



Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids

MODULATES THE ENDOCANNABINOID SYSTEM IN PERIPARTUM DAIRY COWS



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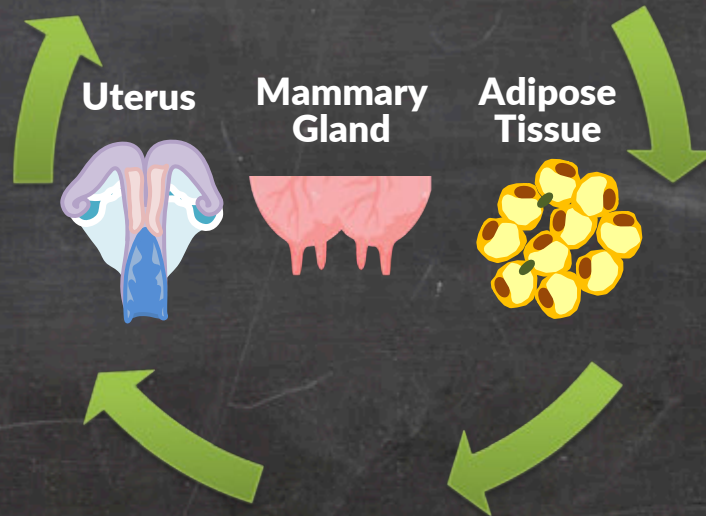
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Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows

Subacute Inflammation in Transition Cows

Tissue Remodeling



Inflammation & Immune Dysfunction

↑
Oxidative Stress

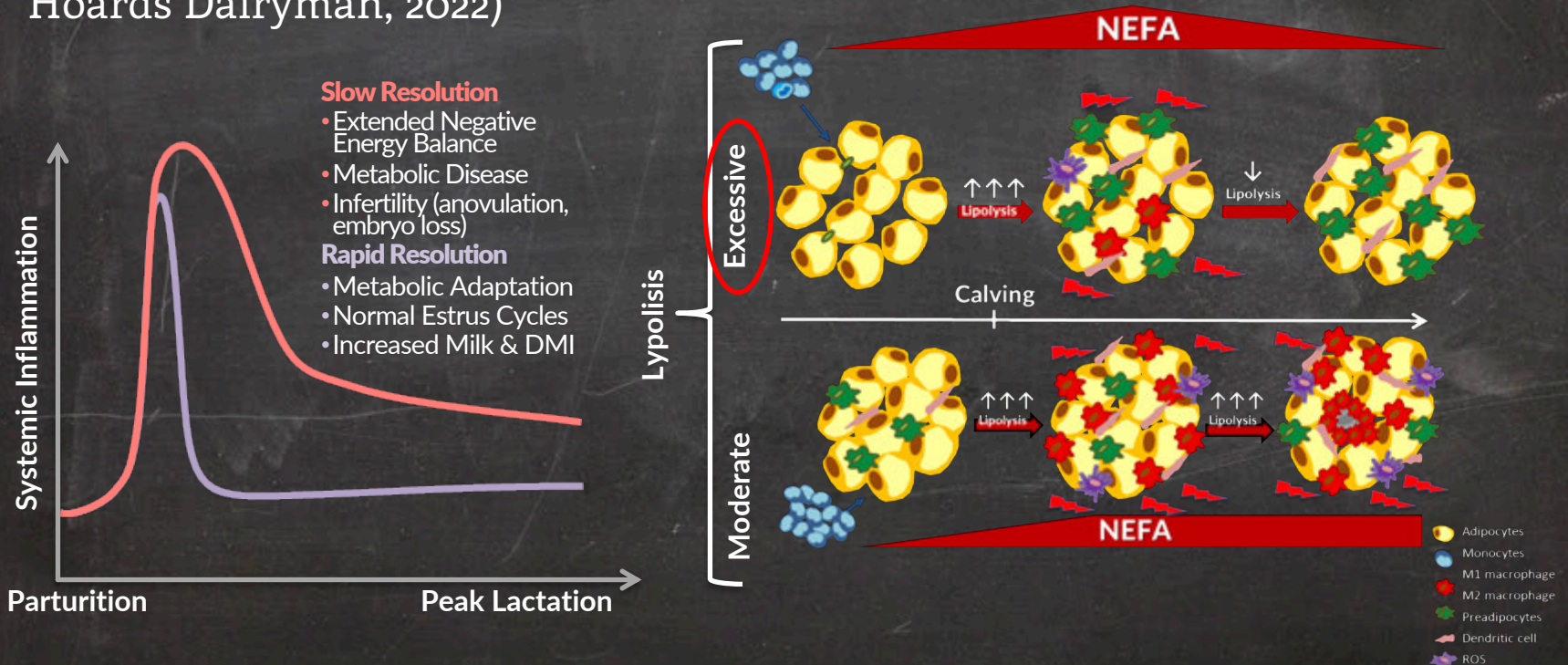
↓
Immune Cells Function

↑
Pro-Inflammatory Cytokines

↑
Acute Phase Proteins

Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows Excessive Lipolysis and Uncontrolled Inflammation

- Excessive lipolysis is related to adipose inflammation and adverse health outcome (Contreras et al., 2018)
- Sustained inflammation can suppress appetite, cause collateral tissue damage, and directly suppress milk production (Krogstad and Bradford, Hoards Dairyman, 2022)





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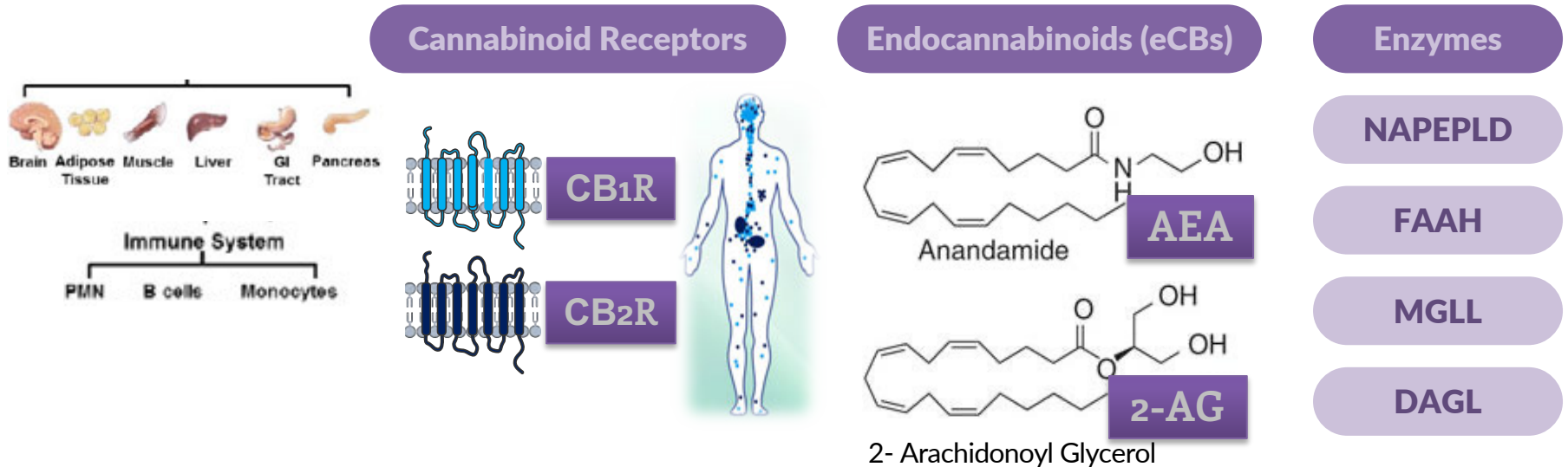
Degree of Inflammation and Lipolysis

Can we affect the degree of inflammation and lipolysis postpartum?



Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows

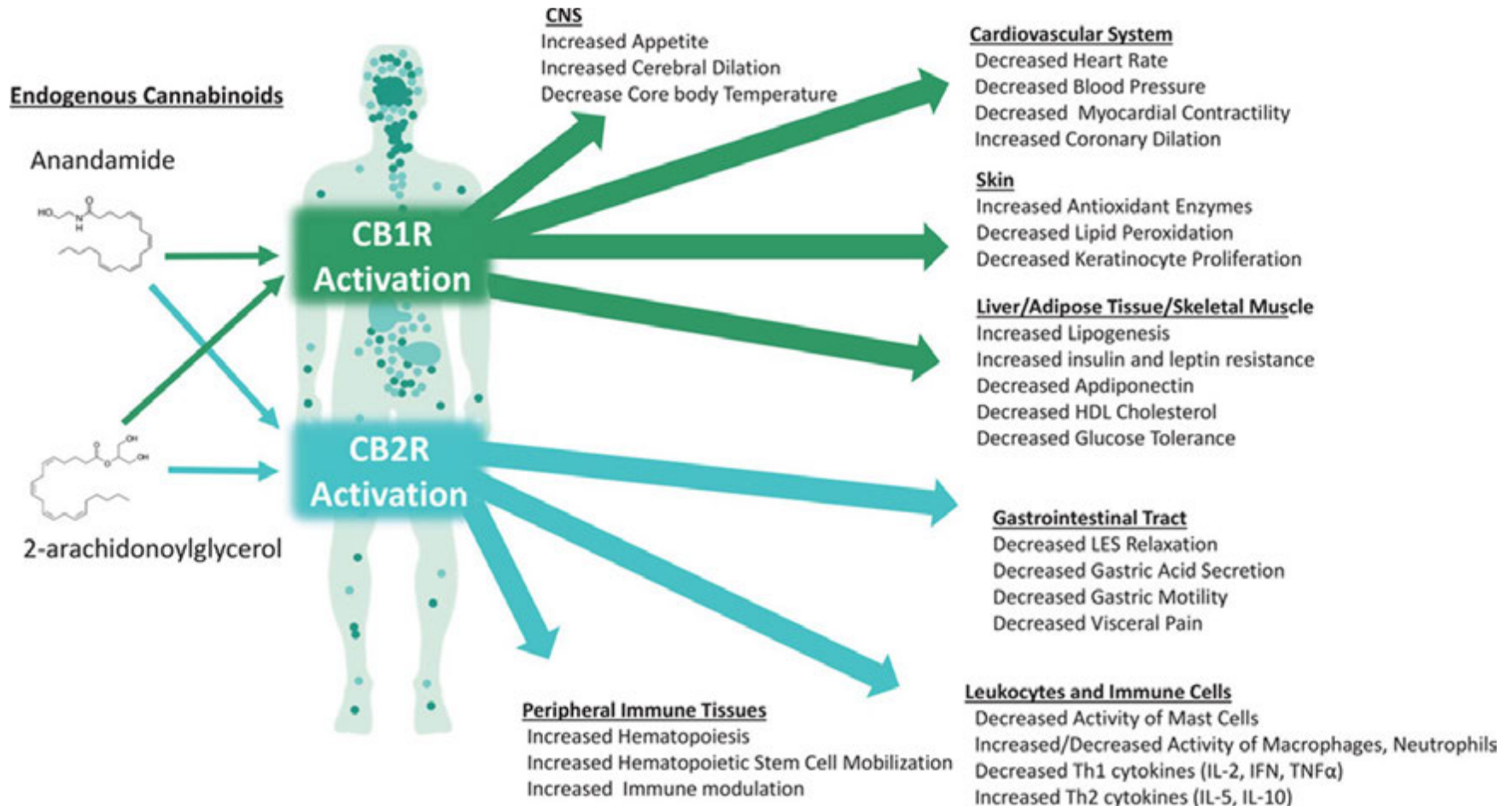
The Endo-cannabinoid System (ECS)



- A central regulator of metabolism and energy homeostasis in mammals (Silvestri and Di Marzo, 2013)
- ECS is modulated by exposure to stress and has an effect on inflammatory responses (Morena et al., 2016)

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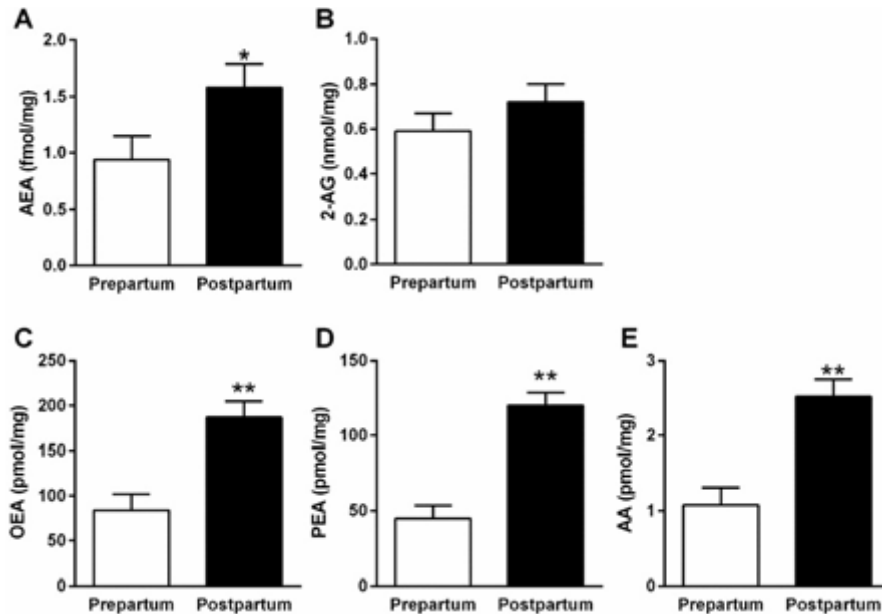
Metabolic and Inflammatory Effects of ECS



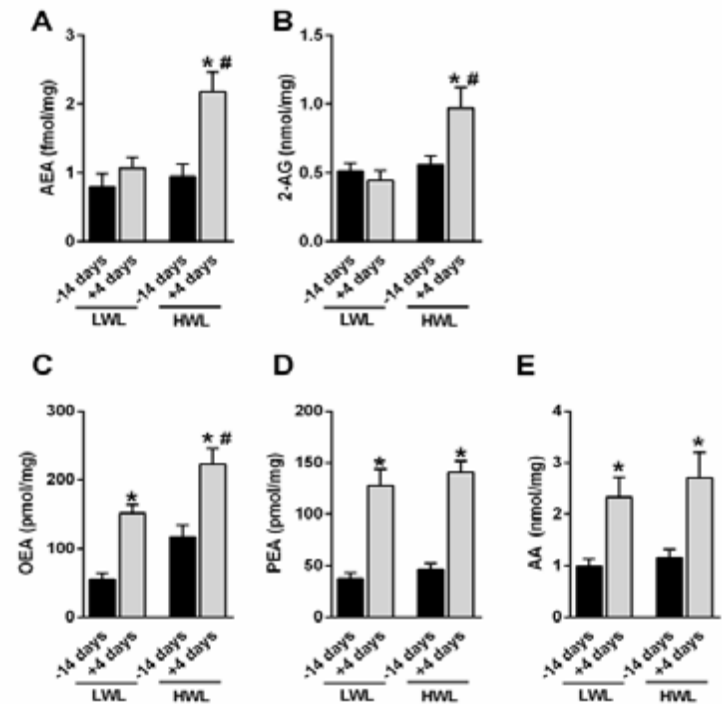


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Characterizing the ECS in Transition Dairy Cows



Tendency for increased gene expression of CNR1 and CNR2 in adipose of high-lipolysis cows

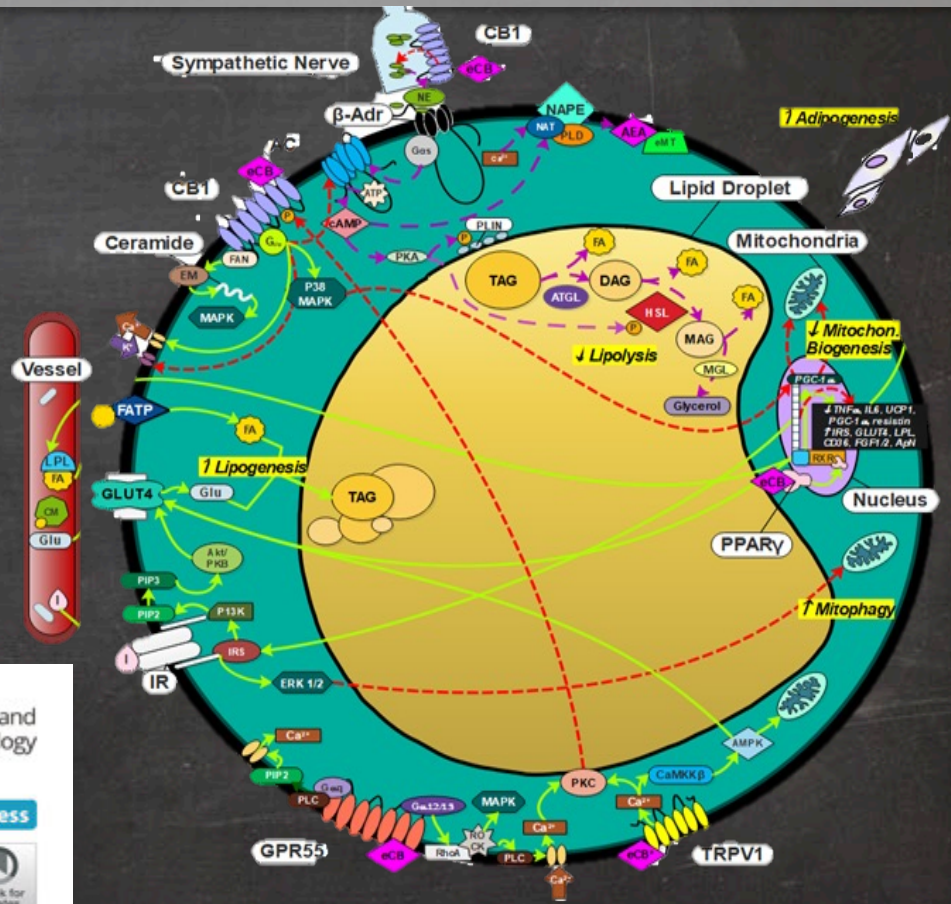


N-arachidonylethanolamine (AEA) & 2-arachidonoylglycerol (2-AG)
 Oleoylethanolamide (OEA), palmitoylethanolamide (PEA), & arachidonic acid (AA)

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ECS

The ECS promotes energy conservation and reduces lipolysis in adipocytes



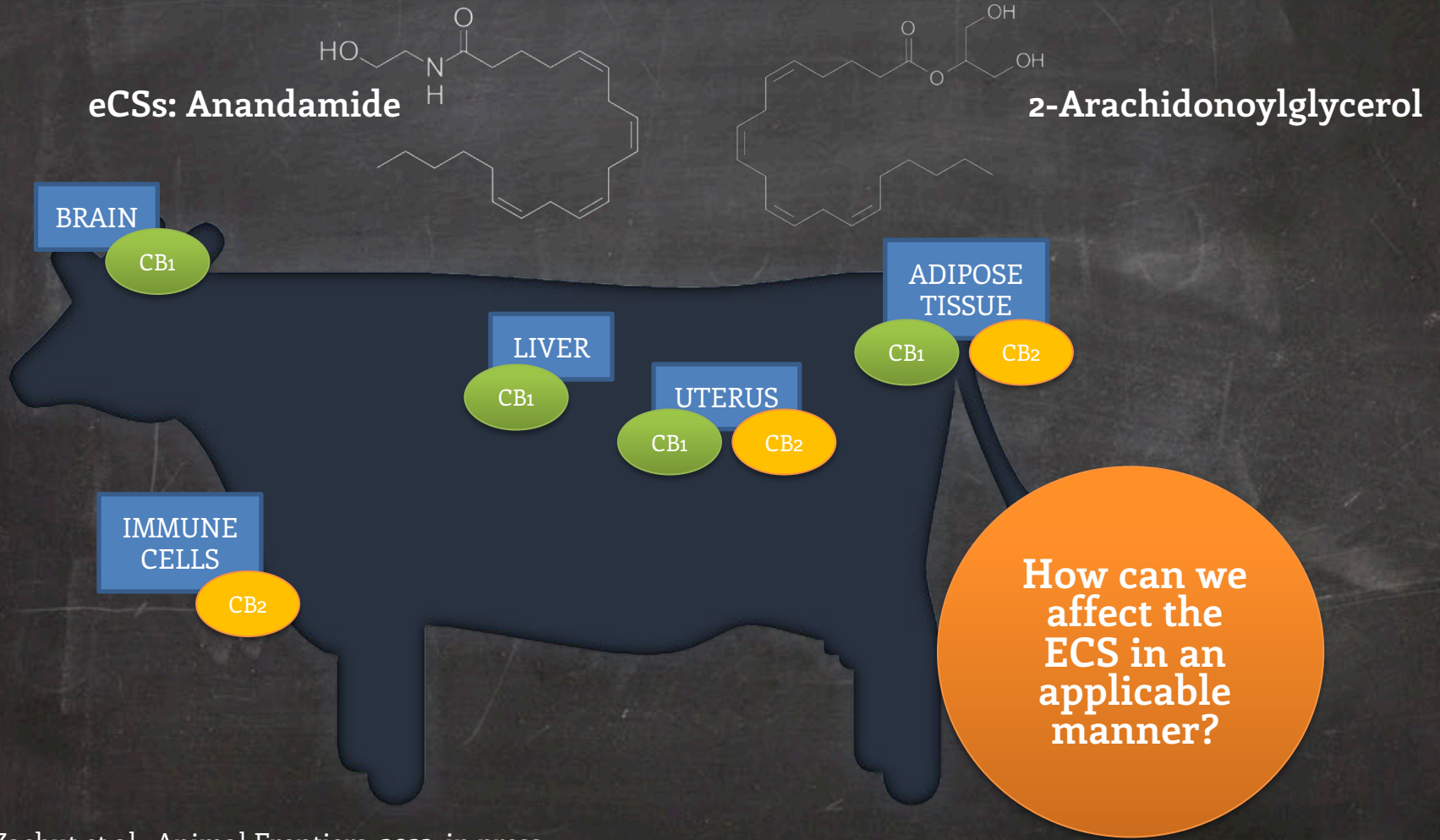
A proposed modulatory role of the endocannabinoid system on adipose tissue metabolism and appetite in periparturient dairy cows





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The ECS in Dairy Cows





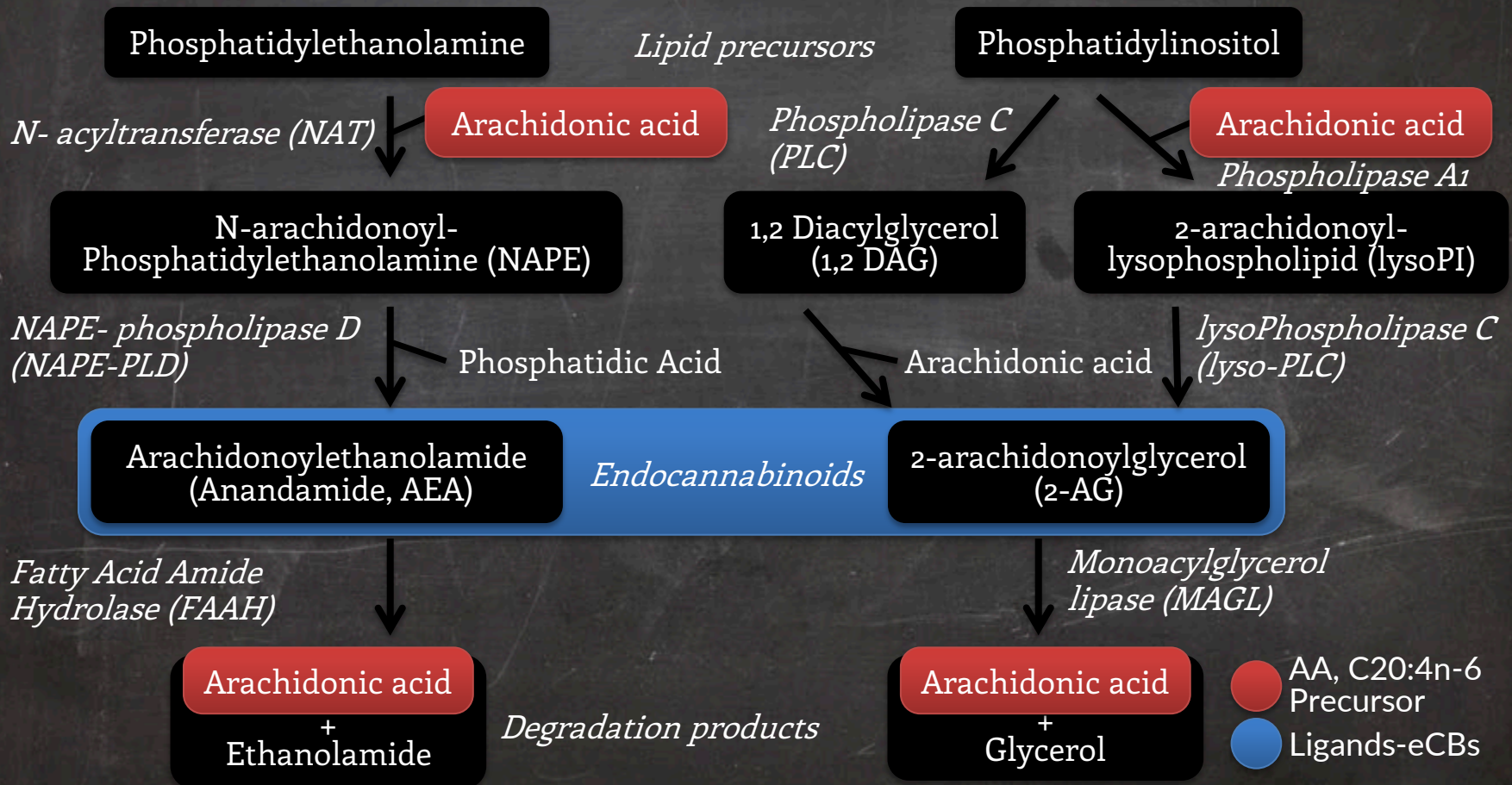
Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows How Can Dietary Omega-3 Effect the ECS?

- C_{20:4}n-6 (AA) is a main precursor of endocannabinoids.
- Supplementing n-3 can lower the n-6/n-3 ratio and reduce the availability of AA in membranes.
- Lower AA is expected to lower ECS activation.



Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows

ECS Biosynthesis





Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows

Research Hypothesis



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Letter to the editor: Are the physiological effects of dietary n-3 fatty acids partly mediated by changes in activity of the endocannabinoid system in dairy cows?

Maya Zachut* 

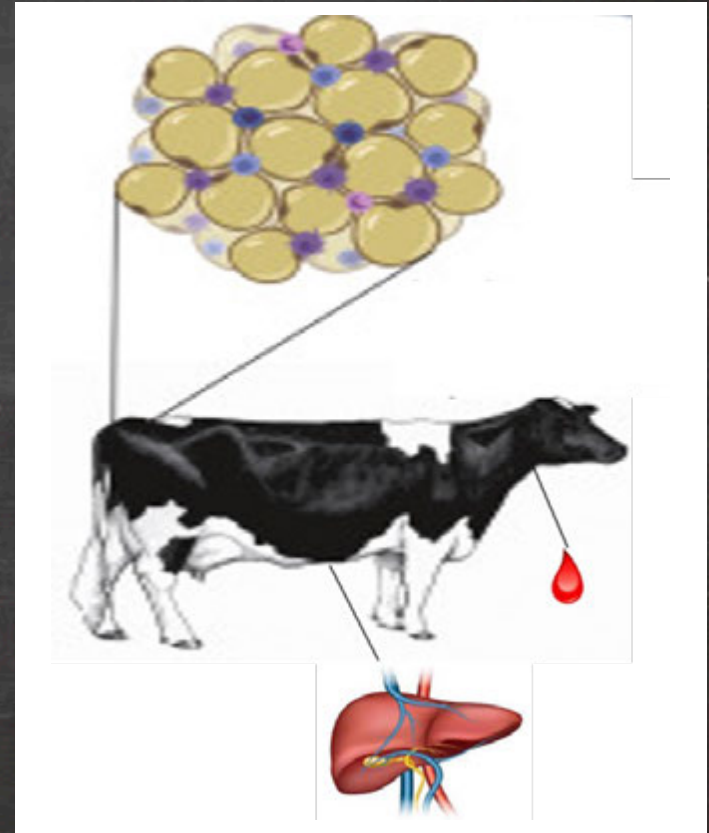
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n-3 > lower ECS “tone” > affect metabolism and inflammation



Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows

Effects of n-3 Supplementation on ECS in Transition Dairy Cows





Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows Excessive Lipolysis and Uncontrolled Inflammation

- 28 multiparous Holstein late pregnant dairy cows at individual feeding barn.
- Treatments started at 257 d of pregnancy until 21 d in lactation:
 - **CTL** (n = 14) – basal diet, supplemented with encapsulated saturated fat at 240 and 560 g/d per cow prepartum and PP, respectively.
 - **FLX** (n = 14) – the same basal diet, supplemented prepartum at 300 g/d per cow with encapsulated fat providing α -linolenic acid (ALA) at 56.1 g/d, and PP at 700 g/d per cow providing 131.0 g/d ALA from FLX.
- **Blood, liver and adipose tissue** were sampled postpartum for metabolic, inflammatory and ECS components.



Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows Results

- FLX increased plasma % ALA (3.9% vs. 1.8, SEM = 0.15, $P < 0.0001$).
- n-6/n-3 tended to decrease in FLX (24.2 vs. 9.8, SEM = 5.32, $P = 0.07$).
- Milk yields and fat corrected milk 4% were similar.
- DMI was 8.1% lower in the FLX than in CTL ($P = 0.006$).
- Calculated energy balance was not different between groups.
- No differences in plasma metabolites or cytokines.



Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows

n-3 Modulates eCBs in Plasma, Adipose & Liver

Plasma	CTL	FLX	SEM	P-value
2-AG ² , (fmol/mL)	10.5	9.1	2.13	0.65
AA ³ , (pmol/mL)	581.2 ^a	324.3 ^b	61.18	0.02
AEA ⁴ , (fmol/mL)	232.2 ^a	116.8 ^b	31.82	0.03
PEA ⁵ , (fmol/mL)	0.4	0.0	0.31	0.33
OEA ⁶ , (fmol/mL)	34.1	34.3	9.66	0.99

Adipose Tissue	CTL	FLX	SEM	P-value
2-AG ² , (fmol/mL)	97.0	69.6	25.90	0.48
AA ³ , (pmol/mL)	1.3	1.0	0.16	0.24
AEA ⁴ , (fmol/mL)	0.7	0.7	0.17	0.97
PEA ⁵ , (fmol/mL)	16.1 ^a	6.2 ^b	2.53	0.02
OEA ⁶ , (fmol/mL)	125.2	100.2	15.90	0.30

Liver	CTL	FLX	SEM	P-value
2-AG ² , (fmol/mL)	287.6	497.8	72.03	0.07
AA ³ , (pmol/mL)	6.9	8.2	1.65	0.59
AEA ⁴ , (fmol/mL)	0.7	0.9	0.40	0.73
PEA ⁵ , (fmol/mL)	13.9	10.6	8.17	0.78
OEA ⁶ , (fmol/mL)	44.2	15.9	15.16	0.22



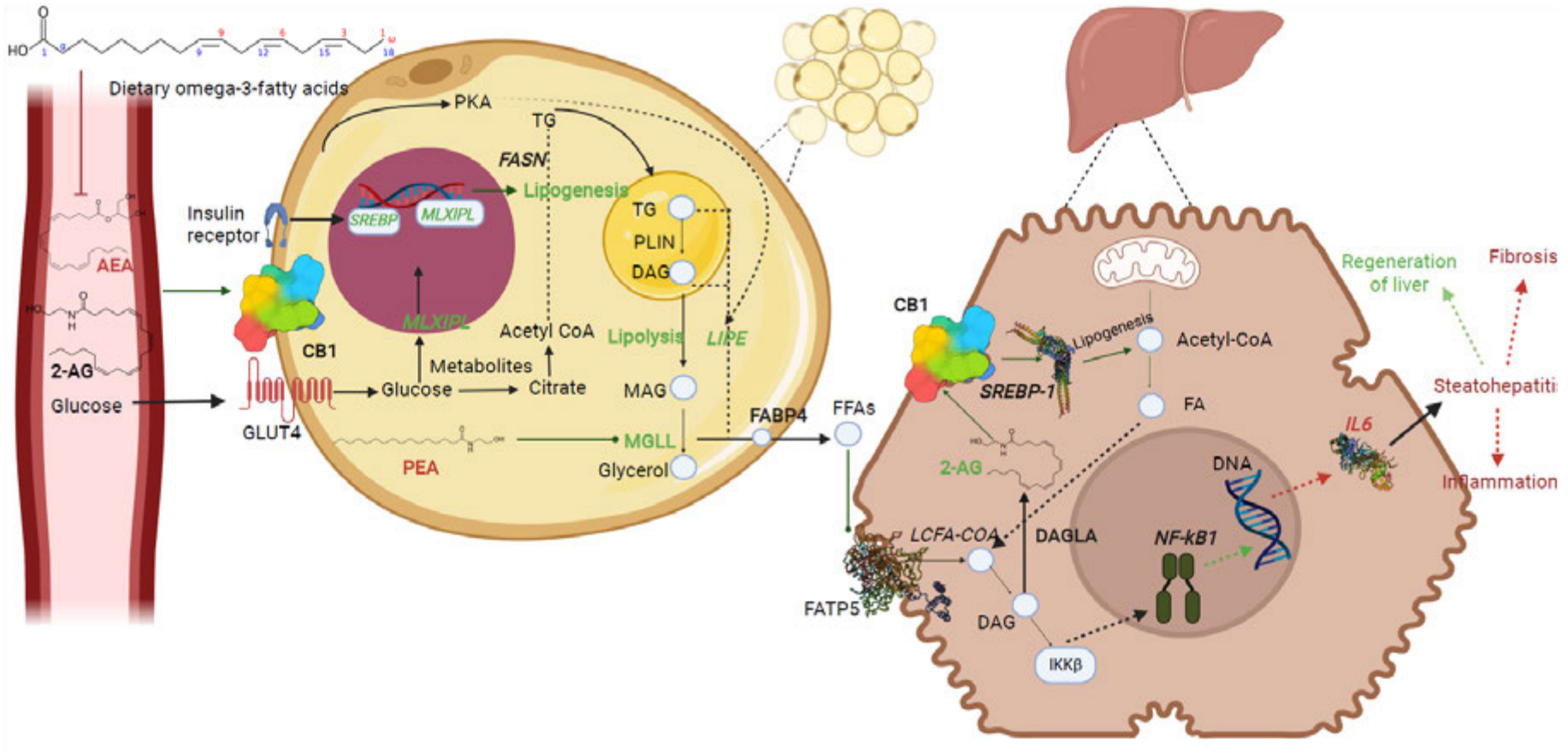
Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows Components in Blood, Adipose, and Liver

- **White blood cells:** mRNA of CB₁ (CNR₁) tended to be lower in FLX
- **PBMC:** protein abundance of ECS enzyme MGLL was higher in FLX
- **Adipose:** mRNA of lipid metabolism genes were higher, and protein abundances of CB₂ and MGLL tended to be higher in FLX
- **Liver:** interleukin-6 mRNA was lower in FLX than in CTL



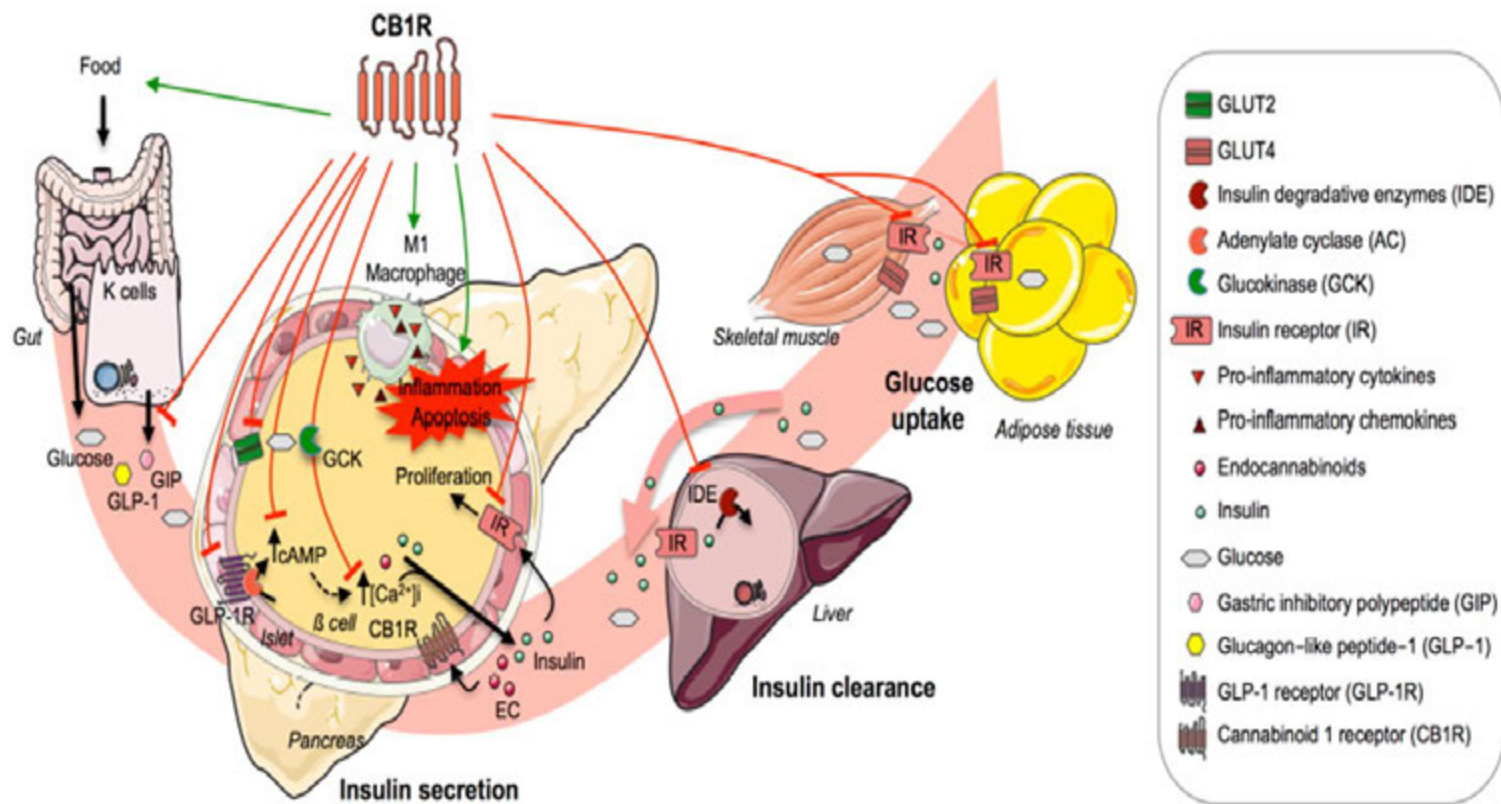
Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows

n-3 Supplementation Modulates ECS in Blood, Adipose & Liver of Postpartum Cows



Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows

The Next Frontier: Assessing Insulin Sensitivity & ECS





Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows

Summary

- Omega-3 supplementation was related to moderate alterations in ECS components, increased lipid metabolism in adipose and lower inflammation in liver
- Lower feed intake could be related to lower ECS tone; however, we did not observe increased lipolysis in FLX cows
- Supplementation of n-3 was related to tissue-dependent responses in ECS components in peripartum dairy cows



Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows Excessive Lipolysis and Uncontrolled Inflammation

Livestock Science 242 (2020) 104302

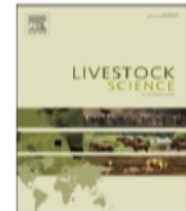


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The effects of omega-3 α -linolenic acid from flaxseed on production, health, and

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Incidence of health events by treatment groups in cows supplemented with extruded flaxseed.

Event	Treatment ¹		SEM	P-value
	Control	EFLX		
Without metritis,%	64.6 (155/240)	67.8 (187/276)		NS
Mild metritis,%	10.4 (25/240)	8.3 (23/276)		NS
Moderate metritis,%	12.1 (29/240)	14.9 (41/276)		NS
Severe metritis,%	12.9 (31/240)	9.1 (25/276)		0.15
Without ketosis,%	68.9 (166/240)	76.5 (211/276)		0.05
Mild ketosis,%	11.7 (28/240)	8.7 (24/276)		NS
Moderate ketosis,%	8.3 (20/240)	7.6 (21/276)		NS
Severe ketosis,%	10.8 (26/240)	7.2 (20/276)		0.03
Udder edema,%	5.8 (14/240)	2.2 (6/276)		0.03
Mastitis ² ,%	5.0 (11/240)	5.1 (14/276)		NS
Milk fever,%	0.8 (2/240)	1.1 (3/276)		NS
Mortality,%	4.6 (11/240)	0.7 (2/276)		0.005
BCS post-calving	3.45	3.65	0.03	<0.0006
BCS peak lactation	2.84	3.03	0.03	<0.0003
BW (kg)	648.7	660.8	0.5	<0.0001

EFLX (n = 276) - pre- and postpartum diet extruded flaxseed supplement.

CTL; (n = 240) - a diet with a different composition but a similar nutrient content.



Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows

Take Home Message

- Omega-3 supplementation to transition cows modulates ECS in blood, liver and adipose tissue
- Further research will examine how manipulating ECS activity can affect physiology and immunometabolism in dairy cows



Supplementation of Omega-3 Fatty Acids Modulates the Endocannabinoid system in Peripartum Dairy Cows

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