



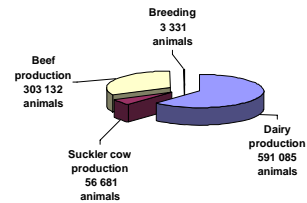
Project under way in Finland: Ear tag retention in bovine cattle

The research group:
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Pentti Jokiniemi, The ProAgria Agricultural Data Processing Centre Ltd



Background

A total of 954 000 bovine animals, 21 800 owners (2005)



Background

92 000 replacement tags (2005)

The requirement for two tags has increased the problem

Concerns:

- Safety at work
- Amount of work
- Traceability of animals
- Costs



A study on the ear tag retention of bovine cattle on Finnish farms

The aim:

To explain ear tag losses,
to provide measures to reduce losses,
to provide advice on good methods for retagging



I Analysis of statistics

Analysis of the Finnish Cattle Identification Register data
for replacement tag orders

In relation to

- animal's sex
- animal's production aim
- animal's age at replacement tag order
- farms' production sector
- farm size



Replacement percentages for

- animal types
- production sectors
- farm to farm variation



II Farm studies

Observations and interviews

The objective is to find out explanatory factors for
ear tag losses on farms

They could be in:

Production environment
Management system
Tagging procedure



II Farm studies

Focus is on

- Housing conditions:
 - type of housing, space utilization, structures of feeding barriers and frames
- Grazing areas
 - the fencing systems and terrain conditions
- Management practices
 - feeding systems, other work routines, feeds and litter materials, animal transfers
- Tagging procedure

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III Safe and practical tagging methods

- Methods on farms:
 - analyses on safety, work requirement, physical work load
- Overview on facilities available on the market

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Financers

- Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Finnish Farmers' Social Insurance Institution (part III)
- Faba Breeding
- Allflex Europe S. A.
- TTS-Institute



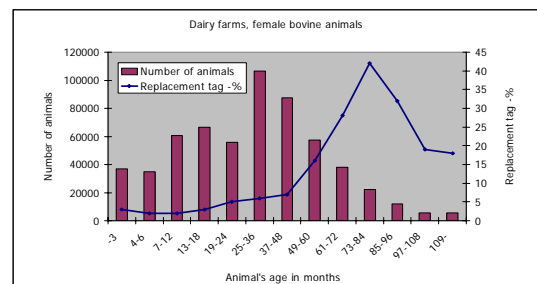
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Animal's age: female bovine animals



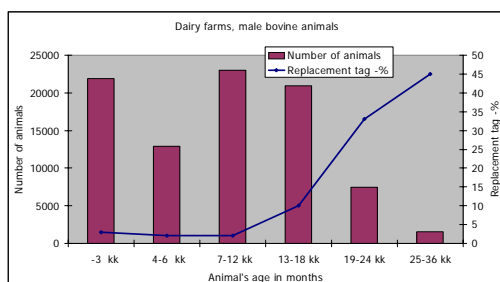
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Animal's age : male bovine animals



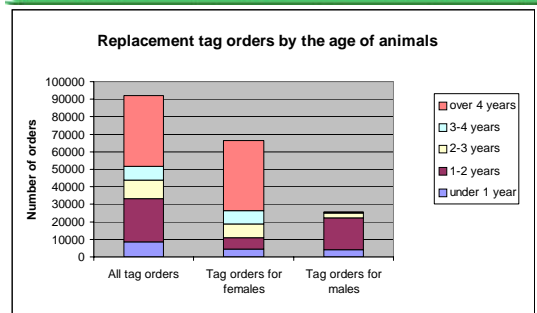
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Most replacement tag orders



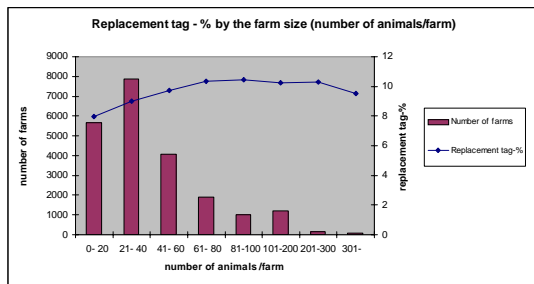
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Farm size



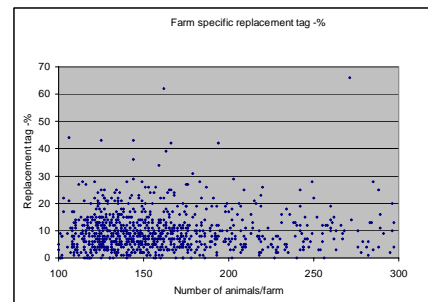
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Farm to farm variation



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35th ICAR Session, Kuopio, Finland



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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15