



UNIWERSYTET ROLNICZY  
im. Hugona Kołłątaja w Krakowie



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PennState.

# Relationship between the content of ketone bodies and fatty acids in cow's milk

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# Why that kind of research?

- Searching for possibilities to improve diagnostic models for ketosis
- Fatty acids (FA) composition as early sign of subclinical ketosis (SK)

Animal  
welfare

Farmer  
welfare

Why preventing ketosis is so important?

Costs



# Ketosis costs



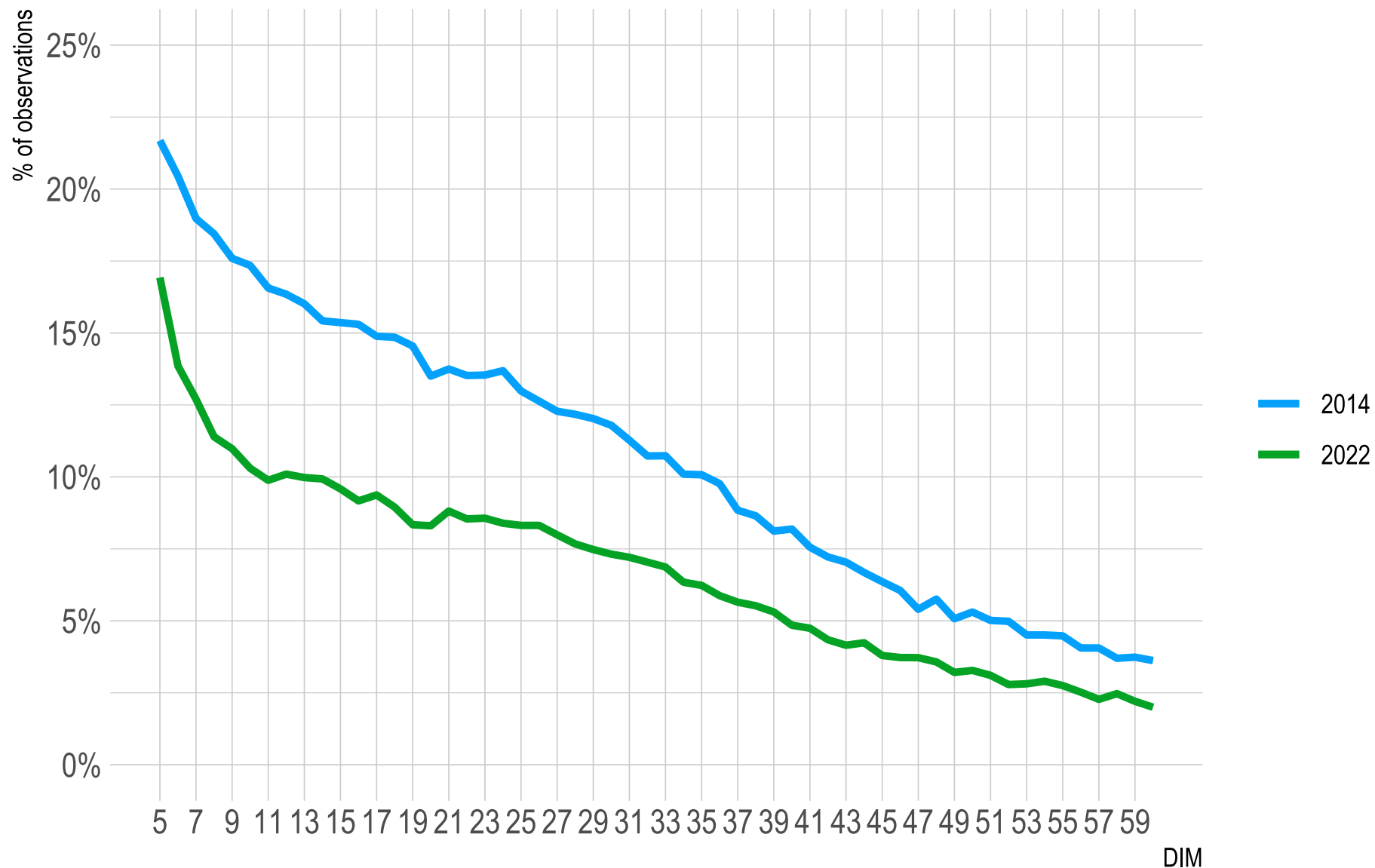
- 77\$, 180\$  
(primiparous, multiparous)

Liang et al., 2017

- \$375, \$256  
(primiparous, multiparous)

McArt et al., 2015

# Ketosis prevalence, milk recorded population



10.8%  
in 2014



6.9%  
in 2022

Kwaśniewska et al., 2024



## Current diagnostic model used in Poland by PFCBDF

- three independent variables: milk acetone (mACE) and BHB (mBHB), fat to protein ratio
- 0.6 sensitivity
- 0.9 specificity



# Hypothesis and aims



- content of selected FA in milk may be a good indicator for the early prediction of SK in dairy cows
- examination of the relationship between the content of selected FA in milk and the content of basic milk components and ketone bodies

# Materials and methods



- > 3 milion milk samples from around 1 milion cows collected within 2017-2019
- Holstein-Friesian cows
- Cows in 6 to 60 days in milk (DIM)



# Materials and methods



- Milk analysed with FTIR method
- Milk parameters: fat, protein, casein, lactose, urea, SCC, mACE, mBHB
- Spearman's correlation coefficients



# Types of ketosis

- Type I (peak of lactation)
- Type II (transition period)

Lei et al., 2021







# New approach

Types of hiperketolaktia (HYKL) – based on dominant metabolite: mACE and/or mBHB

Kowalski et al., 2023



- Normoketolactia (NKL): mACE <0.15 mmol/L and mBHB <0.10 mmol/L
- Hyperketolactia (HYKL): mACE ≥0.15 mmol/L or mBHB ≥0.10 mmol/L
- Hiperketolactia BHB (HYKLBHB): mACE <0.15 mmol/L and mBHB ≥0.10 mmol/L
- Hiperketolactia ACE (HYKLACE): mACE ≥0.15 mmol/L and mBHB <0.10 mmol/L
- Hiperketolaktia ACE & BHB (HYKLACEBHB): mACE ≥0.15 mmol/L and mBHB ≥0.10 mmol/L

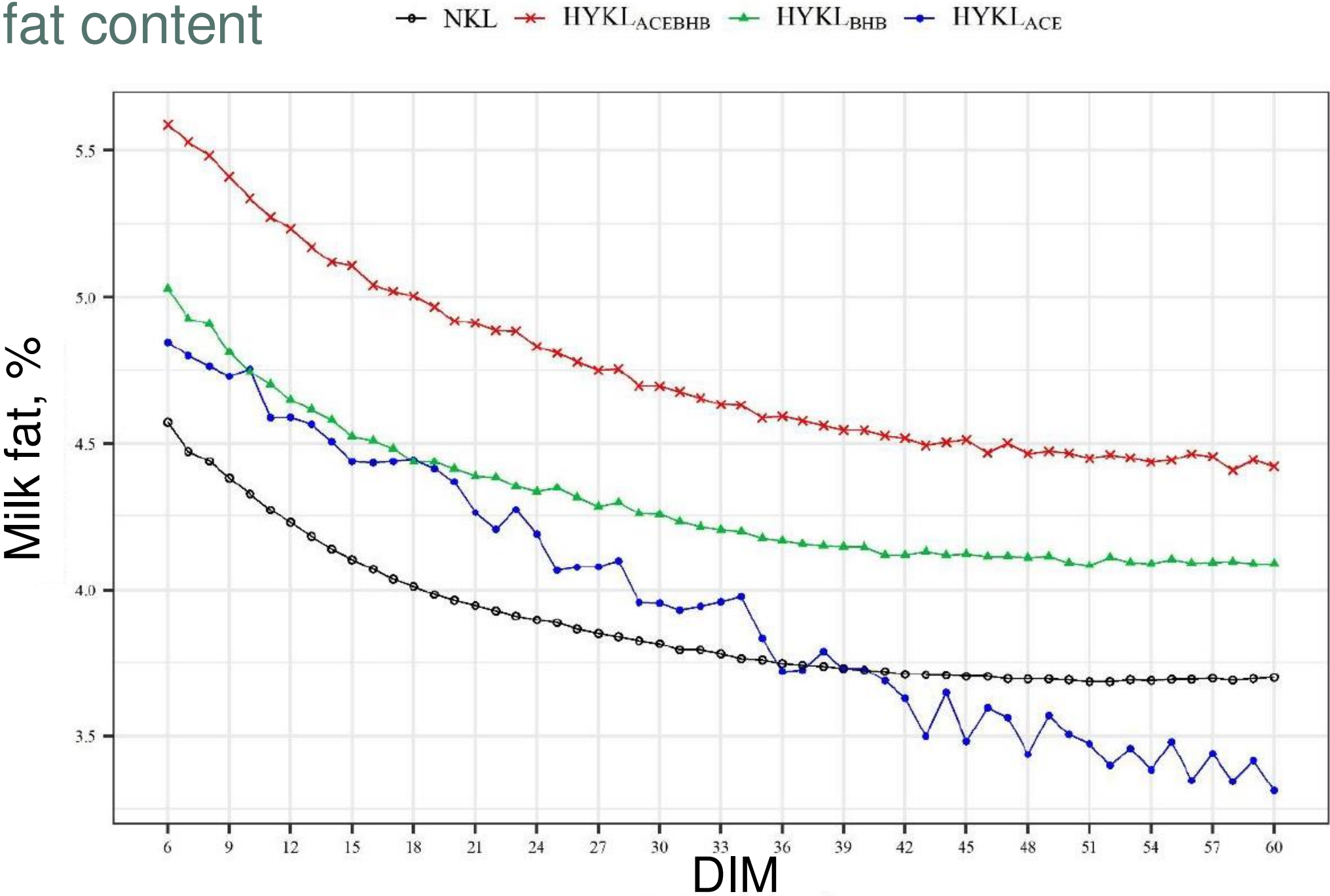
- C14:0 - myristic acid
- C16:0 - palmitic acid
- C18:0 - stearic acid
- C18:1 - oleic acid



- TUFA - Unsaturated fatty acids
- SFA - Saturated fatty acids
- PUFA - Polyunsaturated fatty acids
- MUFA - Monounsaturated fatty acids
- LCFA – long chain fatty acids
- SCFA – short chain fatty acids

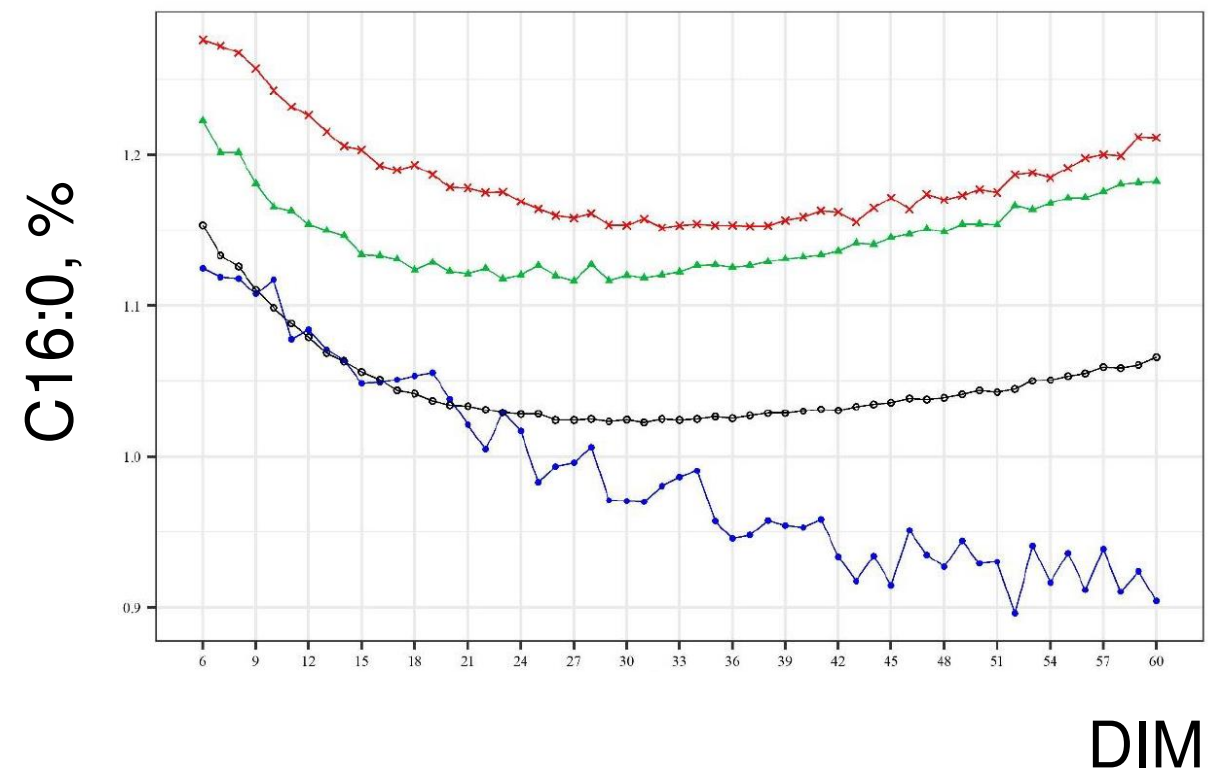
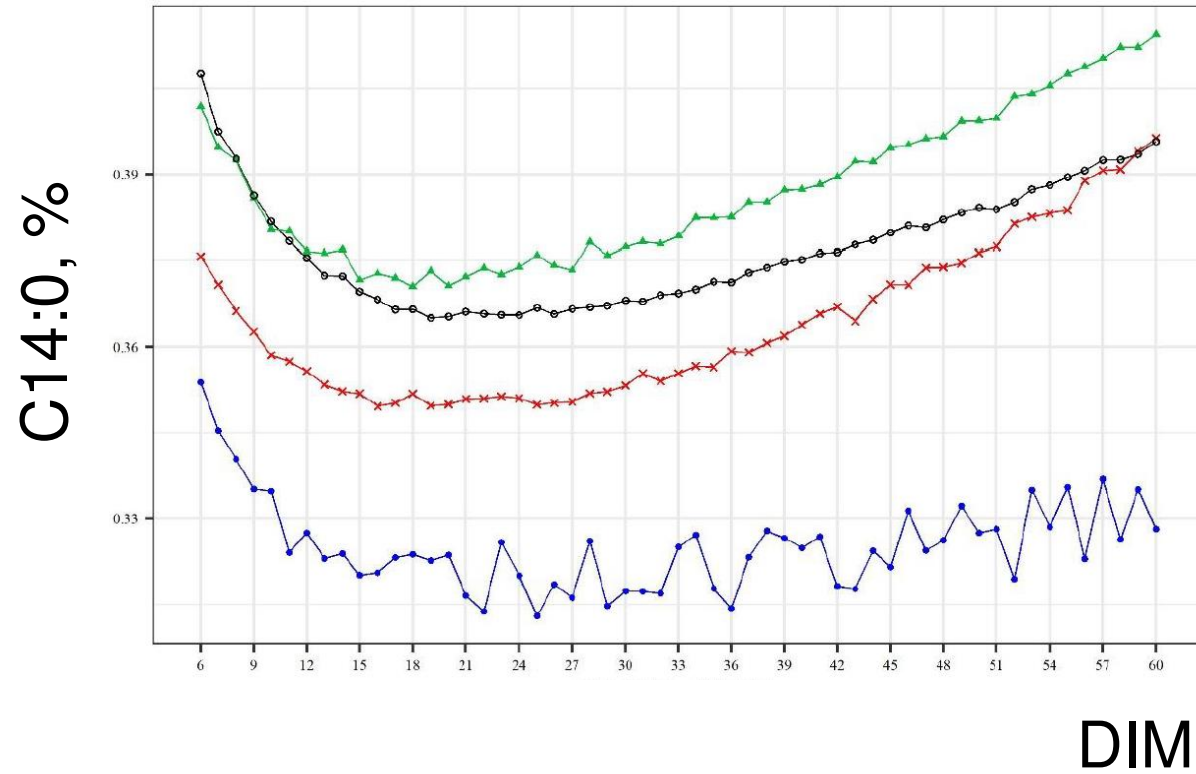


# Milk fat content



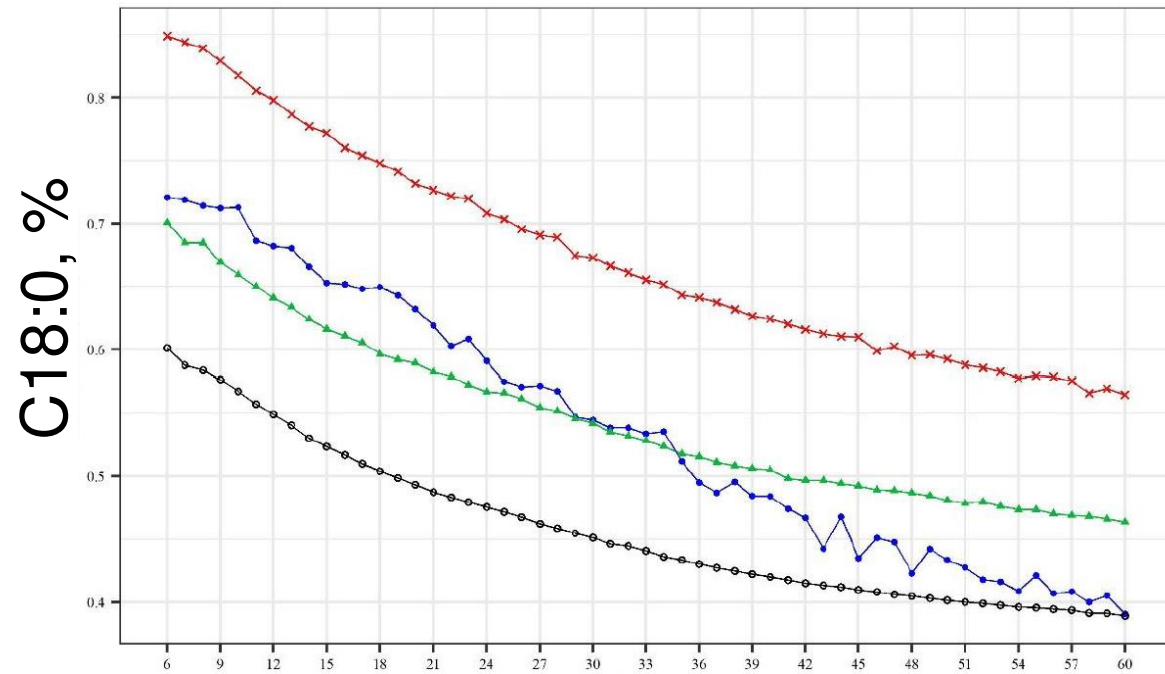
# C14:0 and C16:0 contents

—○— NKL —×—  $\text{HYKL}_{\text{ACEBHB}}$  —▲—  $\text{HYKL}_{\text{BHB}}$  —●—  $\text{HYKL}_{\text{ACE}}$

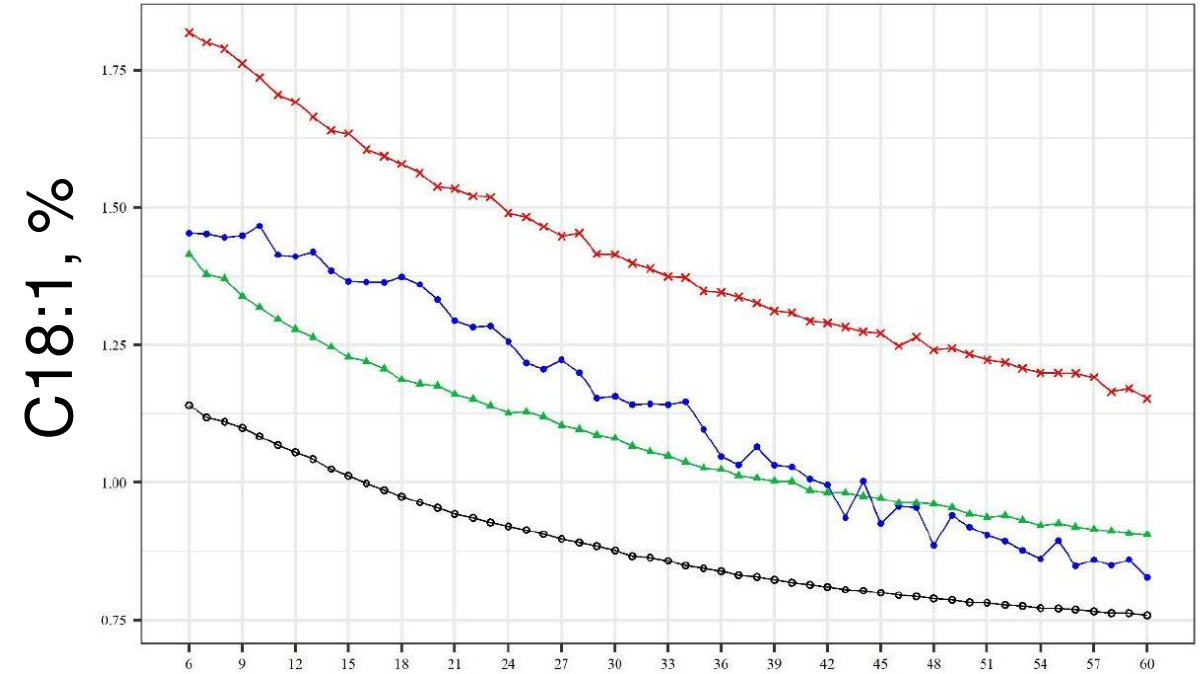


# C18:0 and C18:1 contents

—○— NKL —×— HYKL<sub>ACEBHB</sub> —▲— HYKL<sub>BHB</sub> —●— HYKL<sub>ACE</sub>



DIM



DIM

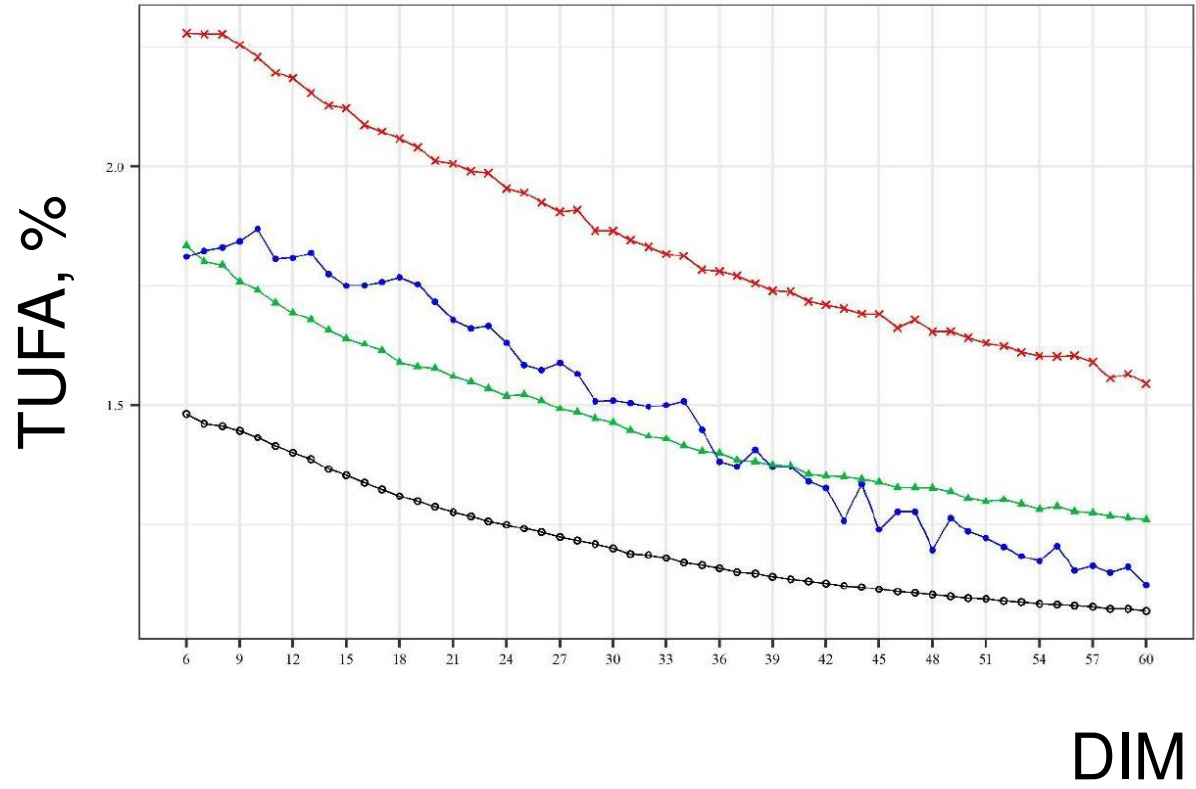
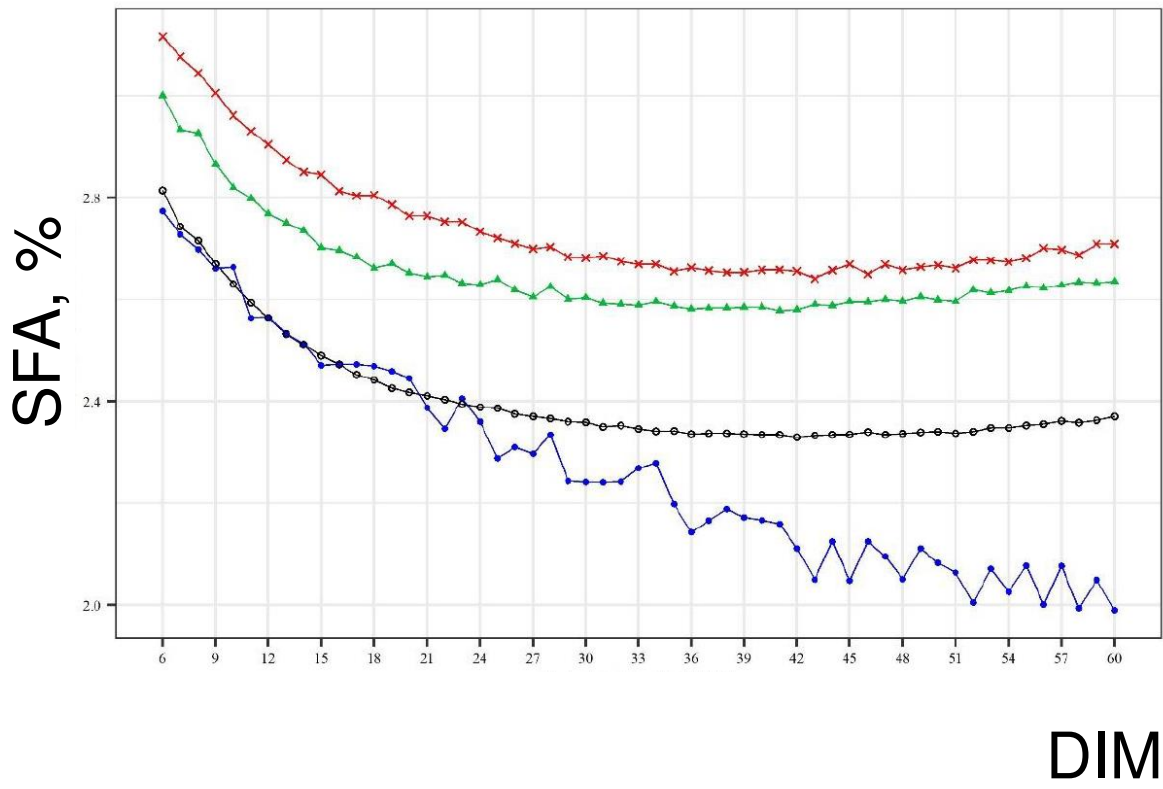
increase of C18:1 FA content in the milk of cows with subclinical ketosis two weeks before its diagnosis

Van Haelst et al., 2008



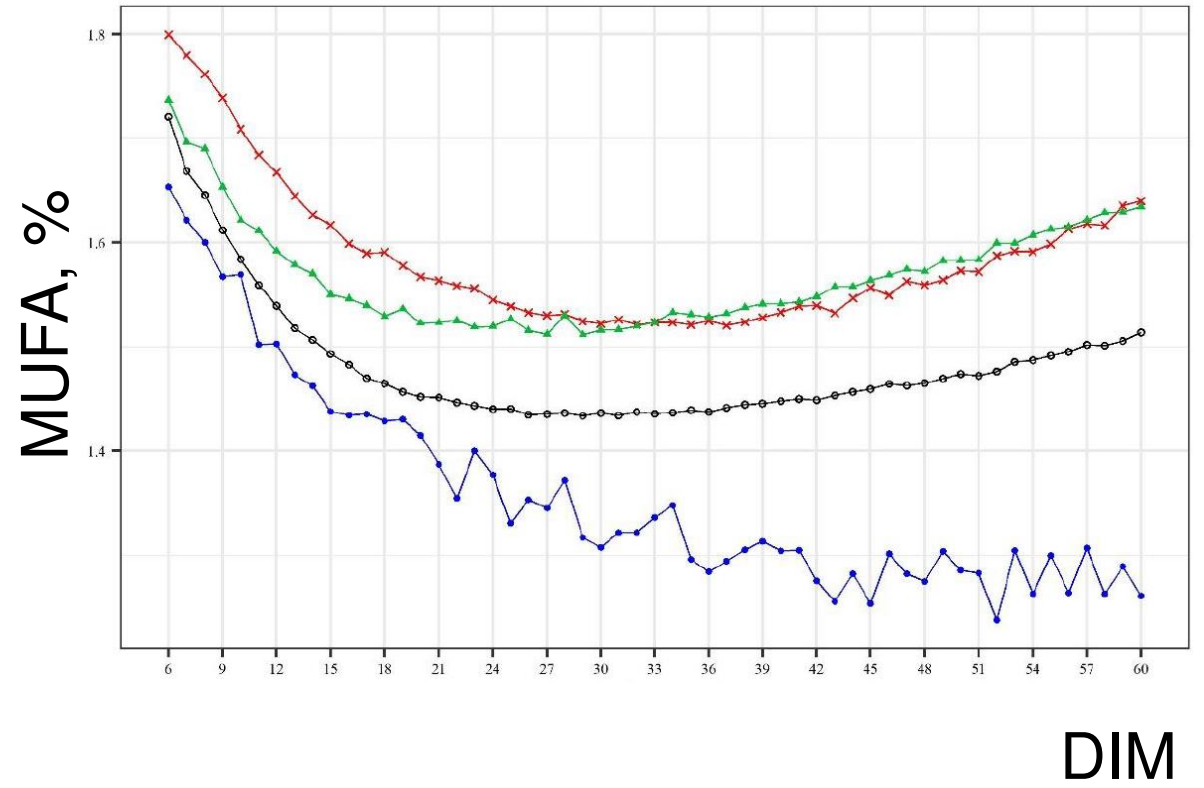
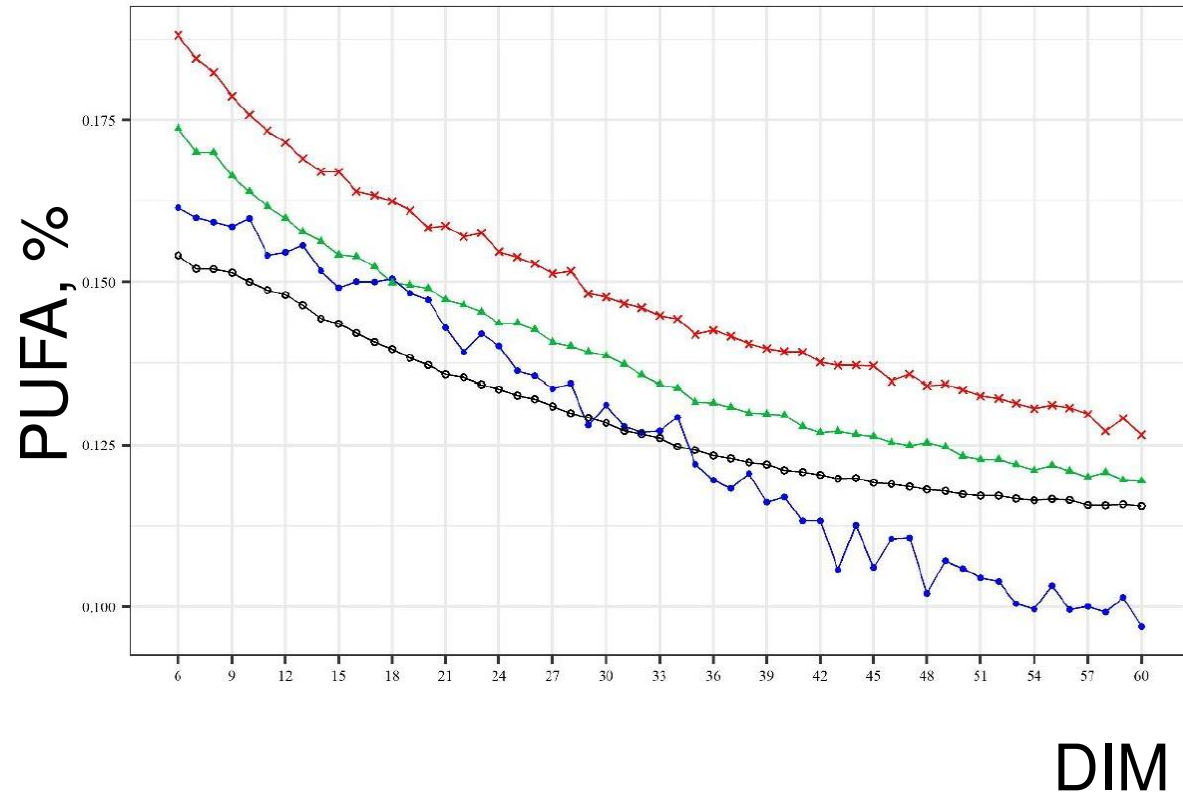
# SFA and TUFA contents

—○— NKL    —×—  $\text{HYKL}_{\text{ACEBHB}}$     —△—  $\text{HYKL}_{\text{BHB}}$     —●—  $\text{HYKL}_{\text{ACE}}$



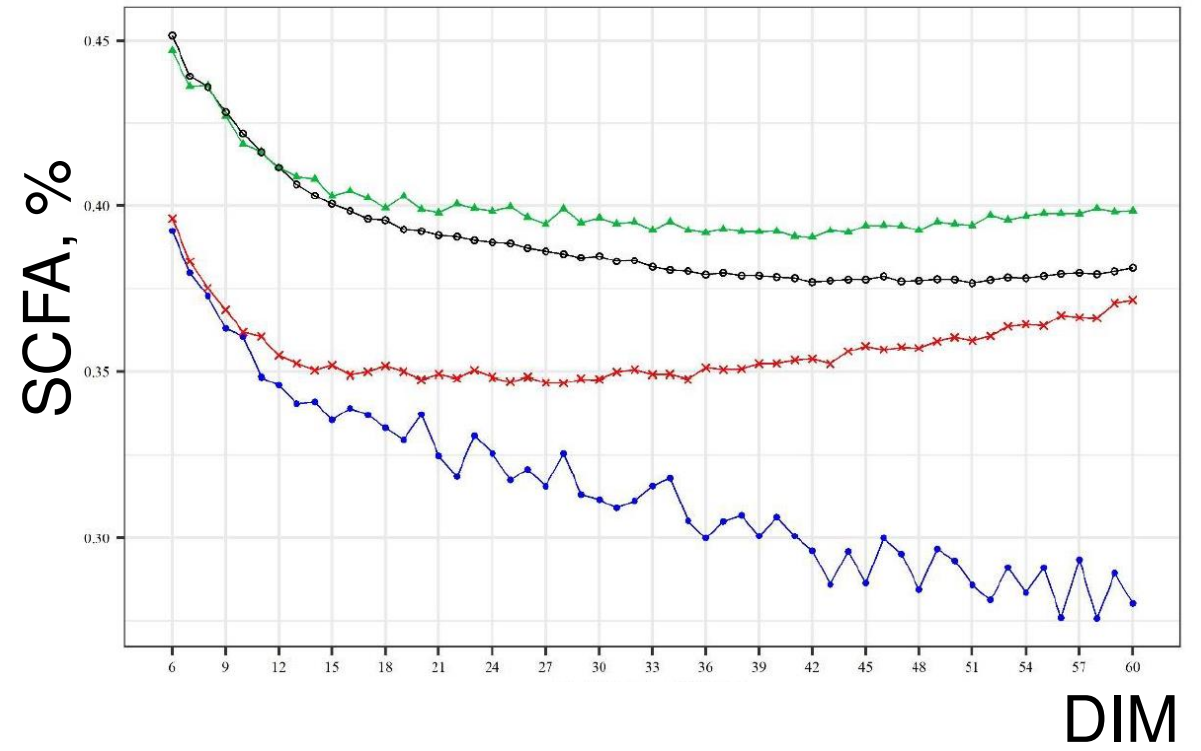
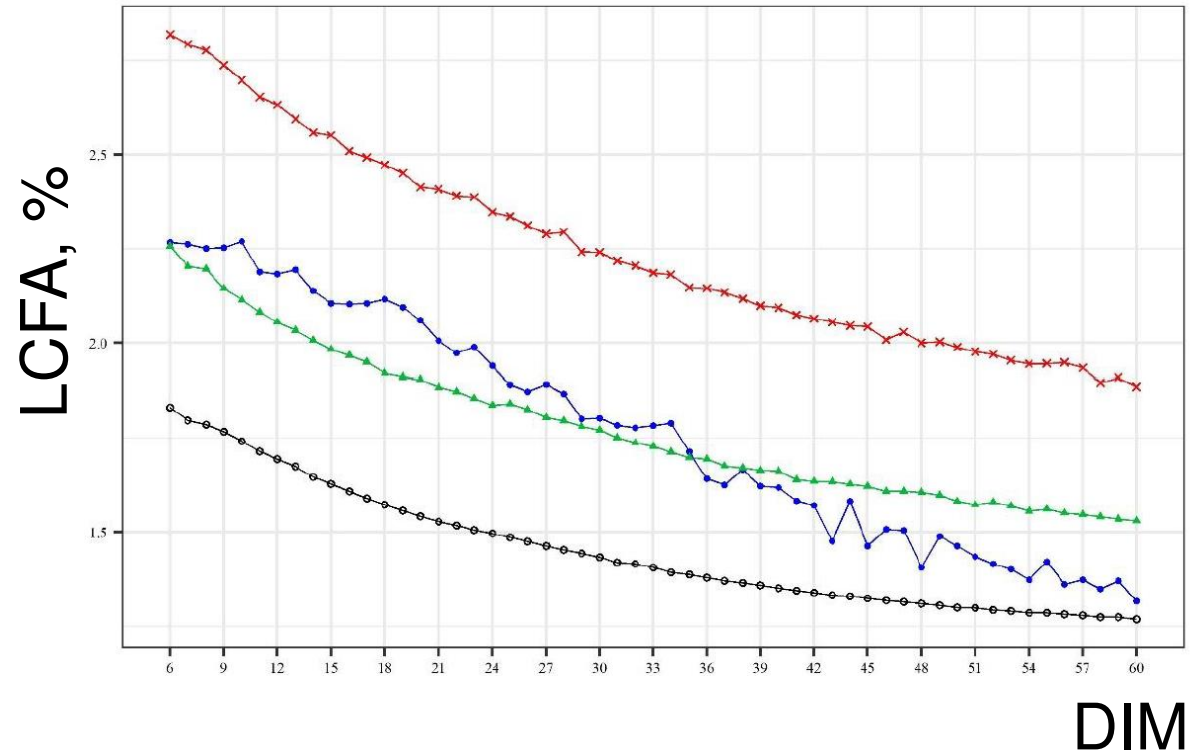
# PUFA and MUFA contents

—○— NKL —×— HYKL<sub>ACEBHB</sub> —▲— HYKL<sub>BHB</sub> —●— HYKL<sub>ACE</sub>

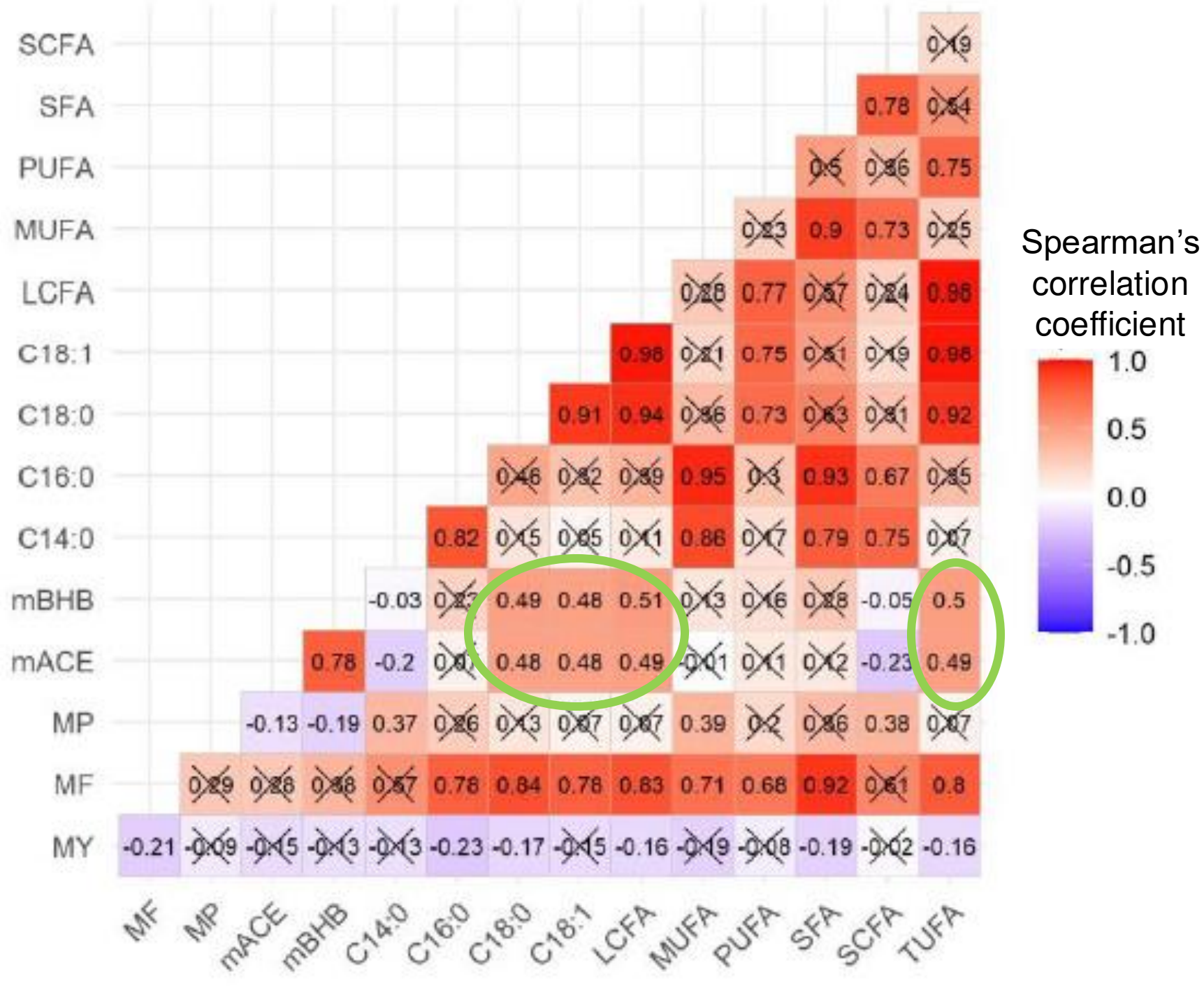


# LCFA and SCFA contents

—○— NKL —×—  $\text{HYKL}_{\text{ACEBHB}}$  —▲—  $\text{HYKL}_{\text{BHB}}$  —●—  $\text{HYKL}_{\text{ACE}}$

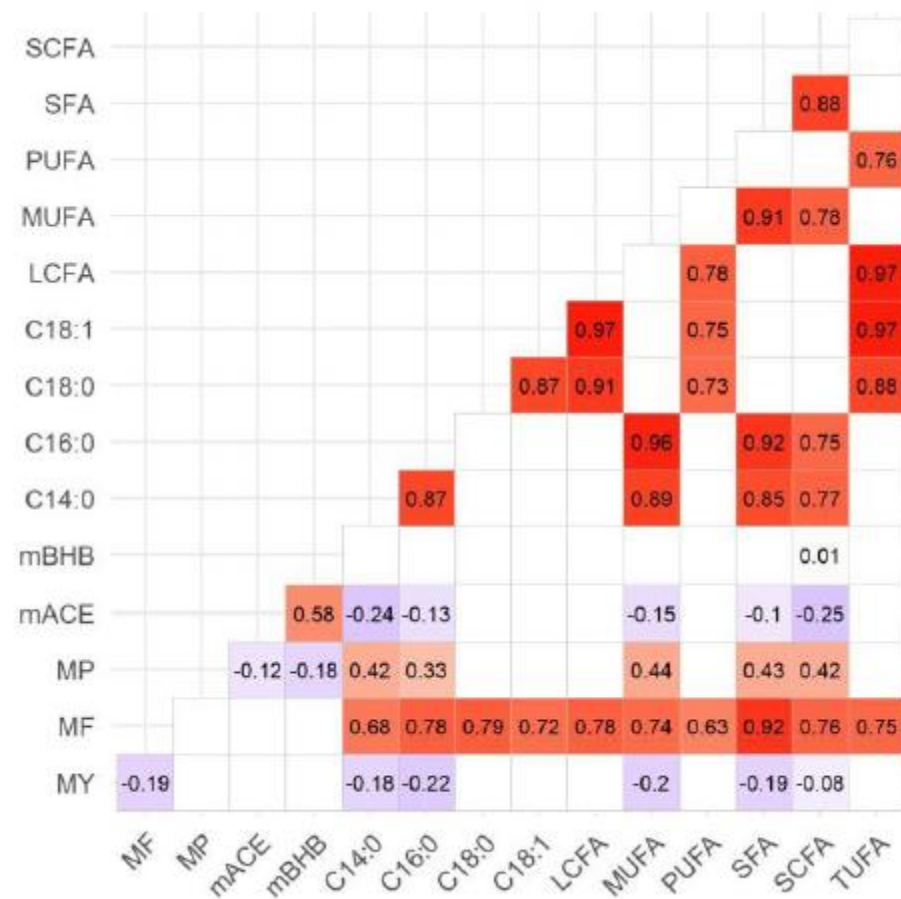


Correlations between the contents of selected chemical components in **All** milk samples

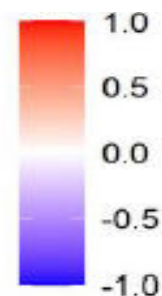




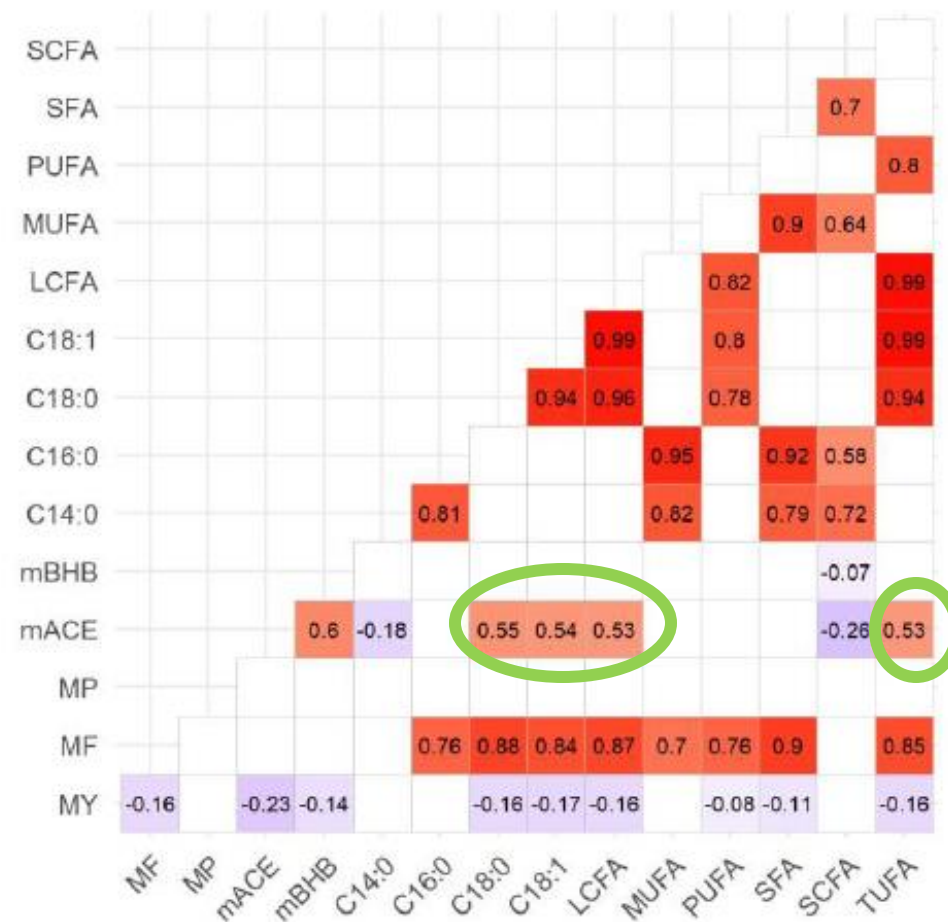
# Correlations in NKL milk samples



## Spearman's correlation coefficient



# Correlations in HYKL milk samples



# Conclusions

- Statistically significant relationships have been shown between the content of ketone bodies and FA and their groups in milk (highest **for LCFA, TUFA, C18:1 and C18:0**)
- The variability of the milk FA content depending on DIM and ketolactia status creates the potential to improve the quality of diagnostic models of SK, including the model used by PFCBDF





# Thank you

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