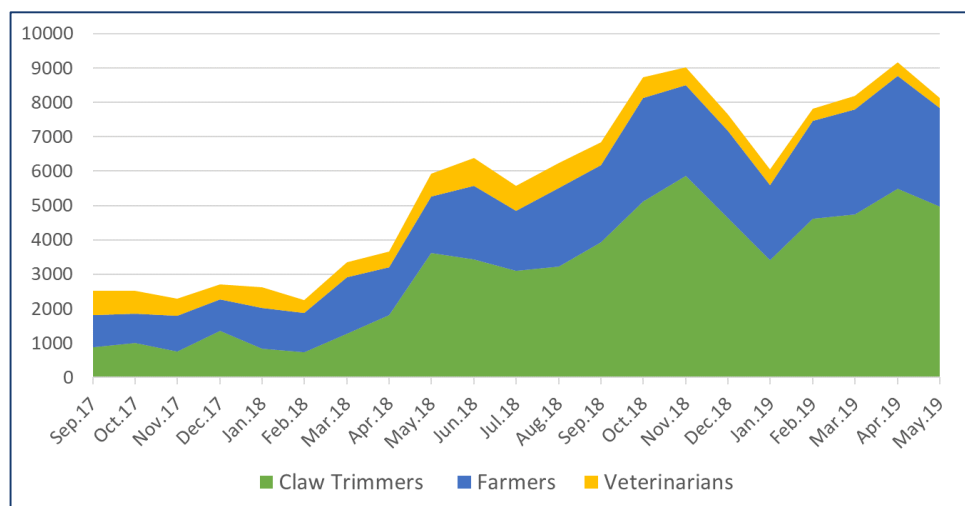


Measures to monitor and improve claw health, lameness and animal welfare in Austrian dairy farms

- develop central infrastructure for electronic documentation of ICAR-standardized **claw** trimming data, **lameness** and significant **claw health related animal welfare** indicators



Practical online tool/solution for farmers and advisors to improve claw health and animal welfare based on ...



... as well as on **farm individual risk factors** and **results from benchmarking.**



Measures to monitor and improve claw health, lameness and animal welfare in Austrian dairy farms

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Background – Project Klauen-Q-Wohl

- Good claw health is a prerequisite for safeguarding animal welfare as well as efficient and economic dairy production
- Data from claw trimming proved to be a valuable source of information to map claw health in a very comprehensive and continuous way
- Need for a standardized and common national monitoring/strategy for animal welfare is given, accounting for rising consumer demands
- Project “Klauen-Q-Wohl” was initiated to meet these challenges and improve claw health and animal welfare in Austrian dairy farms

Objective

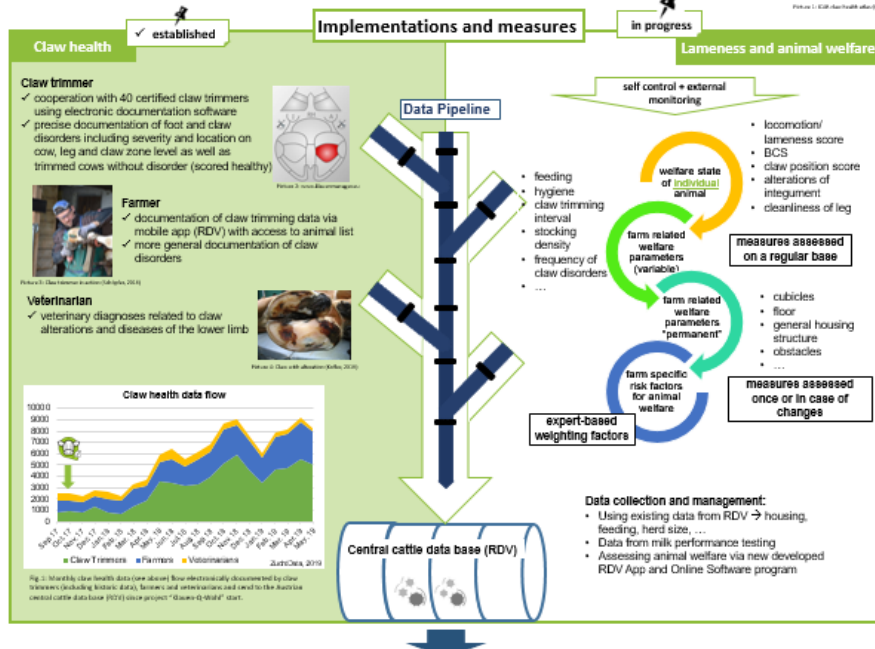
Using claw health and welfare data to provide practical herd management solutions for farmers to promote the improvement of animal health as well as for breeding value estimation for claw and claw health related health traits.

Work packages

- Definition of lameness and welfare indicators related to claw health and test data collection on 20 pilot farms including observer study
- Develop central infrastructure for electronic documentation of ICAR-standardized claw trimming data, lameness and significant welfare indicators for stakeholders



Photo 1: ICAR-Animal Health Atlas (2018, 2019)



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Tool for farmers and advisors to improve claw health and animal welfare with focus on claw health and lameness related welfare aspects based on farm individual risk factors and results from benchmarking.

Additional benefits from data exchange

- ✓ Claw trimmers: recall animal-ID, lactation number and stage → ensures correct animal identification, benefit for on-farm advisory
- ✓ Farmers: online access to protocols and evaluations
- ✓ No multiple entry of data

Next steps

- Quality assurance of claw trimming data collected by farmers
- Animal welfare: concept for recording (who records which parameters how often) and practical establishment
- Genetic evaluations of claw, lameness and individual animal welfare data

Source picture 1: <https://www.icar.org/repositories/uploads/2018/02/ICAR-Claw-Health-Atlas.pdf> [last access: 12.06.2020]

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