Scoring animal welfare

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Trial: Scoring animal welfare criteria by the group of classifiers in Bavaria

Beginning in January 2017 to October 2017

29,636 Fleckvieh (Simmental) cows, 1. lactation

6,068 different farms

Criteria on a 5 step scale:

- Locomotion
- Pollution/ Contamination
- Integument damage
## Definition of the welfare criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait scale</th>
<th>Integument Damage</th>
<th>Pollution</th>
<th>Locomotion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Very conspicuous changes in the rear legs</td>
<td>Heavy soiling in the hindquarters</td>
<td>Cow walks hesitantly and spares one or more legs, head low, curved steps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Larger hairless parts at the hooks and or thicker at one or both legs</td>
<td>Clear contamination at the whole legs behind</td>
<td>Cow walks unevenly or with distinct skating movement, head lower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Larger hairless areas, 2-5 cm</td>
<td>Detectable contamination</td>
<td>Cow walks, legs not quite parallel, head partly lowered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very small hairless parts, &gt; 2 cm</td>
<td>very less contamination</td>
<td>Cow walks fluidly, back strait, head is up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Absolutely no hairless spots</td>
<td>Very clean</td>
<td>Cow walks very fluidly large spaced steps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional facts:

- Type of the barn
- Herd size
- Average milk per cow

Thank you to LKV Bayern
Results

Integument

% 0 10 20 30 40 50

1 2 3 4 5 Score

- Fixed Stable
- Walking Stable High
- Walking Stable low
Results

Pollution

Score

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50

% 25 20 15 10 5 0

1 2 3 4 5

Walking Stable High  Walking Stable low  Fixed stable
Results

Locomotion

% Score

1 2 3 4 5
Walking Stable High  Walking Stable low

B.Luntz/Zuchtwertprüfstelle
Conclusions

- A collection of data via conformation test is possible.
- The data should be anonymous.
- There are big differences between the stable systems.
- Fixed stables are not worse in all criteria automatically.
- The correlation to the standard traits for feet and legs are high.
- Bigger herds have more problems with integument and locomotion but not in pollution.
- Higher milk yield does not influence the welfare criteria negatively.
Thank you so much for attention