

werden auf Hämatokrit, Bluthämoglobin und Glukose, Serumharnstoff, Albumin, Gesamtprotein, Calcium, anorganischen Phosphor, Magnesium, Kalium, Natrium, Kupfer, Eisen und gesamte Eisenbindungskapazität geprüft. Die wichtigen Faktoren, welche die Konzentration dieser Blutbestandteile beeinflussen, nämlich Herde, Jahreszeit, Laktationsstadium und Alter der Tiere, werden in Betracht gezogen und die normalen Variationsbreiten, die in diesem Institut verwendet werden, sind angegeben. Untersuchungen an drei verschiedenen Haltungssystemen in einem Viehbestand lassen darauf schliessen, dass der Stoffwechselprofiltest eine verbesserte Kontrolle des Gesundheits — und Ernährungszustandes bei wachsenden Tieren ermöglichen könnte.

Eine weitere Anwendung könnte der Test bei der Wahl von besserem Zuchtvieh finden. Es wird bewiesen, dass *schwarzunte (British Friesian)* Bullen mit hohen Zeitgennossinnen-Vergleich für Milchleistung auch hohe Hämoglobinkonzentrationen in ihrem Blut aufweisen. Besonders frohwüchsige Jungtiere haben oft hohe Albumin —, Hämoglobin — und Glukoseblutkonzentrationen, wogenen ihre Kaliumkonzentrationen niedrig sind. Die Signifikanz dieser Befundewird in ihrer Beziehung zu einer allgemeinen statistischen Bewertung der Vererbungsschätzwerte von Blutbestandteilen beim Rind besprochen.

ESTIMATES OF THYROID ACTIVITY AS PREDICTORS OF BREEDING VALUE FOR MILK PRODUCTION IN CATTLE

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The presented data show a positive correlation between thyroxine degradation rate of bulls and milk yield of their daughters obtained under field conditions. The correlation exists both when the thyroid activity is estimated on young bulls as well as on mature bulls. In the two groups where the thyroxine degradation rate were measured on 14 and 80 young bulls the estimated correlations were .25 and .16, respectively. The same parameter ranged between .14 and .47 in four groups where the thyroid activity was measured on 97 mature animals. The correlations indicate a genetic connection between the two traits, because no environmental covariances should be expected with the present experimental procedure. It expected accuracy in the evaluation of thyroid activity and milk production is taken into account the genetic correlation between the two traits are estimated to be .22 to .57. It is however, concluded that a general application of thyroid activity measurements as selection criteria should be avoided until information about genetic variation in maintainance requirements and its relation to thyroid activity is available.

HORMONAL INDICATORS OF REPRODUCTIVE MERIT

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Physiological studies of breeds of sheep of differing prolificacy have shown that these differences are related to the release of luteinizing hormone (LH). The conclusion that this relationship extended to both sexes and to young animals indicated that it might be possible to base selection for prolificacy on the concentration of LH in male lambs. The concentration is however variable, and two possibilities are being considered to reduce this variation : the LH response to LH releasing hormone, and testis growth. Both the concentration of LH-following LHRH and the rate of testis growth have been found to be greater in breeds of high prolificacy than in those of low prolificacy. These relationships are now being studied within breeds, and their use as criteria for genetic selection for female reproductivity assessed.

FACTORS INFLUENCING PLASMA AMINO ACIDS IN CALVES

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Sixty Plasma-Amino-Acid levels (PAA) determinations were made on 36 male twin calves of *Austrian Braunvieh*. The statistical analysis showed that nutritional differences milk replacer : roughage + concentrate had minor, but age differences greater effects upon PAA levels. In

contrast differences in PAA levels between the dizygous twin pairs were statistically significant. This suggests the existence of genetic differences between PAA levels.

The factor analysis isolated 10 factors which accounted for 73 p. 100 of the variance of the 21 amino acids and amines. The communalities of individual AA varied between 50 p. 100 and 94 p. 100 whereby 45 p. 100 of the variance was accounted for by four factors. No general factor appeared but a number of group factors of which the 4 more important ones accounted for 45 p. 100 of the sum of squares.

Factor 1 .69 Hi + .56 Thre + .75 Se + .78 Pro + .51 Meth -- .76 HST + .35 Cit
 2 .40 Va + .78 Ile + .87 Lau + .39 Tyr -- .35 Cit
 3 .68 Glu + .66 Cy + .44 Va
 9 .57 Thre + .71 Ty + .71 Pal + .57 Tau

Factor load of less than .31 are not given but included in computation of the factor values of individual animals.

FA 1 has positive loads of essential and growth promoting AA. It appears to reflect the status of the AA-pool.

FA 2 is related to branched chain AA, FA 9 concerns Tyrosin and Phenylalanin, and also Taurin and Threonine.

All factors show highly significant differences between young steers and calves. Differences between milk — fattened and early weaned calves appear significant only for FA 2 and FA 9.

Values from calves were submitted to an analysis of variance (pairs, animals/pairs, residual). All meansquares for pairs and animals/pairs (with the exception for FA 9) are larger than the succeeding ones, some of those for pairs are highly significant. Genetic differences appear likely and are more pronounced than for individual AA.

| | df | FA 1 | FA 2 | VC | FA 3 | FA 9 |
|----------|----|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------|
| Pairs | 16 | .10 | 2.66 | | .63 | |
| Animals | 17 | .17 | .19 | | .09 | 1.83 |
| Residual | 11 | 2.09 | .97 | | .28 | 1.56 |
| | n | | | Means | | |
| a EW | 32 | — .10 ± 1.48 | — .47 ± 2.01 | — .01 ± 1.06 | — .26 ± 1.08 | |
| b MM | 14 | .01 ± 1.69 | 1.39 ± 2.02 | .18 ± .81 | 1.04 ± 1.72 | |
| c ST | 14 | — 19.7 ± 3.14 | 3.52 ± 3.20 | — 1.25 ± 1.01 | — 4.48 ± 1.91 | |

**THE INFLUENCE OF NUTRITION
(ENERGY AND DIGESTIBLE CRUDE PROTEIN)
ON SOME BLOOD PARAMETERS,
HEALTH AND FERTILITY IN LATE PREGNANT MILKING COWS**

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In einem definierten Versuch wurde der Einfluss einer unterschiedlichen Versorgung an Energie und verdaulichem Rohprotein in der Hochträchtigkeit auf verschiedene Metaboliten im Blutplasma und auf die Gesundheit und Fruchtbarkeit von Milchkühen untersucht. Jeweils 30 Schwarzbunte Milchkühe wurden in den letzten 10 Wochen der Trächtigkeit für die Erhaltung und 18 kg FCM (Versuchsgruppe I — überversorgt) bzw. für die Erhaltung und 2 kg FCM (Versuchsgruppe II — unterversorgt) hinsichtlich Energie und verdauliches Rohprotein versorgt.

In den letzten 5 Wochen der Trächtigkeit und bis in die 4. Woche p.p. wurden wöchentlich die Gehalte an anorganischem Phosphor, Gesamt-Protein, Gesamt-Bilirubin, Gesamt-Cholesterin sowie die Aktivität der Glutamat-Oxalacetat-Transaminase (GOT) im Blutplasma bestimmt. Nach dem Abkalben wurden die Kühe regelmäss klinisch-gynäkologisch rektal und vaginal wöchentlich untersucht, bis zur festgestellten Trächtigkeit.

Bereits 2 Wochen a.p. konnte in der nochversorgten Gruppe I eine Stoffwechselbelastung festgestellt werden. (erhöhte GOT-Werte). Nach dem Abkalben bestand in der Versuchsgruppe I eine starke Stoffwechselbelastung, die sich in erhöhten GOT- und Bilirubin-Werten sowie in stark erniedrigten P-Gehalten ausdrückte.

In der hochversorgten Gruppe I war der Verlauf der Puerperiums stark gestört (verzögerte Uterusinvolution, eitrige Endometritiden), es traten mehr Stoffwechselstörungen (Gebärparesie,