Fertility and calving traits show inbreeding depression in Danish Holstein

A. C. Sørensen and M. K. Sørensen
Department of Genetics and Biotechnology, University of Aarhus, P.O. Box 50, DK-8830 Tjele, Denmark, AndersC.Sorensen@agrsci.dk

Inbreeding depression:

- Measured as change in trait per 1 % increase in inbreeding

Conclusions:

- Reproductive performance reduced by inbreeding
- Calving traits less affected by inbreeding

Fertility:

- Age at first insemination	+ 0.5 day
- Calving to first insemination	+ 0.1 day
- First to last insemination	+ 0.3 day in heifers
	+ 0.4 day in cows
- Number of inseminations	+ 0.004 in heifers
	+ 0.006 in cows
- Non-return rate 56 days	- 0.13 % in heifers
	- 0.11 % in cows
- Days open	+ 0.5 day

Calving traits:

- Inbreeding reduces size of calves
- Inbreeding reduces dystocia
- Inbreeding reduces stillbirth
- Effect larger in early lactations
- Effect larger in male calves
- No maternal inbreeding depression