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# Satiety: can dairy play a role?



## EDITORIAL

Satiety is embedded in a myriad of biological, emotional and environmental factors that impact how much food we eat and our propensity for weight gain. The satiating effect of different foods varies and is intricately linked to energy intake.

In this edition of *DN Forum*, Food for Health Ireland (FHI) researchers explore the impact of dairy on satiety and body weight. Novel research is presented, which examines the mechanisms of appetite regulation, including the role of the dairy matrix and specific dairy peptides.

On page 4, we feature a new resource: Dairy Allergy and Intolerance.

We hope you enjoy this edition of *DN Forum* and look forward to any feedback or comments you wish to share: [nutrition@ndc.ie](mailto:nutrition@ndc.ie)

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## Summary points

- Satiety is among the multitude of factors that can mediate individual susceptibility to an obesogenic food environment. Foods that can enhance satiety may be valuable for the prevention of weight gain as they promote feelings of fullness.
- A wealth of research indicates a positive relationship between dairy intake, satiety and a healthy body composition. Irish national data indicates that those with higher dairy intakes have lower BMI, % body fat and central adiposity.
- Several mechanisms have been identified that may explain the role of dairy in enhancing satiety. These include the impact of the dairy matrix and of individual dairy peptides, which have been demonstrated to stimulate satiety hormone secretion in the gut.
- Food for Health Ireland (FHI) researchers are exploring the potential of dairy proteins and have identified a casein hydrolysate known as LFC25, which has been shown to increase the secretion of satiety hormone, GLP-1 by up to five-fold. In addition, individual whey proteins have demonstrated a 94% inhibition of the hunger related enzyme, DPP-IV.
- FHI researchers are also exploring the potential of cheese as a healthy, satiating snack in both *in vitro* and human intervention studies. Preliminary results indicate that casein peptides produced during cheese ripening can stimulate the secretion of satiety hormone, GLP-1.

# The role of dairy in satiety and appetite suppression

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## Introduction

The science of eating is complex with many factors influencing food intake, including: hunger, satiety, taste, palatability, habits, knowledge, self-control and social interaction. In a society that faces the simultaneous challenges of obesity and malnutrition, it becomes increasingly important to understand the factors that impact appetite and motivation to eat. The aetiology of obesity goes far beyond energy intake and, therefore, the solutions are both diverse and multifactorial. However, it is well accepted that the restriction of energy intake is a significant factor that can assist in weight loss and the prevention of weight gain.

Low satiety responsiveness has been proposed as a mechanism that can lead to surplus energy intake and weight gain<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, nutrient-dense foods that increase satiety could help to reduce appetite for subsequent eating occasions and this may help to decrease energy intake or propensity to overeat for some individuals. Dairy foods such as milk, yogurt and cheese form part of the population dietary guidelines for healthy eating as they are an important source of essential nutrients<sup>2</sup>. They contain carbohydrate, fat and protein in varying proportions along with key micronutrients, such as calcium, phosphorus, potassium, iodine, zinc, vitamin A and a range of B vitamins. A wealth of research supports the intake of dairy for good health, with evidence indicating that it can play positive roles in the prevention of a range of chronic non-communicable diseases<sup>3,4</sup>.

The calorific value of dairy foods varies widely, mainly due to the fat content, which ranges from approximately 0.3% in skimmed milk to 80% in butter. Due to their lower nutrient density, higher fat dairy products, such as butter and cream, are separated from the nutrient-dense 'milk, yogurt and cheese' food group in the dietary guidelines<sup>2</sup>. It is this variation in fat content that contributes to confusion about the role of dairy in body weight management, with some individuals restricting all dairy intake in an effort to lose weight. In a survey of Irish adults, 16% of the population sampled strongly agreed that dairy is fattening and this was a key driver for those with negative perceptions about dairy<sup>5</sup>.

In contrast to this common belief that dairy is fattening, a growing body of research suggests that dairy foods can be a valuable inclusion to weight-reducing diets and may have a positive role in weight control<sup>6-8</sup>. This article will explore the impact of dairy intake on body weight, with a specific focus on the role of dairy in satiety and appetite suppression.

## Dairy and body weight

Over the past four decades, observational and experimental research has indicated a role for dairy in weight loss and body weight maintenance. The early studies identified a relationship between body weight and dietary calcium intake<sup>9</sup>, but later studies reported weight change benefits specific to dairy intake<sup>10-12</sup>, including an inverse relationship with central adiposity<sup>13</sup>. Randomised controlled trials suggest that the effects of calcium are mediated through reduced fat absorption and an increase in fat oxidation<sup>14,15</sup>. More recently, analysis of data collected as part of the National Adult Nutrition Survey in Ireland showed that those in the highest tertile of dairy intake had a more favourable body composition; including lower BMI, % body fat and central fat accumulation<sup>16</sup>.

Dairy is a rich source of medium-chain fatty acids, which may also play a role as they have been shown to down-regulate

genes and transcription factors responsible for fat-cell accumulation<sup>17</sup>. Substituting long-chain fatty acids for medium-chain fatty acids during energy restriction has shown greater weight loss and fat loss in both men and women<sup>18</sup>. In addition, dairy protein may play a role in fat storage with protein bioactives shown to inhibit the production of angiotensin II, a hormone that controls blood pressure and regulates both lipid synthesis and fat storage<sup>19,20</sup>.

## Dairy and satiety

Evidence from epidemiological and intervention studies indicates that consumption of dairy foods can increase feelings of fullness<sup>7,21</sup>. Initially, a 'feeling of fullness' leads to meal termination or satiation and, longer term, it leads to satiety, delaying subsequent food intake. A recent meta-analysis reviewed 13 randomised controlled trials, which assessed the impact of dairy consumption on subsequent energy intake in a second meal and subjective feelings of satiety<sup>21</sup>. In brief, consuming more than 500ml of dairy products increased feelings of fullness and decreased the amount of food the person thinks they could eat. Energy intake in a second meal was lower when dairy was consumed as a preload meal, but with large variation between studies. A subgroup analysis showed that other preloads also decreased energy intake with the exception of fruit drink, cola or chocolate bar preloads.

There are relatively few studies that have examined the effect of whole-dairy foods on subjective satiety and satiety hormone concentrations. One study compared the satiating effects of a fibre-enriched drinking yogurt, a regular drinking yogurt, plain crackers, fresh banana; or an isovolumetric serving of water<sup>22</sup>. Although there were no significant differences between the satiating capacity of the foods, the trend indicated that the fibre-enriched yogurt was highest, followed by regular yogurt, banana, crackers and, lastly, water.

Another study reported that yogurt had the greatest effect on subjective appetite ratings when compared to isoenergetic milk and cheese snacks versus a water control<sup>23</sup>. The hormone response to all three dairy snacks was different to water, but there were no significant differences between snacks<sup>23</sup>. While these well-designed, isoenergetic studies provided important information with respect to the satiating effects of different foods, the macronutrient composition of each differed and there was no macronutrient matched control.

## Mechanisms

There are several internal mechanisms that regulate how much food we consume. Gastric distension is the first satiation signal, which is followed by production of gut-satiety hormones and slowing of gastric emptying to maintain a feeling of fullness<sup>24</sup>. The endocrine system plays a central role in signalling hunger and satiety by interacting with the GI tract, the brain and other body tissues (Fig 1). Ghrelin is a hormone that increases appetite, whereas leptin and insulin act to reduce appetite. Cholecystokinin (CCK), peptide YY (PYY) and the incretin hormone, glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), also act to reduce food intake and increase feelings of satiety. Satiety hormones are secreted by specialised endocrine cells sparsely populated throughout the gastrointestinal tract, from the stomach to the rectum<sup>25</sup>. These cells face directly into the gut lumen and respond to the presence of food components coming in contact with them.

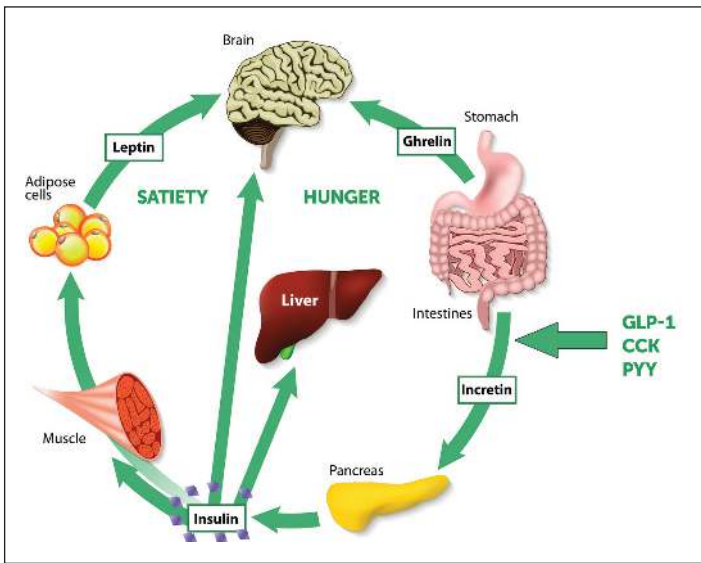


Figure 1: The endocrine system plays a central role in regulating food intake by stimulating hunger and satiety signals.

Diets high in protein are well recognised for their satiating effects and mechanistic research suggests that the dairy proteins whey and casein have specific effects on gut hormones that regulate appetite and satiety<sup>7</sup>. When whole casein transits the gut, it is broken down or hydrolysed into peptides which have been shown to increase the satiety hormones GLP-1<sup>26,27</sup> and CCK<sup>28</sup>. Schellekens *et al.* reported that a casein hydrolysate modulates the serotonin pathway, which is not only responsible for mood, but also plays a major role in appetite suppression<sup>29</sup>.

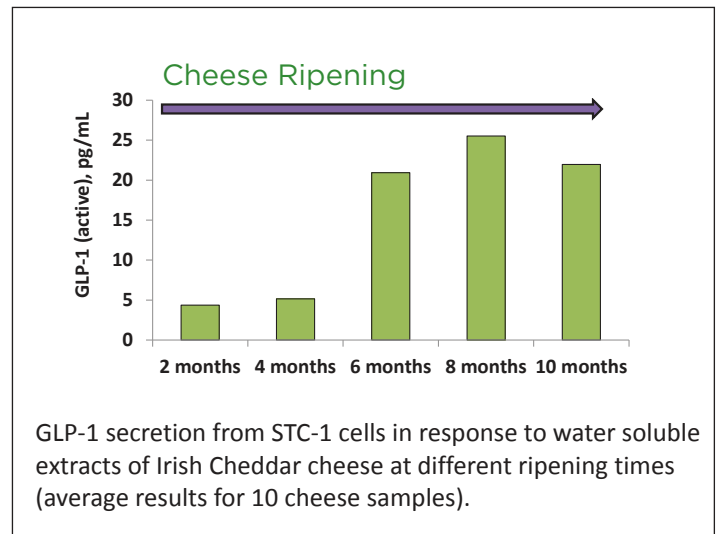
Whey differs to casein in that it is rapidly digested in the upper gut<sup>30</sup>. It is best known for the ability to promote satiety by inhibiting the enzyme DPP-IV<sup>31</sup>. Free fatty acids found in dairy have also been shown to stimulate satiety hormones such as CCK<sup>32</sup>.

### Novel research: The role of the dairy matrix

Researchers now realise that the health effects of foods are not just due to the individual nutrients and have shifted focus to the whole dairy matrix rather than its individual components. For example, a recent study from Food for Health Ireland (FHI) showed that 120g of full-fat cheese per day, reduced cholesterol levels more than when the same amount of nutrients were consumed separately (as butter, calcium caseinate powder and a calcium supplement)<sup>33</sup>. In relation to satiety, a new FHI study is underway, which aims to elucidate the potential matrix effects of cheese on satiety by comparing it to both isoenergetic and macronutrient matched control snacks. The study is a randomised cross-over trial that will compare subjective satiety, gut hormone concentrations and second meal food intake following a cheese snack, a macronutrient and energy-matched egg snack and an energy-matched scone, considered a typical snack in Ireland. Results from this food matrix study could have implications for snack recommendations when following an energy-restricted weight-loss diet.

### Novel Research: Identifying dairy ingredients to enhance satiety

*In vitro* research by FHI has identified a novel dairy ingredient with the potential to enhance satiety. It is a casein hydrolysate, LFC25, which increases GLP-1 secretion by five fold<sup>34</sup>. LFC25 has been produced at pilot plant scale and proven to reduce food intake in mice over eight hours<sup>35</sup>. In humans, consumption of 15g of LFC25 (60 kcal) resulted in an increase in GLP-1 secretion, which cannot be further increased by the consumption of a substantial *ad libitum* lunch 30 minutes later (459 kcal)<sup>36</sup>. Other FHI research has shown that individual whey proteins ( $\beta$ -lactoglobulin,  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin, bovine serum albumin or lactoferrin) subjected to the harsh conditions of the upper gut can inhibit the hunger related enzyme, DPP-IV, by 94%. Whether individual dairy peptides survive long enough in the gut to have an



GLP-1 secretion from STC-1 cells in response to water soluble extracts of Irish Cheddar cheese at different ripening times (average results for 10 cheese samples).

Figure 2: Secretion of satiety hormone GLP-1 from intestinal cells in response to cheddar cheese peptides.

effect on satiety is debatable and they may require some enteric protection to be incorporated in foods for satiety. FHI are also investigating the satiating potential of the water soluble (fat free) component of cheddar cheese. Ripening up to 10 months increased the ability of cheese to stimulate GLP-1 secretion *in vitro*, although there was variation between different cheeses (Fig 2)<sup>37</sup>. Stimulation of GLP-1 secretion was not a function of amino acid content but most likely the presence of unique casein peptides produced during the cheese ripening. This indicates the potential of cheese and other fermented dairy products to stimulate satiety and interact with feelings of fullness.

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## New Resource

In collaboration with the Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute, the National Dairy Council has produced a new patient leaflet on 'Dairy Allergy and Intolerance'. The leaflet covers an overview of both conditions with a focus on common symptoms, diagnosis, prevalence and management. Leaflets may be downloaded from <http://www.ndc.ie/health-professionals/our-publications> or a limited number of copies may be ordered by contacting [nutrition@ndc.ie](mailto:nutrition@ndc.ie)

## Dairy Allergy & Intolerance



National Dairy COUNCIL

INDI  
Irish Nutrition + Dietetic Institute

## Upcoming Event



### Keeping nutrition at the core of sustainable diets

The National Dairy Council and the Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute would like to invite you their CPD symposium on sustainable diets. Guest speakers will review the science in this area with a focus on the upcoming challenges facing dietitians.

5.45 pm – 8.30 pm, 15th November 2018  
Royal College of Physicians Ireland, Dublin 2

To register, email [info@indi.ie](mailto:info@indi.ie)

## Contact us....

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Mission: To deliver real and unique value to Irish dairy farmers by protecting and promoting the image, quality, taste and nutritional credentials of Irish dairy produce to a wide variety of audiences in a clearly defined, focused and effective manner.

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Food for Health Ireland

Mission: To leverage the world-class capabilities of the Irish academic partners, with the market expertise of the industry partners, into a pipeline of innovative, nutritional functional ingredients/products for the global food industry.