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

The research group:
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A total of 954,000 bovine animals, 21,800 owners (2005)

Background

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

The requirement for two tags has increased the problem

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

Analysis of statistics

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

III Safe and practical tagging methods

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

Financiers

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

Animal’s age: female bovine animals

Animal’s age: male bovine animals

Most replacement tag orders

Replacement tag orders by the age of animals
Farm size

Replacement tag - % by the farm size (number of animals/farm)

Number of farms

Farm to farm variation

Farm specific replacement tag - %

Number of farms

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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