Use of data from electronic milking meters and perspective in use of other objective measures

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DANISH CATTLE DATABASE - THE CONNECTING ELEMENT

- Yield Calculation
- Herd Statements
- Cow Statements
- Slaughter Weight
- Carcass Evaluation
- Quality Control
- Cattle Health Service
- Mastitis
- Diagnosis
- Reproduction- Control
- Health Supervision
- Herd/Cow Statements
- Production-Budget
- Feed Planning
- Management Lists
- Information
- Observation- Lists
- Feed Control
- Production-Control
- Inseminations
- Pregnancy Control
- Breeding Planning
Data flow in the Central Danish Cattle database

Traditional data related to
• Pedigree
• Milk production
• Health
• Calving
• Beef
• Conformation

New data sources
• TruTest electronic milk meters
• Lely and other robots
• Heatime

Data on old and new traits

Central Danish Cattle Data Base
TruTest electronic milk meters

- 60-70 % of all cows in milk recording
- Milking; duration and volume
- Collected 6/11 times a year on farm
Lely robots

- 10-15% of all cows
- Data collected routinely since Nov. 2011
- Collection done by milk recording technician
- Collected 6/11 times a year
DeLaval robots or others

- No collection of data yet
- Work done to collect data from DeLaval
- Same variables as for Lely
Heatime system

- Stand alone systems
- More than 1,000 systems in Denmark today
- Supplementary to data from Lely robots

New version of Heatime system might make it possible to collect data through Milkline in Italy

Procedure not determined yet
Management opportunities to exploite

Farmers with AMS

Add extra value in combination!
Breeding opportunities to exploit

All farmers

More genetic progress in combination!
Advantages of data from electronic equipment

- Registration of data exposing new traits and registrations complementary to existing registrations
- Repeated measurements
- Objective measurements
- Measured on all cows in milk
- Measured over more lactations
Examples of use
Implemented, analysed or future project

Breeding value

• Milking speed - Implemented and analysed
• Conformation - Analysed
• Health traits - Future project
• Feed efficiency - Future project

Management

• Optimal time for insemination - Future project
Milking speed

**EBVs for milking speed based on:**
- Assessed by dairy farmers (DK, S, F)
- Registrations by milk meters (DK)

**Data from milking robots are not yet included in the genetic evaluation**
Milking speed - traits

Farmer assessment - scale from 1-9
• 1st lactation - milking speed compared to other cows

Milk meters - fat and protein flow
• Milk yield per test day
• Fat and protein content from milk recording

Lely robot - fat and protein flow
• Moving average per test day
• Fat and protein content from milk recording
Genetic parameters for flow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>h²</th>
<th>Rg - Assessments</th>
<th>Rg - Flow, milk meters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flow, robots¹</td>
<td>0.63 (0.07)</td>
<td>0.91 (0.05)</td>
<td>0.94 (0.03)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessments</td>
<td>0.20 (0.02)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.91 (0.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow, milk meters²</td>
<td>0.41 (0.01)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Based on 4,000 1st parity Holstein cows – 1,000 with assessment. Only 1st milk recording after calving.

²Based 272,000 1st parity Holstein cows – 5,000 with assessment. Only 1st milk recording after calving.
Udder conformation

Udder conformation is already evaluated
• Classified by experienced classifiers

130,000 Danish cows are classified per year
• The majority of the cows are 1st parity cows

Possibility to apply information on teat co-ordinates in the genetic evaluation
Udder conformation by teat co-ordinates

- Front teat placement
- Rear teat placement
- Distance, front - rear
- Udder balance
- Udder depth, tip of the teat - measuring point
Heritabilities for udder conformation traits measured in robots or classified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>$h^2$ – Co-ordinates$^1$</th>
<th>$h^2$ – Class.$^2$</th>
<th>Rg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Front teat placement</td>
<td>0.46 (0.06)</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear teat placement</td>
<td>0.38 (0.05)</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance, front - rear</td>
<td>0.46 (0.09)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Udder balance</td>
<td>0.44 (0.07)</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Udder depth</td>
<td>0.65 (0.06)</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^1$Based on co-ordinates from 2,500 1st parity Holstein cows.

$^2$Based on classification of 103,000 1st parity Holstein cows. 1,500 with both co-ordinates and classification.
Health traits
Udder health and metabolic diseases

Today: veterinarian diagnoses

Future:
• Milk yield per quarter
• Weigh change
• Rumen activity
• Conductivity

By combining registrations - expectation of better measure of health status of cow
Feed efficiency

Registration of feed efficiency
• Expensive
• Small scale
• Not feasible way to get genetic improvement

Indicators of feed efficiency
• Some potentially interesting registrations – body weight, rumen activity
• Knowledge is needed!
Optimal time for insemination

Idea
Combine all available registrations to improve rate of pregnancy when inseminating at a certain heat
• Daily milk production
• Veterinarian diagnoses
• Relative weight loss
• Others

Only inseminate when chance is acceptable
Conclusion

• Registrations are collected from Milk meters and Lely robots
• More new data sources will follow
• Exploit opportunities in new data in management and breeding
• Status on present use; Implemented, analysed or future project
Conclusion - Flow

• $h^2$ for flow and assessment are high

• High genetic correlations between the traits

• Possible to use flow from robots in EBVs
  • Limited effect for bulls - already many obs
  • Effect for cows - AMS herds

Plan to include data from Lely robots in genetic evaluation for milking speed
Conclusion – Udder conformation

• Higher heritabilities than classification

• High genetic correlations between measurements and classification (> 0.9)

Plan to including teat co-ordinates from robots in the genetic evaluation
Thank you for attention

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ICAR Technical Workshop
29. – 31. May 2013
in Aarhus, Denmark

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