Herdshare School

Module 1C

How many shares can I offer?

NO. 01

Calculating the number of shares should be simple

The 'typical' herdshare delivery volumes
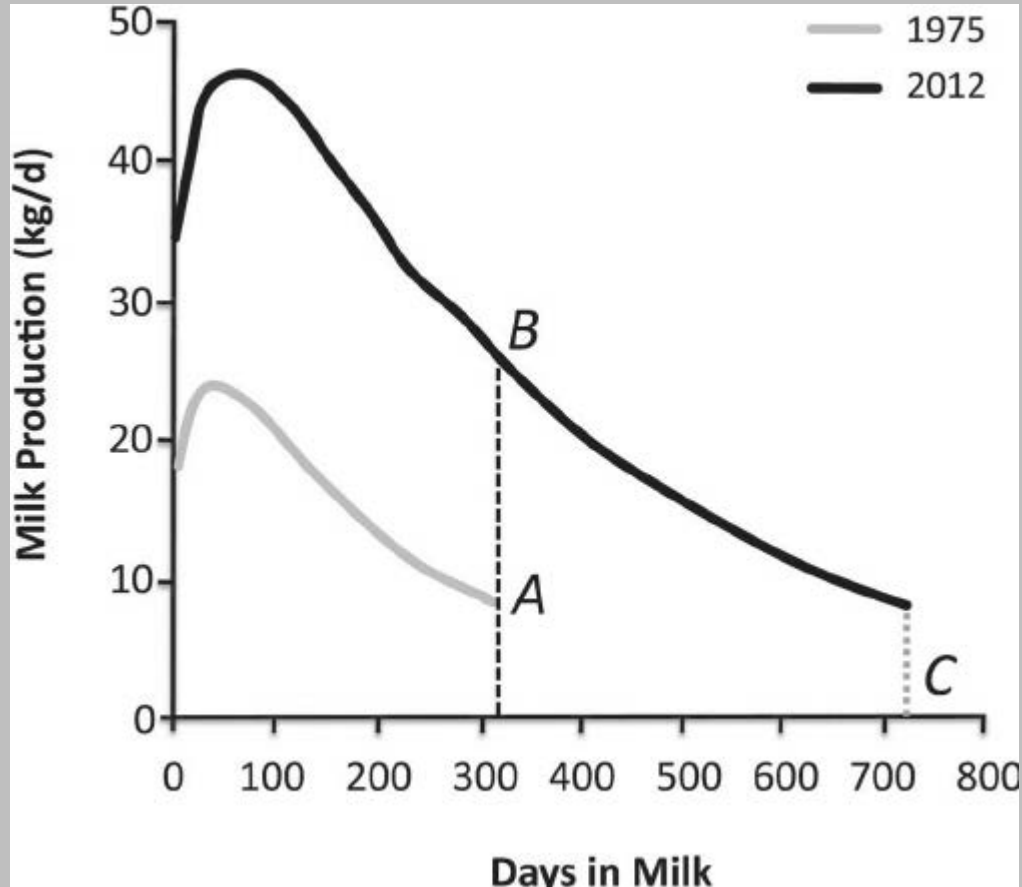
- Cow – 1 gallon/wk

- Goat – ½ gallon/wk

Start by thinking about the average yield per animal, per day

‣ Twice a day milking?

‣ Once a day milking?

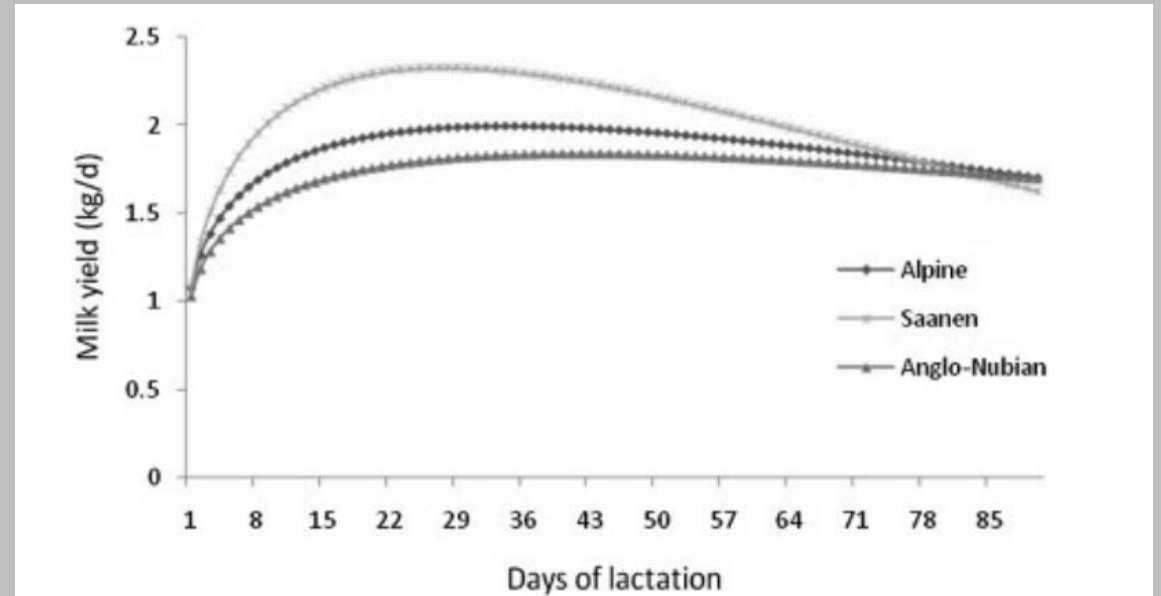# Know your animals' lactation curves & seasonal variation

Cow

Figure 1. Lactation curves of Alpine, Saanen and Anglo-Nubian goats.
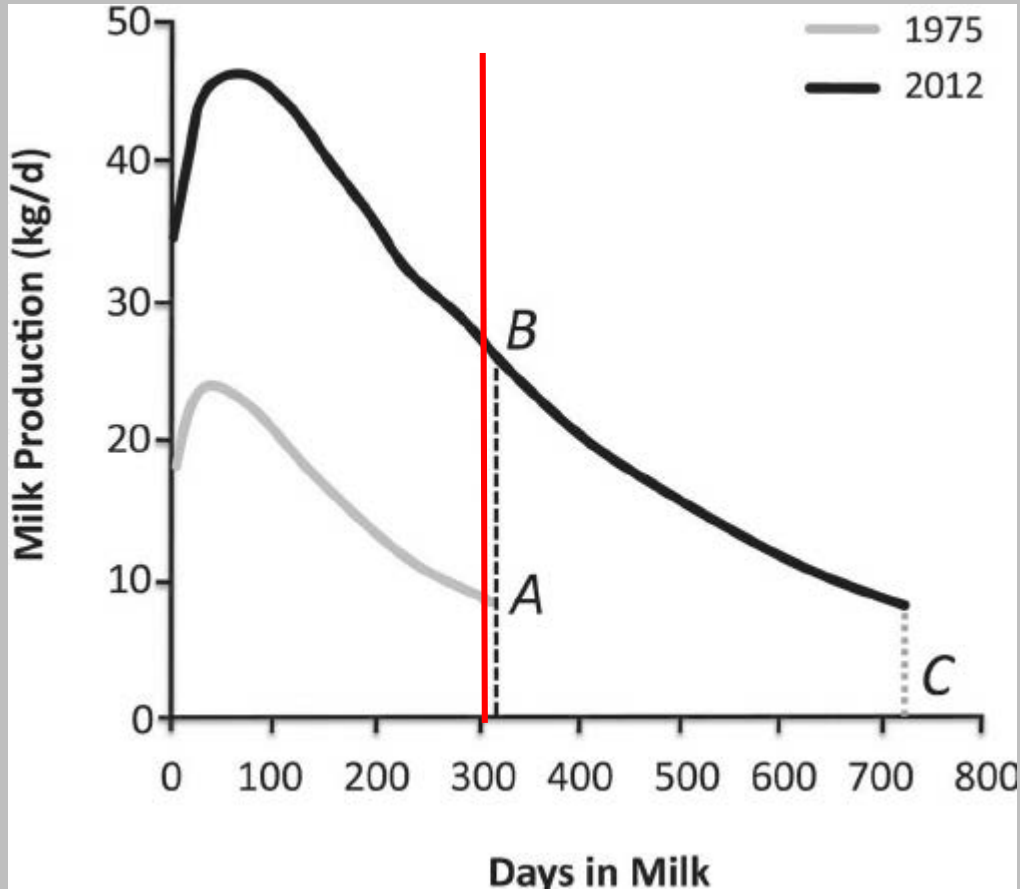
Goat
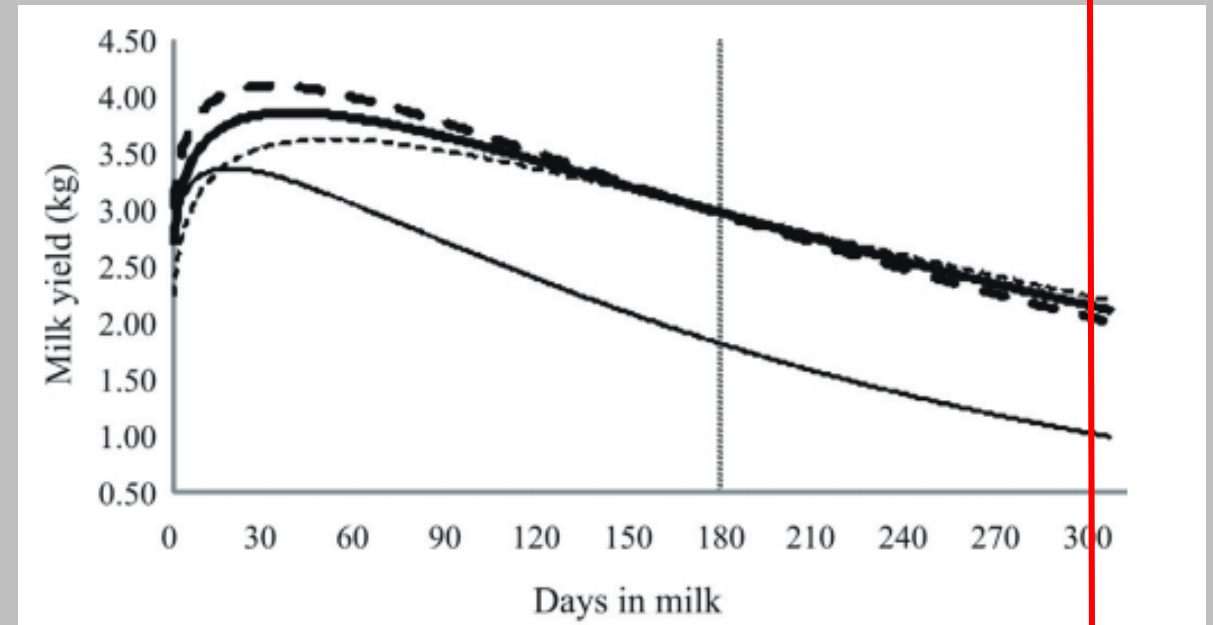
Plan to weigh your milk and plot yields for each animal

▸ DHI

▸ Your own record keeping

▸ Future years more predictable

▸ Keep/Cull decisions more scientific

Back to average yield – seasonal shares

Cow

Goat

FORMULA

$$\frac{(\text{\# animals-1}) \times (\text{avg yield/day}) \times (.5 \text{ or } 1) \times (7)}{2}$$

Why do we divide by 2?

- A milk cushion

- Legal majority ownership

- Average yield ≠ average yield

- Start by being conservative. Next year you can divide by 1.5 if all goes well

Caveat

▸ Seasonal share programs can likely get away with a smaller cushion

Caveat

▸ Those with multiple breeds (i.e. full size goats and Nigerian dwarfs or Jersey and Holstein cows) will need to take the differing average yields into account

Caveat

- Milking once a day? Your lactation curve will drop more sharply.

YOUR HOMEWORK

Module 1C Worksheet

Next up:

Module 1D: Brainstorm your milk distribution plan

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Module 1C: Number of shares

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See you in module 1D!