

Opening address by Jens Christian Mathiesen, chairman of RYK

Good morning everyone,

On behalf of the organizers, the Danish Milk Recording organization, RYK, it is a pleasure to welcome all of you to this event.

As farmers we are constantly looking for new way to make life easier, for tools to improve animal welfare, and, not to forget, improve production to be more profitable.

Our recording services depend on relevant, competitive and professional solutions. We try constantly to develop and to meet the needs of our farmers. Through our close relation to ICAR, we get a lot of input from the world wide recording society. As part of an ongoing process inside the company, we keep telling our self and employees that it is not enough for something to be sophisticated or look flashy.

If it doesn't add profit to our bottom line, it is not worth spending time on.

We have now 3 ICAR days ahead of us. 3 days fully booked with all sorts of information's, experiences, ideas and examples from research and daily routines in business.

Food production draws a lot of attention from the surrounding world. As producer of organic milk myself, we have faced the issue of animal welfare in details for a long time. With my experience consumers add a lot of feelings to the notion Animal Health. As producers we understand the feelings, but in a commercial set up, managing a large herd, we need more exact and well defined tools.

Therefore I am very pleased that ICAR has initiated the Health Data Conference. There is a huge need for coordination, definition and communication.

I wish all of you some nice and inspiring days here in Denmark.

Remember to consolidate old contacts, build new ones, and hopefully also have a bit of fun.

Welcome!