

Data protection aspects by merging cattle data of various origins

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Abstract

To facilitate improved herd management, easier access and compatibility of various data sources on farm and from external databases are of high priority for Austrian farmers. Recent research projects have focused on extended services for farmers to generate added value by linking a variety of external data sources. This includes extended health and treatment data, findings from laboratories, milk quality information from dairies and feeding information. These new online services will be provided by the cattle database (RDV) jointly operated by the Austrian and German performance recording organizations. The precondition for generating added value by merging data from various origins are beside standardization, data exchange and data communication legal implications on data protection regulations. Within the project ADDA (Advancement of Dairying in Austria) the legal implications and requirements for merging data from different data sources have been elaborated. Due to the fact that there is no data ownership, the different roles “person affected”, “contracting authority” and the “service provider” have to be defined and assigned to the data processed. The new European data protection regulation and its impact on the implementation related to provision of services based on cattle data of different origins and different circumstances and legal aspects for documentation and collection have been taken into account. The challenge is to set up a transparent system that guarantees the compliance of data protection regulations and minimized the administrative work for all parties involved when data from different data sources are integrated for routine applications as well as for research and development of advanced services. The presentation covers an outline of the basic legal data protection aspects and the example of implementation based on merging data from farmers, veterinarians, performance and breeding organizations, labs and dairies in Austria.

Keywords: data protection, cattle data, legal implications, data integration