



[Back](#)

Agricultural and Food Science - abstract



Vol. 12 (2003), No. 1, p. 21-34

VIRKAJÄRVI, PERTTU, SAIRANEN, AUVO, NOUSIAINEN, JOUNI I, KHALILI, HANNELE,
Sward and milk production response to early turnout of dairy cows to pasture in Finland

Keywords dairy cows, Festuca pratensis, grazing, meadow fescue, milk production, Phleum pratense, timothy,

Abstract

The timing of turnout is an important factor affecting the grazing management of dairy cows. However, its consequences are not well understood due to the short grazing season of northern Europe. Thus, the effect of the turnout date of dairy cows to pasture on sward regrowth, herbage production and milk production was studied in two experiments, 1) a grazing trial with 16 Holstein-Friesian dairy cows and 2) a plot trial. In both the treatments simulated the grazing trial. The treatments were early turnout (1 June) and normal turnout (6 June). Early turnout increased annual herbage mass (HM) production in the plot trial ($P = 0.005$), but due to a higher average organic matter (OM) digestibility, the difference in digestible OM yield was not significant ($P > 0.05$). Early turnout decreased the mean pre-grazing HM in the grazing trial. The difference in quantity and quality between early and normal turnout occurred mainly in late June and early July and thereafter levelled out. At the end of the grazing sward heights were lower for early turnout, indicating better HM utilization. There were no differences in yields of milk or milk protein ($P > 0.05$). Although early turnout had no effect on milk yields it meant easier management of pastures.

Contact perttu.virkajarvi@mtt.fi

[\[Full text\]](#) (PDF 176 kt)

Update 2. 6. 2003.

Source: MTT's Publications database [Afsf](#)
[Sitemap](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Legal Disclaimer](#)
© MTT 2009