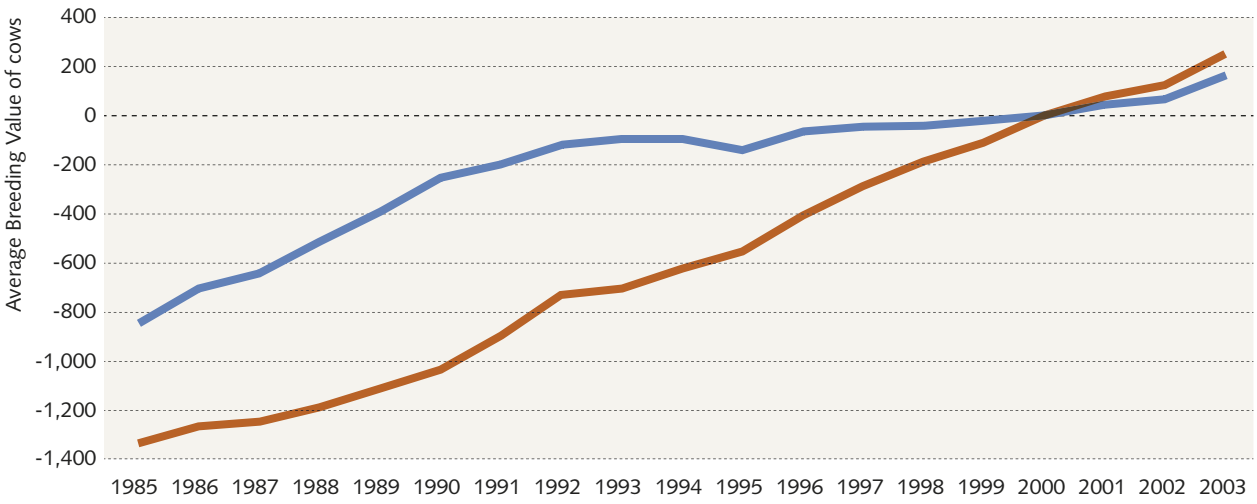

Fig. 3.2

Average Breeding Value of cows for PD04 and Milk, by birth year – Genetic Trends

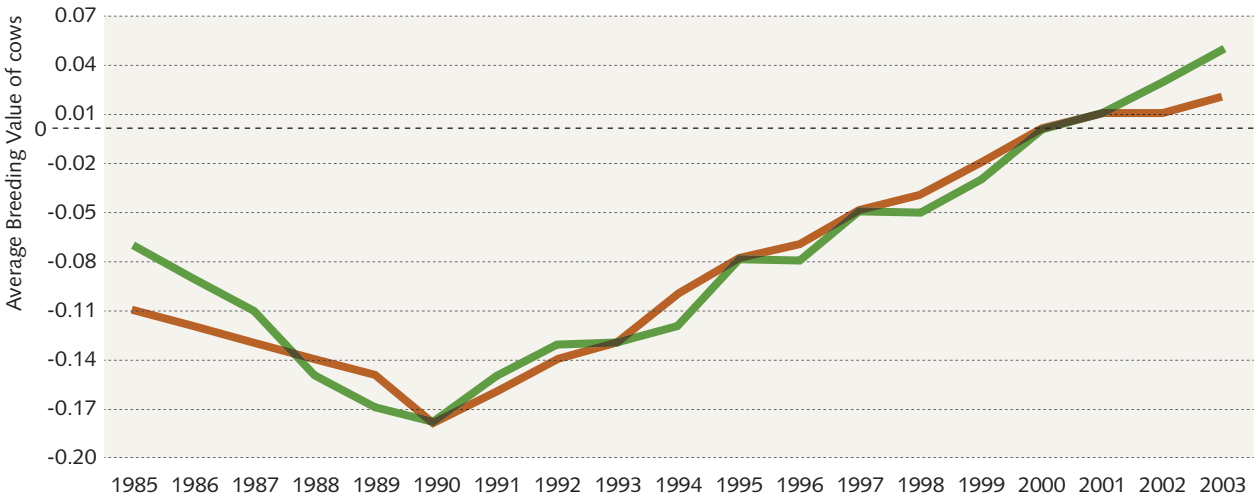

Fig. 3.3

Average Breeding Value of cows for Fat and Protein percentages, by birth year – Genetic Trends

Fertility Statistics

Information on insemination and pregnancy checks enable a thorough analysis of fertility performance at national and herd level. Reports are issued to farmers and are the basis for practical decisions regarding fertility management.
Data is presented as average results by parity categories.

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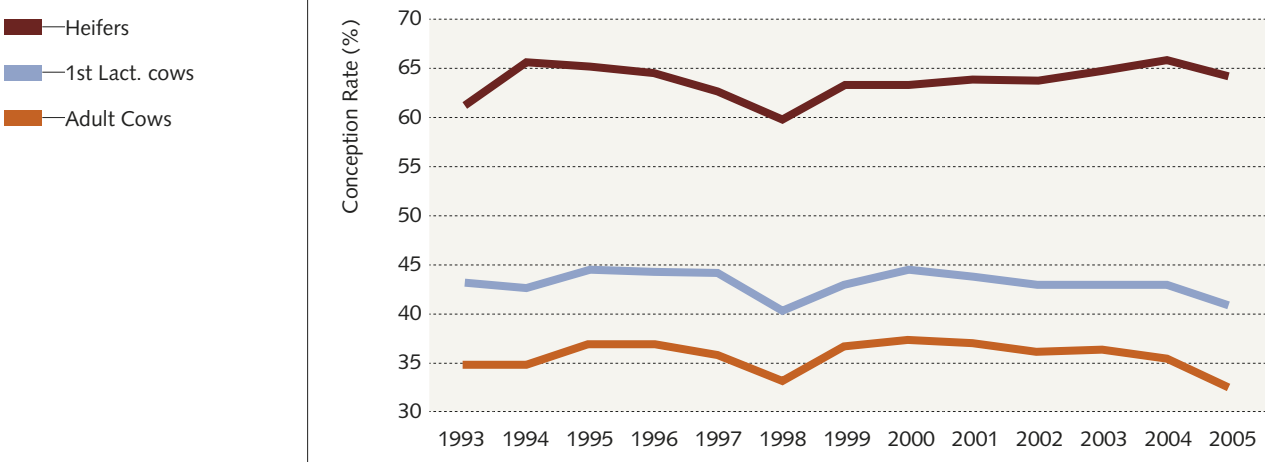
Table 3.10 & Fig. 3.4

Average Conception Rate at 1st service, for Heifers, 1st Lact. cows and Adult cows (all herds), by years

Conception Rate at 1st service (%)

Year	Heifers	1st Lact. cows	Adult cows
1993	61.2	43.3	34.8
1994	65.6	42.6	34.7
1995	65.1	44.7	36.8
1996	64.6	44.2	36.9
1997	62.7	43.9	35.7
1998	59.6	40.4	33.2
1999	63.3	43.1	36.7
2000	63.2	44.5	37.4
2001	63.9	44.0	37.1
2002	63.8	43.0	36.1
2003	64.6	43.0	36.4
2004	65.9	43.0	35.6
2005	64.2	40.7	32.6



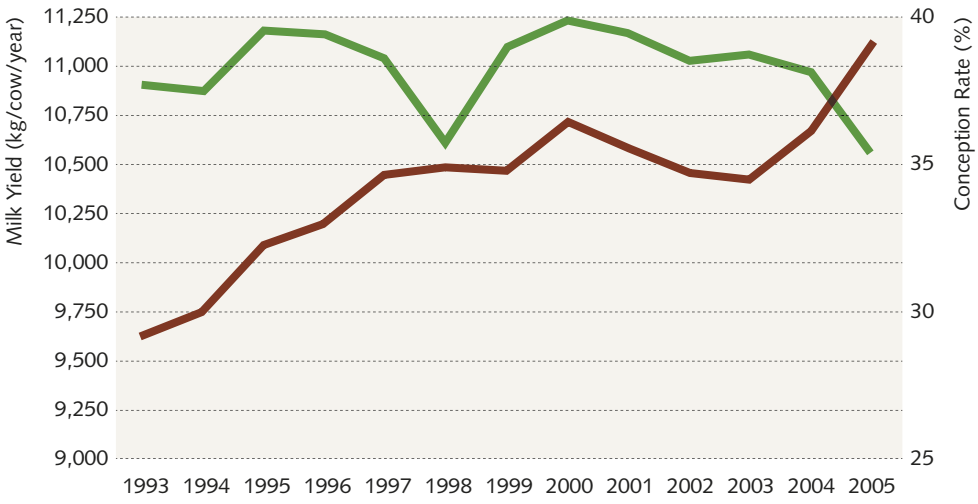


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Fig. 3.5

Average Milk Yield and Conception Rate at 1st service, for adult cows, between 1991 – 2004

Conception Rate at 1st service

Milk Yield

The main fertility management goal for the farmer, is to have cows and heifers conceiving at the time the farmers intend them to, so that calvings will occur according to a projected production schedule.

Many studies in recent years have warned against the association between increasing levels of milk production and low fertility performance.

Fig. 3.5 shows that between 1991 and 2004 the Israeli cow has raised its average milk production by 1,750 kgs, without further deterioration of fertility performance, as evaluated by Pregnancy Rate at 1st service. This value has remained quite constant (38.4%) during those years. The lowest value (35.9%, in 1998) was the result of a very hot summer season, which significantly affected Pregnancy Rate.