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Session:

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Title of the presentation: The Herd Books view of non-standardised Data being available from sensors and robots.

ABSTRACT

Dairy farmers around the world are no strangers to technology and innovation. The first Automated Milking System (AMS) in the world was installed in 1992, according to data that was presented at the National Mastitis Council meeting in February 2022, held in California, USA. By 2000, it is estimated that there were 800 AMS units worldwide. By 2007, that number grew to 8,000 AMS units in 22 countries, and 10,000 by 2010. Today, industry experts estimate that there are over 35,000 AMS units worldwide!

The widespread adoption of all types of new technologies on the farm creates new challenges and opportunities for Herdbook organizations. As more farms adopt this technology, there is a call for all organizations in the dairy industry to do more with the information, to gather it, store it, and transform it into something that adds value for the farmers. This may sound simple in theory, but we recognize there are challenges presented by these new data streams. Many Herdbooks are not ready to receive and store large amounts of new data. Not all new data inputs are standardized, or of the same quality, and certification and labelling metrics must be developed and implemented by all industry partners.

Despite these and other challenges, the WHFF feels it is important to be inclusive of breeders using all types of systems on their farms. As membership organizations, Herdbooks are ideally suited to protect farmers' data and to work on their behalf, with no commercial gain. Private companies will have private commercial interests.

There are risks to Herdbook organizations as AMS becomes more widespread around the world, and new types of on-farm sensors are developed and adopted. One example of a primary risk for Herdbooks is that farms with AMS may quickly feel that they are getting enough information from their robotic software and cease to participate in traditional milk recording programs that would have fed their data into the Herdbook. This means that data will be lost from the Herdbook system permanently, unless new ways of gathering this information can be developed. There is a further risk that if this data remains in "silos," only within commercial organizations and private companies, proprietary indexes and other methods of herd

improvement may be developed which are only available to customers of those organizations. This may not only slow breed progress, but it also creates direct competition with Herdbooks.

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