

Milking behaviour dynamics during the early lactation of three breed groups under a semi-automated batch milking system



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Our question:

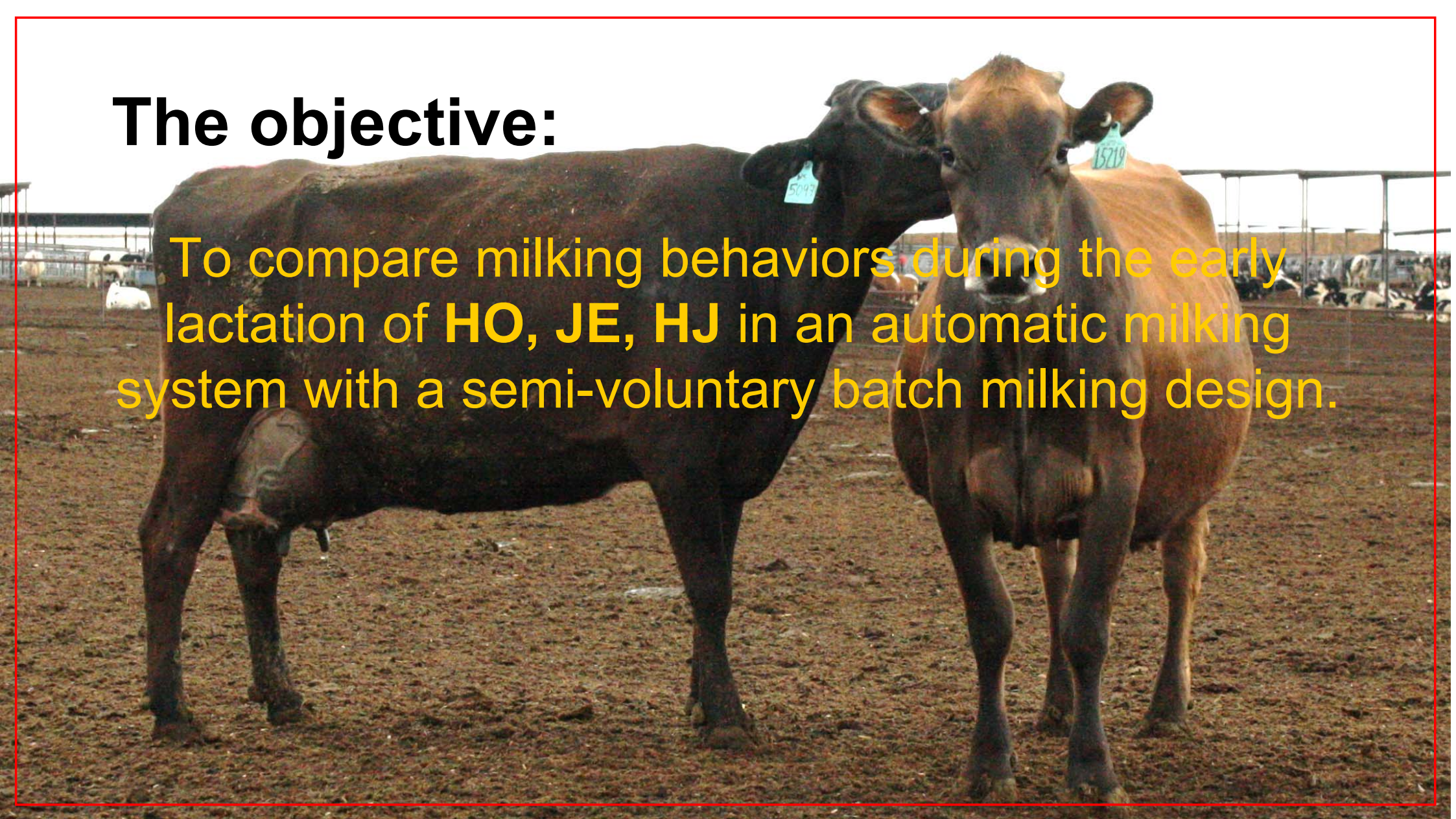


Is cow **breed** a significant factor affecting the **habituation** to the milking routine?

We have data from **Holstein** (HO), **Jersey** (JE), and their **cross** (HJ) under the same Automatic Milking Systems with a semi-voluntary batch milking design

The objective:

To compare milking behaviors during the early lactation of **HO, JE, HJ** in an automatic milking system with a semi-voluntary batch milking design.



Who & What

Who:

2,138 cows milked 2x from May to December 2023 in a grass-fed organic certified herd (Texas, USA).

The variables:

1. Incomplete milkings (%)
2. Milking unit kick-off (%)
3. Teat cleaning failure (%)



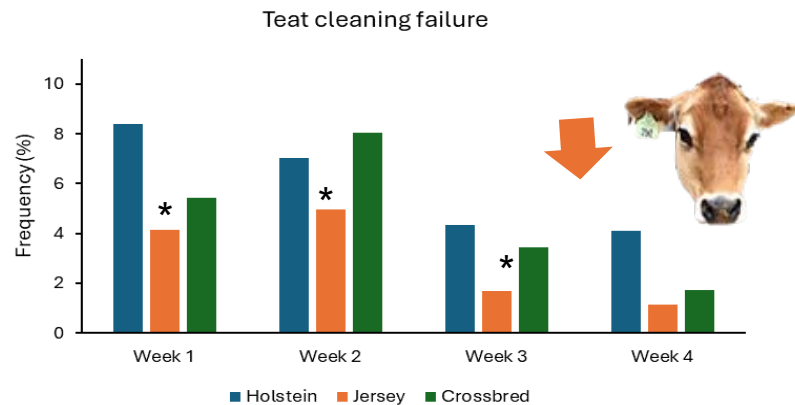
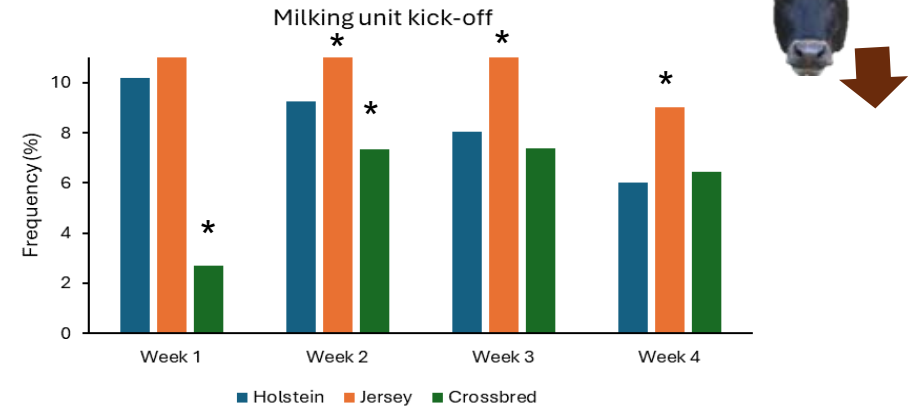
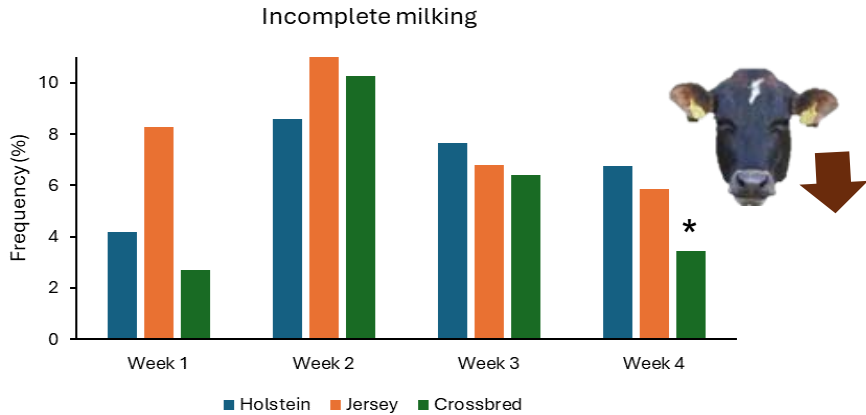
Proxy for habituation to the milking routine and system

Our findings



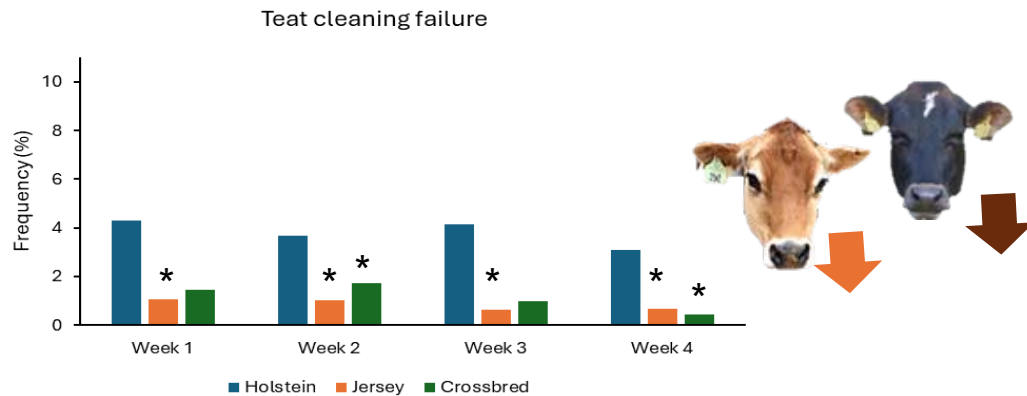
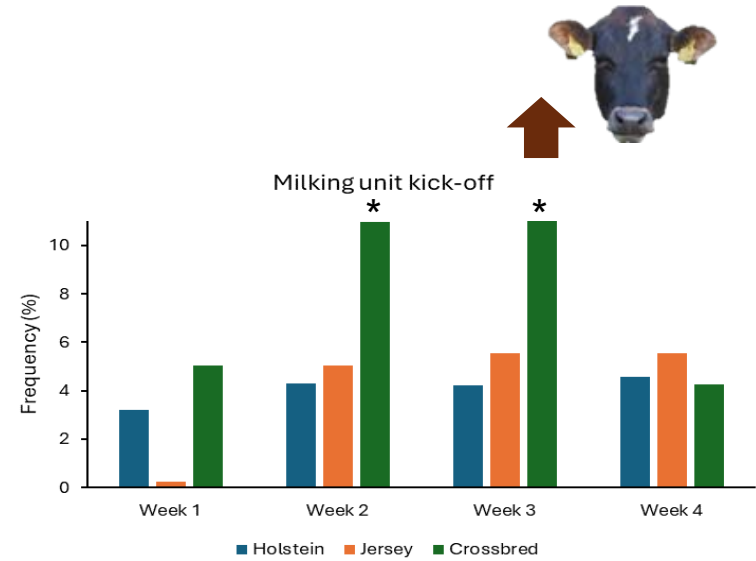
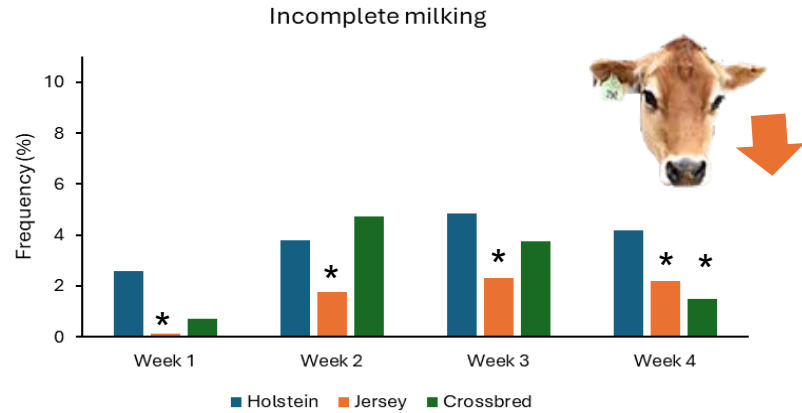
Primiparous

HO* JE
HJ



Multiparous

HO* JE
HJ



Conclusion

- The frequency of undesired milking behaviors depended on breed and time post calving
- Variability in udder conformation, temperament, and body size, may play a role in these breed differences
- Undesirable behaviors decreased at week 3:
 - Habituation to milking

Thank you!