

National Consolidation of a Regional System



Denmark

Presented by Uffe Lauritsen

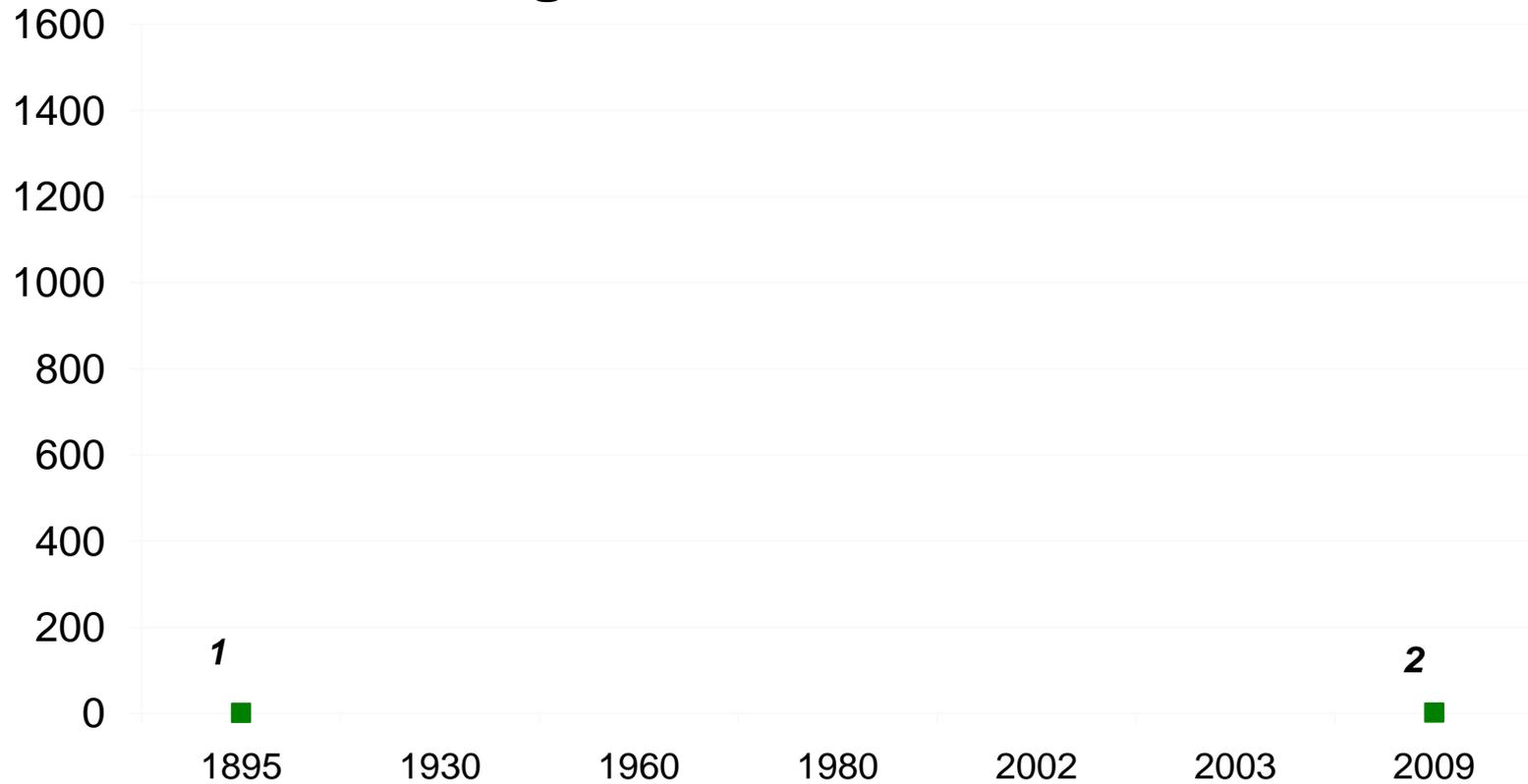
Few facts

- Milkrecording in Denmark is a commercial business all paid by farmers
- Governmental support was part of the service. It stopped app. 20 years ago



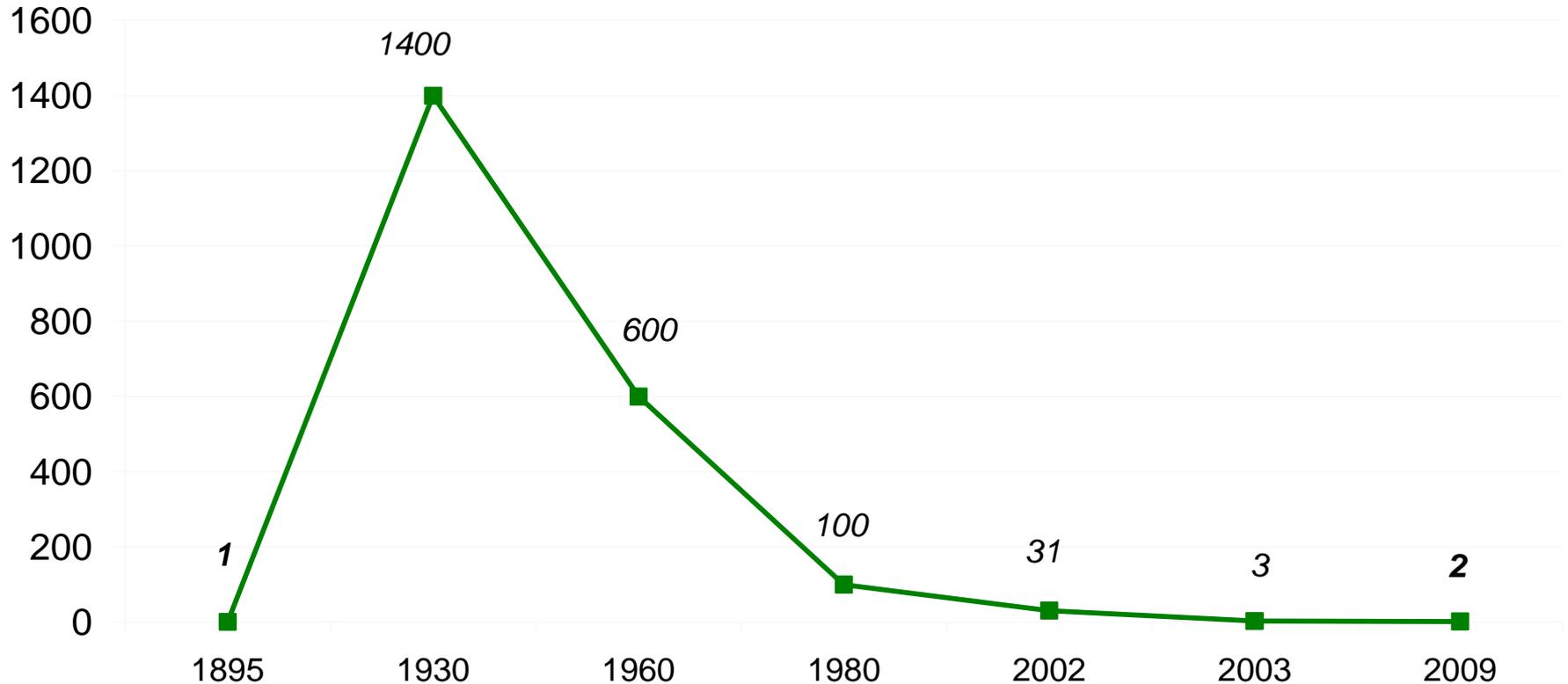
1895 - 2009

Recording association in Denmark



1895 - 2009

Recording associations in Denmark



Important corners - 1

- 1982 national herd- and animal ID system implemented by Danish Cattle Federation (DCF)
- 1997 this ID system is taken over by authorities. The alternative would have been a parallel system
- 1997 it is agreed that the cattle branch becomes administrators of the national databases



Important corners - 2

- 1997 and fw intensified cooperation between authorities and DCF
- 2002 merge of databases run by Ag. Ministry and DCF
 - Daily reporting of data from farmers is handled on 16 different locations
- 2001/2002 it is realised that a consolidation is needed

Main elements in the discussion

- Recording organisations had a very fragmented policy for consolidation – if any 😊
- Quality of the work at 16 locations is difficult to uniform
- Structural changes, fewer and bigger farms
- Technical developments is hard to handle in small units
- Need for investment
- Attract staff



Farmers partners in the field of data and registration

AI services

Hooftrimmers

Herd managers

Accountants

Advisory system

Veterinary services

Breeding organisations

Ag. ministry

Milk recording



What was done

- 2000 "smalltalks" in the corners
- 2001 an unofficial report produced by staff
 - The work was not initiated by the organisations
- 2002 DCF forms a working group of 5 staff members to produce an official report
- 2003 the report presented to those covered by the report
- 2002/2003 the political game runs



Report - recommendations

- Merge all recording associations to 1
- Close the majority of administrative units
 - Option 1: to 1 unit
 - Option 2: to 4 regional units
- Establish an independent commercial organisation for "Registration and milk recording"

Rocks on the road

- Define the political structure
- Respect regional interests
 - 3-4 rounds before the majority did agree
- Decide type of company (co-op, shareholder or another partnership)
- Financial base
- Entry fee
 - Recommended 10 € per cow
 - Ended up in 6,50 €

Organisation RYK

”Registration and milk recording”

- Registration for all herds in Denmark
- Administration of eartags
- Milkrecording (98 % herds and cows)
- Responsible for datacollection
- Responsible for data quality
- Independent company owned by Danish Cattle Federation



Danish Agricultural Advisory Service
National Centre



Organisation

- 13 boardmembers
 - 8 from regions (4 each 2)
 - 1 from AI company Viking
 - 2 from Danish Cattle Federation
 - 2 from staff
 - 1 representing office staff
 - 1 representing field staff



Year 1

- Agreed on 5 regional centres
- Took over 140 employees
 - 80 DHI technicians
 - 60 administrative persons
- Reduced staff by 30
- Managed to survive despite a weak financial base
- The political level had to fight for the idea – and did so



Year 2, 3 and 4

- Additional 2 € per cow as financial base
 - Decided by the Board, and paid by farmers
 - Total increase in financial base of 1 mio €
 - Nearly noiseless !
- Steps to increase efficiency continues
 - Sold of lab activity to Eurofins
 - Agreed on 5 year contract for labservices (2005)
 - Merged 2 regional offices to 1
 - Continues with 4 regions
 - Cut in staff numbers continues



A few facts

- Investment in equipment a total of 8 mio € over 5 years
- All recordings handled electronic – no paper
- Price per cow for recording is 50 kg milk for B-method (5 year average price to farmers)
- Veterinary analysis on recording samples is a key part
 - Johnes disease
 - Salmonella Dublin
 - PCR from June 2009



Situation today

- 4.000 recorded dairy herds (530.000 cows)
- On a contract with Ministry of Agriculture:
 - Administer all eartags
 - Administer national herd database (all species)
 - Reports individual animal data to official databases for all species
- Collect informations for breeding, veterinary services and general management
- Take on any job related to basic registration in animal husbandry
- Budget 2008: 24 million €



Company day 2008 –
staff looking for
higher goals!



Thank you for attention

