Thitawat Kerdchua 2014: Measurement of Technical Efficiency in Raw Milk Production on Dairy Farmers in Muak Lek District Saraburi Province. Master of Arts (Agribusiness), Major Field: Agribusiness, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Winai Puttakul, Ph.D. 95 pages

This research aims to measure the technical efficiency of 40 dairy farmers in MuakLek district, Saraburi Province using input and output data of 2012. Technical efficiency index, Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA), with categorical variables, on the basis of farm sizes -- small, medium, large -- was used to analyze input and output variables.

The result reveals different average technical efficiency among farm sizes. The average technical efficiency of the small-size dairy farms is 0.83; that of the medium-size is 0.69; and that of the large-size is 0.83. The result also suggests inefficient farmers to reach the efficient goal by decreasing average input of 61.06% for small-size farmers, 62.00% for medium-size farmers, and 33.75% for large-size farmers. Meanwhile, they have to increase their average output of 11.54% for small-size farmers, 5.94% for medium-size farmers, and 21.92% for large-size farmers. From this research, another interesting result is that there are one small-size dairy farmer and two medium-size dairy farmers, who gain 100% technical efficiency even their efficiency indices are calculated against the larger size. These farms could be viewed as examples of best practices for others under the study

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