



Event	Montreal (CA), ICAR 2022 Annual Conference	Title of the presentation
Subject	Abstract presented manuscript as presentation	Practical experience from the implementation of a new udder health monitoring service through regular DHI testing

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Session:

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the practical experience of introducing a new udder health monitoring service in Estonia and Thuringia, Germany. This new service is based on the combination of somatic cell count (SCC) and differential SCC (DSCC) test day results obtained through regularly performed dairy herd improvement (DHI) services.

A new udder health report based on SCC and DSCC information was developed. It allows to categorised the udder health status of a cow into four different groups: Udder Health Group (UHG) A – healthy, SCC <200,000 cells/ml and DSCC ≤65%, B – onset of mastitis, SCC <200,000 cells/ml and DSCC >65%, C – (active) mastitis, SCC >200,000 cells/ml and DSCC >65%, D – chronic mastitis, SCC >200,000 cells/ml and DSCC ≤65%.

Regularly available DHI test results were used to investigate the performance and future development (e.g. high SCC at next test day, culling) of cows in the different UHG. Findings were used during the launch of the new udder health report as they contribute to provide evidence on the added value of the service based on local data. DHI service field staff was trained about the new service to support new herds enrolling to the new service. Different media and local events such as exhibitions and annual meetings were used to further promote.

Practitioners working with the new udder health report described that it helps them to improve their herd management, particularly cubicle management and milking routine, resulting in overall better udder health of the herd and lower consumption of antibiotics with regards to mastitis treatments :

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