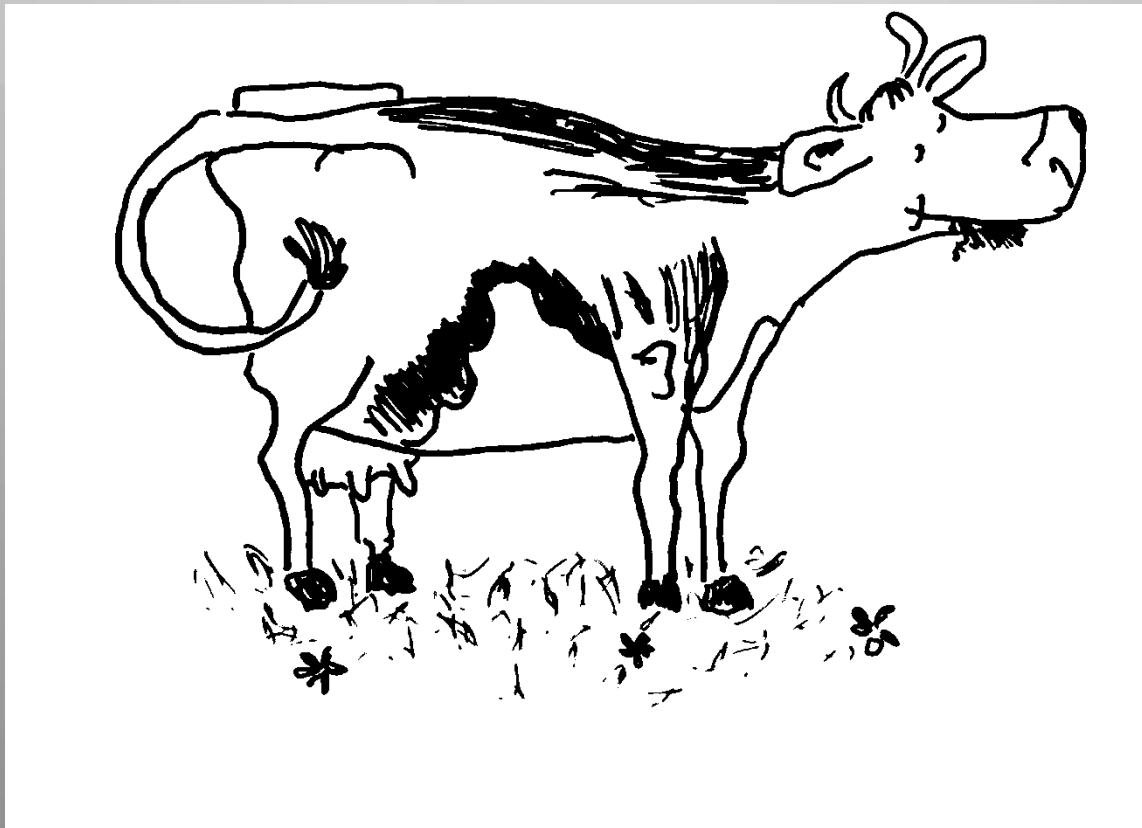


High yielding herds, automatic milking and grazing – is it possible to combine?

Eva Spörndly



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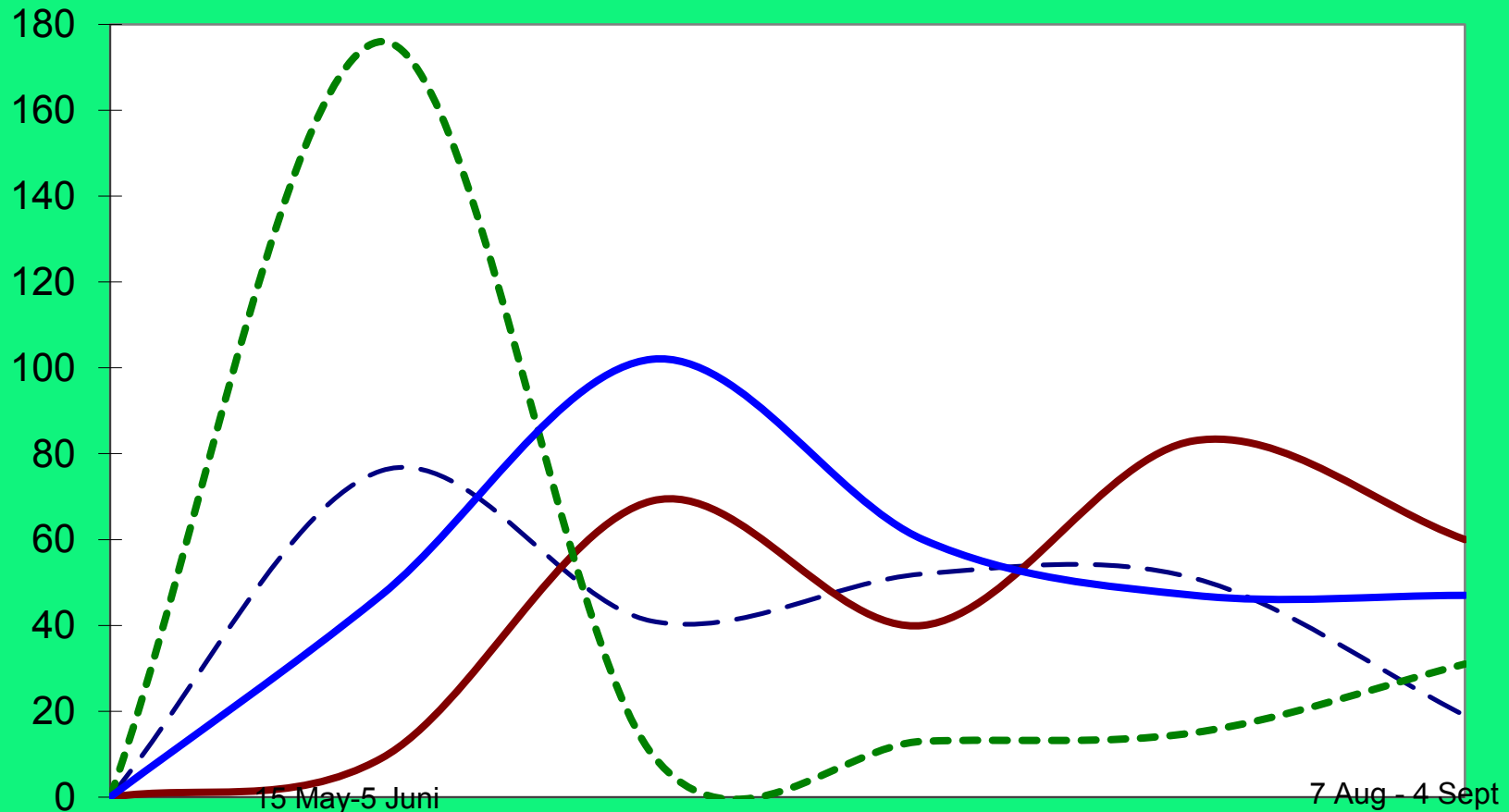
Problem

- Pasture intake is lower compared with silage intake
 - 3-5 times lower intake rate
 - Variations in pasture quantity and quality

Pasture growth in Uppsala region - variation between years

kg DM/day & ha

Figur baserad on data from Bodil Frankow Lindberg, 1989



Farmer Challenges

- The Sward
- Supplementary feeding
- ➔ Pastureing time



Part-time grazing

Research with part-time grazing + AM

- Daytime grazing (2 expts)
- Grazing morning & afternoon, 4 h+ 4 h (2015)
- Night grazing (2016)

Part-time grazing daytime 9-12 h

- Group fed silage indoors: silage ad lib 24h
- Pasture group: pasture ad lib daytime, silage at night

Part-time grazing daytime

Results year 1

- Higher milk yield (35.6 kg ECM) in pasture group (vs 33.3 for 24 h indoor feeding)
- Silage intake 9.8 in pasture group (vs 12.2 kg DM for 24 h indoor feeding)

Part-time grazing

Results year 2

- Same yield in both groups (~32.5 kg ECM)
- Silage intake in pasture group 6,2 kg DM (vs 11.5 kg DM)

Part-time grazing

Advantages

- Can give a higher milk yield!
- Decreases the area pasture needed

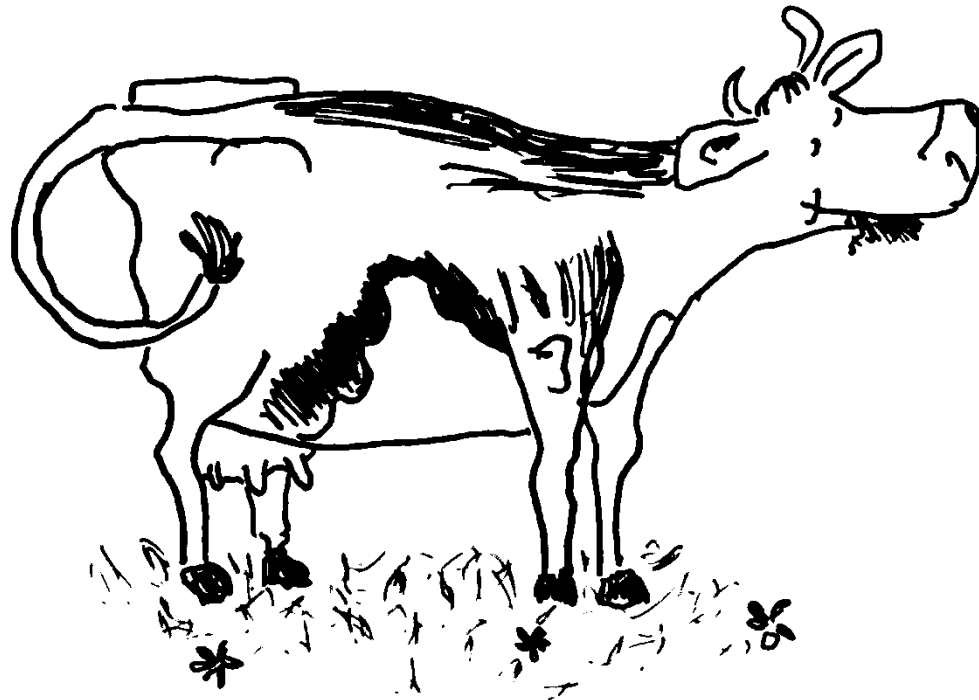
Disadvantages

- Disturbs the natural grazing rhythm of the animals
- Can be expensive to supply both pasture and silage

Challenges and issues to discuss

- Decision support systems?
- Advanced prognosis for pasture growth ?
- Supplementary silage –when and how much?
- Part-time grazing?

High yielding herds, automatic milking and grazing – is it possible to combine?



Many farmers prove it is possible!

One example:

- Henrik Johansson
- Grazing and AM
- 11 000 kg ECM average
- 80 cows



Heading for pasture based feeding!

