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Matteo Braidot^{1,*}, Anita Cabbia¹, Mauro Spanghero¹, Damiano Cavallini², and Alberto Romanzin¹

¹Department of Agricultural, Food, Environmental and Animal Sciences, University of Udine, Udine (UD), 33100, Italy

²Department of Veterinary Medical Sciences, University of Bologna, Ozzano dell'Emilia (BO), 40064, Italy

*Corresponding author. E-mail: matteo.braidot@uniud.it

Abstract

There is a considerable interest in animal genetic selection to reduce the livestock sector's environmental impact, representing a permanent mitigation strategy. The methane (CH₄) total production was correlated to animal efficiency in different studies on dairy cows and steers. Several methods for CH₄ quantification have been proposed, such as the laser methane detector (LMD), a reliable, cheap and easy alternative to gold standard methods when CH₄ is assessed *in vivo*. The aim of this study was to characterize the CH₄ profile of growing Simmental bulls collected using an LMD and to relate the CH₄ production, as total or expressed in different ways, with the feed efficiency. For this purpose, 1,164 CH₄ profiles collected from 194 Italian Simmental bulls were analyzed to evaluate their main characteristics as peak type, number, and intensity. Subjects were divided into two feed efficiency groups, high ($n=50$) and low ($n=49$) efficiency, based on their residual feed intake (RFI), and the main traits of CH₄ production were compared. The total number of peaks observed did not differ between the two groups, with a similar average concentration (51.9 ppm-m). Likewise, the eructation peaks had shown a similar trend with no differences detected in total number and concentration. The CH₄ profile converted to g/day has shown similar values between groups. Instead, the CH₄ yield (g/kg DMI) was higher in highly efficient animals when compared to low-efficient animals (30.4 vs. 25.3 g/kg). Similarly, the residual methane emission (RME), calculated as the difference between the measured CH₄ and that estimated, was higher in the high efficiency group (74.7 vs. 35.7 g/day). Contrary to the common idea that efficient animals produce less CH₄, results indicate that total production may be similar across animals with different RFI. Instead, values could be unfavorable for highly efficient animals when CH₄ yield or RME are considered.

Lay Summary

The environmental impact of the farming sector is one of the most discussed topics, and the necessity of effective mitigation strategies increases the number of research studies in this direction. There is a considerable interest in animal genetic selection to improve animal feed efficiency, increasing the sustainability of the livestock sector and permanently mitigating emissions. Different systems to assess methane at the animal level have been proposed, each presenting different implications. Collecting reliable phenotypic data is essential to strengthening animal genetic selection. In the present study, a laser methane detector was used to collect the methane profile of growing Simmental bulls characterized by different feed efficiency. The methane profiles were analyzed to identify their main characteristics, and outcomes were compared between animals with divergent feed efficiency. Contrary to the common belief that highly efficient animals produce less methane, the results indicate that daily production is similar among animals; instead, methane production was higher in highly efficient animals when it was related to their ingestion.

Keywords enteric methane, laser methane smart, residual feed intake, residual methane emission, Simmental breed

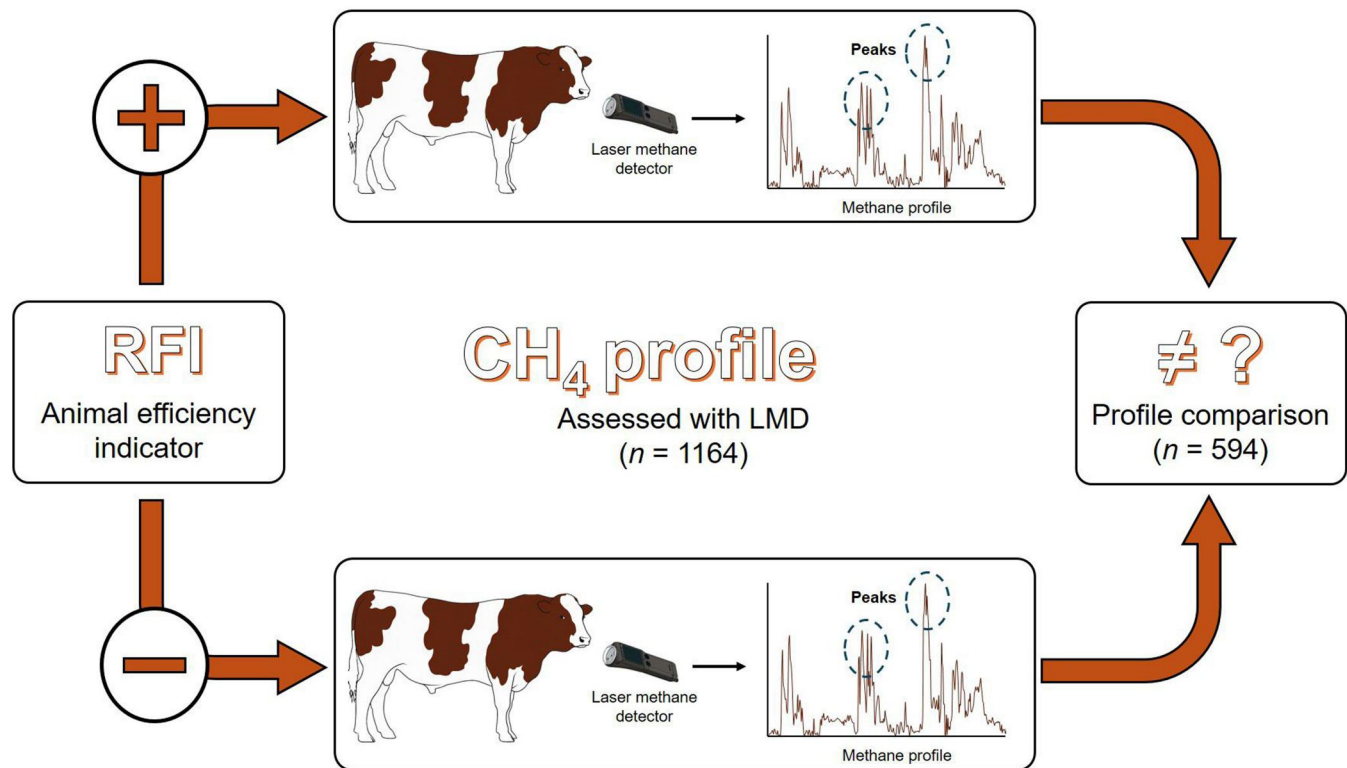
Abbreviations: ADG, average daily gain; BW, body weight; CH₄, methane; DM, dry matter; DMI, dry matter intake; eDMI, expected dry matter intake; FTIR, Fourier transform infrared; LMD, laser methane detector; LMS, laser methane smart; NDIR, non-dispersive infrared; RFI, residual feed intake; RME, residual methane emission; TMR, total mixed ration; VFA, volatile fatty acids

Received: October 31, 2025. Accepted: February 26, 2026

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Graphical abstract



Introduction

Consulting one of the most widespread scientific databases (Scopus, keywords: methane OR methanogenesis AND rumen OR cow OR cattle OR buffaloes OR sheep OR lamb), to date, around 11,000 papers related to methane (CH₄) produced by ruminants can be found, highlighting the relevance of this research topic. Indeed, enteric CH₄ represents a significant environmental issue, accounting for 46% of the total 3.7 Gt CO₂-eq generated by the direct emissions of the livestock sector (FAO 2023).

Methanogenesis represents 2%–12% of dietary energy loss in ruminants and is reasonably related to feed efficiency. This trait has been correlated to CH₄ production in several studies on dairy cows and steers (Alemu et al. 2017; Dini et al. 2019; Manzanilla-Pech et al. 2022). Residual feed intake (RFI) is a widely used index of feed efficiency in growing animals and is calculated as the difference between actual and predicted intake (Koch et al. 1963). Animals that consume less feed than expected at equal body weight and ADG are characterized by negative RFI values. There is a considerable interest in animal genetic selection to improve animal efficiency, but also to reduce CH₄ as its production is a moderately heritable trait with an h^2 from 0.23 to 0.30 (Pickering et al. 2015; Manzanilla-Pech et al. 2016; Breider et al. 2019).

However, methanogenesis is related to other animal traits that play a central role in animal productivity (De Haas et al. 2017). For this reason, alongside the total daily CH₄ production, other ways to express CH₄ find space. The production can be

reported as intensity, when it is scaled to units of animal product (g CH₄/kg milk or kg average daily gain (ADG)), or as yield when it is related to kg of feed ingested (g CH₄/kg dry matter intake (DMI)) (Crowley et al. 2024). Another indicator of the CH₄ production, and a potential selection index trait, is residual methane emission (RME) (Kim et al. 2024; Starsmore et al. 2024; Vargas et al. 2025). It is calculated as the difference between the CH₄ measured and those predicted using published equations or mathematical models and it is independent of animal feed intake (Herd et al. 2014).

Despite the different indices and modes of expression, the measure of CH₄ emission on farm conditions is a relevant issue for adopting practical strategies of mitigation. Over the years, numerous approaches based on different technologies have been proposed to detect CH₄, and each has its advantages and disadvantages, as widely reviewed (Patra 2016; Zhao et al. 2020; Tedeschi et al. 2022). Respiratory chambers, spot sampling methods (sniffers and GreenFeed), and tracer techniques (sulphur hexafluoride, SF₆) represent effective and efficient solutions for monitoring animal emissions, but their application in commercial farms is limited (Chagunda et al. 2009). The portable laser methane detector (LMD) represents an alternative method applicable both at research and farm level. Originally used to detect gas leaks, the LMD has found applications in other fields, such as enteric CH₄ quantification, given its low purchase and running costs (Sorg 2021). The LMD has been compared in several studies with the above-mentioned methods as reported in Garnsworthy et al. (2019), showing good correlation and promoting this instrument as an effective solution for CH₄

measurement. Chagunda and Yan (2011) report a good correlation coefficient ($r=0.80$) when the LMD was compared with the respiratory chamber, while the agreement tends to decrease, but remains moderately good, when it was compared to other methods adopted in a production scenario. Rey et al. (2019) reported a concordance correlation coefficient of 0.62 between CH₄ production measured using LMD and that measured simultaneously from animals' nostrils using a tube connected to an NDIR (Non-Dispersive Infrared) analyzer. Similarly, Sorg et al. (2018) observed a repeated measure correlation of 0.60 and 0.57 when comparing LMD data with those from NDIR and FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared) installed in an automated milking system. In the same study, they have also reported a repeated measure correlation of 0.66 with the GreenFeed.

Given the growing interest in developing genetic indices for feed efficiency and CH₄ emission reduction (Richardson et al. 2025), it is essential to study these traits also outside of the experimental farms and thoroughly evaluate their potential correlations. The main aim of this study was to characterize the CH₄ profile of Simmental bulls and subsequently investigate the relationship between CH₄ production and feed efficiency.

Material and methods

Ethics statement

The experimental procedures followed EU Directive 2010/63/EU, Italian legislation on animal care (DL n. 26-4 March 2014), and the guidelines of the University of Udine. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the University of Udine (prot. n. 02/2024).

Animal management

The study was conducted at the Genetic Centre of Italian Simmental breed (Fiume Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy) between March 2024 and March 2025. Simmental bulls were reared together under equal conditions in six-animal pens. Details on their management during their permanence in the Genetic Centre are reported in Romanzin et al. (2021). After an adaptation period of about 30 days, bulls underwent the performance test until they were 12 months old. All animals were fed *ad libitum* with the same diet distributed daily and consisting of a total mixed ration (TMR) composed of ground corn (28.2% DM), corn silage (27.2% DM), sunflower and rapeseed meals (14.6% DM), wheat straw (8.7% DM), barley meal (5.9% DM), dried beet pulp (5.8% DM), wheat bran (5.8% DM), soybean meal (1.9% DM) and a mix of vitamins and minerals (1.9% DM). The TMR had an average content of 59.8% of DM, 39.9% DM of neutral detergent fibre, 13.6% DM of crude protein, and 6.8% DM of ash.

During the performance test the animals were weighed every 42 days, and bulls were subjected to the RFI trial, which lasted around 2 months. Subjects, approximately 9 months old, were moved to pens equipped with two electronic feeders each (RIC system; Hokofarm Group, Marknesse, The Netherlands), which allowed for animals' identification and the individual assessment of daily feed intake.

Methane assessment

To monitor the CH₄ production of Simmental bulls, 208 subjects were monitored in 12 consecutive months using a Laser Methane Smart (LMS; Tokyo Gas Engineering Solution Corporation, Tokyo, Japan), an updated version of LMD, adapting the protocols suggested by (ICAR 2020) and other relevant papers that used the LMD (Chagunda et al. 2009; Ricci et al. 2014; Pickering et al. 2015; Sorg et al. 2018). Six measurements (2 measurements per day × 3 sampling days) lasting 5 min each were taken from each bull, resulting in 1,248 CH₄ profiles collected. All measurements were performed with animals in the feed bunk. The first was collected immediately after feed distribution (approximately 8:00 AM), and the second was performed in the afternoon (approximately 3:00 PM) after pushing the remaining TMR close to the animals. A trained operator directed the visible laser, a directional reference present in the instrument, towards the bull's nostrils, maintaining an average distance of 1 m and following the head movement. The CH₄ concentration in the air column between LMD and the animal was detected every 0.5 s and expressed as ppm-m. The raw data was downloaded directly from the internal storage card.

Data management and statistical analysis

The RFI was computed for each animal and represents the residual from the following multiple linear regression used to estimate the expected DMI (eDMI):

$$eDMI = \alpha + \beta(ADG) + \gamma(BW^{0.75}) + \varepsilon$$

where BW is the mid-test BW; ADG is the average daily gain; α , β , and γ are parameters of the regression equation; ε is the error term. Bulls with missing data were excluded from the analysis, leading to a final dataset with 194 subjects.

Peaks in the CH₄ profile were identified using the function *findpeaks* available in the Pracma package v. 2.4.4 (Borchers 2023) of R software v. 4.4.3 (R Core Team 2021). The main characteristics of the CH₄ profile and the conversion to g/day were performed following Sorg et al. (2018). To identify and remove outliers, CH₄ was predicted using a regression approach considering the day and month of sampling, and the residuals were divided by the standard deviation of the original data, as proposed by Coppa et al. (2021). If the ratio was higher than 3, the observation was removed. In total, 1.6% of the total observations were deleted, and the final dataset included 1,146 CH₄ profiles.

The RME for each animal was calculated as the difference between the measured CH₄ and that estimated using the following equation adapted from IPCC (2006):

$$Estimate\ CH_4 = \frac{DMI \times 18.45 \times (6.5 \times 10)}{55.65}$$

where 18.45 is the average dietary gross energy content (MJ/kg DM), 6.5 is the extent of gross energy converted to CH₄ (%), and 55.65 is the energetic content of CH₄ (MJ/kgCH₄). The gross energy value of the diet was calculated adopting tabulated values, according to the French evaluating system (INRA 2018). The

distribution of animals' RFI was evaluated with the UNIVARIATE procedure of SAS software (version 9.4; SAS Institute), taking into account the first and the third quartile. Subjects were divided into two feed efficiency groups (high and low, $n=50$ and $n=49$, respectively). Data concerning animals' characteristics were statistically analyzed using the GLM procedure following a factorial model considering the RFI as a fixed factor. The CH₄ profile characteristics (total CH₄, CH₄ yield, CH₄ intensity, and RME) were analyzed using the MIXED procedure of SAS, with parameters estimated by restricted maximum likelihood (REML). The model accounted for the repeated-measures experimental design and included month of sampling (1–13) and efficiency group (1–2) as fixed effects, with a random intercept for subject (1–99). Within-subject correlation among repeated measurements was modelled using a first-order autoregressive AR(1) covariance structure. Least-squares means and their 95% confidence intervals, were estimated for the efficiency group using LSMEANS option. The effects were considered statistically significant at $P < 0.05$. Lastly, the CH₄ yield was deeply analyzed considering all the animals' records (1–194) using the same model previously described but considering the RFI as continuous predictor including it as fixed covariate instead of fixed class effect.

Results

Animals' characteristics

The 194 Simmental bulls taken into account in the current trial had an average BW of 437 kg and were characterized by an

average DMI of 9.74 kg/day and an ADG of 1.64 kg/day. The average production of CH₄ measured with LMS was around 267 g/day.

The main characteristics of animals in the two efficiency groups are reported in Table 1. Their RFI values differ significantly ($P < 0.001$), with an average value of -0.94 kg/day for the high efficiency group and a value of 0.59 kg/day for the low efficiency one, with an absolute difference of 1.53 kg/day. As reported, the bulls in the two groups did not differ in BW and ADG with an average value of 436 kg and 1.66 kg/day. However, the two groups differed significantly in their DMI ($P < 0.001$), with higher intake for the low efficiency group when compared to the high efficiency one (10.6 vs. 8.81 kg/day, respectively).

Methane traits

Figure 1 shows an example of a CH₄ profile collected and highlights its main characteristics. For each animal, the CH₄ profiles collected were analyzed, and the results are presented in Table 2. The total number of peaks observed did not differ between the two groups, with an average value of around 125 peaks. Furthermore, their concentration was quite similar, with an average value of 51.9 ppm-m, and no significant variations were observed. Likewise, the eructation peaks had shown a similar trend, with no differences detected between high and low efficiency groups in their total number (21.1 vs. 21.7 , for high and low efficiency, respectively) or concentration (165 vs. 162 ppm-m, for high and low efficiency, respectively).

Table 1 Main characteristics of animal considered in the two feed efficiency groups. Data were reported as estimate mean $\pm$ standard error (95% confidence interval).

	Efficiency		RMSE	P-Value
	High	Low		
RFI, kg/day	-0.94 ± 0.05 (-1.04 to -0.83)	0.59 ± 0.04 (0.52 to 0.71)	0.326	<0.001
BW, kg	430 ± 8.11 (418 to 450)	442 ± 8.04 (421 to 453)	52.6	0.792
ADG, kg/day	1.63 ± 0.03 (1.55 to 1.68)	1.69 ± 0.03 (1.63 to 1.76)	0.219	0.114
DMI, kg/day	8.81 ± 0.12 (8.60 to 8.85)	10.6 ± 0.12 (10.3 to 10.5)	0.811	<0.001

RFI: residual feed intake; BW: body weight; DMI: dry matter intake; ADG: average daily gain; RMSE: root mean square error.

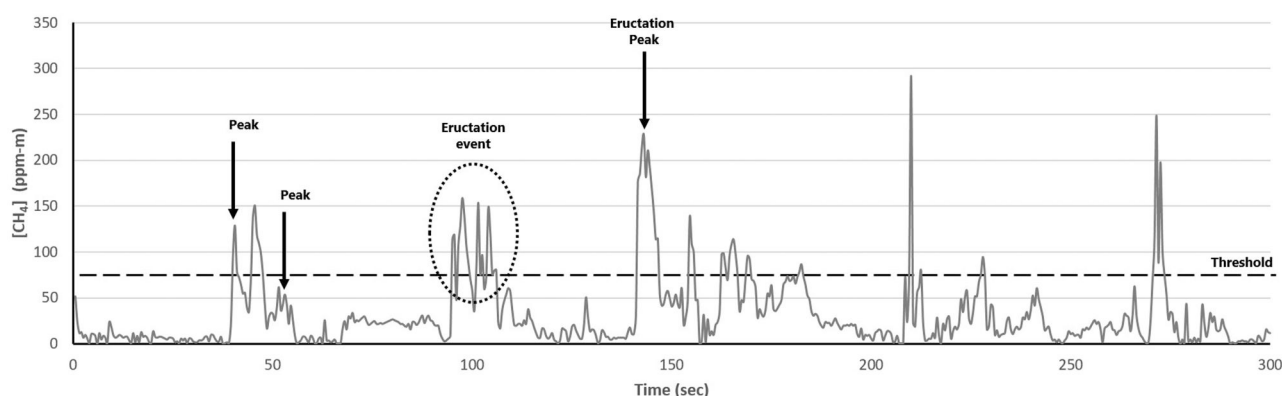


Figure 1 Example of methane profile collected with laser methane detector. The threshold used for the differentiation between normal and eructation peaks was calculated from raw data taking into account the interquartile range as reported in Sorg et al. (2018).

Table 2 Main parameters of methane profile identified for high and low feed efficiency. Data were reported as estimate mean $\pm$ standard error (95% confidence interval).

	Efficiency		P-Value
	High	Low	
Total peaks, <i>n</i>	126 $\pm$ 0.85 (124 to 128)	125 $\pm$ 0.83 (124 to 127)	0.826
Peaks concentration, ppm-m	52.5 $\pm$ 2.09 (48.4 to 56.6)	51.4 $\pm$ 2.05 (47.5 to 55.6)	0.723
Eructation peaks, <i>n</i>	21.1 $\pm$ 0.501 (20.1 to 22.1)	21.7 $\pm$ 0.49 (20.8 to 22.7)	0.320
Eructation peaks concentration, ppm-m	165 $\pm$ 7.01 (152 to 179)	162 $\pm$ 6.90 (148 to 175)	0.667

Table 3 Methane as total production, intensity (methane/ADG), yield (methane/DMI), and RME (measured-estimated) for the two efficiency groups. Data were reported as estimate mean $\pm$ standard error (95% confidence interval).

	Efficiency		P-Value
	High	Low	
Methane, g/day	265 $\pm$ 4.59 (256 to 274)	263 $\pm$ 4.52 (254 to 272)	0.723
Methane/ADG, g/kg	170 $\pm$ 5.25 (159 to 180)	161 $\pm$ 5.19 (146 to 166)	0.072
Methane/DMI, g/kg	30.4 $\pm$ 0.60 (29.2 to 31.6)	25.3 $\pm$ 0.59 (23.7 to 26.1)	<0.001
RME, g/day	74.7 $\pm$ 5.04 (64.8 to 84.6)	35.7 $\pm$ 4.97 (25.9 to 45.5)	<0.001

ADG: average daily gain; DMI: dry matter intake; RME: residual methane emission.

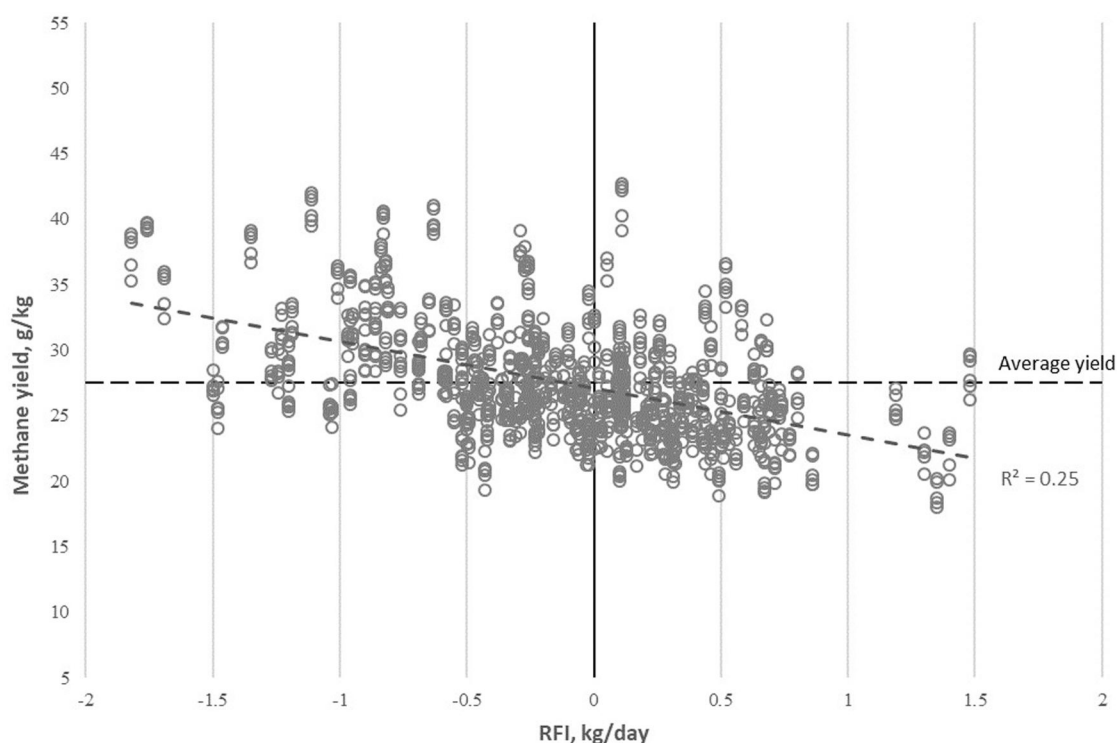


Figure 2 Effect of residual feed intake (RFI) on the methane yield (methane/DMI) of animals used in the present study (*n* = 194).

Table 3 reports the CH₄ produced expressed in different ways. Daily production, expressed in g/day, was similar between the groups, with no significant variations registered (265 vs. 263 g/day for high and low efficiency, respectively). When CH₄ was expressed as intensity (g/kg ADG), a tendency toward a lower

value was observed in the low efficiency group (*P* = 0.072), with a value of 161 g/kg compared to 170 g/kg reached by the high efficiency one. Considering CH₄ yield (g/kg DMI), a significant difference was observed (*P* < 0.001) with the high efficiency bulls showing a higher value (30.4 g/kg) than the low efficiency ones

(25.3 g/kg). Finally, the resulting RME varied between groups, with a significantly higher value ($P < 0.001$) for the high efficiency group (74.7 g/day) compared to the low efficiency one (35.7 g/day).

Lastly, [Figure 2](#) evaluates the effect of RFI on CH₄ yield across all bulls considered in the present study ($n = 194$). A significant effect of feed efficiency ($P < 0.001$) was found, with an overall decrease in CH₄ yield as the RFI increased ($R^2 = 0.25$).

Discussion

Animal performance and methane measures

The Italian Simmental growing bulls involved in the present trial were subjected to a performance test under feeding and rearing conditions similar to those used in fattening farms. Their main traits, such as DMI and ADG, are comparable to those of animals of the same breed used in previous studies conducted at the same centre ([Spanghero et al. 2017](#); [Cesarani et al. 2020](#); [Romanzin et al. 2022](#)). All animals had similar BW and ADG, but the RFI values diverged, resulting in a significant difference in DMI between the two groups. As expected, bulls with a negative RFI needed less feed to maintain a comparable level of growing performance ([Herd et al. 2003](#)). The average DMI difference registered between the two feed efficiency groups was similar to that reported by [Romanzin et al. \(2024\)](#), with the high efficiency group consuming around 16% less feed than the low efficiency group.

Considering the CH₄ profile, LMD is currently widely utilized to analyze the CH₄ emission in different species such as dairy cows, sheep, beef cattle, buffaloes, and goats ([Sorg 2021](#)). However, not all of these studies differentiate profile peaks. [Ricci et al. \(2014\)](#) considered the CH₄ emission of beef steers fed with two different diets using LMD. The values reported for the average peak concentration (average 53.35 ppm-m) are comparable to those achieved in the current study, while the average eructation peaks (average 93.9 ppm-m) result slightly lower. In contrast, in a recent work on Simmental bulls, [Koch et al. \(2025\)](#) have reported an average peak concentration greater than our outcomes, but no further information inherent to the CH₄ profile was described.

Overall, in our experimental conditions, the profile characteristics did not differ significantly between the two groups considered. In other scientific works, authors have found a variation in CH₄ profile characteristics, but in these cases, the main factor considered was the diet fed to the animals. [Kang et al. \(2022\)](#) found a variation in peak concentration and in eructation peak concentration in an experiment conducted on 30 animals fed with two diets with different in their forage to concentrate ratio. Similarly, [Ricci et al. \(2014\)](#) highlighted differences in the CH₄ profile of 72 animals fed with high and low concentrate diets, with alteration in peaks and eructation peaks concentration. Based on the literature, a differentiation in animals' CH₄ profile characteristics can occur mainly related to peaks concentration. We can hypothesize that RFI alone is not sufficient to generate such differentiation while other factors, as diet composition, can alter significantly the CH₄ production pattern registered with LMD.

Relationship between residual feed intake and methane traits

In contrast to the hypothesis that CH₄ is related to animal efficiency, the two groups did not differ in their daily production (g/day). This finding is analogous to those of other authors ([McDonnell et al. 2016](#); [Flay et al. 2019](#); [Renand et al. 2019](#)), highlighting the absence of a strong correlation between animal efficiency and CH₄ production. However, the lack of a significant difference between the groups, could be explained by considering the animals' DMI.

In fact, interesting results were observed in CH₄ yield (g/kg DMI) with a significantly higher value detected for the highly efficient bulls. Overall, the values of CH₄ yield assessed in the present trial are similar to those reported in previous studies on animals with comparable BW and ADG ([Alemu et al. 2017](#); [Batalha et al. 2020](#)). Moreover, a similar difference between efficiency groups was achieved in a previous work published by [Flay et al. \(2019\)](#). The researchers have evaluated the relationship between CH₄, collected using the GreenFeed system, and the RFI of 56 dairy heifers, highlighting a significant difference in CH₄ yield, with the highest value recorded for the group of efficient animals. Similarly, [Smith et al. \(2021\)](#), in an experiment conducted on 294 crossbred beef cattle, gathered emission data with the GreenFeed system and detailed a significant negative correlation between RFI and CH₄ yield. This outcome was observed once again in a recent meta-analysis of 27 studies conducted by [Soares et al. \(2025\)](#). The work had analyzed the relationship between different CH₄ emission traits and RFI, finding a large heterogeneity across studies, but overall, 75% of the considered studies report a negative correlation between RFI and CH₄ per unit of DMI. The same trend was observed in the present study ([Figure 2](#)), with a decrease in CH₄ yield as RFI increased ($R^2 = 0.25$, $P < 0.001$).

This outcome suggests an interaction between DMI, rumen fermentation, and CH₄ production.

In a review on the biological determinants of feed efficiency, [Cantalapiedra-Hijar et al. \(2018\)](#) identified an overall negative correlation between DMI and DM digestibility in animals with opposite RFI. It is known that a high DMI, typical of animals with a high RFI index (low efficiency), significantly increases the feed passage rate, with a consequent negative effect on ruminal organic matter fermentation ([Kenny et al. 2018](#)). Besides the alteration in DM digestibility, rumen passage rate influences the proportions of volatile fatty acids (VFA) produced and the ruminal microbiota ([Knapp et al. 2014](#)), all aspects related to methanogenesis, as reported in several scientific works ([Wang et al. 2009](#); [Spanghero et al. 2022](#); [Zhang et al. 2023](#)). The comparable daily CH₄ production observed in the present trial, and obtained by other authors as mentioned above, can be attributed to more intense ruminal fermentation in efficient animals that leads to a more intense production of CH₄ per unit of DMI. However, it should be noted that literature reports a strong positive relationship between animal CH₄ output and DMI ([De Haas et al. 2011](#); [Fitzsimons et al. 2013](#); [McDonnell et al. 2016](#); [Bird-Gardiner et al. 2017](#)), promoting this aspect as a main driver in apparent contrast with the previously discussed results. Generally, the correlation reported in scientific works derives from trials where the genetic variability in terms of animals'

feed efficiency is not considered and is randomly distributed among factors taken into account. On the contrary, when animals are intentionally compared based on their feed efficiency, variations in CH₄ production arise from a combination of their feeding behavior and digestive physiology.

This hypothesis is strengthened by the results reached with RME, a trait that results independently from DMI and animal production but is positively correlated to the CH₄ emissions (Bird-Gardiner et al. 2017; Renand et al. 2019). This characteristic promotes it as a useful indicator for animal selection as a possible solution to reduce the livestock impact (Herd et al. 2014). As observed in the current study, Sakamoto et al. (2021) achieved a higher value in RME in Nellore cattle characterized by negative RFI. Smith et al. (2021) studied the CH₄ emissions in finishing beef cattle and reported that animals characterized with low RME value have also low CH₄ yields, in agreement with the results presented in this study. Silva et al. (2025) analyzed records in several years from over 2,000 animals, stating a strong positive genetic correlation between the RME and CH₄ yield, with a consequent higher value of RME in animals that produce more CH₄ per unit of DMI. These outcomes support the hypothesis that animals with different feed efficiency have a different utilization of feed ingested, resulting in a measured CH₄ value greater than theoretical and therefore defined by high RME. All these results suggested that improving efficiency does not necessarily mean a reduction in animal impact, and further aspects have to be considered.

Conclusion

Various factors influence enteric CH₄ emission, but residual feed intake appears uncorrelated to the main traits that define the CH₄ profile. Furthermore, contrary to the common idea that efficient animals produce less CH₄, results indicate that total production might be similar across animals with differing RFI. Instead, differences could be unfavorable for highly efficient animals when CH₄ yield or RME are considered. There is no doubt that selecting for feed efficiency provides lasting economic and environmental benefits. However, feed efficiency alone is likely not sufficient to reduce enteric CH₄ emissions, and further efforts are needed to identify an effective strategy.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank the National Breeders Associations of Italian Simmental Breed (ANAPRI) for the collaboration and the staff of the Genetic Centre for their excellent work. This research was supported by PRIN2022 program (M4C2 Inv.1.1 prot. 2022KSFEKE), within the framework of the project: "Improvement of assessment at individual level of feed efficiency and methane emissions: From research to cattle breeding". Funded by the European Union—NextGenerationEU.

Author contributions

Matteo Braidot (Data curation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Writing—original draft), Anita Cabbia (Formal

analysis, Writing—review & editing), Mauro Spanghero (Resources, Writing—review & editing), Damiano Cavallini (Funding acquisition, Writing—review & editing), and Alberto Romanzin (Conceptualization, Funding acquisition, Investigation, Methodology, Writing—original draft)

Conflict of interest statement. Authors declare no conflict of interest.

Data availability statement

The data underlying this article will be shared on reasonable request to the corresponding author.

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