Introduction
Most dairy cows experience a substantial decrease in feed intake preceding parturition, which has been associated with systemic inflammation (SI).

We aimed to assess whether the prepartum decrease in feed intake initiates SI, and if present, the ability of meloxicam to mitigate inflammation.

Materials and methods
Prepartum Holstein cows were assigned to control (n = 13), untreated feed restriction (FR-U; n = 15), or feed restriction plus meloxicam (FR-T; n = 17) groups.

Control cows were fed ad libitum, FR-U and FR-T were reduced to 70% of their average intake for from -15 to -12 d before expected calving (Figure 1).

FR-T cows received meloxicam once/day for 4 d (-13 to -10).

Metabolic markers were assessed in multiple blood samples (Figure 2).

Results
All outcomes changed (P < 0.05) with time independent of treatment.
In both FR groups, concentration of NEFA increased during the FR (Figure 3).
Haptoglobin and LBP concentrations did not change during the FR (Figures 4 and 5).
No differences among treatments were observed for the remaining metabolites.

Conclusion
This model of feed restriction to mimic that seen in the week before calving produced substantial fat mobilization.
Based on the present metabolic indicators, this FR model did not induce SI.
More sensitive markers of SI such as TNFα, IL-1β, and IL-6 should be assessed in order to establish final conclusions.