

IT-Solutions for Animal Production



vit informs

Use of Data Warehouse in Animal Husbandry and Animal Breeding

Dr. Reinhard Reents, Dr. Benno Waurich, Marko Witt IT solutions for Animal Production (vit), Verden/Germany

Germany: Data processing in dairy cattle



- Traditionally some organizations processed their 'own' data in house
 - Some share software development, run it on different sites
- In the Holstein regions most organisations have joined forces in their data centre vit:
 - 12 breed organisations with dairy breeds (100%)
 - 9 milk recording associations (75% of all Holstein cows recorded)
 - 8 A.I. organizations
 - Luxembourg (CONVIS) processes data at vit, too
 - All regions (incl. LUX, AUT) → genetic and genomic evaluation for dairy breeds
- On farm data increasingly important
 - Average herdsize
 - Eastern Germany: 260 cows
 - North-Western Germany: 75 cows
 - Since 1997 50% share of a specialised company (VIT-PCS) providing on farm herd management software ('Herde') → 70% market share

26 May 2014 Page 3



vit: the organisation



vit = Vereinigte Informationssysteme Tierhaltung w.V.

(IT solution for Animal Production)

- Organized as association (non-profit)
 - Founded 1965 in Western Germany (Verden) immediatedly as a private organisation
 - Founded 1965 in Eastern Germany (Paretz near Berlin) as state organisation → 1990 privatisation, 1994 merger to vit with Western Germany
 - Members are agricultural organizations from Germany and Luxembourgh
- Most important sector is dairy breeds (ca. 50 % of turnover) including:
 - Data processing for milk recording
 - Data processing for herdbook keeping
 - Data processing for artificial insemination
 - Genetic and genomic evaluation

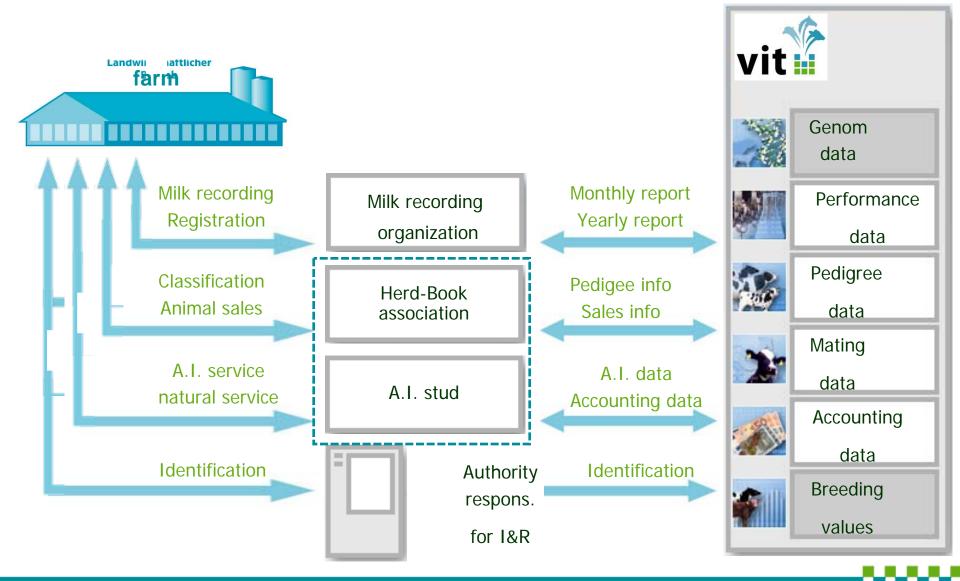
- → 1.700.000 cows
- → 1.800.000 cows
- \rightarrow 2.650.000 inseminations

- Financing
 - 95% service fees
 - 3% development grants
 - 2% member fees



Services for dairy breeding in summary





Use of this huge, komplex data pool with ~ 800 users



- Joint data pool (~80 mio animals) enables all clients to have optimal data quality
 - Immediate cross checks even with movements across regions possible
 - Corrections of data content immediatedly available

But

- 1. How to share sensitive data → solved by access rights to the database
- 2. How to integrate additional data (eg ERP) with the data that belongs to animals / farms
- 3. Individual queries / requests / reports on the ,own' data set, for
 - R&D work
 - Few herds
 - Solutions so far
 - a. Individual software tools developed by vit
 - b. extract of data and analysis with tools within the organisation

Seite 6

Migration process



- Analysis showed that future needs require IT architecture which is close to Internet application → migration from mainframe to new plattform Other main aspects
 - → new (young) staff expect grafical front end
 - → availability of programmers (no PL1, Natural, etc. any more)

Solution

- Linux operating system
- Oracle database
- Java software development
- Experience showed that software development with Java is only slightly ,cheaper' than with previous languages
- Problem remains that for ad hoc questions of individual customers the complex database and complex data structures is a challenge

Solution

Integration of a Data Warehouse

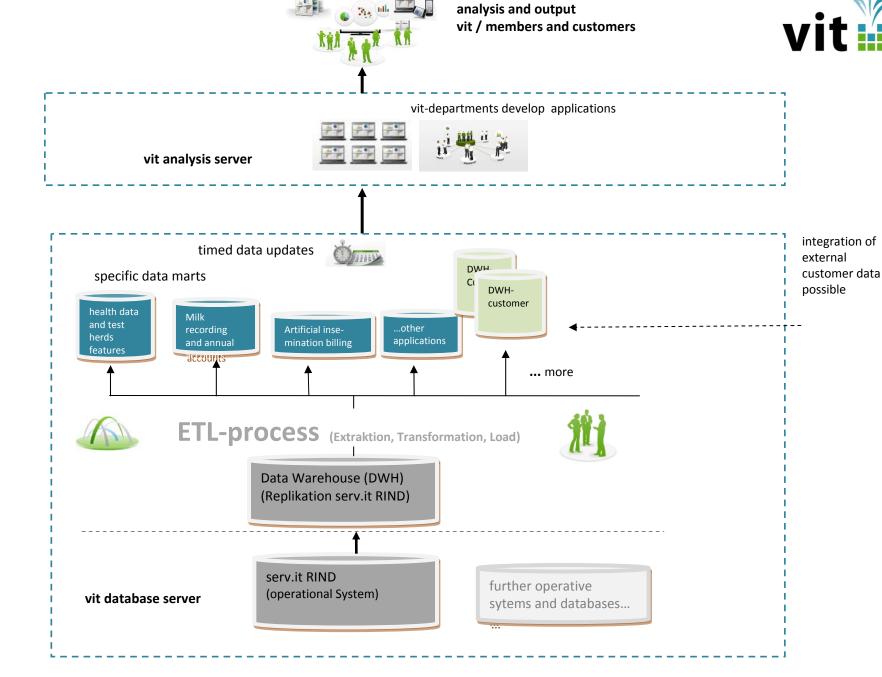


Data Warehouse (DWH)



- Is an IT system that
 - Extracts, Transform, Loads complex source data into a dimensional data store
 - And then supports and implements
 querying and analysis
 for the purpose of decision making
- Compared to other means (HQL, SQL) to extract information from complex data structures the use of a DWH does not require this expert know how
 - → moves decision support systems from the IT department to the users / responsible staff
- The in memory technology guarantees high performance
- > vit has chosen QlikView as the reporting and analysing tool

.....



Case study 1



- Contract herds for use as cow reference population
 - Two regions in Eastern Germany record additional health and performance data
 - 87 herds (av. herdsize 700 cows) → ~ 60.000 cows
 - Disease diagnoses
 - Weight at calving
 - Hoof trimming
 - Conformation on all heifers
 - ...

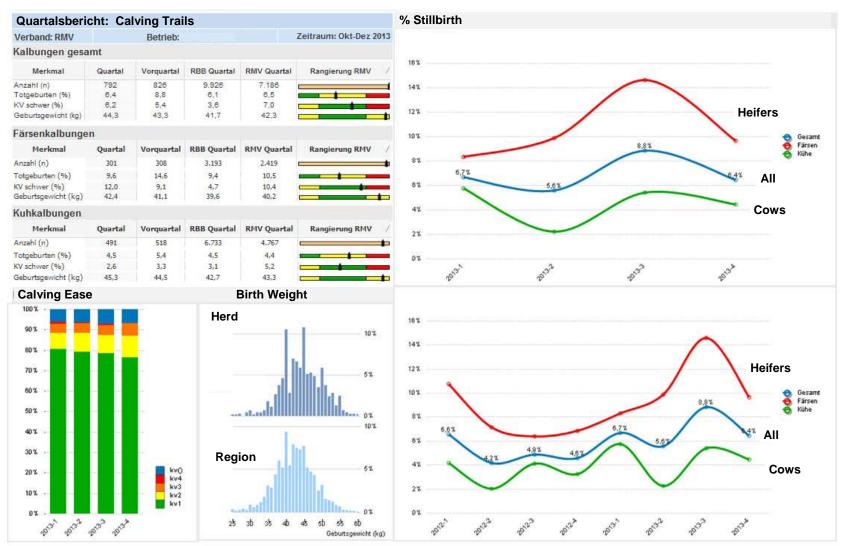
aims:

- a. Have an optimal infrastructure for R&D questions to use data in genomic evaluation
- b. Quarterly reports to farms (for management decisions → motivation to collect data for a continuous period)
 - → front end to the farmer



Case study 1 → report to farms (health data)







Case study 2

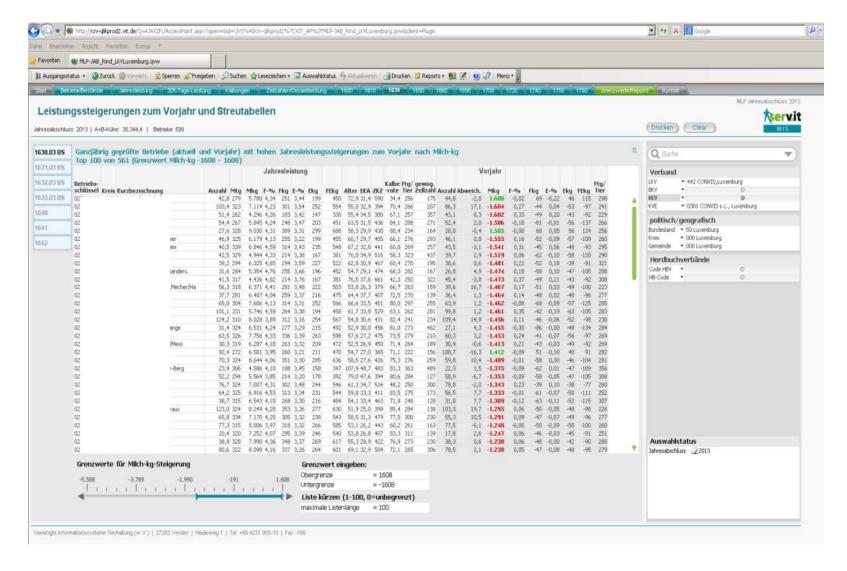


- Statistics within DHI organisation
 - Once a year an annual report is provided to each farmer
 - Numerous statistics for the individual DHI organisation
 - So far relative static reports
 - Estimation to programe these in Java
 - Estimation to do it with the DWH (20% of ressources Java)
 - Clear advantage for the DWH solution to get the standard reports
 - Now additional (in house) analysis of data is possible
 - Requires training in using the DWH but no special IT know how



Case study 2 → DHI report







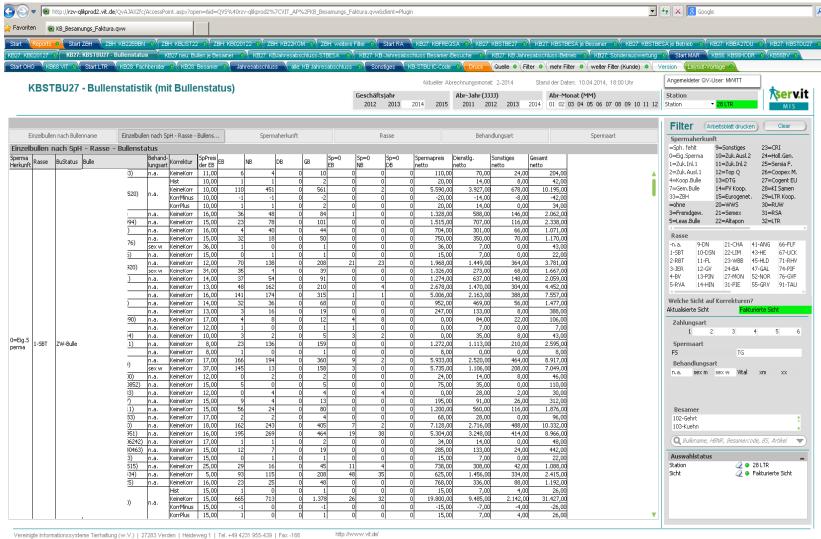
Case study 3



- Larger AI centres use IT system of vit for all of their AI data processing
 - Lab → semen storage etc. → distribution → recording → accounting
 - DWH application is a very powerful tool to analyse this data for various purposes

Case study 3 → use within AI centre





Summary



- Introduction of a Data Warehouse System is a complex project
- Requires large initial investment
 - Technical infrastructure
 - ETL process
 - Server → In Memory Technique
 - Developer licences
 - User licences
 - Training of experts for implementation of projects
 - Analysis of the business rules
 - ETL
 - Development of reports
- Very positive Feedback from those customers that take the time to learn about new features and apply it





Thank you for attention!