

S09(T)-OP-3

## **Practical example of 3 interfaces with independent process computers and 3 national interfaces on one farm in the UK**

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Farmers buy their milking machine and work with that in most cases for more than 10 years. In the meantime they invest in other automation. They have many reasons why they buy from different suppliers that cannot communicate with each other. New sensors from different companies or even from young start-ups can in most cases not communicate with parlor systems.

Farmers end up with different systems, that all do wonderful things for them, but they need data input. At least data as cow ID, birth and calving dates.

So we see a growing number of farmers that have to enter the basic data in more than one system on their farm. In some cases we see 3 systems where they have to enter the data for their process computers to get proper results.

When they use an independent herd management program that can interface all the sensor systems, that reduces a lot of double or triple data entry and mistakes.

When using the sensor systems (milk meters and activity and more) the farmer can use the nice screens from these systems. But then he has to combine a lot of information by himself. If these data is brought together in one system, that makes the use of the data from the sensors much easier and more valuable.

This is the current situation on a number of the farms, but there is also the national databases that the farmer has to send data to and receive data from.

This can be for example cattle movement systems from the government, but also milk recording organizations who need data and will send data back. If the farmer is also a member of a herd book, then he also has to send data to their system. So in practice a lot of farmers also have a minimum of 3 country based systems where they have to send data to like calving dates, birth dates and much more.

The herd management software can be a solution for all these interfaces. The farmer really reduces the amount of administrative work. A very positive side effect is that the quality of the data is going up enormously.

To show the importance of good data exchange, and also the data validation, is best done by a practical example of a real dairy farm. This farm has a rotary, 2 robots and a separate heat detection system (3 different brands) and they do official milk recording, are a member of the national herd book and has to send all his animal movement to the government.

Still, they have just one data entry screen and can see all the alarm cows from 3 different system in one screen. We can also see that the quality of that data is very good and consistent.

**Keywords:** interface, herd management software, data entry, herd management program, process computer