

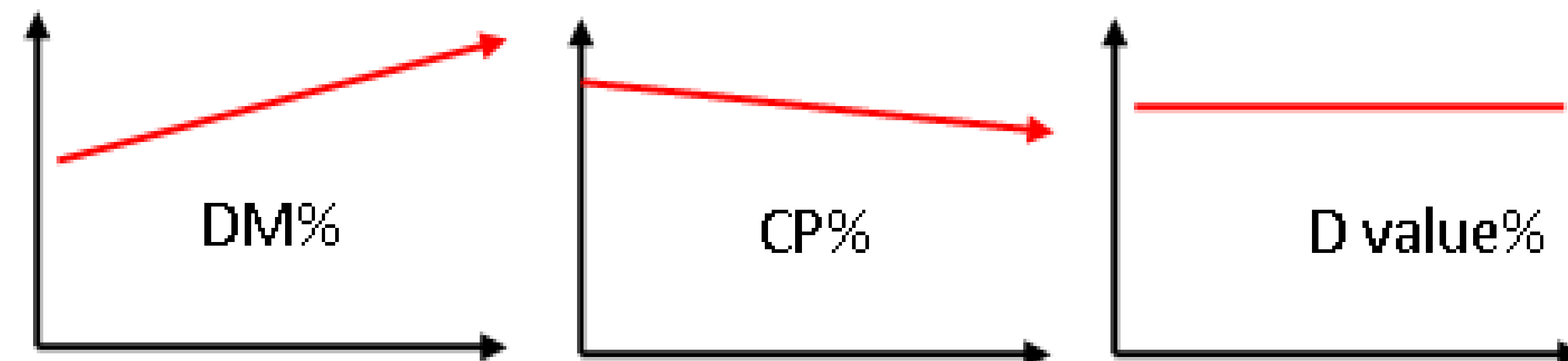
Forage quality key within all systems

- A wide range of dairy systems exist in Northern Ireland

	Spring calving	Conventional	Year-round-housing
Concentrate (t/cow)	0.85	2.5	3.5
Milk yield (kg/cow)	6460	8440	9330
Fat + protein yield (kg/cow)	495	660	741
Milk from forage (kg)	4660	2890	1470
Net margin/cow @27 ppl	439	529	394

- Diverse systems can have similar margins if managed correctly – BUT high quality forage is key within all systems
- CAFRE Benchmarking: Milk-from-forage is a key indicator of common margin
- Every additional 1000 litres from forage = extra £10,800 profit per 100 cows

- Grass silage remains predominant forage for housed cows



- AFBI survey: delayed cutting (55%); poor quality conacre swards (40%); bulking-up to reduce harvest costs (23%)
- 1 week delay in harvest:
 - D value falls 3%,
 - Milk yield reduced by 1.3 litres,
 - Concentrate required increases by 1.5 kg/day
- Will you be short of silage this autumn?
 - grow more grass.... improve utilisation
- 2017 1st cut silages
 - ME: 8.4 – 12.3; milk yield potential : 0 – 22 litres/cow
- Plan now to maximise silage quality in 2018

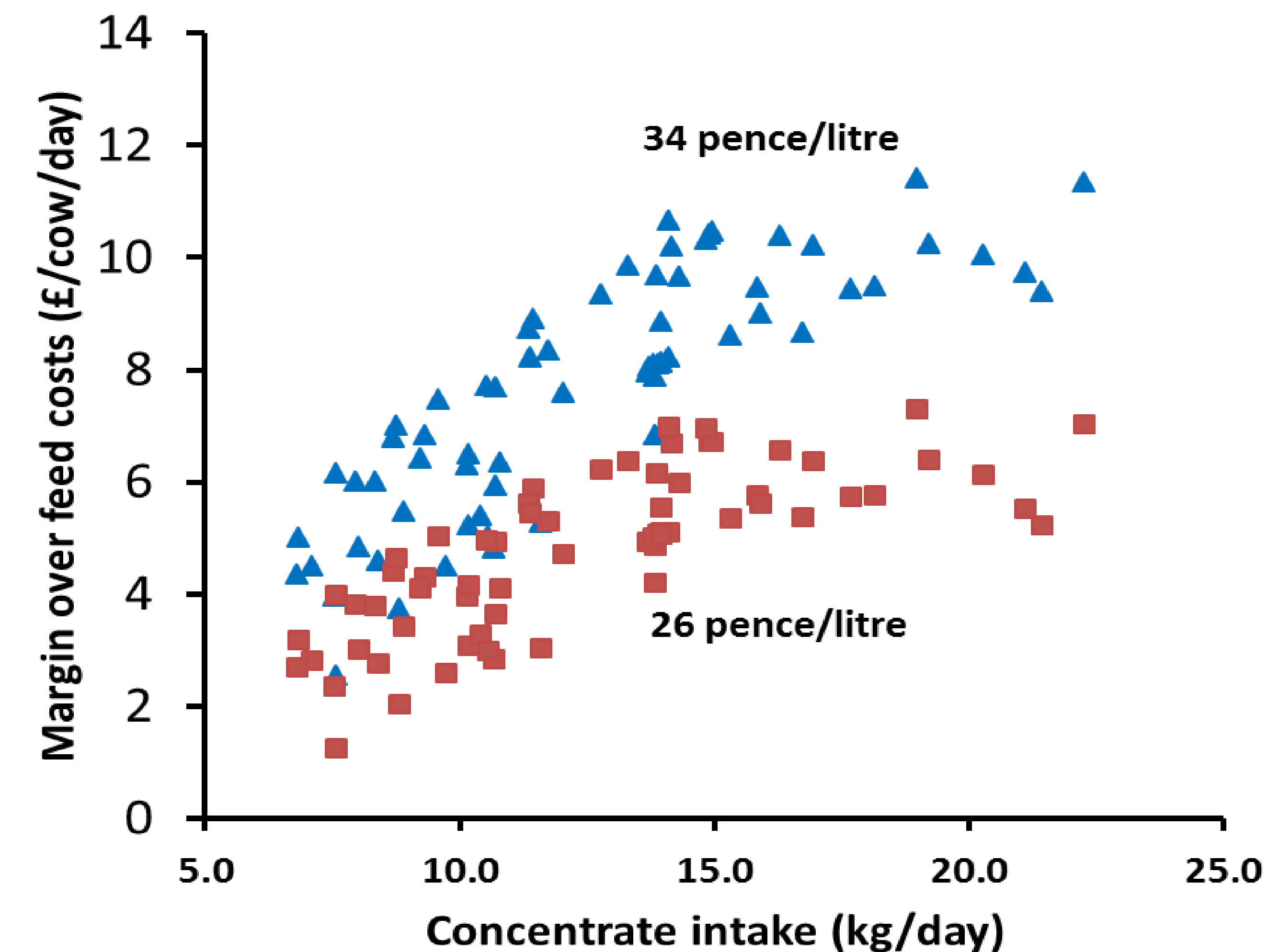
Concentrate feeding next winter

- Concentrates: efficient feeding can reduce feed costs

	Complete diet (flat rate)	Feed-to-yield
Concentrate intake (kg/day)	13.5	13.5
Milk yield (kg/day)	39.3	38.0
Milk fat (%)	4.29	4.28
Milk protein (%)	3.24	3.29
Live weight loss per day (kg)	0.6	0.7

- Simple 'flat-rate' systems: can be effective - grouping with spread calving patterns
- But don't over feed! Concentrate break even level approx. 12 - 14 kg/day with high quality silage
- Feed-to-yield systems - 'more precise' and can reduce the need for grouping
- Set M+ value for performance achieved from forage or basal TMR...(depends on silage quality & yield potential)

- Feed rate for milk produced above the M+ value normally 0.45 kg conc./litre of milk
- Adopt lower feed rates with excellent quality silage?



CAUTION

Risk of milk fat depression at concentrate levels over 12-14 kg/cow/day

- Can we improve precision within feed-to-yield systems?
- AFBI seeking to monitor performance on 30 local dairy farms operating feed-to-yield systems next winter

More information on AgriSearch stand in marquee