

ABSTRACT

Dairy Farms carrying from one to fifteen dairy cattle were regularly visited in order to record feeding and management practices, milk yields and quantities and qualities of forage fed.

Samples of forage were taken, dried and ground. Complete proximate analyses and in vitro digestibility trials were carried out.

Analyses indicate that forage was of variable quality with occasional high crude protein percentages. Crude fibre and ash were both high. Digestibilities were also variable but generally low. Values for herbage intakes appear low especially in the dry season.

A comparison at Carlsen Field of local grade cattle and imported Holsteins indicated that management had a much greater effect than genetic merit on performance. Information on fertility indicates that further research is needed on this problem.

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