

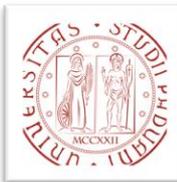
# Accordance between measured and predicted dry matter intake in Italian Holstein Friesian cattle

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## AIM

- Set-up of an Italian consortium for “dry matter intake” data collection
- Test the accuracy of the current official predicted DMI (pDMI) in Italian Holstein Friesian (HF) lactating cows.



## DATA

- 352 Italian HF with direct measurements for dry matter intake (DMI) have been considered.
- Individual measured DMI compared with individual pDMI derived from milk yield, fat content, and predicted cow body weight.
- DMI data of lactating cows were measured using both alkane method (296 lactating cows-UNICATT) and Roughage Intake Control system (Insentec) (54 lactating cows – Animal Production Research and Teaching Centre Lodi (CZDS) – UNIMI).



## RESULTS

- Average DMI was equal to  $21.90 \pm 4.22$  kg/day whereas mean pDMI was  $24.28 \pm 2.53$  kg/day (UNICATT:  $22.25 \pm 4.26$  kg/day; UNIMI:  $20.07 \pm 3.5$ ).
- Pearson correlation between DMI and pDMI was 0.52 ( $P < 0.01$ ).





## DISCUSSION

- Difference between the two groups could be related sample size, herds, type of experiment...
- Results are promising. Approach considered is a good starting point to estimate the DMI for HF cattle, at population level.



## CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PERSEPECTIVES

- The Italian consortium has been created in order to build up feed efficiency critical mass data, and we hope to increase the group.
- This study was intended also to set up future objectives and to streamline data-collection process in future experiments.



# Thank you for your attention!



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Any question?