The reality of on-farm hardware when providing tools of the future

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While the dairy industry is making large steps in development of new sensors, data platforms and analysis tools to help farmers manage their farm in a more sustainable way, reality is that the farmer is also using hardware on the farm that has been installed 10-15 years ago. In the current climate of higher costs and interest rates, these old systems are likely to remain on farm for the years to come. *"As long as it works well, we don't have to replace it".* Even though the industry is working step by step on integrating the ICAR ADE standards, making it much easier to exchange data, many older systems don't have these standards in place.

Challenge for all providing new opportunities to the farmers is to connect to these on farm systems. Connecting would make it possible to provide even more powerful tools that combine both the data from on farm hardware, like milk meters, and new sensors that are completely working in the cloud. A second, important, challenge is to make sure data entry doesn't have to happen in two places, as this will reduce acceptance of new tools. Third are the advisors of the farmer who help the farmers in analysing data, to have a complete understanding of the farm they need to be able to see the complete set of data.

During this session the aim is to provide context to the current technological environment of the modern dairy farmer and take a look at developments of the future. Illustrated with examples of how farmers using herd management software are connecting multiple brands of sensors, both old and new and share this data with the advisors around them, including:

- Linking on farm automation.
- Interface techniques.
- Legacy systems examples.
- On farm interfaces divided by age, type and number of interfaces per farm.
- Modern and old technologies combined.