INTRODUCTION

- Isolating causative pathogen by culturing milk samples gives more detailed information for mastitis diagnostics
- Decreasing mastitis incidence and using pathogen-specific treatments is of tremendous importance in times of increased need for spared and targeted use of antibiotics
- Central availability of results of bacteriological milk samples from laboratories in Austria following efforts to ensure data integration and harmonization
- Raising awareness and providing practical solutions are vital with regard to professional udder herd management

OBJECTIVE

Development of **pathogen-specific evaluations** to optimize the current web-based udder health program for herd management and to promote strategies to **improve udder health** in dairy cattle.

MATERIAL

- 6,892 quarter milk samples collected from lactating cows with (suspected) udder health problems within the project ADDA “ADvancement of Dairying in Austria”
- Routine animal (re-)production and udder health data

**Examples of pathogen-specific evaluations for udder health herd management**

- Pathogen-specific udder health reports on individual cows
- Current and serial herd infection reports displayed in charts
- Parameters allowing benchmarking within herds
- Step-by-step analyses of animal and herd udder health status

**CONCLUSION**

- Data integration ensures that management errors and sources of infection can be identified more easily and eliminated at an earlier stage
- Assists in decision-making processes regarding more precise control and prevention measures to improve udder health on dairy farms
- This tool could play a crucial role in the prudent use of antimicrobials

A more comprehensive picture of udder health in dairy cows

**Next Step:** training programs for practitioners

**Challenge:** Quarter milk sampling needed on regular basis