Technical Indicators of Financial Performance in the Dairy Herd. By Kristensen et al., page 620. Improving the shape of the lactation curve by one quartile was associated with an increase in gross margin of €227 per cow-year, which represents 53% of the additional available gross margin. The improved lactation curve increased the gross margin 2.6 times more than improved reproduction efficiency, which again increased the gross margin 2.6 to 5.9 times more than improved management related to heifers, body condition score, mortality, and somatic cell count. These results were implemented in a so-called metamodel that utilized data extracted from ordinary management software to predict herd-specific financial performance related to management changes.