

Improving udder health through a nutraceutical complement

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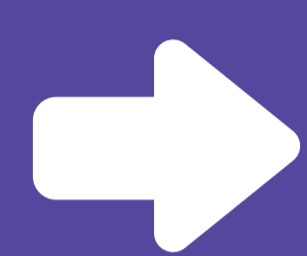
Introduction

Udder health is a major component in the profitability of dairy farms. A poorly managed drying-off is a risk factor for mastitis and lower milk yield in subsequent lactations.

Two tests were conducted to evaluate the effect of an oral gel administered at drying-off. Gel contains mainly Echinacea, parsley, vitamin B6 and chelated zinc.

FIRST TRIAL: EFFECT ON MILK PRODUCTION

SECOND TRIAL: EFFECT ON UDDER HEALTH



Material & method

2 groups:

- **Control group:** 14 dairy cows.
- **Test group:** 10 dairy cows, receiving 70 ml of the oral gel twice (in the evening of D0 and in the morning of D1), 3 weeks before drying-off. Milk production was followed up daily for 17 days, from one week before product administration to D10.

2 groups:

- **Control group:** 14 dairy cows
- **Test group:** 10 dairy cows, receiving 70 ml of the oral gel twice (at drying-off after the last milking and the following day). After a dry period of approximately 60 days, the somatic cells count was measured daily for the first 26 days of lactation.



Results

Legend:



- Milk production decreased faster in test group after administration of the oral gel (Fig. 1&2).

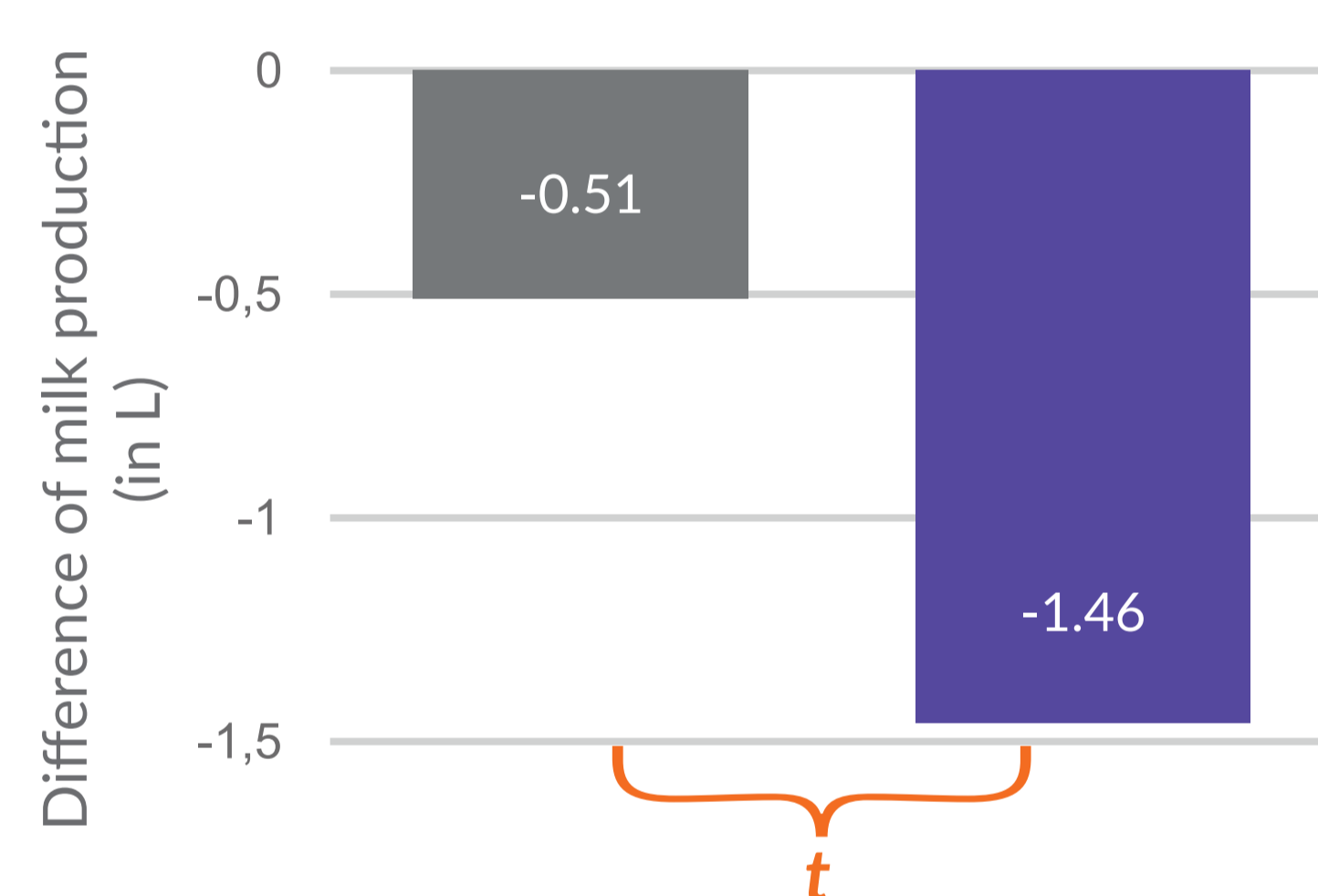


Fig. 1 Average milk production difference between the week before product administration and the 10 days after (t-test, $t p < 0.06$)

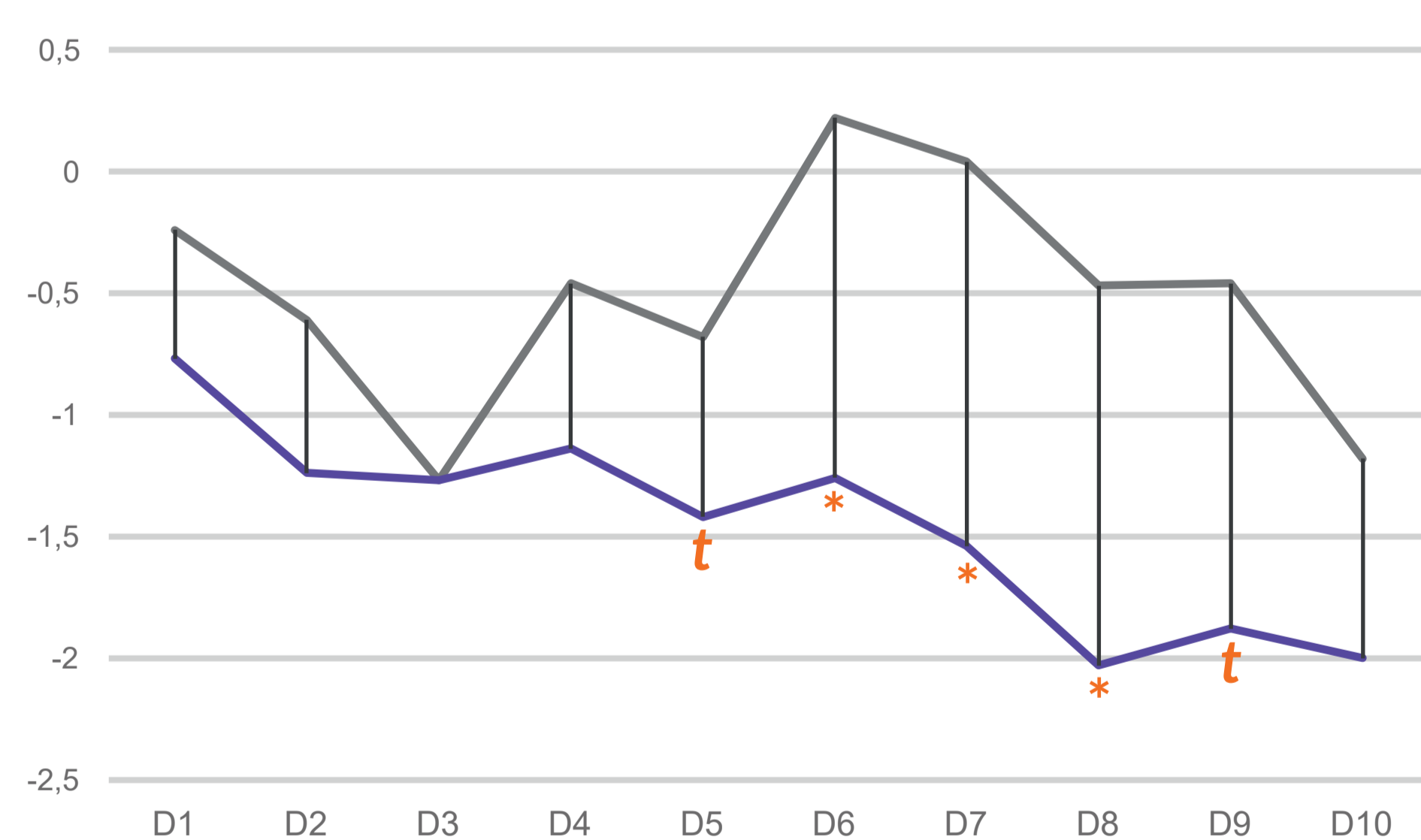


Fig. 2 Daily milk production difference between reference (average quantity measured the week before D0) and the follow-up (D1-D10) (t-test; $t p < 0.1$; * $p < 0.05$)

- 33% drop in the somatic cells count in the first 26 days of lactation.
- The control group is already at a low level compared to international standards (Fig. 3).

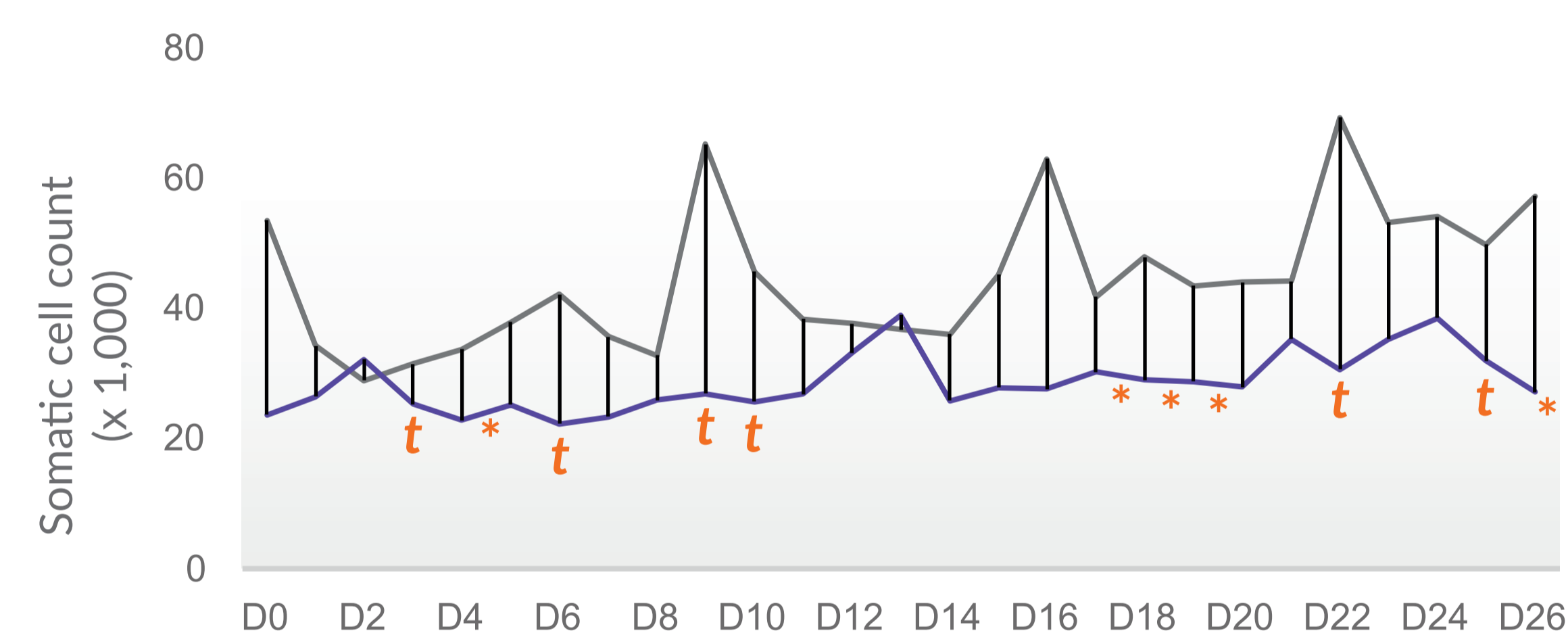


Fig. 3 Daily somatic cells count for the first 26 days of lactation following gel administration at the previous drying-off (per ml of milk; t-test: $t 0.1 < p < 0.05$; * $p < 0.05$)

- Average daily somatic cell count is 44,000 cells/ml in control group vs 29,000 cells in test group within test period (t-test * $p < 0.006$).

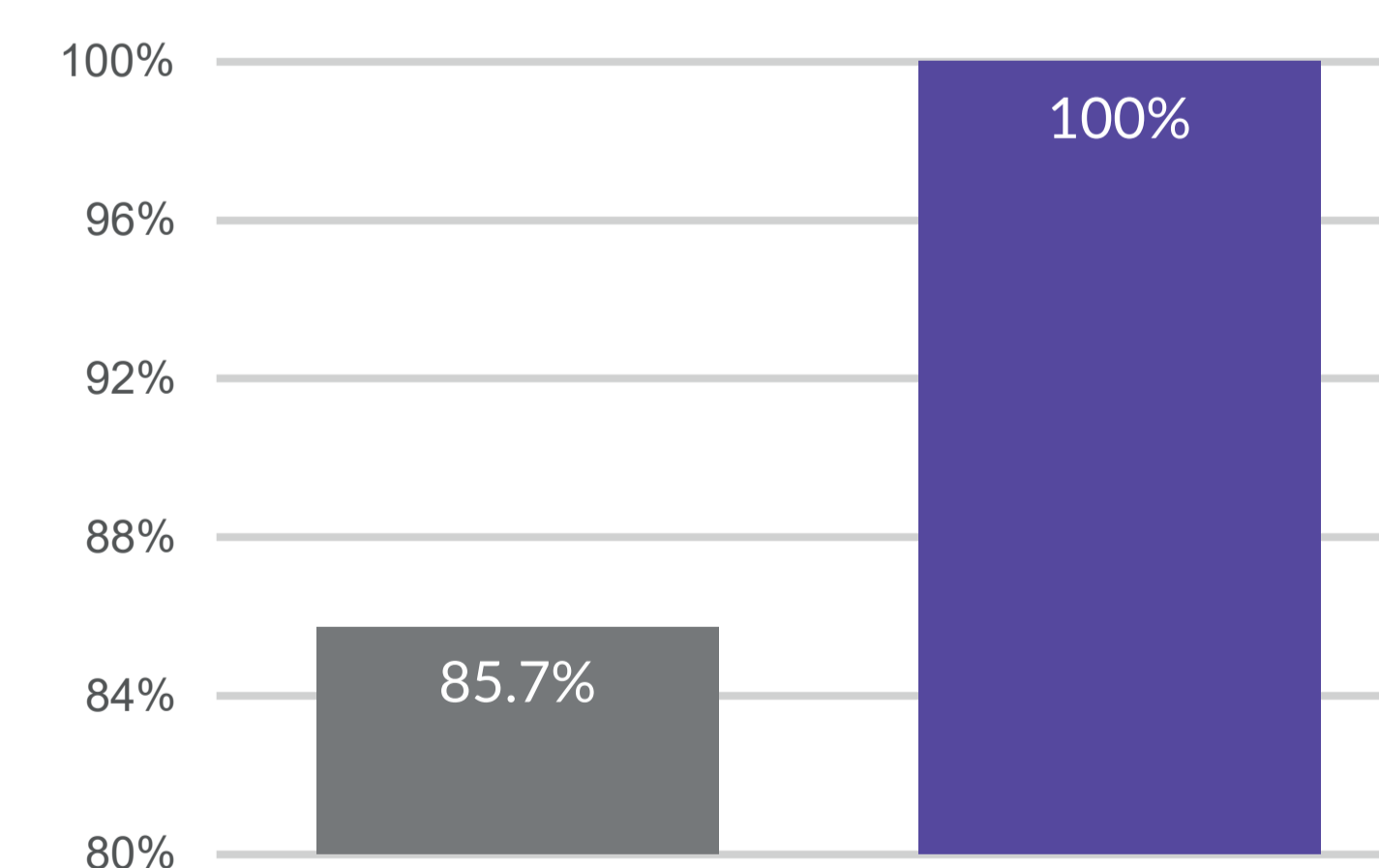
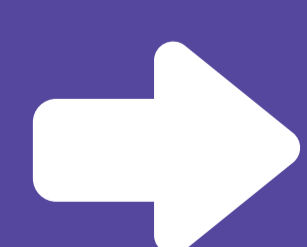


Fig. 4 Percentage of cows that have all their daily somatic cells count below 300,000 cells per ml between calving and 26 days of lactation



Conclusion

Our nutraceutical helps to decrease milk production faster, which promotes udder involution. It also helps to maintain somatic cell count at a low level, even in the case of a farmer who has already achieved excellent results on this parameter.

These two effects combine in order to support udder health with positive effect on the next lactation.

