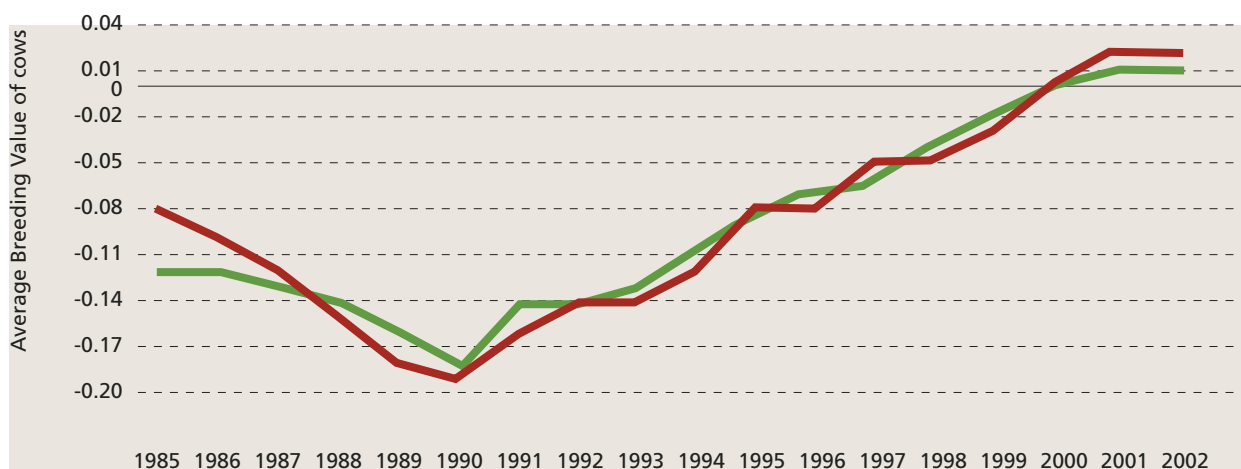


**A**  
*Fig. 3.2*  
**Average Breeding Value of cows for PD04 and Milk, by birth year – Genetic Trends**

— Milk  
 — PD04



**A**  
*Fig. 3.3*  
**Average Breeding Value of cows for Fat and Protein percentages, by birth year – Genetic Trends**

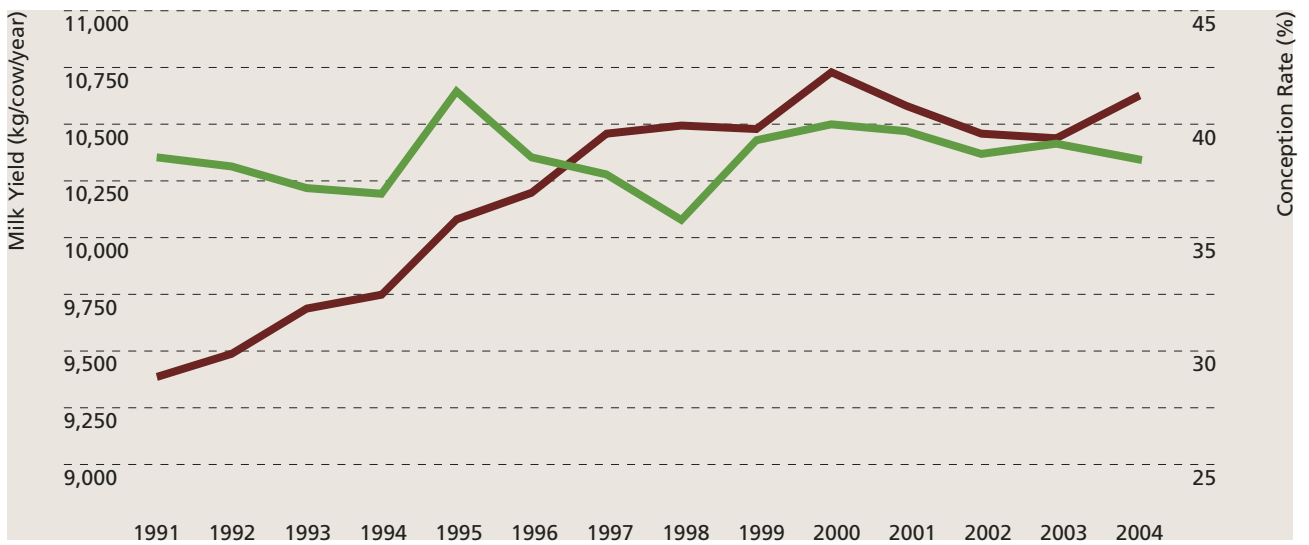
— Fat %  
 — Protein %



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 farmer intends 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

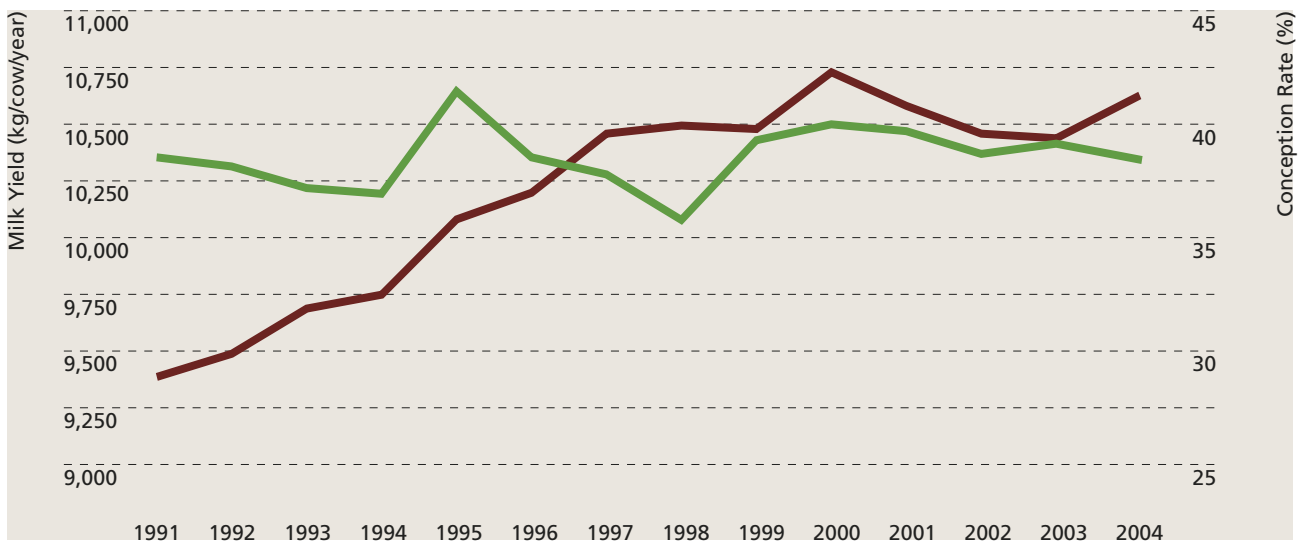
and 2004 the Israeli cow has raised its average milk production by 1,200 kgs, without further deterioration of fertility performance, as evaluated by Pregnancy Rate at 1<sup>st</sup> service. This value has remained quite constant (38.4%) during those years. The lowest value (35.9%, in 1998) was the result of a very hot summer season, which significantly affected Pregnancy Rate.



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