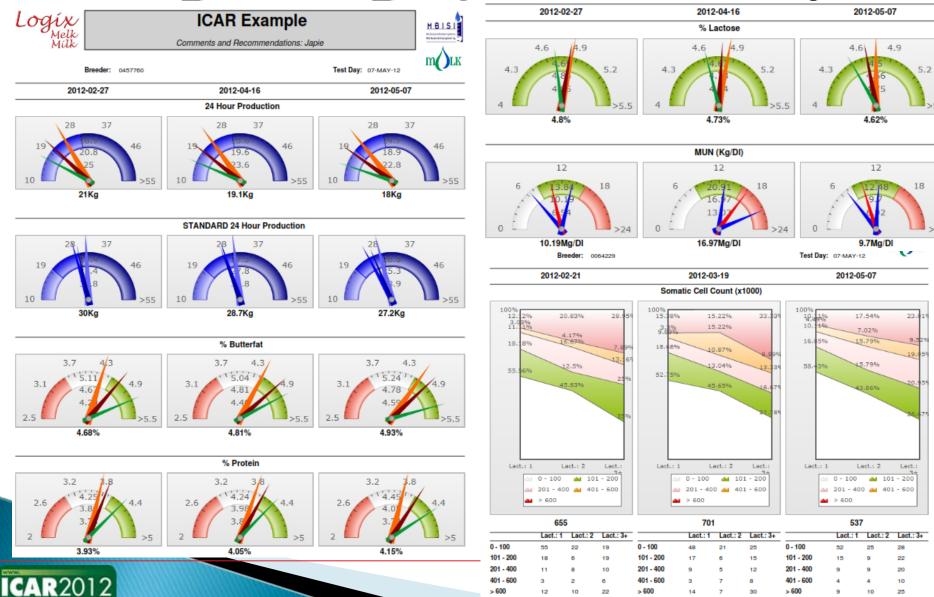


Aspects addressed

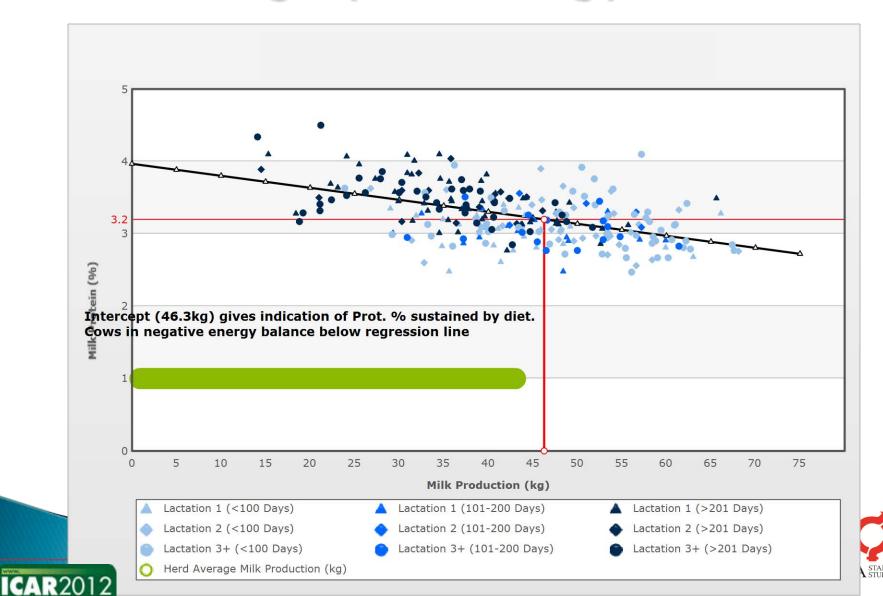
- Milk production tendencies and variation
- Milk composition and quality
- Nutritional needs and deficiencies
- Fertility levels
- Genetic merit
- Production efficiency



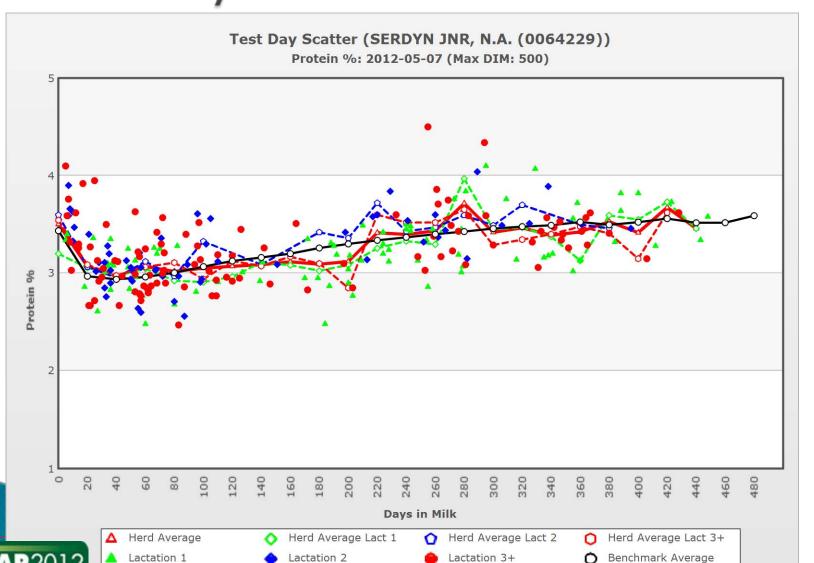
One glance graphic summary



Detailed graphs: Energy balance



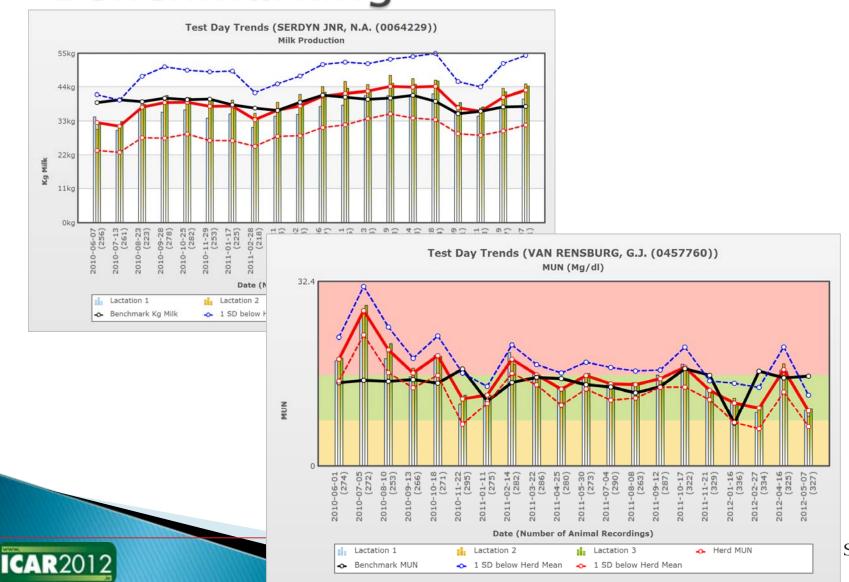
Detailed graphs: Benchmarking on Test Day





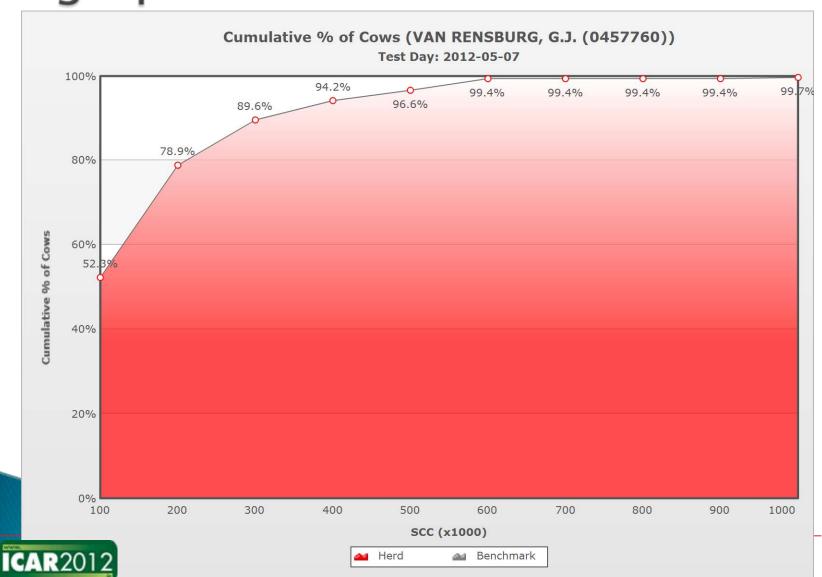


Detailed graphs: Tendencies and Benchmarking





Detailed graphs: Cummulative graphs





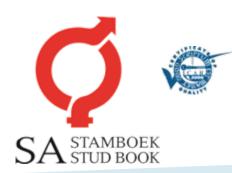
Participation and Future prospects

- MR participation in SA generally low (25%–30% of dairy cows).
- Participation initiatives:
 - More appropriate and timely management information.
 - Accessible professional advice services of own choice.
 - Use of formal livestock structures (study groups, client base of feed companies, etc.).
 - Formal feedback and needs structure (industry owned).
 - Value-driven Milk Recording.





Thank you









Acknowledgements:

Milk South Africa

Milk Business Information Systems Incorporated