**Evaluation of reference lactation length in Chios dairy sheep**

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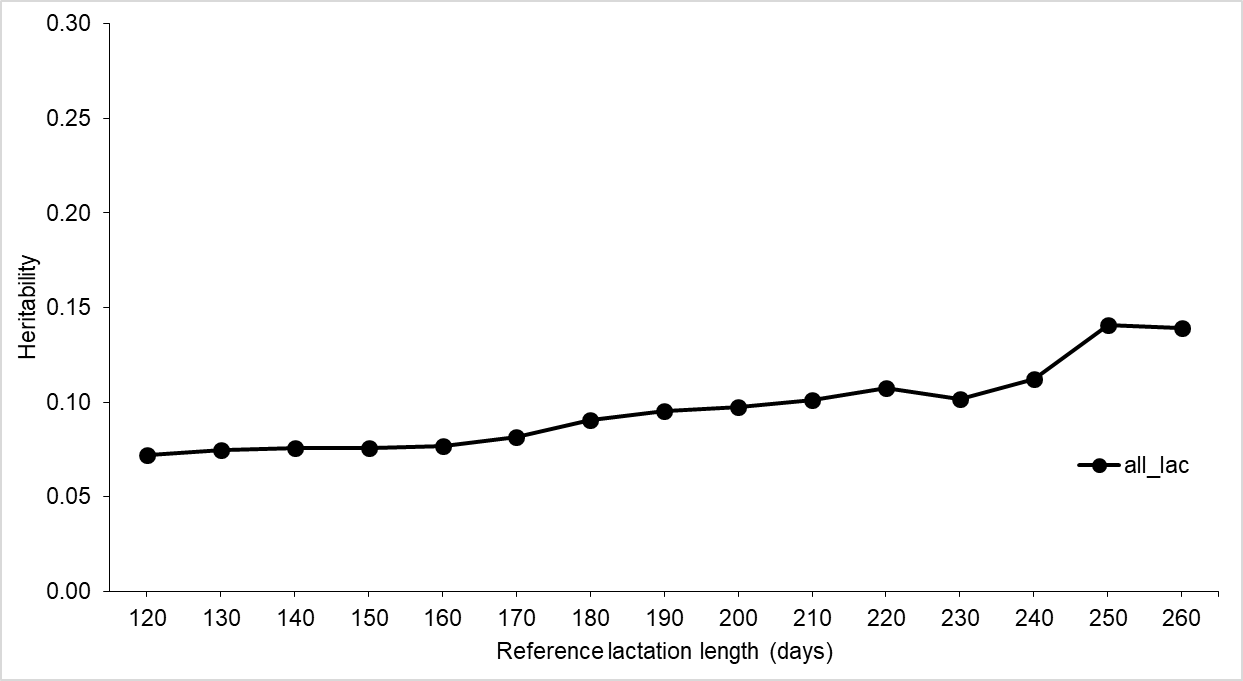
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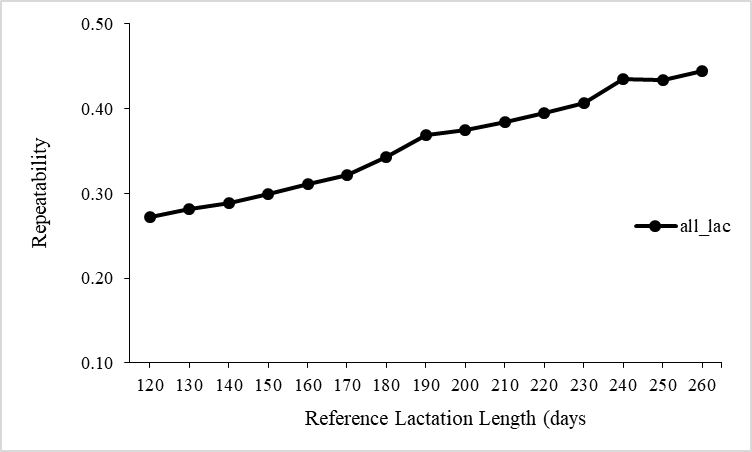
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**Supplementary materials**

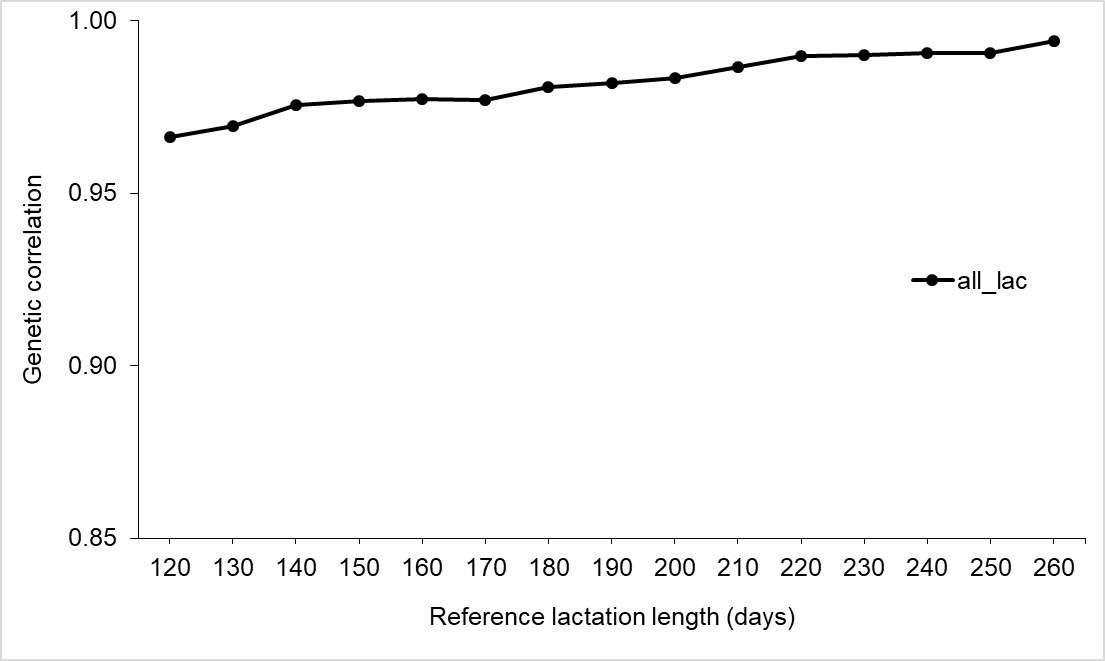
**Results shown pertain to the animal model**

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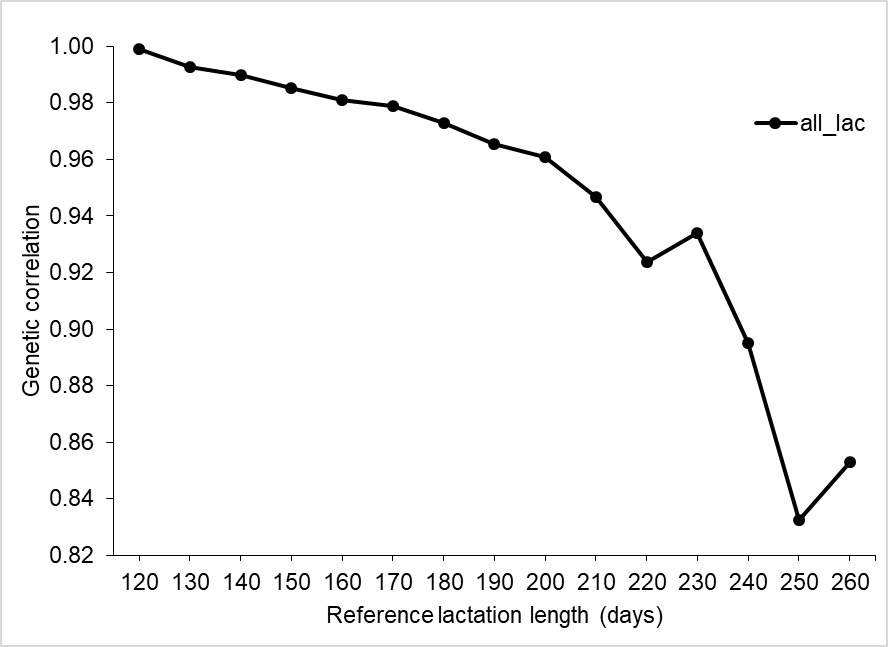
**Supplementary Figure S1** Heritability estimates of milk yield in different reference lactation lengths in Chios dairy sheep; standard errors range from 0.01 to 0.06 for all lactations.

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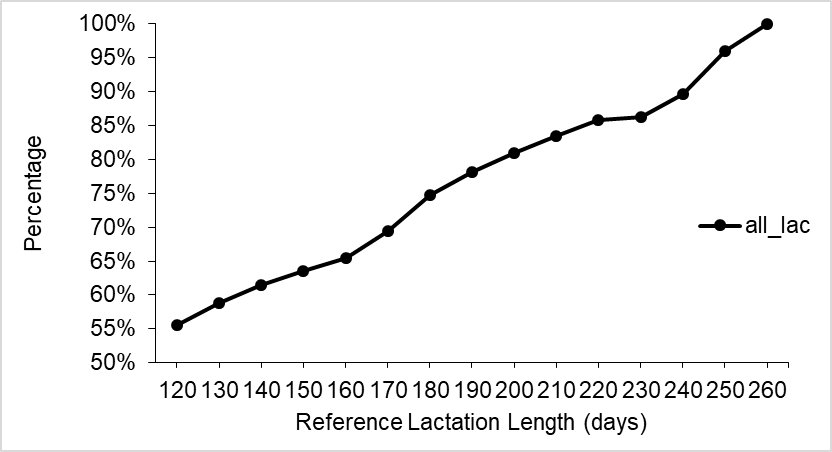
**Supplementary Figure S2** Repeatability estimates of milk yield in different reference lactation lengths in Chios dairy sheep; standard errors range from 0.01 to 0.03 for all lactations.

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**Supplementary Figure S3** Genetic correlation estimates between milk yield in different reference lactation lengths and actual lactation yield in Chios dairy sheep; standard errors range from 0.00 to 0.01 for all lactations.



**Supplementary Figure S4** Genetic correlation estimates between milk yield in different reference lactation lengths and first test-day record milk yield in Chios dairy sheep; standard errors range from 0.01 to 0.10 for all lactations.

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**Supplementary Figure S5** Correlated response in reference lactation milk yield to selection based on the first test-day record milk yield in Chios dairy sheep, expressed as a percentage relatively to response in highest reference length of 260 days for all lactations.