CRV, leading
in **health** and **efficiency**

CRV Efficiency **Feed efficiency**

FEED EFFICIENCY

Feed efficiency
104

⬆ 2% higher feed efficiency

⬆ €6,000 higher profit

Advantages:

Good feed efficiency converts to profitability.
A high feed efficiency produces more FPCM per kg of feed. A breeding value of 104 gives cows with 2% better feed efficiency. This yields extra revenue of €6,000 per 100 cows. It not only reduces the feed costs, but also creates a cleaner environment (lower methane and greenhouse gas emissions).

Breeding for feed efficiency is easy.
The heritability of this trait is high: 10%. Breeding on traits with a high level of heritability results in rapid genetic progress. For example, by selecting bulls with a breeding value of 108 for feed efficiency, you can increase feed efficiency by 4% per year within one generation.

Reliability is high.
CRV is the only company in the world to base this breeding value on real feed intake data. We currently collect feed intake data from over 1,800 lactating cows on a daily basis. For bulls with daughters with feed intake data, this data is included when calculating the breeding value for feed efficiency. Bulls with 10 daughters with feed intake data have a reliability of about 65%. In our actual bull portfolio the reliability of the feed efficiency breeding value with CRV daughter proven bulls is 85-90%.

Objections:

- **I have enough feed and I already have a surplus of forage.**
  With a structural forage surplus, renting part of the land to an arable farmer could be an option or selling some of the forage. In any case, producing more milk from the same amount of feed is still an interesting possibility, even for extensive farms. And that is precisely what breeding for feed efficiency achieves.

- **I need a cow that does well on forage and not cows that can't cope.**
  It is certainly true that super producers need good feed, but a more sober cow can also convert feed well and efficiently. Big differences in the herd are also seen on farms with a high percentage of forage in the ration. Feed efficiency is also a measure of how forage is converted. Cows do not always eat less, but they do convert the forage more efficiently, which is just what every farmer wants.

- **Breeding for feed efficiency leads to smaller, less robust cows.**
  For extra maintenance feed, a cow needs between 1 to 1.5kg of dm feed each day per 100kg of body weight. However, this additional amount of feed intake could also have been used to produce about 1,000 to 1,200kg of milk per year. In practice, animals will be slightly less heavy, by around 15kg.
  Example: on one farm in the feed efficiency programme, the 25% most efficient animals weigh on average 645 kg, the 25% least efficient animals weigh on average 660kg.

Feed efficiency is a building block of **CRV Efficiency**

PRODUCTION LONGEVITY FEED EFFICIENCY

CRV
BETTER COWS > BETTER LIFE