Ethical aspects of breeding: may be limited to genetics alone?

Bertoni Giuseppe¹, Soriani Nazzareno¹, Chatel Augusto², Turille Germano², Calamari Luigi¹

¹Istituto di Zootecnica - Facoltà di Agraria - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – 29122 Piacenza (ITALY)
²Institut Agricole Régional, Rég. La Rochère, Aosta (ITALY).
INTRODUCTION

Good life conditions and health can ensure both WELFARE and suitable PERFORMANCES but Genetics and breeding technology must be “paralleled”

AIM

Aim of the paper is to show that dairy breeds with extremely different milk yield, when kept in proper conditions, can experience a good welfare.
Materials and Methods

• Two farms: natural or high technology
• Two breeds: Valdostana or Friesian (Italian)
• Two yield levels: 18 or 36 kg/d
  both properly managed.

Checks: milk yield and composition, health (and blood analysis), fertility and WELFARE evaluation with our model IDSW (only Friesian)
Except milk yield.....its quality...also health (SCC)
Blood indexes and namely inflammatory parameters (APP + or -)

HAPTOGLOBIN

ALBUMINS
As well as WELFARE (IDSW in Friesian, “obvious” in Valdostana), are similar and good
All aspects, fertility included, were above model threshold.
CONCLUSIONS

Our results suggest that the judgement of breeding effects can only be expressed if the “high genetic merit” animals are kept in suitable conditions (feasible). High milk yield is not per se cause of lower welfare, but it can not be the only index of performance.
• Thanks to you and to my coworkers

• Questions?