# Increasing amounts of sunflower seeds increase CLA and vaccenic acid content in milk fat from dairy cows





Tina Skau Nielsen Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Research Centre Foulum Dept. Animal Health, Welfare and Nutrition

#### What is CLA ?





Adapted from Bessa et al. (2000)

# Why is CLA interesting ?

- Anti-carcinogenic
- Anti-atherosclerotic
- Anti-diabetogenic
- Anti-adipogenic
- Bone formation
- Immune function

Isomer specific effect of CLA



# Origin of milk fat CLA

#### Rumen



Alternative biohydrogenation pathway of linoleic acid under certain dietary conditions



Rumen



Adapted from Griinari & Bauman (1999)

# Objective



Determine the effect of increasing amounts of sunflower seeds in the diet on CLA and vaccenic acid concentrations in milk

Experiment: 24 cows - 5 week study period

	Dietary treatment					
	I (control)	Π	Ш	IV		
	% of dry matter					
Sunflower seeds	0	5	10	16		
Grass silage	55	55	56	58		
FA, g/kg dry matter	12	35	57	81		



	Fatty acid, g/100 g FA					
-	C16:0	C18:0	C18:1	C18:2	C18:3	
Soybeans <sup>1</sup>	12	4	23	53	6	
Rapeseed cake <sup>1</sup>	6	2	59	22	9	
Sunflower seeds <sup>1</sup>	6	4	26	63	0.3	
Peanut oil <sup>2</sup>	12	3	51	30	-	
Linseed <sup>2</sup>	7	4	23	15	51	

<sup>1</sup> Nielsen et al. (unpublished) <sup>2</sup> Kelly et al. (1998)



## Daily feed intake and milk production

	Treatment group				
	Ι	II	III	IV	P-value
Feed intake, kg DM	<b>16.8</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>16.0</b> <sup>a</sup>	13.4 <sup>b</sup>	13.5 <sup>b</sup>	**
Milk, kg	<b>27.6</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>26.5</b> <sup>a</sup>	24.0 <sup>b</sup>	21.8 <sup>b</sup>	**
ECM, kg	<b>26.2</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>25.4</b> <sup>a</sup>	23.6 <sup>b</sup>	22.3 <sup>b</sup>	***
Fat, %	<b>3.79</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>3.81</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>4.00</b> <sup>ab</sup>	<b>4.41</b> <sup>b</sup>	0.05
Protein, %	3.29	3.27	3.10	3.17	0.12

# Level of dietary fat and milk fat and protein percentage



#### Temporal pattern of milk fat CLA





	Treatment group				
-	Ι	II	III	IV	<b>P-value</b>
g/100 g FA					
Cis-9, trans-11 CLA	<b>0.49</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>0.84</b> <sup>ab</sup>	<b>1.20<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>1.81</b> <sup>c</sup>	***
Vaccenic acid	<b>1.07</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>2.13</b> <sup>b</sup>	<b>3.47<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>4.79<sup>d</sup></b>	***



#### Individual variation among cows





# Conclusions



• The effect of sunflower seeds on milk fat CLA and vaccenic acid was dose dependent

• CLA and vaccenic acid concentration in milk can be enhanced more than 3 times by adding high levels of sunflower seeds to the diet

• High levels of sunflower seeds in the diet was not associated with milk fat depression – grass silage effective forage source in maintaining normal rumen function and biohydrogenation of PUFA

• Feed intake, milk production and milk protein may be compromised by high levels of sunflower seeds

## Thank you for your attention !!

