Objective: The development and improvement of an interactive report system towards ensuring economic sustainability for dairy farms

INTRODUCTION

• Reporting on results from milk recording systems recently focus more on the relationship between production traits and management information.
• Health and nutritional traits are being included in performance recording.
• Development revolves around the evaluation of groups of cows within similar health and/or feeding treatment.
• Ongoing information being captured in INTERGIS (see Figure 1).

METHOD

• An existing scientifically based programme was upgraded to extend management options.
• State of the art technology was used to develop these functionalities.
• Evaluation of individual cow performance was extended to groups of cows with similar treatment.

DISCUSSION

• Feed requirements and health status of the herd can easily be monitored.
• In pasture-based systems MUN levels in milk assist farmers in managing fertilizer levels of pastures.
• Filter on individual and/or groups of animals for SCC, indicating problematic cows to be treated.
• MUN reports can also be filtered on values outside the standard norm.

CONCLUSION

• Based on management information, cow efficiency is improved by early intervention and management adjustments.
• The variety of reports offer the opportunity for animal scientists, feed consultants, veterinarians and extension officers to assist dairy farmers on aspects influencing herd efficiency and productivity.