

## Liver proteome profiling in dairy cows during the transition from gestation to lactation: Effects of supplementation with essential fatty acids and conjugated linoleic acids as explored by PLS-DA

Arash Veshkini, Harald M. Hammon, Laura Vogel, Mylène Delosière, Didier Viala, Sèbastien Dèjean, Arnulf Tröscher, Fabrizio Ceciliani, Helga Sauerwein, Muriel Bonnet

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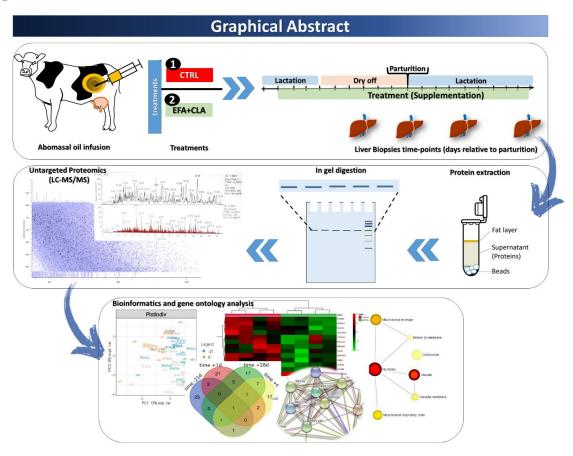
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1	Liver proteome profiling in dairy cows during the transition from gestation to
2	lactation: Effects of supplementation with essential fatty acids and conjugated
3	linoleic acids as explored by PLS-DA
4	
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23	
24	Highlights
25	1. Supplementation with fatty acids affected the liver proteome in dairy cows

- 26 2. Out of 1680 proteins identified, 96 were differentially abundant
- 27 3. The key pathways involved were Cytochrome P450 and  $\omega$ -oxidation of fatty acids
- 28 4. Specific cytochrome P450 (CYP) enzymes were identified at each time point

### 29 Graphical abstract



30

### 31

### 32 Abstract

- 33 This study aimed at investigating the synergistic effects of essential fatty acids (EFA) and conjugated linoleic acids 34 (CLA) on the liver proteome profile of dairy cows during the transition to lactation. 16 Holstein cows were infused 35 from 9 wk antepartum to 9 wk postpartum into the abomasum with either coconut oil (CTRL) or a mixture of EFA 36 (linseed + safflower oil) and CLA (EFA+CLA). Label-free quantitative proteomics was performed in liver tissue 37 biopsied at days -21, +1, +28, and +63 relative to calving. Differentially abundant proteins (DAP) between treatment 38 groups were identified at the intersection between a multivariate and a univariate analysis. In total, 1680 proteins were 39 identified at each time point, of which between groups DAP were assigned to the metabolism of xenobiotics by 40 cytochrome P450, drug metabolism - cytochrome P450, steroid hormone biosynthesis, glycolysis/gluconeogenesis, 41 and glutathione metabolism. Cytochrome P450, as a central hub, enriched with specific CYP enzymes comprising: 42 CYP51A1 (d -21), CYP1A1 & CYP4F2 (d +28), and CYP4V2 (d +63). Collectively, supplementation of EFA+CLA 43 in transition cows impacted hepatic lipid metabolism and enriched several common biological pathways at all time 44 points that were mainly related to ω-oxidation of fatty acids through the Cytochrome p450 pathway. 45
- 46 **Keywords:** Liver Proteome, negative energy balance, postpartum, cytochrome p450, fatty acid oxidation, gene
- 47 ontology

### 48 Significance

- 49 In three aspects this manuscript is notable. First, this is among the first longitudinal proteomics studies in nutrition of
- 50 dairy cows. The selected time points are critical periods around parturition with profound endocrine and metabolic
- 51 adaptations. Second, our findings provided novel information on key drivers of biologically relevant pathways
- 52 suggested according to previously reported performance, zootechnical, and metabolism data (already published
- 53 elsewhere). Third, our results revealed the role of cytochrome P450 that is hardly investigated, and of ω-oxidation
- 54 pathways in the metabolism of fatty acids with the involvement of specific enzymes.

### 55 **1. Introduction**

56 Most mammals enter a state of negative energy balance (NEB) at the onset of lactation when the needs for lactation 57 and maintenance cannot be met by feed intake. This metabolic status leads to mobilization of body reserves, mainly

58 from adipose tissue in the form of non-esterified fatty acids (NEFA) to meet the energy requirements for lactation [1].

59 In high-yielding dairy cows, the liver plays a crucial role in metabolic homeostasis and energy production by

60 metabolizing NEFA via precisely regulated signaling and cellular pathways [2]. However, hepatic lipid metabolism

61 is impaired at the onset of lactation when uptake of NEFA by the liver exceeds their oxidation and the export capacity

62 via lipoproteins and may thus result in a fatty liver syndrome [3].

63 Essential fatty acids (EFA), including linoleic acid (LA, 18:2 n-6) and α-linolenic acid (ALA, 18:3 n-3), affect the

64 energy and FA metabolism, inflammation, and immune responses through activation of nuclear receptors [4-6].

65 Conjugated Linoleic Acids (CLA) which are stereo-isomers of LA have been reported to induce milk fat depression

66 (MFD), thus partitioning energy by sparing milk energy for other organs [7, 8]. Energy spared from reduced milk fat

67 synthesis was shown to affect energy partitioning, as toward adipose tissue fat stores [9, 10] and consequently to

68 decrease plasma NEFA concentration and the risk for fatty liver [11]. The shift in dairy farming towards modern

69 indoor production systems went along with a change from using pasture (grass) to feed rations that are largely based

70 on so-called total mixed rations (TMR), in which the roughage component is mainly corn silage in many countries.

71 The decreased or lacking consumption of fresh grass leads to a drop in the intake of  $\omega$ -3 FA and CLA production [12-

14]. A large body of work has highlighted the increased body deposition of n-3 FA and CLA in dairy cows fed with

73 fresh grass in comparison to corn silage (for example [15]).

Assessing the effects of specific FA in different feeding practices is complex. Using an experimental model in which dairy cows receiving a corn-silage-based ration without any grass, the EFA and CLA's effects were tested by abomasal supplementation avoiding microbial degradation in the forestomaches [11, 16, 17]. The results showed that the FA marginally improved metabolic health by induction of MFD, which increased energy balance and reduced plasma concentration of triglycerides and NEFA. In addition, paraoxonase, a hepatic antioxidant enzyme, was elevated postpartum (PP) by the FA application. Although some of these impacted metabolites and proteins were directly or indirectly related to the liver, EFA and CLA-driven hepatic responses remain to be investigated.

81 Improvements in proteomics in the last decade have increased our understanding of the biological pathways impacted 82 by various physiological conditions and diseases [18]. Characterization and comprehensive proteome profiling of the 83 liver as a central organ in energy and lipid metabolism could open up new insights into the regulatory metabolic 84 pathways influenced by different nutritional supplements. Proteomics results allow better understanding and 85 predicting the metabolism and help define rapid biomarkers for use in the early diagnosis of steatosis or other 86 metabolic diseases associated with liver metabolic health [19]. In this regard, there are several studies in dairy cows 87 entailing the liver proteome for investigating feed efficiency [20], fatty liver [21], and heat stress [22, 23]. In the 88 current study, untargeted proteomics was applied on liver samples from dairy cows supplemented or not with EFA 89 and CLA to investigate metabolic responses during several critical time points around parturition. To the best of our 90 knowledge, this is the first proteomics report considering the longitudinal response of EFA and CLA in dairy cows

91 during the transition from late pregnancy to early lactation.

### 92 **2.** Material and methods

### 93 2.1. Animals, Treatments, and Experimental Design

94 The trial was carried out as described previously [11] with 16 multiparous (second lactation) German Holstein cows 95 at the Research Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN), Dummerstorf, Germany. The experimental 96 animal procedures were evaluated and approved by the German Animal Welfare Act (Landesamt für Landwirtschaft, 97 Lebensmittelsicherheit und Fischerei Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany; LALLF M-V/TSD/7221.3-1-038/15). 98 More details on housing, feeding, feed intake, performance, and milk production of studied cows were presented 99 earlier [11]. Briefly, dairy cows housed in a free-stall and abomasally injected with 1-control, the coconut oil (CTRL, 100 n = 8; Bio-Kokosöl #665, Kräuterhaus Sanct Bernhard, KG, Bad Ditzenbach, Germany) or 2- EFA+CLA, a 101 combination of linseed oil (DERBY® Leinöl #4026921003087, DERBY Spezialfutter GmbH, Münster, Germany), 102 safflower oil (GEFRO Distelöl, GEFRO Reformversand Frommlet KG, Memmingen, Germany) and Lutalin® (CLA, 103 n = 8; cis-9, trans-11, 10 g/d trans- 10, cis-12 CLA, BASF SE, Ludwigshafen, Germany) for 18 weeks started from d 104 63 antepartum (AP) until d 63 PP (Figure 1 A). Supplements were injected twice daily at 0700 and 1630 h in equal 105 portions through abomasal infusion lines (Teflon tube [i. d. 6 mm] with 2 perforated Teflon flanges [o.d. 120 mm], 106 placed in rumen cannulas (#2C or #1C 4", Bar Diamond Inc., Parma, ID). The amount and FA composition of the 107 lipid supplements is given in Supplementary, Table S1. 108 The cows were fed a conventional corn silage-based total mixed ration (TMR), formulated using the equation 109 published by the German Society for Nutrition Physiology (2001 [24], 2008 [25], 2009 [26]) and Deutsche

- Landwirtschaftliche Gesellschaft (DLG, 2013) [27], for AP and PP. The basal diet was provided ad libitum at 0600 h, with free access to water and trace-mineralized salt blocks. The ingredients and chemical composition of the experimental diets are presented in Supplementary Table S2.
- 113

### 114 **2.2.** Liver biopsies

Liver tissue samples were obtained using a biopsy needle (outer diameter of 6 mm) under local anesthesia on d -21 AP, d 1 and d 28 PP, and after slaughtering the cows on d 63 PP as previously described [28] (Figure 1 A). The specimens were immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80 °C until protein extraction.

118

### 119

### 2.3. Liver Preparation for Proteomics Analysis

120 Frozen samples were first ground mechanically using a mortar and pestle chilled in liquid nitrogen. Eighty mg of 121 tissue powder were placed in a reinforced 2-mL tube containing six ceramic beads (Dutscher, United Kingdom) and 122 mixed with 1 mL of freshly prepared Laemmli sample buffer (50 mM Tris pH 6.8, 2% SDS, 5% glycerol, 2 mM DTT, 123 2.5 mM EDTA, 2.5 mM EGTA, H2O 920 µLl, 2x phosphatase inhibitors tablets (Perbio, Thermo Fischer, Hercules, 124 California, USA), 1x protease inhibitor (Roche, Boulogne-Billancourt, France), 4 mM sodium orthovanadate, and 20 125 mM sodium fluoride). Subsequently, liver tissue was homogenized in a Precellys® 24 homogenizer (PEOLAB 126 Biotechnology GmbH, Erlangen, Germany) at 6800 rpm, 3 x 30 sec (30-sec break between each cycle) at room 127 temperature (RT). Immediately after the homogenization step, tubes were boiled for 10 min in 100 °C boiling water,

- 128 followed by centrifugation for 15 min at 16000 g at RT. The supernatant was carefully separated and stored at -80 °C
- 129 until proteomics analysis. An aliquot of the lysate was used to measure the total protein concentration using the
- 130 bicinchoninic acid (BCA, Pierce, Rockford, IL) assay. For peptide preparation, 100 µg of protein were first
- 131 concentrated in 1D SDS-PAGE gel containing 5-15% acrylamide for stacking and resolving gel, respectively. Once
- 132 the proteins enter the resolving gel, the electrophoresis was stopped and a small piece of gel containing a major band
- 133 was cut. After reduction and alkylation, proteins were subjected to in-gel digestion with 10 ng/µL porcine trypsin
- 134 (Promega, Madison, Wisconsin, United States) overnight (Figure 1 B).
- 135 136

### 2.4. Nano-LC-MS/MS Analysis

137 After digestion, the liver peptides mixture was analyzed using nano-scaled liquid chromatography (LC) in Ultimate

3000 RSLCnano system (Dionex) coupled to an Orbitrap Q Exactive HF-X mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher
 Scientific) for mass spectrometry (MS), adopting the methods previously described by [29]. To reduce between-group

140 variability, the LC-MS/MS was performed on all 64 samples consecutively and samples were randomly injected

141 without any order related to time or treatment.

142 Briefly, a reversed-phase LC was carried out by loading 1 µL of the resuspended peptide mixture onto a trapping

143 column (pre-column 5 mm length X 300 μm; Acclaim PepMap C18, 5 μm, 100 Å) equilibrated with trifluoroacetic

144 acid 0.05% in water, at a flow rate of 30  $\mu$ L/min. After 6 min, the pre-column was switched in-line with the analytical

145 column (Acclaim PepMap 100 - 75 μm inner diameter × 25 cm length; C18 - 3 μm -100Å, Dionex), equilibrated with

146 96% solvent A (99.5% H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.5% formic acid) and 4% solvent B (99.5% ACN, 0.5% formic acid).

147 Peptides were eluted at a 400 nL/min flow rate according to their hydrophobicity using a 4 to 20% gradient of solvent

B for 60 min. Briefly, the analytical column was first equilibrated with 96% A solvent and 4% B solvent for 6 min,

149 followed by a gradual increase of the B solvent to 20% for 70 min. Then, to clear the system from hydrophobic

150 peptides, the B gradient rose from 20 to 80% in one min (at 77 min) and remained constant for further 5 minutes.

151 Subsequently, the concentration of solvent B was decreased to 4% within 0.1 min and kept constant for 8 min to

- 152 prepare the system for the next injection.
- 153 The nanoelectrospray ion source (Proxeon) was used as a connecter between the LC and Q Exactive HF-X mass
- 154 spectrometer (Thermo Scientific). Eluates of LC step electro sprayed in positive-ion mode at 1.6 kV through a
- 155 nanoelectrospray ion source heated to 250 °C. The Orbitrap Q Exactive HF-X MS used in HCD top 18 modes (i.e. 1
- 156 full scan MS and the 18 major peaks in the full scan selected for MS/MS). The mass spectrometry method duration
- 157 was set to 79 min, the polarity was positive, and the default charge was 2.
- 158 On the MS1 scan, the parent ions were selected in the orbitrap Fourier transform mass spectrometry (FTMS) at the
- 159 following parameters: a resolution of 60,000, an injection time of 50 ms. mass ranges from 375 to 1600 m/z and the
- 160 Automatic gain control (AGC) target is set on  $3 \times 106$  ions. Each MS analysis was followed by 18 data-dependent
- 161 MS2 scans with an analysis of MSMS fragments at a resolution of 15,000,  $1 \times 105$  AGC, and an injection time of 100
- 162 ms. The HCD collision energy set to 28% NCE, and ~15 s dynamic exclusion.
- 163
- 164 2.5. Processing of raw mass spectrometry data

165 The processing of raw Peptide MS/MS spectra was performed in Progenesis QI software (version 4.2, Nonlinear 166 Dynamics, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK) using automatic alignment to the reference sample automatically defined by 167 the software with the default parameter settings (maximum allowable ion charged set to 5 and Ions ANOVA p-value 168 < 0.05). The mass generating function (mgf) list containing the detected and the quantified peptide ions were directly 169 exported to MASCOT (version 2.5.1) interrogation engine and searched against a Bos taurus decoy database (Uniprot, 170 download date: 2019/11/07, a total of 37,513 entries). The search criteria were set as follows: an enzyme digest of a 171 protein set to trypsin, tryptic specificity required (cleavage C-terminal after lysine or arginine residues); 2 missed 172 cleavages were allowed; carbamidomethylation (C) and oxidation (M) set as variable modification. The mass tolerance 173 was set to 10 ppm for precursor ions, 0.02 Da for fragment ions, and FDR < 0.01. The identified peptides from the 174 database search were imported back to Progenesis QI, and the corresponding proteins were identified and quantified 175 based on the intensities of the specific validated peptides. Strict exclusion criteria (deamidated, carbamidomethyl, and 176 oxidation contaminant proteins, having at least two peptides and two unique peptides, and presence in at least 50% of 177 the samples in each treatment group/time point) were applied before analysis.

178

### 179 **2.6.** Data pre-processing

180 Statistical analyses were performed using the normalized intensity values combined with some in-house developed, 181 EnhancedVolcano, MetaboAnalystR 3.0, and mixOmics R-packages in R statistical software (R version 4.0.0). Before 182 the analyses, the following modifications were applied to proteins, in very severe filtrations: proteins with less than 183 two unique peptides or having zero values in more than 50% of the replicates were not included in the analysis. After 184 filtration, the log10 transformation and auto-scaling (z-transformation), which is mean-cantered and divided by the 185 standard deviation of each variable applied to normalized intensities. The missing or zero values (indicated the peak 186 did not reach the detectable thresholds) were imputed and replaced with the small values (half of the smallest positive 187 value in the dataset). The PCA scatter plot was used to visualize the 2-D cross-section of hyperspace between samples 188 and to distinguish the samples located far away from the treatment clusters (potential outliers). One cow (from the 189 CTRL group in time point -21d AP) considered an outlier by both principal component analysis and hierarchical 190 clustering was removed from the analysis

191

### 192 **2.7. Statistical analyses**

193 The selection of the most important proteins (VIP) involved in the discrimination of the CTRL and EFA+CLA groups 194 at each time point was based on the intersection of two complementary analyses.

195 196

### 2.7.1 Multivariate analysis

197 Firstly, PCA analysis was done to reduce the dimension of data and to visualize clustering of samples regardless of 198 treatment groups. Partial Least Square Discriminant Analysis (PLS-DA) analysis (mixOmics package in R) ranked 199 proteins importance in projection scores of the first two components (PC1 and PC2) in each time point. This step aims 100 to rank the most discriminative proteins that contribute to cluster separation between treatment groups. A permutation 1201 test (defined to 100 random computations) was applied to disprove the over-fitting of the PLS-DA model. Since the 202 permutation test indicated over-fitting in all time points, we performed the second filtration step according to 203 univariate analysis. Although this study aimed to compare different treatments, not assessing populations parameter 204 or identifying predictive model, therefore, permutation test's significance was not the case.

205 2.7.2 Univariate analysis

Secondly, from those proteins that were top VIP-ranked (score > 1.5), only ones with P-value < 0.05, and log2 (fold change) >1.3 (metaboanalyst R package) were considered as differentially abundant proteins (DAP) for further analysis. The P-value was assessed either by Student's t-test (parametric) or Wilcoxon Mann-Whitney test (nonparametric), according to the normality distribution of each protein (Shapiro-Wilk-Test) as previously described [30].

210 211

2.7.3 Intersec

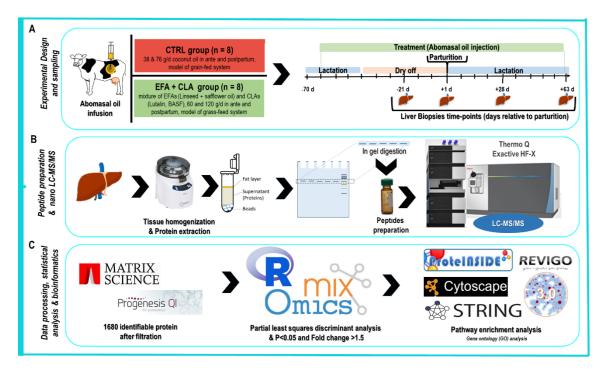
Intersection between multivariate and univariate analyses to identify discriminative and differentially abundant proteins (DAP)

The intersection between the results from the two methods was chosen to reduce the list of relevant proteins involved in the treatment effect. Thus, we considered two filters, and we selected the proteins that passed through both by choosing the intersection between the two complementary methods. Hierarchical clustering Heat map analysis was performed to approve and visualize DAP (Figure 1 C).

216 217

### 2.8. Bioinformatics analysis of differentially abundant proteins

218 Before bioinformatics analysis, proteins' accession was converted into Gene ID using the UniProt (retrieve/ID 219 mapping) database conversion tool, and undefined proteins were blasted and replaced with their Gene ID in Bos taurus 220 and Homo sapiens. Then, the gene ontology (GO) analysis containing Biological Process (BP), Molecular Function 221 (MF), and Cellular Component (CC), Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG), and Reactome pathways 222 enrichment analysis of the DAP were performed in STRING web tool version 11.0 in Cytoscape and ProteINSIDE 223 (version 1.0) constructed specifically under *B. taurus* interactions map. Only pathways with adjusted P-value < 0.05224 (corrected to false discovery rate with Benjamini-Hochberg method) and having at least two hits in each pathway were 225 considered as significantly enriched (Figure 1 C). REVIGO web server (http://revigo.irb.hr/) was used to summarize 226 BP terms. Generated GO terms were submitted to Cytoscape version 3.8.2 and Networkanalyst.ca version 3.0 to build 227 the interaction networks. Protein protein interaction networks was constructed by inputting the DAP in each time point 228 to STRING and visualized in cytoscape software, in which nodes and edges represent proteins and their interactions, 229 respectively [31].



230

Figure 1) Schematic diagram of the (A) study design, (B) proteomics workflow, and (C) bioinformatics pipeline. (A) Timeline of treatments supplementation (from -63d ante to +63d postpartum) and liver biopsy collection (-21 d, +1 d, +28 d, and +63 d relative to parturition). Bold lines indicate liver biopsy sampling timepoints. (B) Protein extraction, purification, reduction, alkylation, and digestion; peptides were analysed by high-resolution LC-MS/MS, (C) Peptides alignment (progenesis), and protein identification (mascot) procedure were performed by Progenesis software coupled with the Mascot search engine, statistical analysis was based on Partial least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) merged with P < 0.05 and Fold change > 1.5, followed by bioinformatics analysis (protein-protein interaction and Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis.

### **3. Results**

### 240 **3.1.** Cows performance data

A summary of cows performance and plasma metabolites data from the CTRL and EFA+CLA group was extracted from [11, 16, 17] and provided in supplementary S3 and S4. In brief, EFA+CLA supplementation increased plasma concentration of these FA, decreased PP NEFA and TG content, induced MFD, increased energy balance, and slightly affected markers of ketogenesis and hepatic inflammation (i.e., haptoglobin and paraoxonase). Dry matter intake, body weight, milk yield, and net energy intake were not affected by treatment.

- 246
- 247 **3.2.** Liver proteome profile

248 Out of 2720 identified proteins, a total of 1680 proteins at each time point were maintained for statistical analysis after

applying the exclusion criteria [31]. Of the 1680 proteins,1614 proteins were annotated by GO terms related to 907

250 BP, as well as 111 KEGG, and 270 Reactome pathways that covered a diverse range of metabolic pathways related to

251 metabolism (carbohydrate, energy, lipid, nucleotide, amino acid, glycan, vitamin, and xenobiotic metabolism), genetic

- information processing (translation and folding, sorting and degradation), cellular process (transport and catabolismand cell growth and death), and organismal systems (immune system and endocrine system).
- 254

### 3.3. Differentially abundant proteins and functional enrichment at day 21 antepartum (Figure 2 A),

From the total identified proteins, 29 proteins were differentially abundant on 21 d AP (Table 1), in which the relative

abundance of 19 proteins was increased with a fold change that ranged from 1.43 - 3.92 (P-value < 0.05), and ten

 $258 \qquad \text{proteins were decreased (ranging from 0.38 - 0.70 \text{ fold, } P-value < 0.05) in the EFA+CLA group when compared to}$ 

- the CTRL group. The DAP were further approved by clustered Heat map and are presented in Figure 2 (A, B, and C).
- 260 The overabundant proteins were annotated by GO terms related to "cholesterol biosynthetic process (GO:0006695)"
- and "lipid metabolic process (GO:0006629)" (Figure 2 D, details in [31]). Underabundant proteins were not annotated
- by any GO terms.
- 263 Considering all DAP, "steroid biosynthesis (bta00100)", "metabolism of xenobiotics by cytochrome P450
- 264 (bta00980)", "drug metabolism cytochrome P450 (bta00982)", "retinol metabolism (bta00830)", "metabolic
- 265 pathways (bta01100)" were mapped to KEGG metabolic pathways (Figure 2 E, details in [31]).

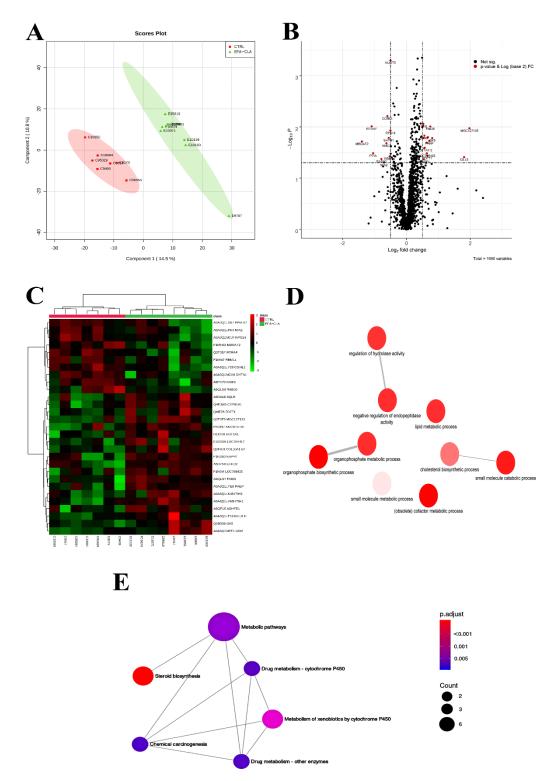




Figure 2) A. Partial least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) score plot of CTRL (red squares) and EFA+CLA (green triangle) on day 21 antepartum. B. Volcano plot represents differentially abundant proteins between CTRL and EFA+CLA group, increased (top right) and decreased (top left) proteins were highlighted in red (P<0.05 and fold change>than 0.58 in a log scale that means a fold change of 1.3). C. Hierarchical clustering heat map analysis of differentially abundant proteins; Rows and columns are sorted by similarity as indicated by the left (proteins) and top (samples) dendrograms, red and green represent CTRL and EFA+CLA, respectively. D. Biological Process Ontology for the differentially

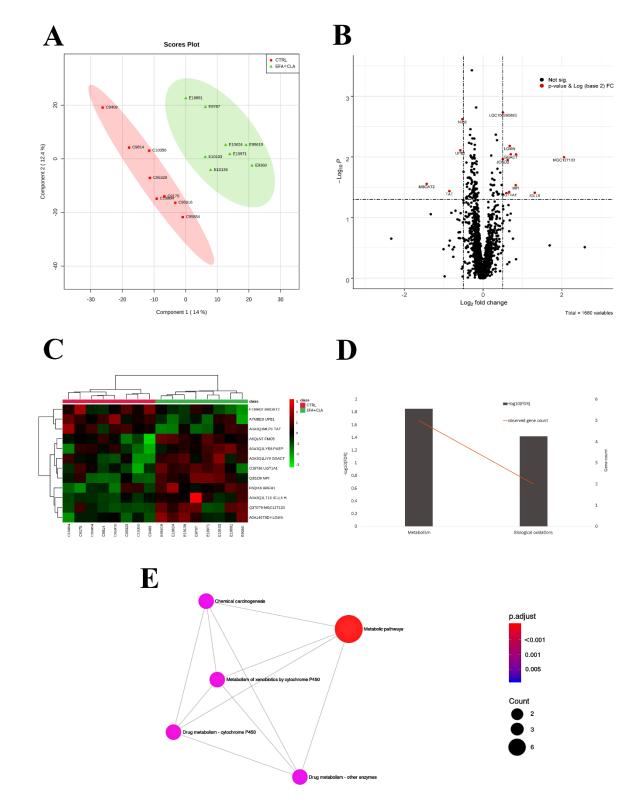
- abundant proteins (DAP). Fold enrichment (Bars, -log10 (adjusted P-value)) refers to the number of relevant gene names represented in each category relative to random expression of all genes in the *Bos taurus* genome. The line between pathways represents their dependence. E. KEGG pathways map of DAP. The colour of the nodes represents the -log10 (adjusted P-value); the size of the dots represents the number of DAP in the pathway. The line between pathways represents their dependence.
- 276 277

### 3.4. Differentially abundant proteins, interaction network, and functional enrichment of day 1 postpartum,

278 On the day after parturition, 12 proteins were differentially abundant between treatment groups (Table 1), including

- 279 nine increased proteins (with a fold change that ranged from 1.50 4.16, P-value < 0.05), and three decreased proteins
- 280 (ranging from 0.37 0.67) in the EFA+CLA group. The DAP are shown in a Volcano plot, and their expression was
- 281 plotted by heat maps (Figure 3 A, B, C).
- Also, the DAP were annotated by KEGG pathways, including "drug metabolism cytochrome P450 (bta00982)" and
- 283 "metabolism of xenobiotics by cytochrome P450 (bta00980)" (Figure 3 D) and Reactome pathway "metabolism of
- 284 lipids (bta556833)" (Figure 3 E, details in [31]).

285





287 Figure 3) A. Partial least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) score plot of CTRL (red squares) and EFA+CLA (green triangle) in day 1 of

postpartum. B. Volcano plot represents differentially abundant proteins between CTRL and EFA+CLA group, increased (top right) and decreased
 (top left) proteins were highlighted in red (P<0.05 and fold change>1.5). C. Hierarchical clustering heat map analysis of differentially abundant

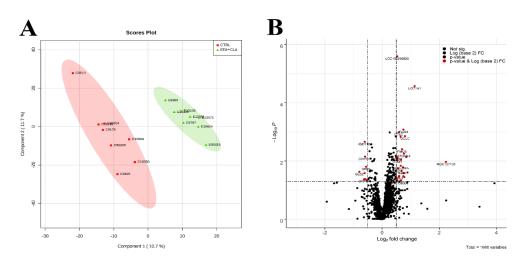
290 proteins, Rows and columns are respectively sorted by similarity as indicated by the left (proteins) and top (samples) dendrograms, red and green

291 represent CTRL and EFA+CLA, respectively. D. Reactome enrichment analysis (x-axis), fold enrichment (bars, left y-axis); the number of

- significant genes in each pathway (-log10, adjusted P-value) is represented by the lines on the right y-axis) represent. E. KEGG pathways map of
   differentially abundant proteins (DAP). The colour of the nodes represents the -log10 (adjusted P-value); the size of the dots represents the number
   of DAP in the pathway. The line between pathways represents their dependence.
- 295

# 3.5. Differentially abundant proteins, interaction network, and functional enrichment at day 28 postpartum,

- 298 At this time point, the relative abundance of 27 proteins was different between treatments (Table 1), of which 21 299 proteins were increased (with a fold change that ranged from 1.50 - 4.70, P-value < 0.05) and 6 proteins decreased 300 (ranging from 0.57 - 0.66) in the EFA+CLA group as compared to the control group (Figure 4 A, B, C). Twenty-three 301 BP have annotated (adjusted P-value < 0.05) by increased proteins, of which "cellular iron ion homeostasis 302 (GO:0006879)", "apoptotic mitochondrial changes (GO:0008637)", "mitochondrial transport (GO:0006839)", 303 "regulation of lipid metabolic process (GO:0019216)", "membrane organization (GO:0061024)", "apoptotic process 304 (GO:0006915)", and "regulation of cellular process (GO:0050794)" (Figure 4 D, details in [31]). Moreover, the GO 305 term "ferric iron-binding (GO:0008199)" in the MF category has been annotated. The proteins were localized in the
- 306 "mitochondrial intermembrane space (GO:0005758)", "lysosome (GO:0005764)", and "cytoplasm (GO:0005737)",
- 307 respectively ([31]).
- Also, the KEGG pathways were linked to "ferroptosis (bta04216)", "mineral absorption (bta04978)", "porphyrin and
- 309 chlorophyll metabolism (bta00860)", "drug metabolism cytochrome P450 (bta00982)", "metabolism of xenobiotics
- 310 by cytochrome P450 (bta00980)", "chemical carcinogenesis (bta05204)", "arachidonic acid metabolism (bta00590)",
- 311 and "metabolic pathways (bta01100)" (Figure 4 E).
- 312 Decreased proteins were annotated by KEGG pathways related to "steroid hormone biosynthesis (bta00140)",
- 313 "metabolism of xenobiotics by cytochrome P450 (bta00980)", and "chemical carcinogenesis (bta05204)" ([31]).
- 314 Reactome enriched pathways included "arachidonic acid metabolism BTA-2142753", "cytochrome P450 arranged
- 315 by substrate type BTA-211897" and "metabolism of lipids BTA-556833" (Figure 4 F).



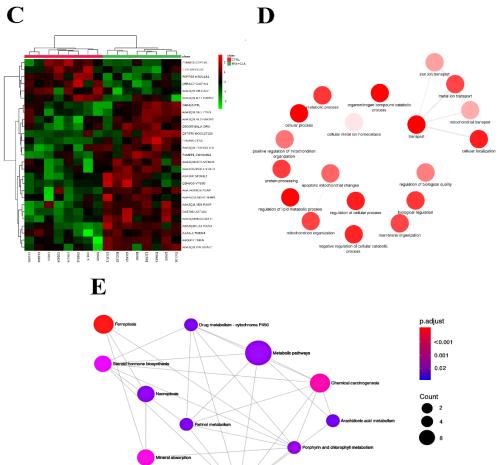




Figure 4) A. Partial least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) score plot of CTRL (red squares) and EFA+CLA (green triangle) in day 28 of postpartum. B. Volcano plot represents differentially abundant proteins between CTRL and EFA+CLA group, increased (top right) and decreased (top left) proteins were highlighted in red (P<0.05 and fold change>1.5). C. Hierarchical clustering heat map analysis of differentially abundant proteins, Rows and columns are respectively sorted by similarity as indicated by the left (proteins) and top (samples) dendrograms, red and green

321 represent CTRL and EFA+CLA, respectively. D. Biological Process Ontology for the differentially abundant proteins (DAP). The fold enrichment

- (adjusted P-value) is coloured in red according to the degree of significance, refers to the number of relevant gene names represented in each category relative to random expression of all genes in the Bos taurus genome. The line between pathways represents their dependence. E. KEGG pathways map of DAP. The colour of the nodes represents the –log10 (adjusted P-value); the size of the dots represents the number of DAP in the pathway. The line between pathways represents their dependence.
- 327 3.6. Differentially abundant proteins, interaction network, and functional enrichment at day 63
   328 postpartum,
- 329 At the last time-point, 26 proteins were considered as DAP (Table 1), among which 16 proteins were upregulated
- 330 (with a fold change ranging from 1.49 4.16, P-value < 0.05), and 10 proteins were downregulated (ranged from 0.11-
- 331 0.67) in the treatment group as compared to the CTRL group (Figure 5 A, B, C).
- 332 The decreased proteins annotated by KEGG pathways belong to "drug metabolism cytochrome P450 (bta00982)",
- 333 "metabolism of xenobiotics by cytochrome P450 (bta00980)", "chemical carcinogenesis (bta05204)", and "metabolic
- pathways (bta01100)" (Figure 5 D, details in [31]). Interestingly, the same pathways were also enriched by the
- 335 upregulated proteins (details in [31]). Moreover, DAP were annotated by Reactome terms to "metabolism BTA-
- 336 1430728", "Phase II conjugation of compounds BTA-156580", "glutathione conjugation BTA-156590" (Figure 5
- 337 E).

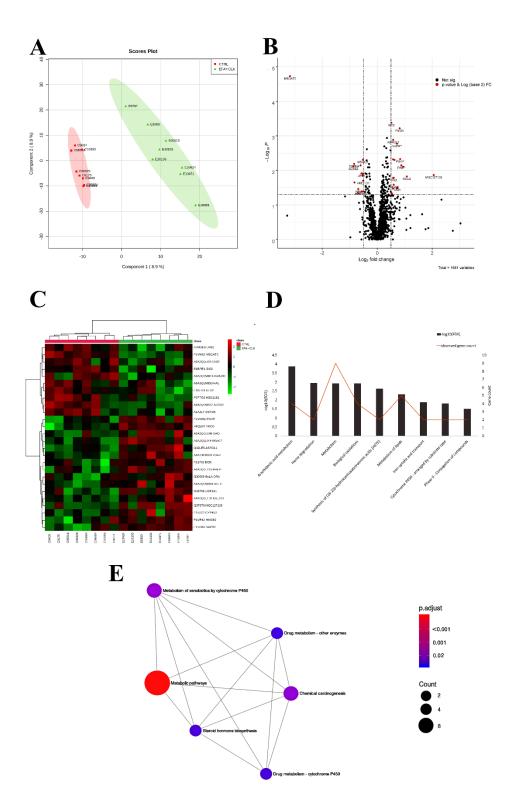




Figure 5) A. Partial least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) score plot of CTRL (red squares) and EFA+CLA (green triangle) in day 63 of postpartum. B. Volcano plot represents differentially abundant proteins between CTRL and EFA+CLA group, increased (top right) and decreased (top left) proteins were highlighted in red (P<0.05 and fold change>1.5). C. Hierarchical clustering heat map analysis of differentially abundant proteins, Rows and columns are respectively sorted by similarity as indicated by the left (proteins) and top (samples) dendrograms, red and green

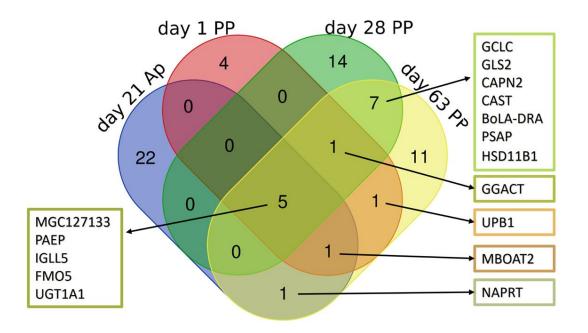
significant genes in each pathway (-log10, adjusted P-value) is represented by the lines on the right y-axis) represent. E. KEGG pathways map of
 differentially abundant proteins (DAP). The colour of the nodes represents the -log10 (adjusted P-value); the size of the dots represents the number
 of DAP in the pathway. The line between pathways represents their dependence.

347

### 348 **3.7.** Common differentially abundant proteins along time

349 As illustrated in the Venn diagram (Figure 6), the DAP pattern was time-specific, probably due to substrates (i.e. 350 supplemented FA, NEFA, and accumulated intermediates) abundance. The relative abundance of 5 common proteins 351 including 20-beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase-like (Q3T0T9, GN: MGC127133), lipocln\_cytosolic\_FA-bd\_dom 352 domain-containing protein (A0A3Q1LYE8, GN: PAEP), Ig-like domain-containing protein (A0A3Q1LT19, GN: 353 dimethylaniline monooxygenase [N-oxide-forming] (A6QLN7, GN: FMO5), UDP-IGLL5), and 354 glucuronosyltransferase (O18736, GN: UGT1A1) were affected by EFA+CLA treatment during all time points (Figure 355 5). Moreover, seven common proteins including glutamate-cysteine ligase catalytic subunit (A0A3Q1MN33, GN: 356 GCLC), glutaminase 2 (E1BHZ6, GN: GLS2), calpain-2 catalytic (A0A3Q1LRZ7, GN: CAPN2), calpastatin 357 (A0A3Q1LI46, GN: CAST), boLA-DR-alpha (Q30309, GN: BoLA-DRA), prosaposin (A0A140T8C6, GN: PSAP), 358 and hydroxysteroid 11-beta dehydrogenase 1 (F6PTG3, GN: HSD11B1) were affected by EFA+CLA treatment on 359 days 28 and 63.

360



361

Figure 6) Venn diagram represent common and specific differentially abundant proteins identified in -21, +1, +28, and +63 days relative to parturition.

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- 365
- . . .
- 366
- 367

### 368 **4.** Discussion

This study aimed to investigate the metabolic adaptation in dairy cows supplemented with a combination of EFA and CLA during the transition from pregnancy to lactation by applying proteomics in liver tissue samples. The synergistic effect of these two FA on performances and "classical" parameters including energy metabolism, the somatotropic axis signaling pathway, plasma fatty acids profile, and markers of inflammation was recently presented [11, 16, 17]. The present study complements previously published works on the hepatic metabolic adaptations as it pointed out proteins and pathways that are part of the molecular signatures elicited by supplementation with EFA and CLA, the latter representing a model for feeding on grass.

376

### 377 4.1. Common pathways identified antepartum and postpartum

The relative abundance of MGC127133, PAEP, IGLL5, FMO5, and UGT1A1 was affected by EFA+CLA regardless of time (Figure 6). These proteins were annotated by KEGG pathways related to drug metabolism - cytochrome P450, metabolism of xenobiotics by cytochrome P450, and retinol metabolism, all belonging to the lesser-studied "cytochrome P450 epoxidation/hydroxylation" pathways involved in ω-oxidation of FA. Unfortunately, less information is available regarding these enzymes' specific functions or their associated pathways in dairy cows, especially in *in vivo* models. Nevertheless, in many species, particularly humans and mice, cytochrome P450 and xenobiotic metabolism regulate the cross-talk between the immune system and metabolism [32].

385 Cytochrome (CYP) refers to a superfamily of heme-containing membrane-associated enzymes, regulating several 386 functions related to cholesterol and FA metabolism, detoxification of xenobiotic substances, steroid metabolism, drug 387 and pro-carcinogen deactivation, and catabolism of exogenous compounds, located primarily in the liver, but also in 388 all other tissues [33]. In this context, along with the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -oxidation of FA, hepatic  $\omega$ -oxidation of FA (CYP P450) 389 can help utilize PUFA and prevent hepatic lipid overload [34]. ω-oxidation of FA is an alternative pathway when 390 mitochondrial  $\beta$ -oxidation is deficient and involves the oxidation of the  $\omega$ -carbon of FA in the endoplasmic reticulum 391 to provide succinyl-CoA [35]. CYP isoforms may have different functions, activities, and substrates [36]; therefore, 392 their inhibition and induction are regulated indirectly by ligand activation of xenobiotics to nuclear receptors, such as 393 peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (PPARs) [37] and pregnane X receptor (PXR) [38]. In this respect, 394 xenobiotics are defined as natural components such as diet-derived compounds (e.g., lipids) or synthetic drugs 395 considered foreign to the body and therefore being subjected to the liver metabolism primarily to increase their polarity

396 and make them easier to excrete [39].

397 Previously, in a precise activity-based protein profiling technique, it has been shown that a commercial high-fat diet398 (based on lard) decreased P450 activity in mouse liver, which led to obesity, obesity-induced chronic inflammation,

increased risk for hepatotoxicity, and metabolic disease [40]. Herein, we suppose that EFA and CLA or their

400 intermediates acted as xenobiotic substances and oxidized through cytochrome P450 pathways. It is worth pointing

401 out that any alteration to the average physiological level of CYP activities may cause disease, being their activity

- 402 required to detoxify drugs, neutral components, or biochemical intermediates to avoid impeding critical metabolic
- 403 pathways. Taken together, the low level of PUFA or n-3 to n-6 ratio in the CTRL group may negatively influence the

- 404 functional capacity of xenobiotic-metabolizing P450. Herein, the results indicated specific and different isoforms 405 (isoform-specific manner) of CYP affected by treatment during the transition period.
- 406 Recent studies using knockout Fmo5-/- mice revealed that FMO5 not only functions as a xenobiotic-metabolizing 407 enzyme but also has been implicated as a regulator of glucose and lipid homeostasis, metabolic ageing, and insulin 408 sensitivity [41, 42]. In addition, FMO5 acts as NADPH oxidase, lowering NADPH which is the electron source in 409 lipid and cholesterol biosynthesis. In this regard, downregulation of FMO5 in mice has been associated with reduced 410 fat deposition and lower plasma cholesterol [41, 42]. Thus, the increased expression of this protein is probably induced
- 411 by a xenobiotic-like function of supplemented FA.
- 412

#### 413 4.2. Metabolic adaptation in the antepartum period

414 On d 21 AP, 4 proteins were annotated by enriched GO term related to cholesterol metabolism. In addition to FMO5

- which is a DAP identified at all time points, squalene monooxygenase (A5D9A8, GN: SQLE, unreviewed proteins in 416 Bos taurus) and squalene synthase (Q6IE76, GN: FDFT1, unreviewed proteins in Bos taurus) and CYP51A1 were
- 417 increased in the EFA+CLA group. Previously in a human study, a significant association of CYP51A1 gene expression
- 418 with lower blood total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol levels, but not with TG and HDL-cholesterol, has been reported
- 419 in women in their second trimester of pregnancy [43]. The CYP51 protein is very conserved between species (NCBI
- 420 homology, https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/); therefore, the same function of this protein in dairy cows can be supposed.
- 421 However, in this study, total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol concentrations were not affected by treatment in the AP
- 422 period (Figure S4).

423 Moreover, SQLE, FDFT1, and CYP51A1 are all involved in the cholesterol biosynthesis pathways through the Sterol 424 regulatory element-binding proteins (SREBP)-activated mevalonate pathway [44, 45]. In this pathway, FDFT1 425 initiates the conversion of farnesyl-pyrophosphate to squalene, which is the first stage of liver cholesterol synthesis 426 [46], followed by the synthesis of lanosterol from squalene catalyzed by SOLE, and the final step is the conversion of 427 lanosterol to cholesterol by the action of CYP51A [47]. Cholesterol homeostasis is crucial for normal cellular and 428 physiological functions and is strictly controlled by nuclear receptors, mammalian target of rapamycin 429 (mTOR)/SREBP2 pathway [48] and Liver X Receptors (LXR) [49] which induce and inhibit its synthesis, 430 respectively. In dairy cows, insufficiency of cholesterol metabolism and acceleration of body fat degradation before 431 parturition was reported to be associated with developing ketosis PP [50]. On the other side, chronic hepatic expression 432 of SREBP2 and excessive cholesterol storage has been shown to cause fatty liver disease (steatosis), 433 hypertriglyceridemia, and insulin resistance in non-ruminant species [51]. Fortunately, no differences were observed 434 in the plasma concentration of total cholesterol, TG, LDL, HDL (Figure S4), and hepatic expression of HMGCS2 435 between treatment groups before parturition [11, 17], which possibly points towards the feedback regulation that 436 synthesized cholesterol was used to maintain its homeostasis crucial in pregnant cows. Indeed, as a structural 437 component of the cellular membrane and precursor for steroid hormones, cholesterol esters, and bile acids (BA), 438 cholesterol is essential for the normal development of the dam and the fetus. In humans and rodents with a hemochorial 439 or hemoendothelial placenta type, the fetus depends on exogenous cholesterol sources obtained from the maternal 440 circulation transported across the placenta, mainly through lipoproteins [52]. It is not known whether this applies for

- 441 species with an epitheliochorial placenta type, such as most farm animals. Also, BA are incorporated into lipoproteins 442 and may induce hepatocytes to secrete and export the accumulated lipids from the liver (for review [53]). Intrahepatic 443 cholestasis and elevated BA and/or transaminases are considered as a liver disease [54].
- 444 Moreover, antepartum and around parturition, the membrane-bound O-acyltransferase 2 (F1MH02, GN: MBOAT2,
- 445 also known as lysophosphatidylcholine acyltransferase 4), a newly discovered member of the MBOAT family [55]
- 446 was decreased in the EFA+CLA group. This conserved enzyme catalyzes the production of glycerophospholipids in
- 447 the mammalian cell membrane, particularly phosphatidylcholine and phosphatidylethanolamine, which determine
- 448 membrane intrinsic curvature and fluidity [56]. This is the first study reporting the expression of MBOAT2 in dairy 449 cows' hepatocytes, and it is probably involved in modulating the ratio of PUFA in cellular membranes.
- 450 451

### 4.3. Metabolic adaptation in lactation

The day after parturition, along with cytochrome P450 pathways, the catabolic process and proteolysis, and bile secretion KEGG pathways were annotated by DAP in the EFA+CLA group (identified by PLS-DA analysis). The

- 454 upregulated solute carrier organic anion transporter family member 1B3 (F1MYV0, GN: SLCO1B3) enzyme not only
- 455 incorporates with activation of BA secretion [57] but also in the uptake of endogenous and xenobiotic compounds
- · · · ·
- 456 [58]. Apart from already discussed mechanisms, BA has been reported to play novel roles as signaling molecules
- 457 regulating energy homeostasis, TG concentrations, and glucose [59-61]. In this regard, in a transcriptomic study, the
- 458 BA synthesis pathway reduction was reported in dairy cows with severe compared to mild negative energy 459 balance[62].
  - 460 The liver is the main site regulating BA synthesis [40], primarily through the cholesterol/lipid homeostasis pathway 461 [63]. The activated mevalonate pathway thereby increased cholesterol synthesis that was discussed for the last time-462 point, probably induced the downstream pathway, BA synthesis, and may explain why cholesterol concentration was 463 not different between treatments. More interestingly, converting cholesterol to BA, is regulated by cytochrome P450 464 (CYP7a1 and CYP8b1) pathways [40], although neither CYP7a1 abundance nor CYP8b1 were affected by treatment. 465 This may propose other pathways besides cytochrome P450 to regulate this conversion in dairy cows. Nevertheless, 466 no remarkable differences in performance and metabolite were observed between treatments. The difference in energy 467 balance between treatment groups [11] may indicate that the more negative energy balance in the CTRL group had 468 impaired cholesterol and BA synthesis.
  - 469 On day 28 PP, cytochrome P450 family 4 subfamily F member 2 (A0A3S5ZPG5, GN: CYP4F2) and cytochrome 470 P450 family 1 subfamily A member 1 (F1MM10, GN: CYP1A1) had higher and lower abundance in the EFA+CLA 471 group, respectively. In this regard, a study in mice reported decreased CYP4F2 protein in the liver upon feeding a 472 high-fat diet associated with impaired hepatic lipid metabolism  $\alpha$ -tocopherol pathways [64]. In general, the CYP4 473 members are tissue-specific and involved in FA metabolism, maintaining the concentration of FA and FA-derived 474 bioactive molecules within a normal physiological range [65]. CYP4F2 [66] and CYP4V2 [67] are two important 475 members of this family and are highly abundant in the liver. Arachidonic acid, lauric acid, vitamin K, and leukotriene 476 are the specific substrates for the CYP4F2 enzyme [68, 69]. We observed a significant difference in the plasma 477 concentration of FA on day 28 PP with lesser values in the EFA+CLA group. The greater FA concentration in the

- 478 CTRL group may have impaired mitochondrial function, reduced ATP synthesis, and potentially triggered lipotoxicity
- [70]. On the other hand, an overabundance of CYP4F2 in the EFA+CLA group has been reported in humans to amplify
- 480 the capacity of hepatocytes to oxidize excess FA [71], which may support our proteomic results. Induction of CYP4F2
- 481 expression is proposed to be mediated by the ligand activation of nuclear receptors with supplemented FA and in
- 482 response to activated AMPK and SREBP pathways, which then augment the capacity of cytochrome P450 to oxidize
- 483 xenobiotics [71]. However, regulation may be at the level of enzyme activity rather than of protein abundance, since
- 484 enrichment of these two pathways was not observed in the present study. In other words, during the negative energy
- 485 balance, when the liver is stressed by the excessive FA supply from lipogenesis that may cause lipotoxicity, the
- 486 activation of CYP4F2, which removes FA, is logic and may explain how the EFA+CLA group accomplish the 487 inhibition of steatosis.
- On the other side, the members of the CYP1 family use endogenous sex hormones such as progesterone and
   testosterone, amine hormones like melatonin, vitamins, FA such as linoleic acid, and phospholipids as substrates [72],
- 490 which under specific circumstances activate compounds that react with DNA leading to an imitation of the mutagenic
- 491 process [73]. Furthermore, it has been reported both in *in vivo* [74] and *in vitro* [75-77] studies that CYP1A1 is
- 492 involved in PUFA metabolism.
- 493 Previously, the xenobiotic-like potential of fish oil in the induction of CYP1A1 mRNA expression in primary cultured 494 bovine hepatocytes was reported [78]. Also, there is emerging evidence that induction of CYP1A1 leads to non-495 alcoholic fatty liver disease and the development of oxidative stress in humans, which is another molecular support 496 for hepatic metabolic imbalance in our CTRL group [79]. The exact mechanism of how CYP1A1 was inhibited in 497 EFA+CLA is not yet precisely known, although based on a study in mice [80], it could be speculated that 498 transcriptional regulation of CYP450 through activation of PPARα is likely a possible pathway.
- 499 During the PP period (d +28 and +63), 11β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase type 1 (F6PTG3, GN: HSD11B1) and 500 glutamate-cysteine ligase catalytic subunit (A0A3Q1MN33, GN: GCLC) increased, and phosphate-activated 501 mitochondrial glutaminase (E1BHZ6, GN: GLS2) decreased in EFA+CLA (Figure 5). Among them, GCLC and GLS2 502 are involved in the glutamine and glutamate metabolic processes and the glutathione (GSH) system. In GSH
- 502 are involved in the glutamine and glutamate metabolic processes and the glutathione (GSH) system. In GSH 503 biosynthesis, GLS2 catalyzes the conversion of glutamine to glutamate [81], and GCLC is a rate-limiting enzyme in
- biosynthesis, GLS2 catalyzes the conversion of glutamine to glutamate [81], and GCLC is a rate-limiting enzyme in
- 504 converting glutamate to GSH [82]. The combination of the above-noted enzymatic changes would be expected to
- 505 result in glutamate regulation. Glutamate, as one of the most abundant amino acids in the liver, is considered to be at
- 506 the crossroads of hepatic metabolism, where it is mainly involved in the TCA cycle, gluconeogenesis, FA oxidation
- 507 [83], and electron transport from the cytoplasm into the mitochondria via the malate-aspartate shuttle [84].
- 508 The HSD11B1 is an endoplasmic reticulum-located reductase that activates cortisone to cortisol, thereby modulating
- 509 hepatic gluconeogenesis [85]. It also plays a crucial role in glucocorticoid receptor (GR) activation, which in turn is
- 510 involved in the regulation of anti-stress and anti-inflammatory pathways [86]. It has been previously shown that liver
- 511 synthetized BA inhibit the HSD11B1 [87], which may be related to the downregulation of HSD11B1.
- 512 On day 63 PP, cytochrome P450 family 4 subfamily V member 2 (F1N3Z7, GN: CYP4V2) was more abundant in the
- 513 EFA+CLA than in the CTRL group. CYP4V2 has the same characteristic as the CYP4 classes but preferably
- 514 metabolizes arachidonic acid, lauric acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, docosahexaenoic acid, and medium-chain FA as

515 substrates [67, 88, 89]. The greater abundance of different CYP isomers between d 28 and 63 PP, probably related to 516 FA concentration, may compete with EFA and CLA for ligand activation of nuclear receptors (substrate dependent). 517 At this time point that coincides with returning to positive EB, the previously enriched cytochrome P450 pathways 518 and steroid hormone biosynthesis were affected by both downregulations of HSD11B1, glutathione S-transferase Mu 519 4 (A1A4L7, GN: GSTM4), and upregulation of MGC127133 and UGT1A1. Moreover, enrichment of several KEGG 520 pathways in the EFA+CLA group was observed by PLS-DA-identified DAP related to pentose and glucuronate 521 interconversions, starch and sucrose metabolism, pyruvate metabolism, glutamate metabolic process, and 522 glycolysis/gluconeogenesis. These pathways are intimately interconnected and are associated with energy metabolism. 523 Therefore, we considered these alterations to restore metabolic adaptation to the normal metabolism in positive EB 524 status. The EFA+CLA cows turned back to a positive EB around 21 days earlier than the CTRL group [11]. Therefore, 525 the activated metabolic adaptive processes in response to the NEB were also switched off or returned to normal 526 functions faster.

527

### 528 **5.** Conclusion

529 The results indicated that EFA+CLA supplementation altered the proteome profile of the liver in transition dairy cows. 530 Bioinformatics analysis of DAP revealed enriched pathways related to hepatic cholesterol biosynthesis, drug 531 metabolism - cytochrome P450, metabolism of xenobiotics by cytochrome P450, chemical carcinogenesis, 532 arachidonic acid metabolism, TCA cycle, and BA synthesis. Furthermore, in each time point, the relative abundance 533 of CYP enzymes affected by EFA+CLA supplementation in a time-dependant manner slightly impacted the capacity 534 of hepatic ω-oxidation. The results also suggest that EFA+CLA supplementation might be in support of preventing 535 hepatic steatosis during the transition period. Altogether, these findings provided novel information regarding the 536 underlying molecular mechanism by which hepatic metabolism responds to supplemented FA. Nonetheless, further 537 investigation with more accurate measures of hepatic steatosis is needed to replicate these findings in different 538 populations and physiological statuses.

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- 543

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547

### 548 **Declaration of Competing Interest**

549 Authors declare no conflict of interests.

### 550 Figures legends

Figure 1) Schematic diagram of the (A) study design, (B) proteomics workflow, and (C) bioinformatics pipeline. (A) Timeline of treatments supplementation (from -63d ante to +63d postpartum) and liver biopsy collection (-21 d, +1 d, +28 d, and +63 d relative to parturition). Bold lines indicate liver biopsy sampling time points. (B) Protein extraction, purification, reduction, alkylation, and digestion; peptides were analysed by highresolution LC-MS/MS, (C) Peptides alignment (progenesis), and protein identification (mascot) procedure were performed by Progenesis software coupled with the Mascot search engine, statistical analysis was based on Partial least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) merged with P < 0.05and Fold change > 1.5, followed by bioinformatics analysis (protein-protein interaction and Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis.

557 558

559 Figure 2) A. Partial least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) score plot of CTRL (red squares) and EFA+CLA (green triangle) on day 21 560 antepartum. B. Volcano plot represents differentially abundant proteins between CTRL and EFA+CLA group, increased (top right) and decreased 561 (top left) proteins were highlighted in red (P<0.05 and fold change>than 0.58 in a log scale that means a fold change of 1.3). C. Hierarchical 562 clustering heat map analysis of differentially abundant proteins; Rows and columns are sorted by similarity as indicated by the left (proteins) and 563 top (samples) dendrograms, red and green represent CTRL and EFA+CLA, respectively. D. Biological Process Ontology for the differentially 564 abundant proteins (DAP). Fold enrichment (Bars, -log10 (adjusted P-value)) refers to the number of relevant gene names represented in each 565 category relative to random expression of all genes in the Bos taurus genome. The line between pathways represents their dependence. E. KEGG 566 pathways map of DAP. The colour of the nodes represents the -log10 (adjusted P-value); the size of the dots represents the number of DAP in the 567 pathway. The line between pathways represents their dependence.

568

577

569 Figure 3) A. Partial least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) score plot of CTRL (red squares) and EFA+CLA (green triangle) in day 1 of 570 postpartum. B. Volcano plot represents differentially abundant proteins between CTRL and EFA+CLA group, increased (top right) and decreased 571 (top left) proteins were highlighted in red (P<0.05 and fold change>1.5). C. Hierarchical clustering heat map analysis of differentially abundant 572 proteins, Rows and columns are respectively sorted by similarity as indicated by the left (proteins) and top (samples) dendrograms, red and green 573 represent CTRL and EFA+CLA, respectively. D. Reactome enrichment analysis (x-axis), fold enrichment (bars, left y-axis); the number of 574 significant genes in each pathway (-log10, adjusted P-value) is represented by the lines on the right y-axis) represent. E. KEGG pathways map of 575 differentially abundant proteins (DAP). The colour of the nodes represents the -log10 (adjusted P-value); the size of the dots represents the number 576 of DAP in the pathway. The line between pathways represents their dependence.

578 Figure 4) A. Partial least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) score plot of CTRL (red squares) and EFA+CLA (green triangle) in day 28 of 579 postpartum. B. Volcano plot represents differentially abundant proteins between CTRL and EFA+CLA group, increased (top right) and decreased 580 (top left) proteins were highlighted in red (P<0.05 and fold change>1.5). C. Hierarchical clustering heat map analysis of differentially abundant 581 proteins, Rows and columns are respectively sorted by similarity as indicated by the left (proteins) and top (samples) dendrograms, red and green 582 represent CTRL and EFA+CLA, respectively. D. Biological Process Ontology for the differentially abundant proteins (DAP). The fold enrichment 583 (adjusted P-value) is coloured in red according to the degree of significance, refers to the number of relevant gene names represented in each 584 category relative to random expression of all genes in the Bos taurus genome. The line between pathways represents their dependence. E. KEGG 585 pathways map of DAP. The colour of the nodes represents the -log10 (adjusted P-value); the size of the dots represents the number of DAP in the 586 pathway. The line between pathways represents their dependence.

587

Figure 5) A. Partial least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) score plot of CTRL (red squares) and EFA+CLA (green triangle) in day 63 of postpartum. B. Volcano plot represents differentially abundant proteins between CTRL and EFA+CLA group, increased (top right) and decreased (top left) proteins were highlighted in red (P<0.05 and fold change>1.5). C. Hierarchical clustering heat map analysis of differentially abundant proteins, Rows and columns are respectively sorted by similarity as indicated by the left (proteins) and top (samples) dendrograms, red and green represent CTRL and EFA+CLA, respectively. D. Reactome enrichment analysis (x-axis), fold enrichment (bars, left y-axis); the number of

- 593 significant genes in each pathway (-log10, adjusted P-value) is represented by the lines on the right y-axis) represent. E. KEGG pathways map of
- 594 differentially abundant proteins (DAP). The colour of the nodes represents the -log10 (adjusted P-value); the size of the dots represents the number
- 595 of DAP in the pathway. The line between pathways represents their dependence.

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J	7	υ

597 Figure 6) Venn diagram represent common and specific differentially abundant proteins identified in -21, +1, +28, and +63 days relative to 598 parturition.

### 599 Table heading

600 Table 1. The differentially abundant proteins identified between CTRL and EFA+CLA in -21, +1, +28, and +63 days relative to parturition and

their associated gene names.

Num.	Protein	Associated gene name	Time point
1	20-beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase-like	MGC127133	1, 2, 3, 4*
2	Progestagen Associated Endometrial Protein	PAEP	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Dimethylaniline monooxygenase [N-oxide-forming]	FMO5	1, 2, 3, 4
4	Immunoglobulin Lambda Like Polypeptide 5	IGLL5	1, 2, 3, 4
5	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase	UGT1A1	1, 2, 3, 4
6	Membrane bound O-acyltransferase domain containing 2	MBOAT2	1, 2, 4
7	Gamma-glutamylaminecyclotransferase	GGACT	2, 3, 4
8	Nicotinate phosphoribosyltransferase	NAPRT	1,4
9	Beta-ureidopropionase 1	UPB1	2,4
10	Glutamate-cysteine ligase catalytic subunit	GCLC	3,4
11	Glutaminase 2	GLS2	3,4
12	Calpain-2 catalytic subunit	CAPN2	3,4
13	Calpastatin	CAST	3,4
14	BoLA-DR-alpha	BoLA-DRA	3,4
15	Prosaposin	PSAP	3, 4
16	Hydroxysteroid 11-beta dehydrogenase 1	HSD11B1	3,4
17	Squalene epoxidase	SQLE	1
18	FDFT1 protein	FDFT1	1
19	Lanosterol 14-alpha demethylase	CYP51A1	1
20	Cytochrome P450 4A25-like	LOC784417	1
21	Inter-Alpha-Trypsin Inhibitor Heavy Chain 2	ITIH2	1
22	Peptidylprolyl Isomerase A	PPIA	1
23	Aldo-keto reductase family 1, member C5	AKR1C5	1
24	Putative glycerol kinase 5	GK5	1
25	Shootin 1	SHTN1	1
26	RNA Transcription, Translation And Transport Factor	RTRAF	1
27	Inter-alpha-trypsin inhibitor heavy chain H1	ITIH1	1
28	EF-hand domain-containing protein D2	EFHD2	1
29	Nucleoside diphosphate kinase	NME3	1
30	Aldo_ket_red domain-containing protein	LOC788425	1
31	Melanoma inhibitory activity protein 2	MIA2	1
32	RNA-binding protein 14	RBM14	1
33	Rab GDP dissociation inhibitor	GDI2	1
34	Ribosomal Protein S14	RPS14	1
35	Hydroxyacid-oxoacid transhydrogenase, mitochondrial	ADHFE1	1
36	Collagen Type X Alpha 1 Chain	COL10A1	1
37	Ras-related protein Rab-10	RAB10	1
38	Cingulin like 1	CGNL1	1
39	Legumain	LGMN	2

40	Tyrosine aminotransferase	TAT	2
41	Mannose-6-phosphate isomerase	MPI	2
42	Carboxylic ester hydrolase	BREH1	2
43	Cytochrome P450 Family 1 Subfamily A Polypeptide 1	CYP1A1	3
44	Ferritin light chain	FTL	3
45	Mediator Of Cell Motility 1	MEMO1	3
46	Ferritin	FTH1	3
47	Cathepsin C	CTSC	3
48	Heme oxygenase 1	HMOX1	3
49	Fatty acid amide hydrolase	FAAH	3
50	Thioesterase Superfamily Member 4	THEM4	3
51	Cytochrome P450 Family 4 Subfamily F Member 2	CYP4F2	3
52	Cytokine Induced Apoptosis Inhibitor 1	CIAPIN1	3
53	Reticulon-4-interacting protein 1, mitochondrial	RTN4IP1	3
54	Stomatin (EPB72)-like 2	STOML2	3
55	Queuosine salvage protein	C8H9orf64	3
56	Glutathione S-transferase Mu 1	GSTM4	3
57	Acyl-CoA synthetase short chain family member 2	ACSS2	4
58	Pyridoxal phosphate phosphatase	PDXP	4
59	Histidine ammonia-lyase	HAL	4
60	D-amino acid oxidase	DAO	4
61	Cytochrome P450 Family 4 Subfamily V Member 2	CYP4V2	4
62	High Mobility Group Box 2	HMGB2	4
63	Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase 2	IDO2	4
64	Decorin	DCN	4
65	Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein D	HNRNPD	4
66	Asparaginase And Isoaspartyl Peptidase 1	ASRGL1	4
67	VPS35 Retromer Complex Component	VPS35	4

\*1, 2, 3, and 4 correspond to days -21, +1, +28, and +63 relative to parturition, respectively.

#### 604 **Supplementary Material**

605

### 606 607 **Supplementary S1**

Table S1. Amounts of daily abomasally infused supplements<sup>1</sup>

	treatment				
Supplementation	CTRL <sup>2</sup>		EFA+CLA		
	Coconut oil <sup>3</sup>	Linseed oil <sup>4</sup>	Safflower oil <sup>5</sup>	Lutalin <sup>®6</sup>	
Daily infused oils (g/d)					
Dosage lactation	76	78	4	38	
Dosage dry period Daily infused fatty acids (g/d) at the lactation dosage <sup>7</sup>	38	39	2	19	
18:3 cis-9, cis-12, cis-15	0.00	39.9	0.01	0.00	
18:2 cis-9, cis-12	1.39	12.4	2.48	1.34	
18:2 cis-9, trans-11	0.00	0.00	0.01	10.3	
18:2 trans-10, cis-12	0.00	0.02	0.01	10.2	

1Cows were supplemented daily with coconut oil (CTRL), or a mixture of linseed, safflower oil (EFA), and Lutalin® (CLA, c9, t11 and t10, c12), (EFA+CLA).

 $\begin{array}{c} 608\\ 609\\ 610\\ 611\\ 612\\ 613\\ 614\\ 615\\ 616\\ 617\\ 618\\ 619\\ 620\\ \end{array}$ 

2Addition of vitamin E (0.06 g/d), Covitol 1360 (BASF, Ludwigshafen, Germany), to compensate for the vitamin E in linseed oil (0.07%) and safflower oil (0.035%). 3Sanct Bernhard, Bad Ditzenbach, Germany

4DERBY, Derby Spezialfutter GmbH, Münster, Germany

5GEFRO, Memmingen/Allgäu, Germany

6BASF, Ludwigshafen, Germany

7The lactation dosage was halved during the dry period.

### **Supplementary S2**

,	Table S2.	Ingredients	and chemical	compositions	of the diets.	

	Diet			
Item (g/kg of DM)	Dry period <sup>1</sup>	Lactation		
Ingredients	421	457		
Corn silage Straw	223	97		
Compound feed DEFA <sup>2</sup> (granulated)	-	446		
Dried sugar beet pulp	163	-		
Extracted soybean meal	99	-		
Grain of rye	75	-		
Mineral-vitamin mixture <sup>3</sup>	10	-		
Urea <sup>4</sup>	9	-		
Chemical composition				
NEL (MJ/kg DM) <sup>5</sup>	6.2	7.1		
Crude fat	21	23		
Crude fiber	219	173		
Crude protein	141	146		
Utilizable protein <sup>5</sup>	141	143		
NFC	379	432		
NDF	423	346		
ADF	249	197		
RNB <sup>5,6</sup>	0.0	0.5		

 $\begin{array}{c} 621\\ 622\\ 623\\ 624\\ 625\\ 626\\ 627\\ 628\\ 629\\ 630\\ 631\\ 632\\ 633 \end{array}$ <sup>1</sup> The dry period diet was fed from wk 6 to wk 1 before calving.

<sup>2</sup> Ceravis AG, Malchin, Germany Ingredients: 46.5% dried sugar beet pulp, 25.3% extracted soybean meal, 23.8% grain of rye, 1.4% urea, 1.1% premix cow, 1.00% calcium, 0.37% phosphorus, 0.42% sodium, vitamins A, D3, E, copper, ferric, zinc, manganese, cobalt, iodine, selenium Chemical composition: 44.4% NFC, 24.1% crude protein, 21.6% NDF, 12.4% ADF, 9.3% crude fiber, 8.2% crude ash, 1.8% crude fat, 7.9 MJ NEL/kg DM

<sup>3</sup> KULMIN®MFV Plus (Bergophor Futtermittelfabrik Dr. Berger GmbH & Co. KG, Kulmbach, Germany): 8.5% magnesium, 7.5% phosphorus, 6.5% sodium, 3.5% HCl insoluble ash, 1.5% calcium, additives: vitamins A, D3, E, B1, B2, B6, B5, B3, B12, B9, H, zinc, manganese, copper, cobalt, iodine, selenium, and Saccharomyces cerevisiae

<sup>4</sup> Piarumin® (SKW Stickstoffwerke Piesteritz GmbH, Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany): 99% urea, 46.5% total nitrogen

<sup>5</sup> Society of Nutrition Physiology (GfE, 2001, 2008, 2009) and Deutsche Landwirtschaftliche Gesellschaft (DLG, 2013)

<sup>6</sup> RNB = ruminal nitrogen balance

# 634 635 636 637 638 Supplementary S3.

Table S3. Performance data of day 21 ante, and days +1, +28, and +63 postpartum of cows supplemented abomasally with coconut oil (CTRL; n = 8), or the combination of linseed and safflower oil (EFA) and conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) (EFA+CLA; n=8) from wk 9 antepartum until wk 9 postpartum, Adapted from [11].

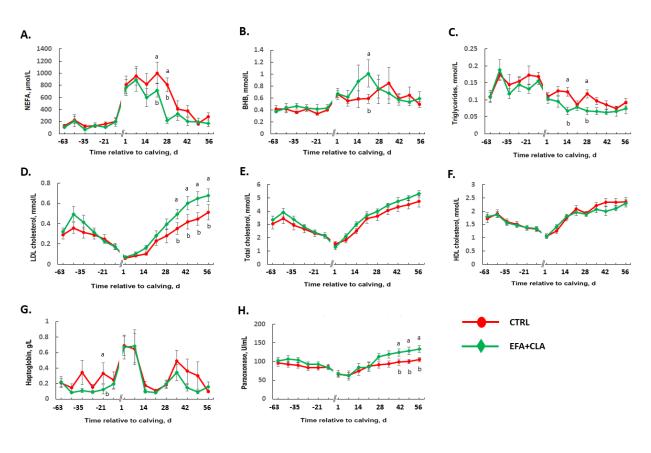
		treatment		Fixed effect, P-value		
		CTRL	EFA+ CLA	EFA+ CLA	time	EFA+CLA*t ime
NEL intake, MJ NEL/d	late lactation	$120.2\pm4.6$	$113.8\pm3.9$	0.7	0.12	
	Dry period	$80.6 \pm 3.1$	$84.1 \pm 2.8$	0.8	0.001	
	Transition period	$93.9\pm3.3$	$93.4\pm2.9$	0.7	0.001	
	Postpartum	$120.8\pm3.8$	115 ± 3.5	0.3	0.001	
	Entire Study	$106.6\pm3.3$	$104\pm2.9$	0.6	0.001	
FEMY, kg milk/kg DMI	late lactation	$0.96 \pm 0.11$	$0.98 \pm 0.09$	0.19	0.001	
Divit	Early lactation	$2.25\pm0.1$	$2.43\pm0.09$	0.7	0.001	
FEECM, kg ECM/kg	late lactation	$1.08 \pm 0.1$	$0.95 \pm 0.09$	0.2	0.001	
DMI	Early lactation	$2.31\pm0.11$	$1.95\pm0.1$	0.5	0.001	
BW, kg	late lactation	701 ± 21	670 ± 19	0.5	0.001	
	Dry period	$742 \pm 22$	$718 \pm 20$	0.2	0.001	
	Transition period	$690 \pm 20$	$672 \pm 18$	0.3	0.001	
	Postpartum	$634\pm18$	$621 \pm 17$	0.4	0.001	
	Entire Study	$685\pm20$	$665\pm18$	0.3	0.001	
BCS	late lactation	$3.62\pm0.11$	$3.29 \pm 0.1$	0.7	0.001	
	Dry period	$3.72\pm0.12$	$3.62\pm0.11$	0.9	0.001	
	Transition period	$3.54\pm0.12$	$3.5\pm0.11$	1	0.001	
	Postpartum	$3.12\pm0.11$	$3.1\pm0.1$	0.8	0.001	
	Entire Study	$3.43\pm0.11$	$3.31\pm0.1$	0.8	0.001	
BFT, mm	late lactation	13.4 ± 1	$11.3 \pm 0.9$	0.8	0.001	
	Dry period	$15.3\pm1.1$	$14.6\pm1$	0.9	0.001	
	Transition period	$14.7\pm1.1$	$14.5 \pm 1$	0.8	0.001	
	Postpartum	$12.1 \pm 1$	$12.6\pm0.9$	0.8	0.001	
	Entire Study	$13.5 \pm 1$	$13\pm0.9$	0.9	0.001	

- 639 1Values are presented as the LSM  $\pm$  SE.
- 640 2FEMY = feed efficiency for milk production; FEECM = feed efficiency for ECM production; BFT = back fat thickness.

### 642 Supplementary S4.

643 Plasma concentrations of (A) non-esterified fatty acids (NEFA), (B) β-hydroxybutyrate (BHB), (C) triglycerides, (D) low-density 644 lipoprotein (LDL), (E) total cholesterol, (F) high-density lipoprotein (HDL), (G) haptoglobin, and (H) paraxonase from 83 d before 645 until 63 d after calving in cows supplemented daily with coconut oil ( $\circ$  CTRL; n = 8), or a combination of linseed and safflower 646 oil and Lutalin (cis-9,trans-11 and trans-10,cis-12 CLA; BASF, Ludwigshafen, Germany; ◆EFA+CLA; n = 8). Changes in plasma 647 metabolites concentrations were analyzed using the MIXED procedure by repeated-measures ANOVA. Data are presented as the 648 least squares means (LSM) and their standard errors (SE) (LSM  $\pm$  SE), LSM with different superscripts (a, b) differ (P < 0.05) at 649 the respective time point. Statistically significant (P < 0.05) effects for (A) NEFA concentration during the entire study (time; 650  $EFA+CLA \times time interaction$ ). Statistically significant (P < 0.05) effect for (B) BHB, (C) triglycerides, (D) LDL, (E) total 651 cholesterol, (F) HDL, (G) haptoglobin, and (H) paraxonase concentration during the time. Adapted from [11, 16, 17].

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- 656 Supplementary files
- The data and related analyses are available through the link <u>https://doi.org/10.15454/5U5WQS</u>.

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