

# Overview of milking schemes evolution due to technological and economical changes over the last 30 years

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## Abstract

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Milk recording, and specially milking schemes, need continuous adaptations due to technological and economical changes over the last 30 years. On technological view, from classical milking parlour, to milk meters, robot or in-line analyser, farmers' needs on performance recording have also change over the time and according to their equipments. On economical view, two positions can be observed. Some farmers wants to reduce milk recording costs at their maximum, by reducing frequency, limiting sampling period, doing the milk recording by themselves, whereas others prefer to maintain high quality standard, increasing milk recording frequency or to invest on precision herd management through milking robots or in-line analyser.

In this context, milk recording organizations have to face to various farmers' objectives. Nowadays, flexibility is crucial to maintain a large number of dairy cattle farms on milk recording, and a wide selection base useful for genetic evaluation. More and more, statistics methods have to be develop to analyse the performance recorded on fitted (to farmers' needs) milking schemes, correct possible bias and give meaning to recording.

*Keywords: milk recording, technological improvement, herd management, genetic evaluation*

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