



Use of company neck band transponders versus official EID ear tags

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Identification system in Estonia

Historically internal herd inventory number (voluntary today but still quite common)

Since 1994 "1 yellow and unic ear tag"

Since 2000 2 visual ear tags with barcode

Since 2007 EID tag as additional ear tag

Since 2009 EID tag as official ear tag

Neck band transponders number





Herd structure

Herd size 31.12.08	Herds	Cows
1...50	820	12 785
51...300	227	30 529
301...900	82	39 117
>900	7	10 266
AVG 81.6		



Situation in Estonia

Since 2002 a lot of investments has been done

~ 40 000 cows (50%) are in new or renovated farms

Milk price is ~0,2 euros

Farmers are using different milking equipment - Strangko, Impulsa, Boumatic, Westfalia, DeLaval and Lely



Väätsa Agro Ltd

About 2000 milking cows

Milk production in 2008 was 7544 kg.

New farm for 1100 cows was built on 2005

Milking parlour 2x24

Decision: it's too expensive to change all antennas and they don't buy EID at the moment. But they hope to do it in the future.



Krootuse Agro Ltd

About 500 milking cows

Milk production in 2008 was 8395 kg.

New farm for 400 cows was built in 2008

Milking equipment: 6 robots (DeLaval)

Calf feeder supports EID tags

Decision: to buy EID tags for calves - they hope that when these calves start to milk they won't have to use neck transponders any more!



Tartu Agro Ltd

About 1200 milking cows

Milk production in 2008 was 10 326 kg.

New farm for 600 cows was built in 2004

DeLaval 2x12 milking parlour

The first step was to use *official* (50%) and reusable EID tags (50%). Now they use only official EID tags

Decision: to use EID tag as additional ear tag for cows (they don't use EID tag for calves yet).



Tartu Agro Ltd

Farm people opinion:

Retagging is labour-intensive. They had reading problems because some of cows had a neck transponder and some of cows EID tags

Now they are satisfied - even more than with neck transponders
(less losses, you don't have to change length of collar)

Basically, there is no different



Available systems

Calf feeder

Milking parlour

Feeding system

Milk recording (EID tag-RFID reader-PDA-Database) online and offline

Slaughterhouse



Prices

EID tag is cheaper than visual ear tag + neck transponders

Antennas for EID tags are with same price or more expensive than antennas for neck transponders

General rule:

transponder+visual ear tag < 250 cows > EID



Today and future

Expectation (reading distance, EID doesn't have additional information!)

It's expensive to change the system but milk price is low at the moment.

Key factors are dealers (salesman and service) - they don't advertise the EID system (or they don't know about it either)

Innovative farmers are tagging calves with EID tags

It's something new and we are calm people

Beef breeders and sheep breeders are quite active (equipment dealer is a farmer and he is quite active)

It takes time but EID *tags* will come!



Thank You!

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