

Towards Herd Specific Udder Health Consulting

Mastitismiddag - Forschung für die Praxis, Hochschule Hannover

6. März 2020

Michael Farre, DVM / MBA Seges Livestock Innovation Denmark

STØTTET AF

Mælkeafgiftsfonden

My work at Seges

- The only vet working with udder health in Seges 😞
 - Research (part time phd. student)
 - Consulting (on farm, companies, equipment manufacture e.g.)
 - Surveillance program
 - Political tasks (negotiating terms and policy on antibiotics, Veterinary Association contact e.g.)

Structure of Danish agriculture




Farmers

Are both owners and customers of local and regional advisory companies, as well as SEGES.



Danish Agricultural Advisory Service

A partnership of farmer owned local and regional advisory companies.



SEGES

Provides Innovations and knowledge for farmers and the industry. Collaborates with advisories and universities.



Danish Agriculture & Food Council

Represents farmers and the food and agro-industry on business policy.

Agenda

- Danish milk production key numbers
- The Danish dairy vet
- Present approach to udder health consulting in Denmark
- Milk Levy project “Superior udder health through better treatment strategies”

Therefore we need to do something!

Milk Levy funded three year project

- The project is in cooperation between;
 - KU SUND Section of Animal Welfare and Disease Control
 - Wageningen University Department of Business & Social Science
 - SEGES Livestock Innovation
- Part of the project is a phd. project

The structure of the project

- WP 1.
 - Baseline study to identify relevant microbiology
 - Management questionnaire
 - Perception farmer
 - Perception Vet
- WP 2. Case control study to establish gold standard for treatment

Study population

- Holstien cows < 10 % cross breed
- > 100 cows
- Not organic
- Not robot milking
- Split in two groups < 200.000 / > 200.000 BTSCC
- The actual number of potential farms 498 – randomized and 100 planned farm visits during a 12 month period

Background

- Basically we don't really know which management is gold standard in Denmark
- The attitude from SEGES has been "One size fits all"
- Prevalence of different pathogens are a unknown – due to the selection bias on sampling (Dry cow samples)

Objective 1

- Identify the current management strategies that are implemented in the Danish dairy herds. Using a reference as the NMC 10. point plan, to evaluate the status at each farm
- This activity will investigate which strategies are implemented in Danish dairy herds in relation to udder health. The investigation will include a comparison of herds with “high” (> 200,000), “low” (< 200,000) BTSCC

Activities in objective 1

- Study population of 100 herds, < 200.000 > BTSCC
- First herds visits;
 - Questionnaire on management
 - Questionnaire perception farmer
 - Questionnaire perception herd veterinarian
- Second herd visit;
 - Two – three most value creating recommendations based on questionnaire, microbiology and perception

Objective 2

Conduct a herd specific analysis with the aim to:

- 1) Determine if the herd udder health control strategy and udder health status are compatible
- 2) Assess the effectiveness of the implemented management strategy
- 3) Determine the main reasons why the herd has high BTSCC

Activities in objective 2

- 1) Assess and analyze the udder health status; based on observational data, questionnaire, milk samples and data from the Danish cattle database
- 2) Identify the management routines within the herds visited
- 3) Assess how compatible these strategies are for the udder health status within the herd based on expert (our) assessment complemented by our experience, knowledge and the literature
- 4) Assess how well the strategies are implemented following farm visits
- 5) Analysis of relevant outcome variables based on the Danish cattle database

The first 30 herd visits

Management questionnaire

- The questionnaire are divided into 10 sub groups;
 - cows, people, parlor, hygiene, diagnostic, culling, treatment, dry period, heifers and biosecurity
- It has up to 86 questions – depending on the answers from the farmer

Mastitis people in Denmark



Thanks for your attention!

Michael Farre HusdyrInnovation

mifa@seges.dk

