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## **how to get reliable data about the claw health on cattle**

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**Introduction:** In the Nordic countries, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark the milk recording- and breeding organizations have a co-owned tool for registration disease and other traits during the claw trimming. The IT tool has delivered a lot of data on the claw health for both breeding evaluation and management support, but there is more potential to be pursued. We can use more data, and potentially we can avoid public interference by being good at documentation up front of good claw health.

**Background:** From several studies it is well-known that the health on especially dairy cattle has decreased over the years. The main reason has been focus on other traits than claw health in the breeding evaluation, but also management and housing systems has increased diseases on claws.

To improve the claw health, it is necessary to get data on the claw health, which is a challenge. It has for many years been possible to deliver data by paper reports from the farmer, but this is a difficult way and with a risk of very poor data quality. So it was decided to try to get the Claw Trimmers to do the registration during the claw trimming.

The solution: To meet that challenge an IT tool was developed in Denmark. The tool is aimed at the Claw trimmers working situation and developed in close cooperation with the Claw trimmers. The first version was developed for Windows PC and the focus was windows hardware solid enough to work in the rough environment.

The first version has now been in production for 6 years, since the first version was introduced to Claw trimmers, who are not exactly fans of IT tools, since they fear it will slow down their work. The usage has increased over the year but the last couple of years it has stabilized and covers now close to app. 50% of the dairy cows in the 4 countries. Data are used for both breeding evaluation for the traits where it is relevant and for management.

**The new solution:** To get more users and more data, and to address a huge wish of being able work on any platform the owners decided to make a new version. The new version is developed and ready for the claw trimmers during first halves of

2019. The new version will be an even better touch screen solution, which can work on any platform and hardware. We still include the trimmers in the development and expect number of cows with realistic claw health data will increase. The solution is connected to the respective national cattle databases by a web service API. The process will be to download the list of animals in the herd including previous registrations on claw health. After the trimming the data including new registrations are uploaded to the central cattle database - to be used in cooperation with other data.

So at the end we have a very sufficient tool to generate data for improving the Claw Health.