

Development and implementation of an on-farm self-monitoring tool to promote welfare in dairy cows in northern Germany

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Animal Welfare Law Germany

Farmers in Germany are legally committed to regularly monitor their animals' welfare.

Aim

- Evaluation of animal welfare by using animal based indicators
- Emphasising the personal responsibility of the animal owner for the animals well-being
- Improvement of animal welfare

Challenges

- No further regulation on content, extent or frequency of self-assessment

*„Wer Nutztiere zu Erwerbszwecken hält, hat durch betriebliche Eigenkontrollen sicherzustellen, dass die Anforderungen des §2 eingehalten werden. Insbesondere hat er zum Zwecke seiner Beurteilung, dass die Anforderungen des § 2 erfüllt sind, geeignete tierbezogene Merkmale (Tierschutzindikatoren) zu **erheben** und zu **bewerten**.“*



EIP Agri European Innovation Partnership



- Provides funding for innovative ideas in agriculture
- Aims to encourage dedicated farmers, researchers and entrepreneurs to new forms of cooperation
- Working together in „Operational groups“, farmers take an active part during the project
- Promote better exchange between science and practice
- Project start: June 2018, 3 years



Wir fördern den ländlichen Raum



Landesprogramm ländlicher Raum: Gefördert durch die Europäische Union - Europäischen Landwirtschaftsfonds für die Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums (ELER) und das Land Schleswig-Holstein
Hier investiert Europa in die ländlichen Gebiete



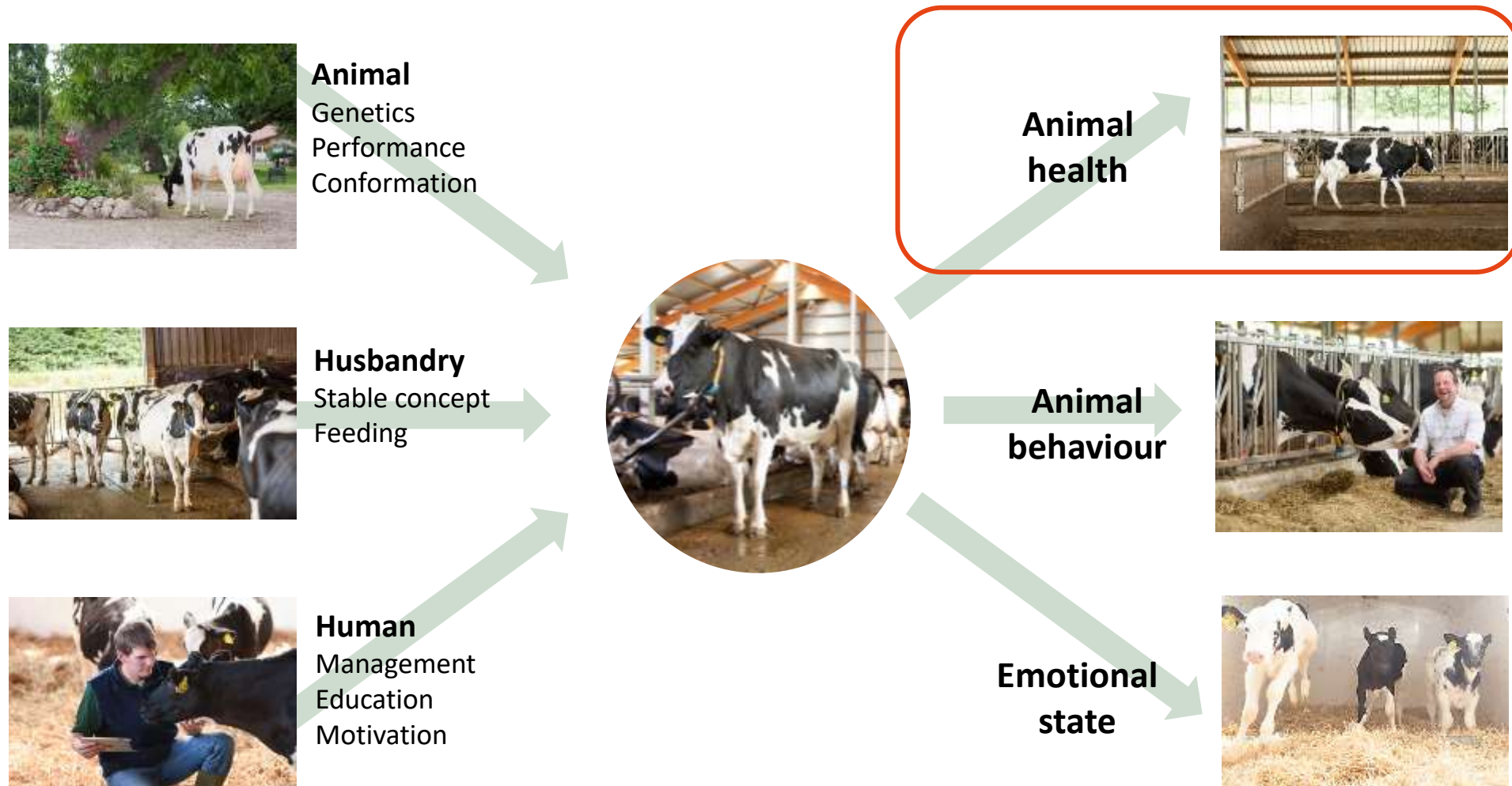
Animal welfare – Curse or blessing?



How can I tell?



Measurement of animal welfare?



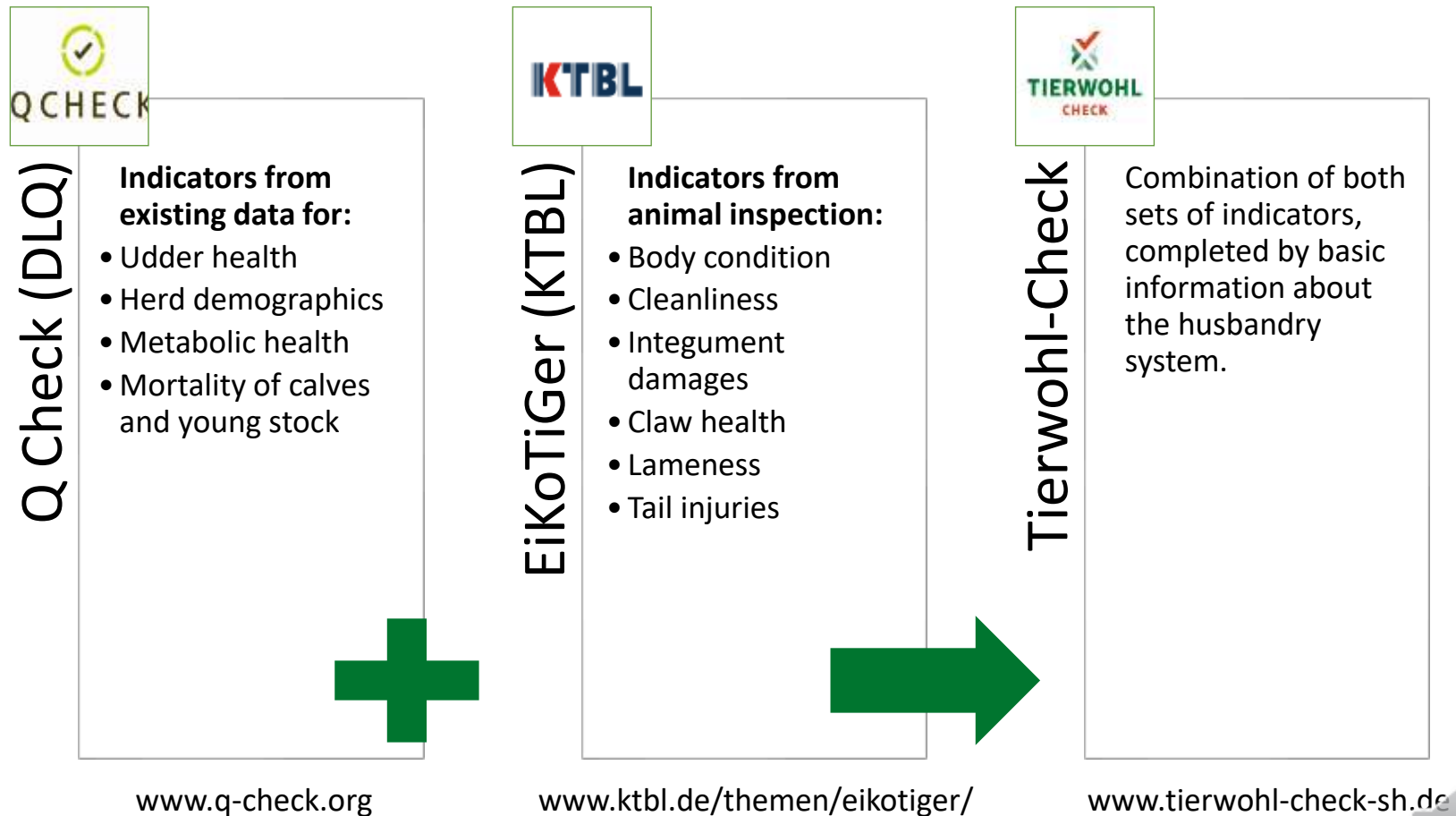
(Fraser et al., 1997; Fraser, 2008)

Selection of suitable indicators

- Use of existing data recording systems to reduce amount of work for farmers
- Evaluation of indicators of the animals' condition on site
- Set of valid, animal-based indicators which documents the animal welfare situation and covers animal health, husbandry and management
- Easy to use and reproduce when carried out by the farmers



Set of indicators



Practical tool for farmers

Providing a practical tool for farmers:

- Easy and quick analysis of the animal welfare
- Optimization of the individual herds' management
- Implementation and documentation of the required self assessment
- Create an added value for practical farming



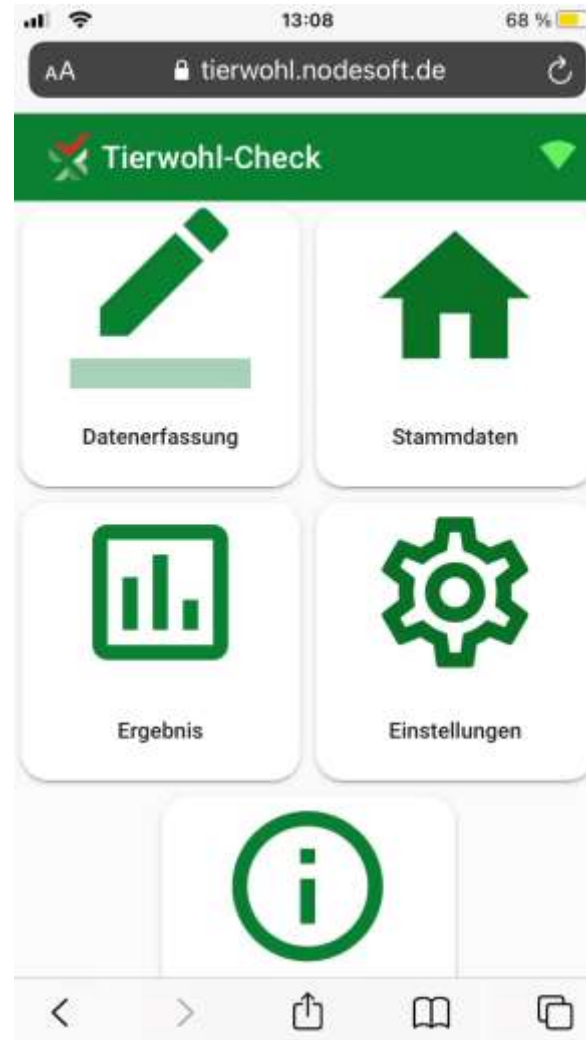
Development of the application



- Easy to use interface
- Making maximum use of existing data: herd information from the milk recording
- Scoring of indicators by images
- Recommended sample size according to the herd size
- Accompanying E-Learning program



Web application



Self-assessment

Meeting the legal requirements by:

Documentation	Evaluation	Benchmark
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular data collection • Structured review of current and prior results • Combination of existing data and animal scoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic evaluation on the basis of traffic light system • Defined for each indicator for better classification of own values • Easy presentation of results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible comparison with similar farms • Participation optional for all app users



Animal welfare report

Tierwohl-Check Ergebnisübersicht



Name:

Anschrift:






Betrieb:

Datum: nicht beendet

Herdengröße: 325




Stichprobe: 80 Empfohlen

Auswertung der Milchkontrolle

Verteilung der Abgänge [%]	Betriebswert	Zielbereich	
Abgangsrate	51,8	= < 25	
Abgänge unter 100 Laktationstagen	0,9	= < 5	
Nutzungsdauer [Monate]	33,7	>= 48	
Tierverluste Kühe	9,0	= < 2	
Eutergesundheit [%]			
Anteil Tiere mit einem Zellgehalt			
=< 100.000 Zellen/ml	54,6	> 75	
> 100.000 und =< 200.000 Zellen/ml	18,3		



Take home points

-  **Making the most of existing indicators**
Already well known animal based indicators can be successfully used in practical farming.
-  **Keep it simple**
The analysis of data on a regular base helps to track developments in animal welfare. Only with an easy-to-use approach, animal based indicators will find use in practical farming.
-  **Animal welfare assessments need an added value**
Self-assessments shouldn't only be carried out to follow legal requirements, but create a real value for the farmers.





Thank you for your attention !

For further information please check
www.tierwohl-check-sh.de



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