Measuring growth of young stock

14th of March 2023 Cross-visit Flanders







Early calving and good production + health: is this possible?







Early calving and good production + health is certainly possible, but... a **good start** is important by achieving the **target values**throughout rearing



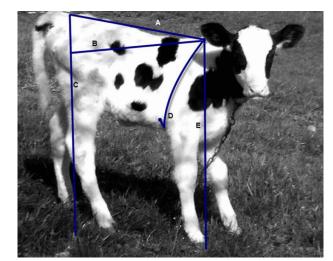




To measure is to know!









Growth curves needed an update!

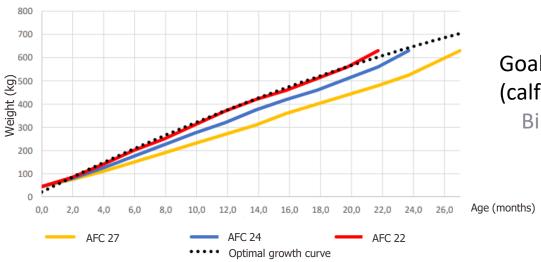
JONGLEVEN project: update of target values and formulas of growth Holstein calves

- Follow-up of 14 well-performing farms
 (Year production: 10433 kg milk, calving interval: 392,5 dagen, AFC 23,7 months)
- Quarterly measuring/weighing (chest circumference, rump height, weight) (8 measurement/weighing moments, 7 500 calves)
- Follow-up of production, culling (incl. reason)



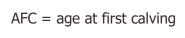


Results



Goal: 630kg at calving (calf included)

Birth weight calf: ± 40kg





Results

- Heifers follow growth curve to reach AFC of 22 months.
- Weight for first insemination is achieved at 13 months.
- In reality, the heifers calve on average on 23,7 months.
- Little variation between animals in the same age group.
- Farmers work with protocols, follow up growth and correct problems quickly, biosafety measures





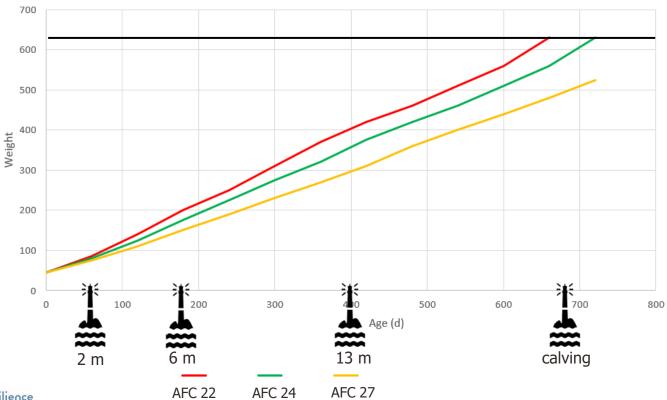
- 1st milestone: weight at 2 months
 - 80-85 kg or ± 99 cm chest circumference
 - Why?
 - Evaluation milk period
 - Important phase for good milk production later
- 2nd milestone: weight at 6 months
 - 200 kg or ± 135cm chest circumference
 - Why? Early evaluation calf rearing/selection

- 3rd milestone: weight at 13 months
 - 380-400 kg or ± 170-175cm chest circumference
 - Why? Moment of insemination
- 4th milestone: weight at calving
 - 630 kg or \pm 207cm chest circumference
 - Why? Sufficiently developed to calve smoothly and have a productive lactation



In practice: often at fixed moments (weaning, moving pen/stable,...)









Target values

| | | Weight (kg) | Chest circumference (cm) | Rump height (cm) | | Weight (kg) | Chest circumference (cm) | Rump height (cm) |
|---|--------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | 40 | 75 | 81 | | 265 | 150 | 124 |
| | | 45 | 78 | 83 | | 290 | 155 | 126 |
| | | 55 | 84 | 87 | | 315 | 160 | 129 |
| | | 65 | 89 | 90 | | 345 | 166 | 132 |
| | | 75 | 94 | 93 | | 370 | 170 | 134 |
| 2 | months | 85 | 99 | 95 | 13 months | 400 | 175 | 137 |
| | | 100 | 105 | 99 | | 435 | 180 | 139 |
| | | 110 | 108 | 101 | | 470 | 186 | 142 |
| | | 125 | 114 | 104 | | 505 | 191 | 144 |
| | | 145 | 120 | 107 | | 545 | 196 | 147 |
| | | 160 | 125 | 110 | | 585 | 201 | 150 |
| | | 180 | 130 | 113 | calving | 625 | 206 | 152 |
| 6 | months | 200 | 135 | 116 | | 665 | 211 | 155 |
| | | 220 | 140 | 118 | | 710 | 216 | 157 |
| e | | 240 | 145 | 121 | | | | |



Jongveetool (young stock tool)









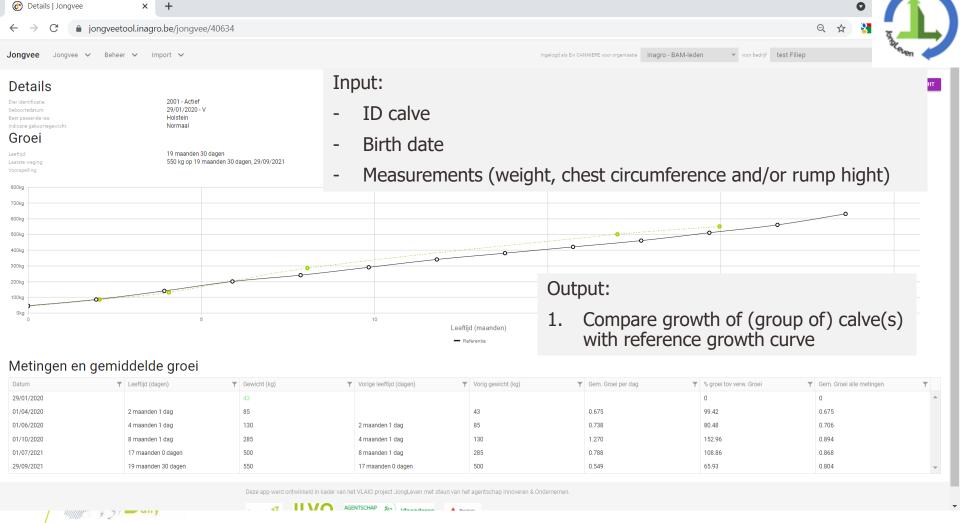


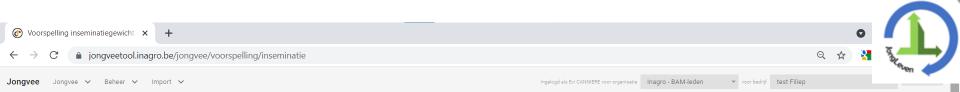












Voorspelling leeftijd inseminatiegewicht (400kg)

Inseminatiegewicht: 400kg

Toon enkel jongvee waarvan de laatste weging niet ouder is dan 3 maanden.

| Sanitel Nummer | ▼ Dier nummer | ▼ Naam | ▼ Geboortedatum ↓ | ▼ Laatste weging | ▼ Gewicht | ▼ Voorspelde datum ▼ Leeftijd op inseminatiegewicht Opmerking |
|----------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|---|
| | 2103 | | 21/01/2021 | 29/09/2021 | 250 | 29/03/2022 14 maanden 5 dagen |
| | 2102 | | 12/01/2021 | 29/09/2021 | 255 | 19/04/2022 15 maanden 4 dagen |
| | 2101 | | 01/01/2021 | 29/09/2021 | 275 | 07/03/2022 14 maanden 3 dagen |
| | 2025 | | 29/12/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 280 | 06/03/2022 14 maanden 5 dagen |
| | 2024 | | 25/12/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 284 | 16/02/2022 13 maanden 21 dagen |
| | 2023 | | 09/12/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 305 | 22/01/2022 13 maanden 12 dagen |
| | 2022 | | 29/11/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 310 | 12/01/2022 13 maanden 12 dagen |
| | 2021 | | 19/11/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 320 | 23/12/2021 13 maanden 2 dagen |
| | 2020 | | 09/11/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 340 | 25/11/2021 12 maanden 15 dagen |
| | 2019 | | 29/10/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 340 | 28/11/2021 12 maanden 29 dagen |
| | 2018 | | 19/10/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 355 | 08/11/2021 12 maanden 19 dagen |
| | 2017 | | 09/10/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 355 | 13/11/2021 13 maanden 3 dagen |
| | 2016 | | 29/09/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 360 | 11/11/2021 13 maanden 11 dagen |
| | 2015 | | 09/09/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 380 | 17/10/2021 13 maanden 6 dagen |
| | 2014 | | 29/08/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 400 | Outout |
| | 2013 | | 19/08/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 395 | Output: |
| | 2012 | | 09/08/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 420 | |
| | 2011 | | 29/07/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 445 | 2. Make predictions: age to reach 200 kg (6m), 400 kg (13m) |
| | 2010 | | 09/07/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 440 | 200 kg (6m) 400 kg (13m) |
| | 2008 | | 29/06/2020 | 29/09/2021 | 445 | 200 kg (0111), 700 kg (13111) |

(*1) geen metingen gekend

(*2) slechts 1 meting gekend





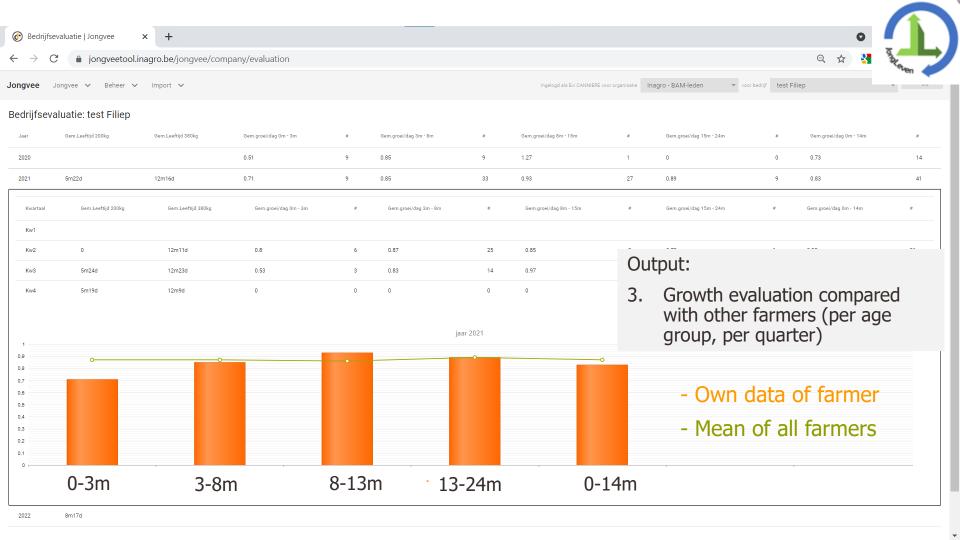








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Measuring and/or weighing young stock regularly ensures that you can notice problems quickly and intervene when growth is slowing down before it gets worse. The young stock tool is a handy tool to monitor this and to know when to start insemination.







Thank you!









