National Consolidation of a Regional System

Denmark

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Few facts

- Milkrecording in Denmark is a commercial business all paid by farmers
- Govermental support was part of the service. It stopped app. 20 years ago
1895 - 2009

Recording association in Denmark

Danish Agricultural Advisory Service
1895 - 2009

Recording associations in Denmark
Important corners - 1

- 1982 national herd- and animal ID system implemented by Danish Cattle Federation (DCF)
- 1997 this ID system is taken over by authorities. The alternative would have been a parallel system
- 1997 it is agreed that the cattle branch becomes administrators of the national databases
Important corners - 2

- 1997 and fw intensified cooperation between authorities and DCF
- 2002 merge of databases run by Ag. Ministry and DCF
  - Daily reporting of data from farmers is handled on 16 different locations
- 2001/2002 it is realised that a consolidation is needed
Main elements in the discussion

- Recording organisations had a very fragmented policy for consolidation – if any 😊
- Quality of the work at 16 locations is difficult to uniform
- Structural changes, fewer and bigger farms
- Technical developments is hard to handle in small units
- Need for investment
- Attract staff
Farmers partners in the field of data and registration

- AI services
- Hooftrimmers
- Herd managers
- Accountants
- Advisory system
- Breeding organisations
- Veterinary services
- Ag. ministry
- Milk recording
- Ag. ministry
What was done

- 2000 “smalltalks” in the corners
- 2001 an unofficial report produced by staff
  - The work was not initiated by the organisations
- 2002 DCF forms a working group of 5 staff members to produce an official report
- 2003 the report presented to those covered by the report
- 2002/2003 the political game runs
Report - recommendations

• Merge all recording associations to 1
• Close the majority of administrative units
  • Option 1: to 1 unit
  • Option 2: to 4 regional units
• Establish an independent commercial organisation for "Registration and milk recording"
Rocks on the road

- Define the political structure
- Respect regional interests
  - 3-4 rounds before the majority did agree
- Decide type of company (co-op, shareholder or another partnership)
- Financial base
- Entry fee
  - Recommended 10 € per cow
  - Ended up in 6,50 €
Organisation RYK

"Registration and milk recording"

- Registration for all herds in Denmark
- Administration of eartags
- Milkrecording (98 % herds and cows)
- Responsible for datacollection
- Responsible for data quality
- Independent company owned by Danish Cattle Federation
Organisation

- 13 boardmembers
  - 8 from regions (4 each 2)
  - 1 from AI company Viking
  - 2 from Danish Cattle Federation
  - 2 from staff
    - 1 representing office staff
    - 1 representing field staff
Year 1

- Agreed on 5 regional centres
- Took over 140 employees
  - 80 DHI technicians
  - 60 administrative persons
- Reduced staff by 30
- Managed to survive despite a week financial base
- The political level had to fight for the idea – and did so
Year 2, 3 and 4

- Additional 2 € per cow as financial base
  - Decided by the Board, and paid by farmers
  - Total increase in financial base of 1 mio €
  - Nearly noiseless!

- Steps to increase efficiency continues
  - Sold of lab activity to Eurofins
  - Agreed on 5 year contract for labservices (2005)
  - Merged 2 regional offices to 1
  - Continues with 4 regions
  - Cut in staff numbers continues
A few facts

• Investment in equipment a total of 8 mio € over 5 years
• All recordings handled electronic – no paper
• Price per cow for recording is 50 kg milk for B-method (5 year average price to farmers)
• Veterinary analysis on recording samples is a key part
  • Johnes disease
  • Salmonella Dublin
  • PCR from June 2009
Situation today

• 4,000 recorded dairy herds (530,000 cows)
• On a contract with Ministry of Agriculture:
  • Administer all eartags
  • Administer national herd database (all species)
  • Reports individual animal data to official databases for all species
• Collect informations for breeding, veterinary services and general management
• Take on any job related to basic registration in animal husbandry
• Budget 2008: 24 million €
Company day 2008 – staff looking for higher goals!

Thank you for attention