

Practical ways to assure improved animal care on the farm

Dairy stories

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What we will cover *using dairy as an example*

- **Examples from Sweden :** 
4 tools that producers are buying
- **Calf tool :** Home grown!
Sold by Valacta,
available free on line
- **Cow comfort tool :** in development in
Canada (Cluster project: DFC-AAFC)





Tools for improved animal welfare in Swedish dairy production

Swedish Dairy Association

Charlotte Hallén Sandgren, Louise Winblad von Walter and Jonas Carlsson

Some facts about Swedish milk production

- **5400 dairy herds, 64 cows/herd, 9491 kg FCM**
- **84 percent of the cows are in the milk recording system**
- **Cattle database include all the records for livestock, production, fertility, diseases, culling, mortality, etc**

svensk mjölk
SWEDISH DAIRY ASSOCIATION



4 Swedish Tools

Time

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Animal Welfare Signals | 5 minutes |
| 2. Ask the cow | 2-3hr |
| 3. Health Package Milk | 15-20hrs |
| 4. Focus Dairy Health and Milk | 1 day |



Animal Welfare Signals

Enables the farmer to easily get an overall picture of the animal welfare situation on their farm

“Animal welfare signals” and “Ask the cow”

Objectives:
improve the knowledge and
understanding of animal welfare
among farmers and their employees

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SWEDISH DAIRY ASSOCIATION

Signaler Djurvålfärd

Animal Welfare Signals

Aktuell status i vald besättning

Genom att klicka på en av rubrikerna ser du vilka nyckeltal som ligger till grund för bedömningen av din status. Från sidan som öppnas kommer du även att kunna jämföra dina resultat med andra.

Besättning:

Besättn. ras: SLB

Mjölksystem: AMS

Stallsystem: Lösdrift varm

Prod form: Konventionell

Kontrollår: 2009/2010

Avkastning kg ECM: 8769

Besättningsstorlek: 270.7

Senaste provmjölkning: 4/30/2011

Visa alla nyckeltal

Dagens datum: 2011-06-15

☹️	Kalvar	Calves Heifers Calving Feed Diseases Management Longevity
😊	Ungdjur	
☹️	Kalvningar	
☹️	Foderbalans	
☹️	Sjukdomar	
😊	Övervakning och skötsel	
☹️	Hållbarhet	
10%	40%	

	☑ Visa alla nyckeltal	Dagens datum: 2011-06-15
Calves	☹ Kalvar	☹ Kalvdödlighet, 1 - 60 dagar ☹ Kalvdödlighet, 2 - 6 månader
Heifers	😊 Ungdjur	😊 Ungdjursdödlighet, 6 - 15 månader 😊 Ej påbörjade kvigor äldre än 17 månader 😊 Inkalvningsålder
Calving	☹ Kalvningar	☹ Spädkalvsdödlighet, 0 - 24 timmar 😊 Svåra kalvningar
Feed	☹ Foderbalans	😊 Förlamningar och kramper 😊 Övriga utfodringsjukdomar ☹ Avvikande ureavärden ☹ Låga ureavärden
Diseases	☹ Sjukdomar	😊 Sjukdomsrapporterade kor totalt 😊 Mastitbehandlingar ☹ Beräknat tankkeltal
Management	😊 Övervakning och skötsel	😊 Kalvning - Första ins. mer än 70 dagar 😊 Kalvning - Senaste ins. mer än 120 dagar 😊 Utgång fruktsamhet 😊 Kalvningsintervall
Longevity	☹ Hållbarhet	😊 Klöv och bensjukdomar ☹ Utgång förstakalvare, 1 - 90 dagar efter kalvning 😊 Utgång juversjukdom ☹ Utgång klövar ben 😊 Utgång totalt ☹ Självdöda/Avlivade kor

2-6 Indicators

Disease freq.

Fertility

Mortality

Culling

Use of *Animal welfare signals*

- 75 % of the farmers use Welfare Signals
- Tool to allocate advisory service to dairy farms at risk of “poor welfare”,
- Tool to give approval to dairy farms with “good welfare”

frågakon

MÖJLIGHETER FÖR NYFIKNA

Ask the cow

**Advisory animal
welfare service
with animal based
measurements**



- **Trained assessors**

- Two courses - website
- "Calibration courses" every 2nd year



Photo: Helena Elmqvist

Ask The Cow – Animal based measurement on-farm

Cows (individual) Cows (herd)

- Body condition
- Clean/dirty
- Injuries
- Lameness
- Stall standing index
- Positive behavior
- Negative behavior
- Water access

...and also measurements for calves and young stock

Ask The Cow – Welfare-flower



Two more Swedish Animal Welfare services:

"Health Package Milk"

- Strategic advisory veterinary service
- Specially trained veterinarians

"Focus Dairy Health and Milk"

- Workshops with owner and employees
- Motivation through education
- On farm – near the animals
- Practical exercises



These 4 tools can help the farmer :

- secure animal welfare
- improve cow performance
- **get profitability**
- AND keep consumers trust



This is why the producers are buying these tools



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada



An advisory tool to improve calf rearing practices and animal welfare on-farm

A promising approach!
Funded by the dairy producers of Quebec

Elsa Vasseur, J. Rushen, A. M. de Passillé,
D. Lefebvre, and D. Pellerin

Evaluate your Rearing Strategies

An adapted advisory tool to evaluate your calf and heifer management strategies



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada



Université
de Montréal

**An advisory
tool for calf
rearing**

**Got producer
approval when
tested on
farms**

The visit: 2-3hr

- **An interview with the producer to document management practices**
- Record information in the barn on **housing and environment**
- Could not get **INFORMATION ON CALF HEALTH**
- **Scores given for each aspect of calf rearing based on extent that targets were reached. Recommendations provided about how to improve practices**





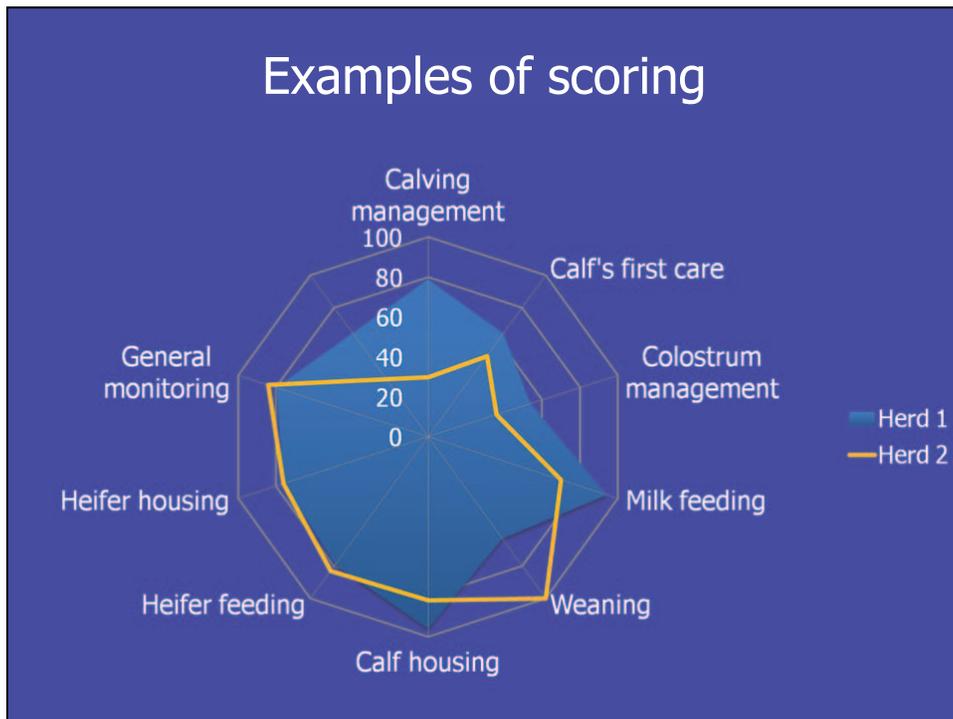
We took measures in the barn

Producers also took measurements!

- We provided colostrometers
- Producers measured colostrum quality



Examples of scoring



We discussed the scoring with the producers and explained the recommendations



Producers participated actively in this and liked it

Producers had adopted recommadations after one visit, 6 months later

	Before	6 mo later	
Recording mortality & morbidity	36 %	75 %	+39 %
Use colostrometer	0 %	29 %	+29 %

The tool is availble free on line

- **On the CRAAQ website:**

<http://www.agrireseau.qc.ca/bovinslaitiers/documents/Evaluate%20your%20Rearing%20Strategies.pdf>

- **On the FAO animal welfare website:**

<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/themes/animal-welfare/aw-docum/training-material/detail/en/item/44370/icode/>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
for a world without hunger

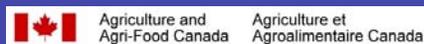


Animal Production and Health Division

Gateway to **Farm Animal Welfare**

With this free tool,
you can do:

- A self evaluation
- A consultation and follow up with your advisor or veterinarian
- Valacta offers it as a service



A collaborative project between

AAFC
Laval University
Guelph University
Calgary
UBC

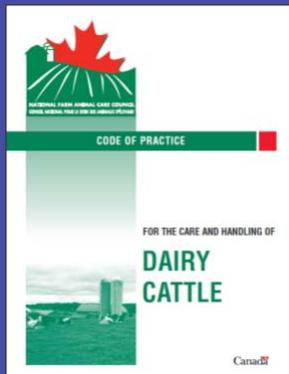
Valacta, Dairy herd improvement service for Eastern Canada

Dairy farmers invest with AAFC

- A new research initiative to develop and evaluate an advisory tool on cow comfort
- Includes targets based on the Code of Practice
- 240 Canadian farms
- Allows benchmarking
- Allows evaluation of links between measures

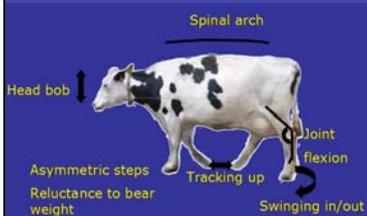
The tool

- A management questionnaire
- Measures in the barn
- Measures on the cows
- A report
- Explanations of measures and standards

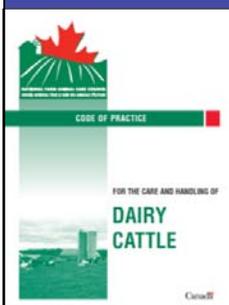


Lameness is a costly disease of dairy cows \$300-\$700 / case

RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE:
Routinely observe cows for lameness and aim for prevalence of <10% for obvious or severe lameness



We do locomotion scoring on the cows and use hoof trimming records

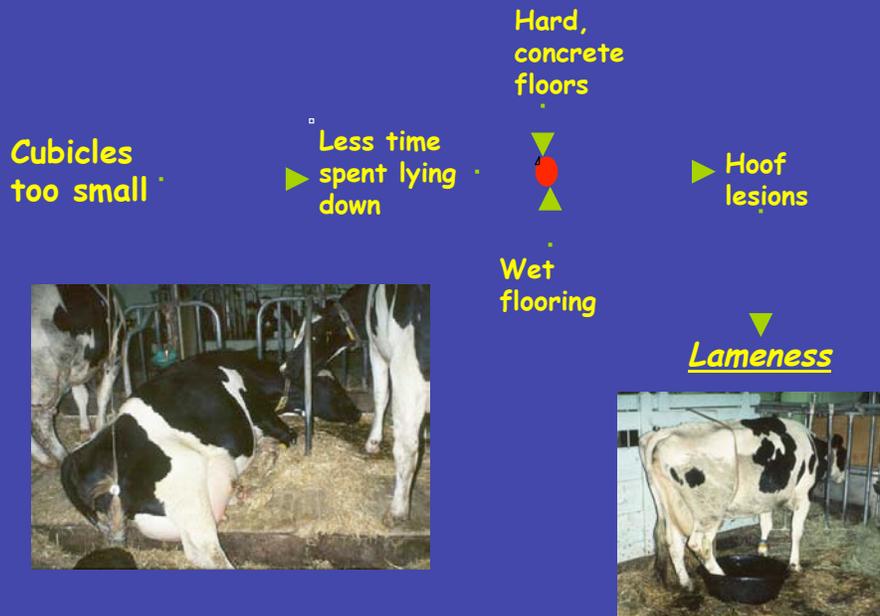


RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE:
Build stalls that provide adequate room for cows to lay comfortably for at least 12 hours per day

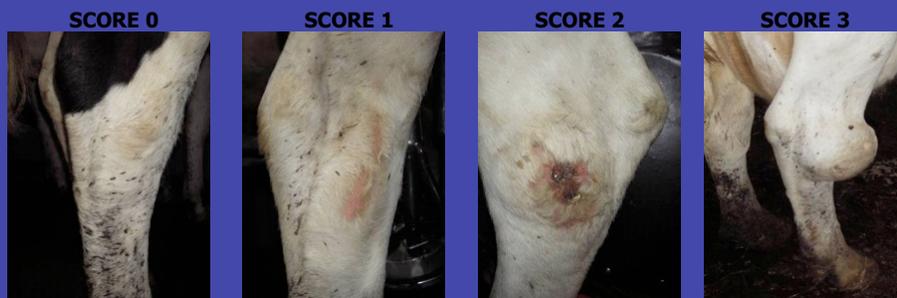
We measure the size of stalls and record how long cows lay down



Relating inputs to outcomes



Hock Injury: animal based measures



Taking animal based measures requires a detailed scoring system and extensive training of assessors

A training program to ensure high repeatability of injury and BCS of dairy cows

Training was essential, some people cant do some measures, need extra training along the way to ensure quality control.

Producer Report

SCORE FOR THE 13 CRITICAL AREAS OF COW COMFORT MANAGEMENT

SECTION 1 - ACCOMMODATION AND HOUSING						
1.1 STALL DESIGN						
Input not checked	0	25	50	75	100	Input checked
	0	25	50	75	100	
	0	25	50	75	100	
	0	25	50	75	100	
1.2 SPACE ALLOWANCE						
1.2.1 BENCHES						
	0	25	50	75	100	
	0	25	50	75	100	
1.3 STALL MANAGEMENT						
1.3.1 AT FEED BENS + FEED BEDDING						
	0	25	50	75	100	
	0	25	50	75	100	
1.4 FEED MANAGEMENT (STANDING AREA)						
	0	25	50	75	100	
	0	25	50	75	100	
1.5 MILKING PARLOR, HOLDING PENS AND TRANSFER ALLEYS TO THE MILKING PARLOR						
	0	25	50	75	100	
SECTION 2 - FEED AND WATER						
2.1 BODY CONDITION SCORING						
	0	25	50	75	100	
	0	25	50	75	100	
2.2 NUTRITION AND FEED MANAGEMENT						
	0	25	50	75	100	
SECTION 3 - HEALTH AND WELFARE MANAGEMENT						
3.1 LAMENESS						
	0	25	50	75	100	
	0	25	50	75	100	
3.2 CLAW HEALTH/FOOT TRIMMING						
	0	25	50	75	100	

Advantages of advisory tools

- Advise producers on means of improving animal care and profitability
- Help advisors do the job with most up to date information
- The data base from the 240 farms in our project can be used by industry to benchmark
- The data base can be used to identify the key measures that need to be included in an audit



**What comes
after the
Code?**

**A means of assuring the public /
consumers that Canadian farms follow
these standards**

ACAM

If we did on farm assessments

- **Develop and Implement on farm advisory tools**
- **Train advisors, veterinarians, others to ensure equity across the land**
- **Identify farms that need support and advise them of the tool**
- **Once we are ready implement on farm audits of some kind**

Things are happening



FOOD

WHO CAUGHT MY DINNER?

It's a question more people are asking. And some grocers are providing answers. But, when it comes to your food, how much do you really want to know?

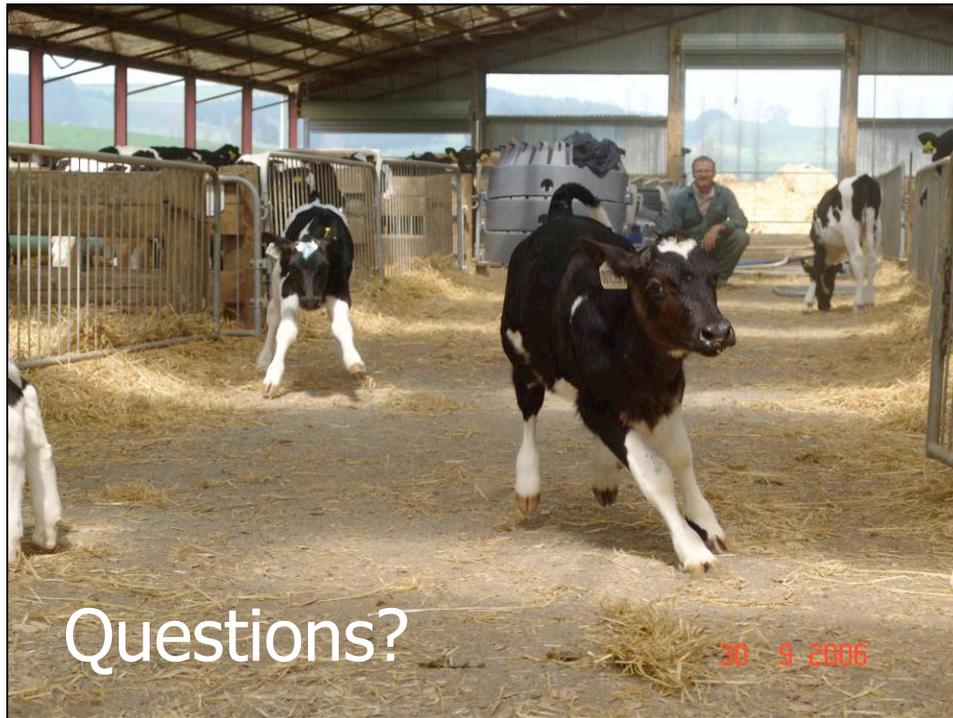
GLOBE LIFE

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2011



Sobeys has a new app!



Other tools

- **Welfare Quality for pigs, poultry, veal, etc**
- **Pig assessment in Canada**
- **Poultry assessment in Canada**
- **Dairy locomotion in Bristol, a national effort**
- **Sweden: RASP (piglet); Broilers; Laying Hens**