

# Effects of a by-pass Omega-3 source on milk yield, milk composition and fertility

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# Agenda

**1. Background**

**2. Product development**

**3. Field trial**

**4. Discussion, Conclusions and Further research**



# Background. Consumer's behaviour

- Increasing consumers' demand towards healthier food
- Omega-3 & cardiovascular diseases, neurological health, immunity, cancers (Abuajah *et al.*, 2014)



## Background. Farmer's side

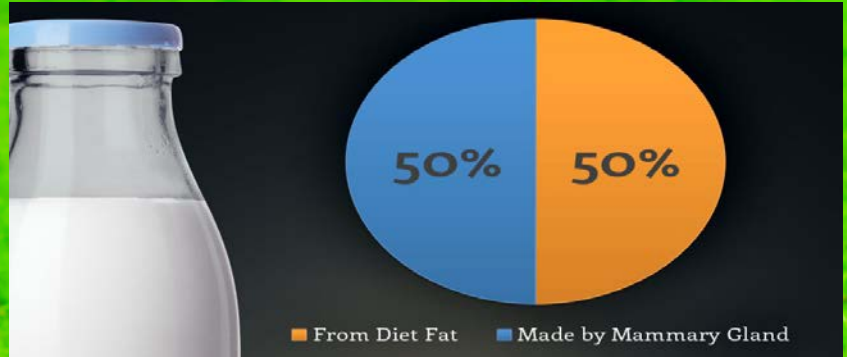
- Better reproductive performance: the use of flaxseed improves cows fertility in 50.3% with respect to sunflower seed (Ambrose *et al.*, 2006)



# Background. Farmers and market

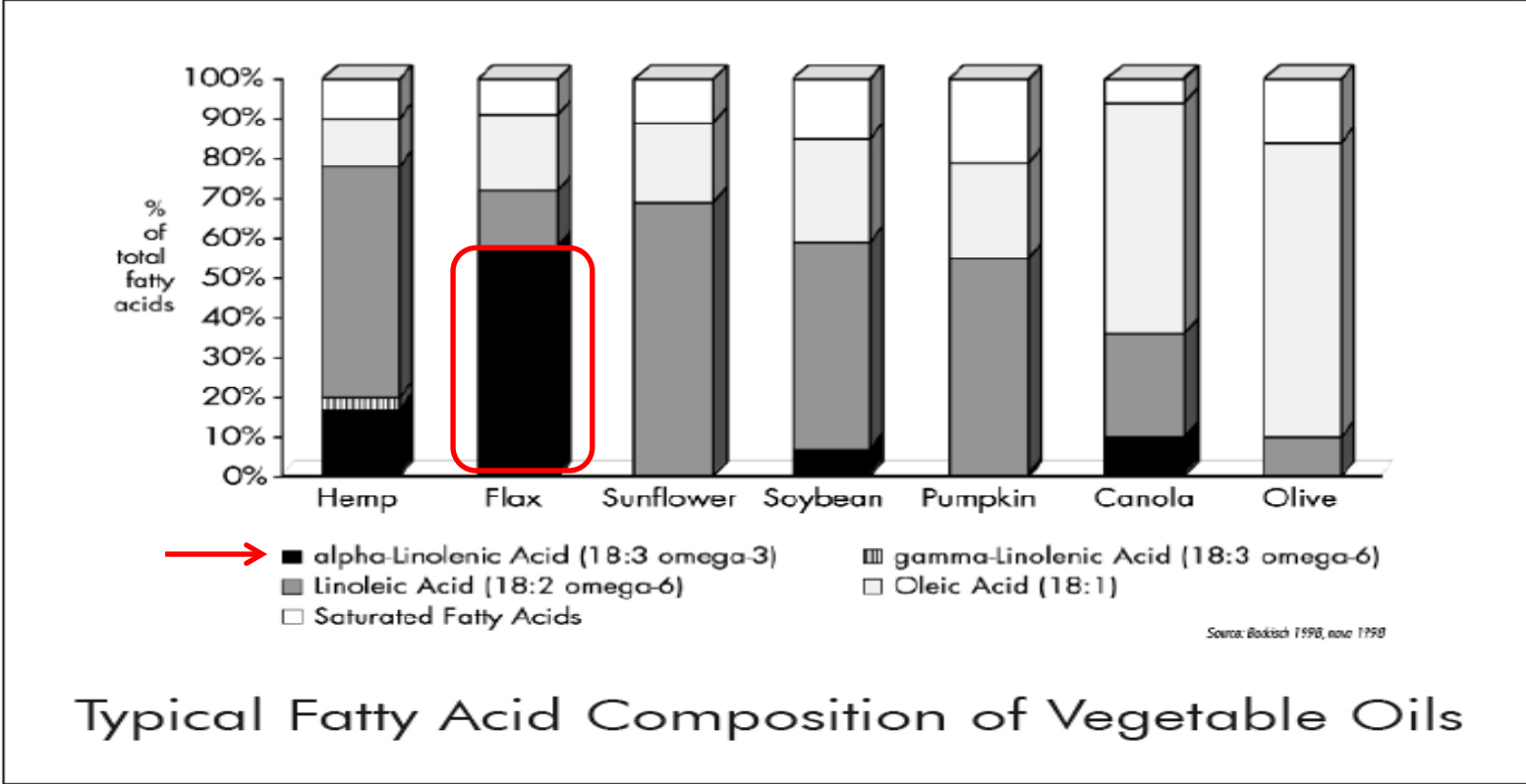
- Omega-3milk products: premium price





How to do it:  
**animal  
nutrition**

# Sources of Omega-3



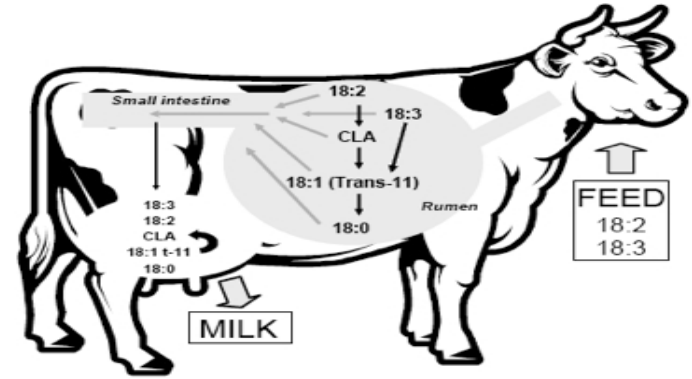
**...It seems easy, let's include linseed**





# PROBLEMS!

- Ruminant toxicity – feed efficiency
- MILK FAT DEPRESSION (MFD) and protein



Fast, Low Quantities of trans-10 required, recovery time



*Necessity to develop products that allow  
protecting Omega-3 against rumen  
biohydrogenation*

**Hi-FLAX®**



# *In vitro* trial

## ASSESSMENT OF PROTECTION AGAINST RUMINAL BIOHYDROGENATION OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF FLAXSEED



Fatty acid	T2: Flax oil	T3: Calcium soap of flax fatty acids	T4: Absorbed flax oil	T5: Extruded linseed	T6: Hi-FLAX
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% CF	100	78.4	65.4	25.1	95.2
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C18:3 content on the sample (%)	51.66	28.24	52.27	48.51	13.88
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C18:3 by-pass ( <i>in vitro</i> ) (% of the previous –of the initial content)	19.9	18.7	15.2	17.9	30.5
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FINAL BY-PASS C18:3 (grams of C18:3 per 100 grams of product)	10.28	4.14	5.20	2.17	4.02
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**+ 85.25%**

Although the final content is OK, they are not well-protected:

- toxic for rumen microbiota and
- decrease in milk fat %

$$95\% * 13.88\% * 30.55\% = 4.02$$

$$25\% * 48.5\% * 17.90\% = 2.17$$

## Filed Trial

Substitution of extruded linseed to Hi-FLAX<sup>®</sup>



# Methodology

- **Farms and cows selected**
  - One dairy cow farm, Galicia (NW Spain)
  - 102 milking Holstein cows
  - Average milk yield per cow = 33 liters/cow/day in the previous months
- **Production systems and milking management**
  - Cows were housed in cubicles and dry lots
  - 2-3 milking times
- **Diets (isoenergetic and isocost)**

Feed materials	Control diet Concentrate (kg)	Exp. Diet (Hi-Flax®) Concentrate(kg)
Rapeseed meal	310	360
Corn silage	230	252.2
Soy 44	220	224
Extruded Linseed/Hi-Flax	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>
Barley	50	45
Soy oil	30	8.5
CaCO3	30	
Urea	13	
Mineral premix	7	
NaCl	8.5	
E. oil	1	
Mold inhibitor	0.5	

Nutritional analysis	Control diet (DM)	Exp. Diet (Hi-Flax®) (DM)
ENI (kcal/kg)	1,782.69	
CP (%)	28.23	28.24
RDP (%)	15.71	15.28
RUP (%)	12.52	12.96
ADF (%)	8.67	8.61
NDF (%)	14.96	14.02
NFC (%)	32.10	32.90
Starch (%)	18.78	18.89
CF (%)	7.75	7.91
Ca (%)	1.46	
P (%)	0.66	0.65
Mg (%)	0.32	0.31
C18:3 (%)	<b>1.86</b>	<b>0.80</b>





# Methodology

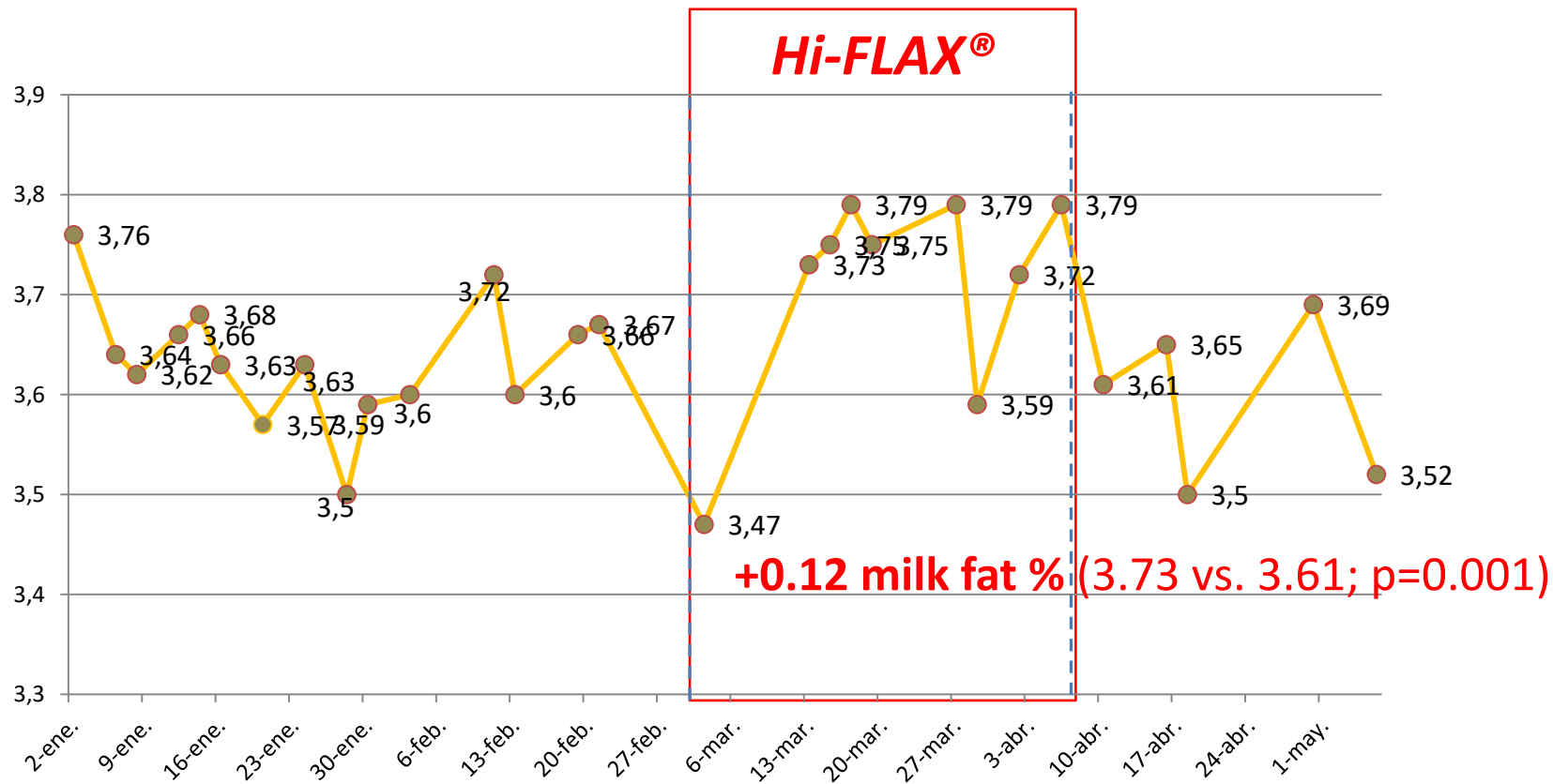
- Duration of the trial and dates

	Dates (2015)
Period 1 (Control period 1)	12nd Jan – 2nd March
Period 2 (Experimental period)	3th March-7th April
Period 3 (Control period 2)	8th April-6th May

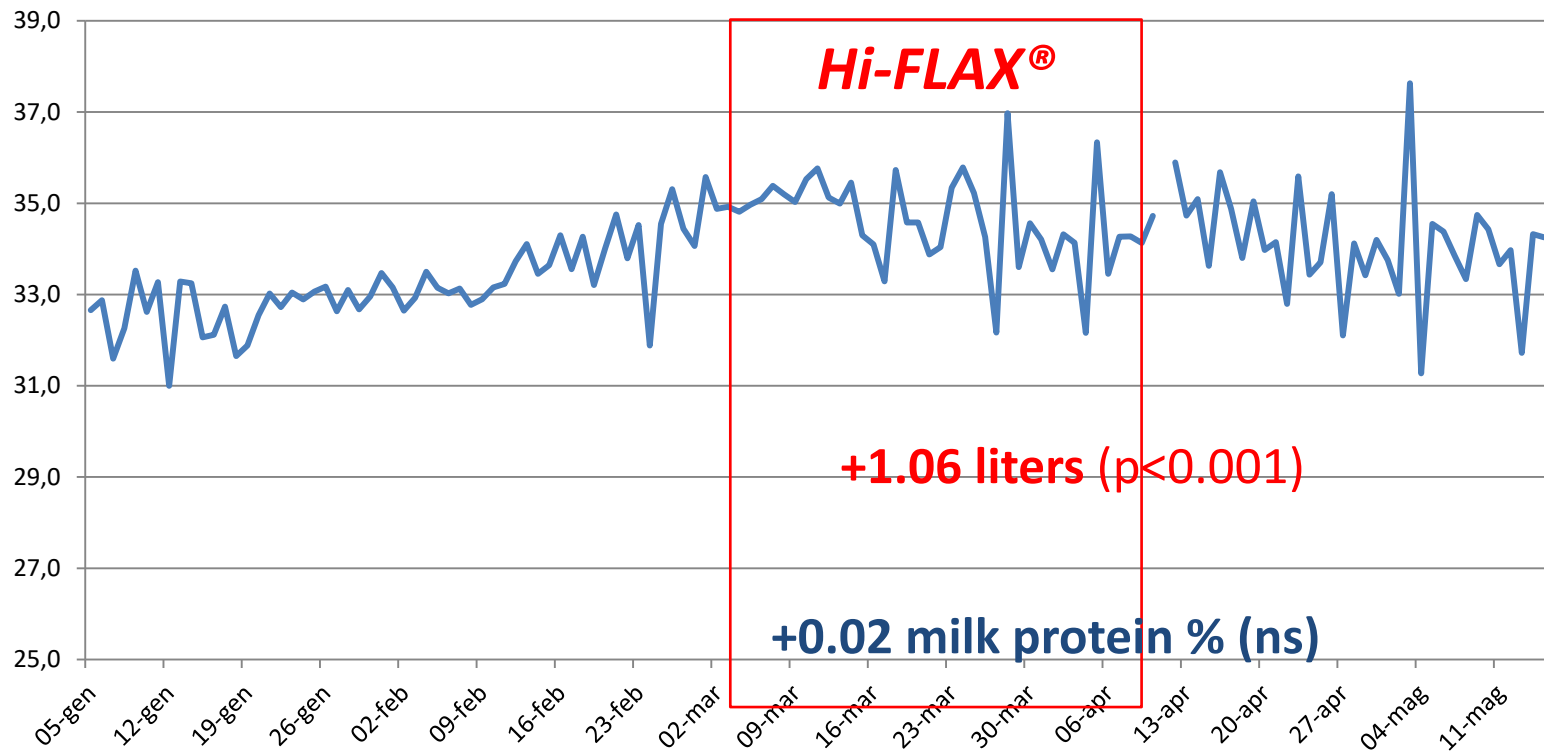
- Sampling and analysis

- Data for milk fat, milk protein, milk yield, urea, and Gr/Pr were taken daily. Fatty acid profiles were taken weekly

# Results



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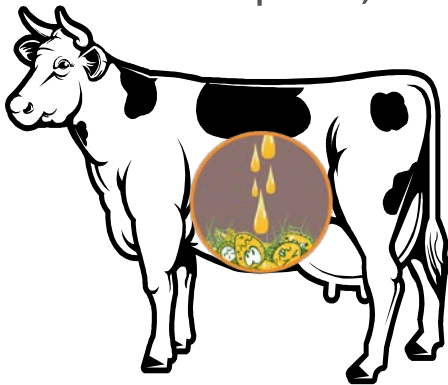


## Results: Rates of transference to milk

	Transfer from C18:3n3 source to milk
Control diet	8.18%
Experimental diet (Hi-FLAX <sup>®</sup> )	13.48% ( <b>164.42%</b> )

# Discussion, Conclusions & Further research

- H-FLAX<sup>®</sup> is a useful tool for the dairy sector in order to:
  - Reduce the negative interactions between feeding PUFAs and ensuring a healthy rumen environment
  - Achieving the levels of milk fat required by the industry
  - Increasing Omega-3 transfer rate: which is useful for milk sales price, immunity and reproduction



# Discussion, Conclusions & Further research

- Reproduction:
  - Theoretical improvement based on literature: Use of feed materials with a high content in Omega-3, such as flaxseed, improve cows fertility in 50.3% with respect to sunflower seed (Ambrose et al., 2006). Due to the great protection of HI-FLAX's fatty acids, reproductive performance may be even higher
  - Future research assessing on farm effects is need (2017)



**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION**



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