

# Towards Herd Specific Udder Health Consulting

Mastitisnachmittag - Forschung für die Praxis, Hochschule Hannover

6. März 2020

Michael Farre, DVM / MBA Seges Livestock Innovation Denmark

STØTTET AF

**Mælke**afgiftsfonden









#### 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.)

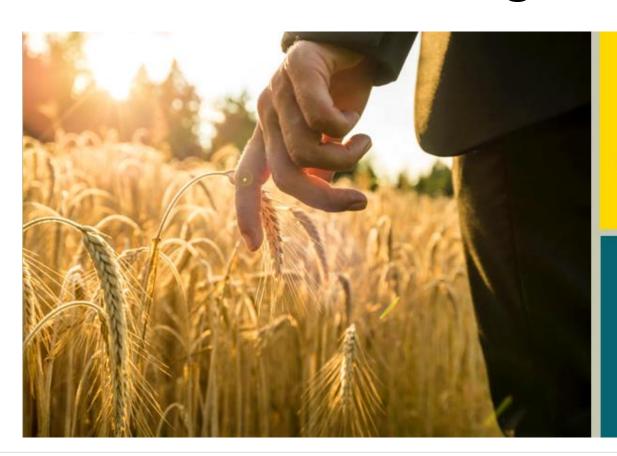








#### Structure of Danish agriculture





#### **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</li>
- > 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

- Assess and analyze the udder health status; based on observational date, 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 <a href="mifa@seges.dk">mifa@seges.dk</a>







