Why estimate that which can be measured?

Milk recording has been based on one recording a month, the cows' lactation then being calculated. This new method is based on a completely electronic, daily process. The yield data are transported from the milking parlour to the central system every day. The central system with a web interface is connected to the central evidence system and automatically prepares documents for the milk recording process. These data are sent to a tablet device used by the technician, who works directly in the milking parlour with the tablet and uses a bar-code reader for scanning samples, optionally an RFID reader to identify the cows. When finished, all data are processed in the central system, where all are checked and corrected and then send to the laboratory and the central evidence interface.

An automatic system

A new milk recording method using modern information technologies. Main benefits are:

- high data quality,
- lower rate of error,
- low costs,
- no additional equipment needed,
- lower impact on the environment.

Data processing:

1. all available data from milking parlours are sent to a server every day,
2. daily production is calculated from single milk yields (incomplete data are removed),
3. milk recordings with more than 20 % difference from a 5-day average are removed,
4. for milk recording we propose averaging the preceding 5 days.

Questions

1. Why estimate that which can be measured? *(using present information technologies it is quite easy to collect milk recordings every day)*
2. What is the difference between ICAR recording methods A, B, C? *(it does not make any difference who is doing milk recording but how it is done)*

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Example

Chart 1: Data from milk recording.

Chart 2: Data corrected by 5-day average.

A difference of over 7 kg of milk