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## **Cow ID topics related to milking, milk recording and implementation of sensors**

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Many modern dairy farms use sophisticated technology to measure daily milk yields. Once a month milk samples are taken and analyzed on fat, protein, lactose, SCC and so on. All the data collected are used for both daily management as for milk recording and breeding purposes. The core value of any registration, whether manual or automatic, is to monitor, to control and to validate ID.

To ensure correct and true data, it is essential to have firm routines and technology to catch cow ID.

As throughput of cows per time unit increase and more automation and constant measurement on a series of parameters moves on to the farms, it gets more and more important to highlight the cow ID topic.

In an ideal world the cow is registered at the entrance of the parlor, and software links the cow the right position in the parlor. Finally, data thereafter flows directly to a database and becomes a valuable and safe base for decisions.

Manufacturers often focus on their products ability to read ID when cows pass the antenna. In marketing this is most times expressed as very close to 100%. What seldom is told, is the ability of the total system to link cows to the right bail, which is what users of data expect to happen. And take for granted.

In the everyday situation on a farm, several steps can go wrong. Every time animal ID and data is linked wrong or missing, is a loss of value and future opportunities to manage the herd.

In a daily situation where the focus is on milking at a reasonable high cow flow, missed or wrong linked cow ID's will often be as high as 15 %, and even on some farms up to 40-50%.

This paper will highlight challenges in practical situations and define points for improvements. These improvements involve manufacturers of equipment, farm buildings and installations as well as better education of daily users of these technologies.

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