

# Towards Herd Specific Udder Health Consulting

Michael Farre, Seges Livestock Innovation  
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STØTTET AF

**Mælke**afgiftsfonden

“Preliminary status on management and perception towards udder health management.”

- Part time phd. student 2019 – 2024
- KU SUND, Section of Animal Welfare and Disease Control Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences



# Agenda

- Introduction
- Project description
- Baseline study & RQ
- Management & RQ
- Social Science & RQ

# Levy fund project – with fixed agenda

- Project involving DTU, KU SUND and SEGES
- Identify the reason for unactable BMTSCC in Danish herds
  - Baseline study microbiology
  - Identify which NMC recommendations is implemented
  - Farmer and veterinarian's opinion towards udder health

# Project purpose and content

- Baseline study to identify pathogens
- Identify implemented management factors at farm level
- Identify perception of udder health consulting from the farmer and herd veterinarian's perspective

# Enrollment in the study

- DHI recording 11 times / year
- Conventional milking (parlor)
- > 90 % Holstein cows
- Not organic
- Postal code > 6000
- > 100 cows (range 100 – 1900 cows)

# Microbiology

- Collection of up to 100 quarter samples / herd, quarter samples new and chronic infected cows
- Microbiology 10 and 100  $\mu$ /l
- Routine Maldi-Tof<sup>®</sup>
- CFU recording

# Research questions

- **RQ1:** What is the distribution of pathogens in new and chronic infected cows
- **RQ2:** What is the distribution of pathogens in high versus low BMTSCC herds
- **RQ3:** What is the association between individual cow SCC and pathogen identified at cow level



# Management factors at herd level

- The questionnaire is divided into ten topics;
  - People, cow, parlor, hygiene, diagnostic, culling, treatment, dry period, biosecurity and youngstock
- The questionnaire totals 95 questions answered by the herdsman / owner

# Management factors at herd level

- **RQ1:** To what extend is the NMC 10. point recommendations implemented at farm level
- **RQ2:** which recommendations from the NMC 10. point plan has the largest impact on BMTSCC

# Social Science

- Questionnaire targeted dairy farmer (40) and herd veterinarian (37)
- Questions focus on attitude towards udder health, Evidence Based intervention, relations farmer / vet e.g.
- Response dairy farmers 100 % and veterinarians > 90 %

# Social Science

- **RQ1:** Who is the most important external partner in udder health management in the dairy herd
- **RQ2:** Does the farmer regard udder health consulting from his herd vet as Evidence Based?

# Thanks for your attention!

Michael Farre  
[mifa@sund.ku.dk](mailto:mifa@sund.ku.dk)

