

Strategic Udder Health Monitoring and Benchmarking based on national SCC data in Germany

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German Udder Health Program



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German Udder Health Program





- New key figures based on SCC
- DSCC as a new diagnostic tool
- Communication !!!
- Follow-up project for DSCC
- Diagnostic tools for practical use
- Communication !!!







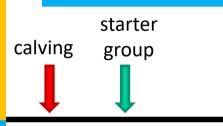
Using facts more than "gut instinct"



systematic approach?



SCC > 100.000/mL?



changes in management



last 1/3 of

Dry calving period



Dry period • new infection rate cure rate

new infection rate during lactation

- percentage of udder healthy animals
- animals with poor prognosis



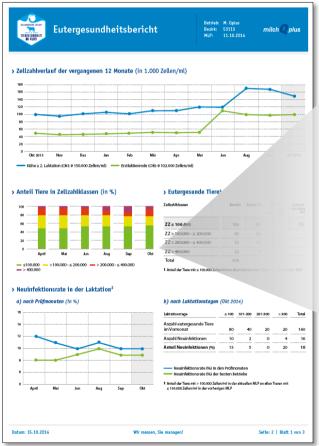
New Udder Health Report

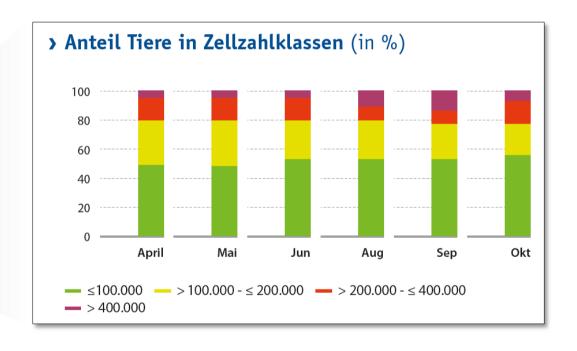
- Key figures are calculated based on SSC in monthly milk yield recording
- Displayed in tables and charts either in a 3 page paper report or online
- For all 48.000 farms under DHI in Germany
- Benchmarking regional reference values of the 25% best farms are reported for each key figure
- Nationwide standardized and automated calculation (DLQ, 2014)
 - → SCC threshold set to 100.000 cells/mL → high sensitivity





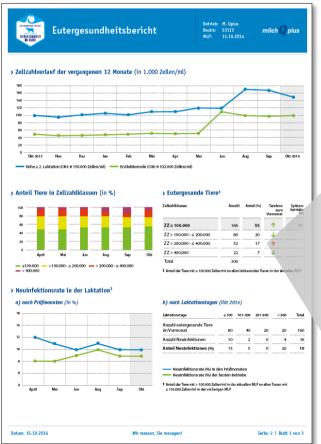
Proportion of cows with healthy udders







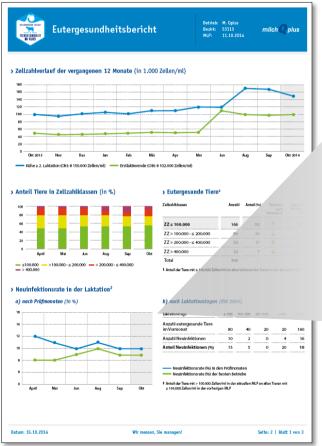
Proportion of cows with healthy udders

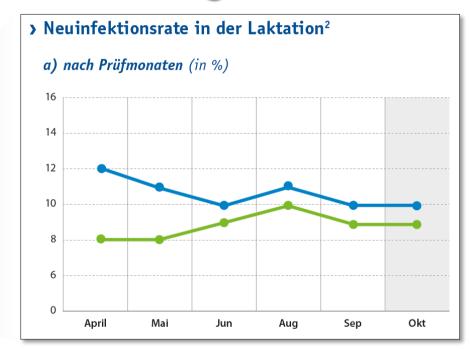


Eutergesunde Tiere ¹				
Zellzahlklassen	Anzahl	Anteil (%)	Tendenz zum Vormonat	Spitzen- betriebe (%)
ZZ ≤ 100.000	166	55	↑	76
ZZ > 100.000 - ≤ 200.000	60	20	Ψ	
ZZ > 200.000 - ≤ 400.000	52	17	↑	
ZZ > 400.000	22	7	\	
	300			



New infection rate during lactation





- Neuinfektionsrate (%) in den Prüfmonaten
- Neuinfektionsrate (%) der besten Betriebe
- 2 Anteil der Tiere mit > 100.000 Zellen/ml in der aktuellen MLP an allen Tieren mit ≤ 100.000 Zellen/ml in der vorherigen MLP



New infection rate during lactation



Anzahl eutergesunde Tiere im Vormonat 80 40 20 20						
	160	20	20	40	80	3
Anzahl Neuinfektionen 10 2 0 4	16	4	0	2	10	Anzahl Neuinfektionen



Cows with poor prognosis



> Chronisch euterkranke Tiere mit schlechten Hef

Anzahl geprüfter Tiere	280
Anzahl betroffener Tiere	6
Anteil betroffene Tiere (%)	2
Ergebnis der besten Betriebe (%)	2
Auflistung der betroffenen Tie	Name Stalinz.
Antal der Tiere, die jouwils > 700.00 Manuel. Aufflistung der betroffenen Tier Ohrmarka DE 05 999 12344	
Auflistung der betroffenen Tier	Name Staling
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Auflistung der betroffenen Tier Ohrmarka DE 05 999 12344 DE 05 999 12346	Namo Stalinz. 111 112 113

> Chronisch euterkranke Tiere mit schlechten Heilungsaussichten⁶

Prüfmonat	April	Mai	Jun	Aug	Sep	Okt
Anzahl geprüfter Tiere	280	280	300	300	290	300
Anzahl betroffener Tiere	6	6	18	18	6	6
Anteil betroffene Tiere (%)	2	2	6	6	2	2
Ergebnis der besten Betriebe (%)	2	2	1	1	1	1

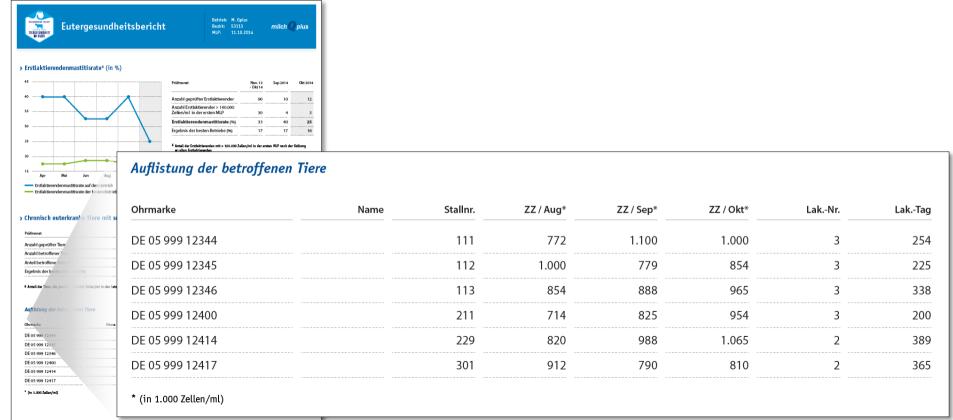
6 Anteil der Tiere, die jeweils > 700.000 Zellen/ml in den letzten 3 aufeinanderfolgenden MLPs aufweisen, an allen laktierenden Tieren des Prüftags

Datum: 11.10.2014 Wir messen, Sie managen! Seite: 2 | Blatt 3 von



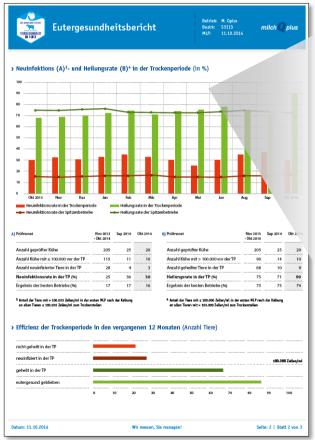
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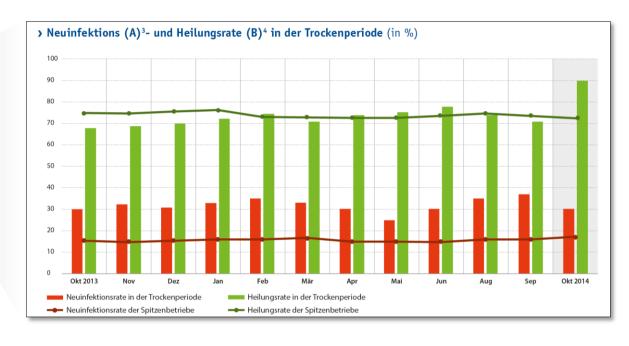
Cows with poor prognosis





Dry cow new infection and cure rate





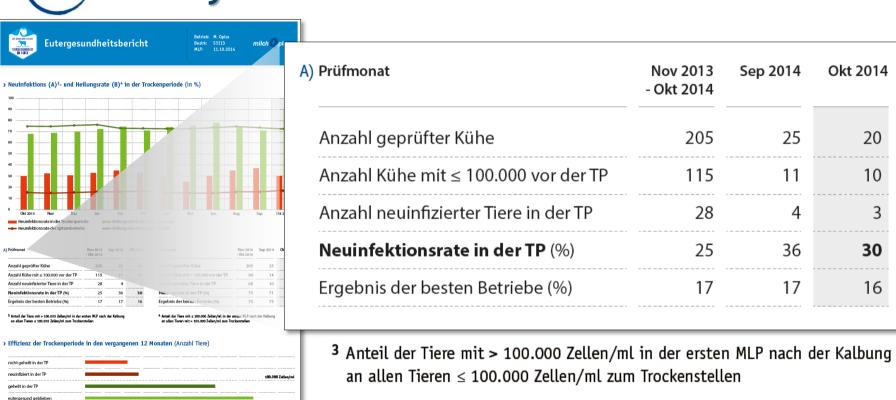


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Wir messen Sie managen

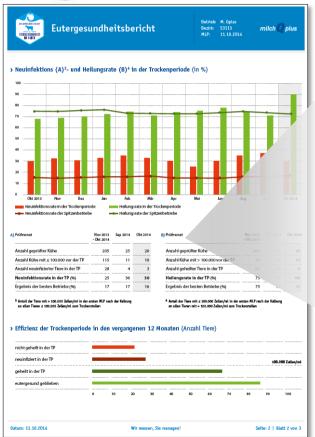
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Dry cow new infection and cure rate





Dry cow new infection and cure rate

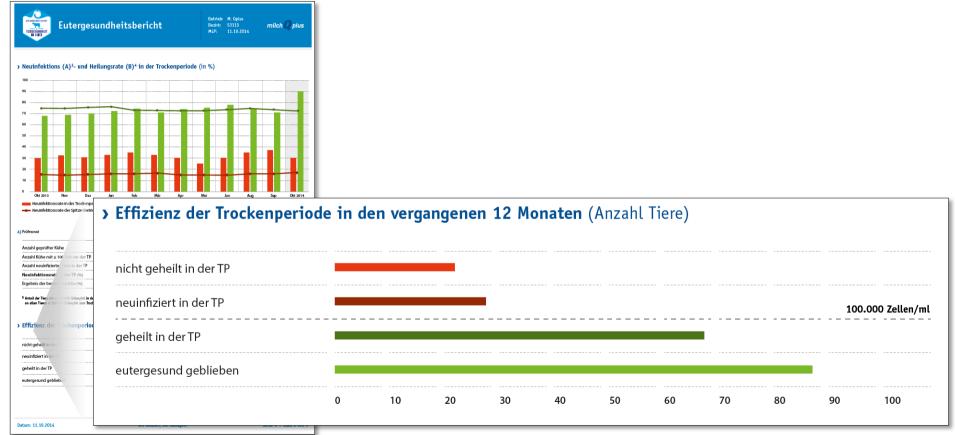


B) Prüfmonat	Nov 2013 - Okt 2014	Sep 2014	Okt 2014
Anzahl geprüfter Kühe	205	25	20
Anzahl Kühe mit > 100.000 vor der TP	90	14	10
Anzahl geheilter Tiere in der TP	68	10	9
Heilungsrate in der TP (%)	75	71	90
Ergebnis der besten Betriebe (%)	75	75	74

⁴ Anteil der Tiere mit ≤ 100.000 Zellen/ml in der ersten MLP nach der Kalbung an allen Tieren mit > 100.000 Zellen/ml zum Trockenstellen

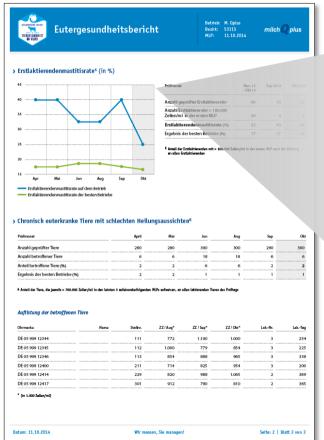


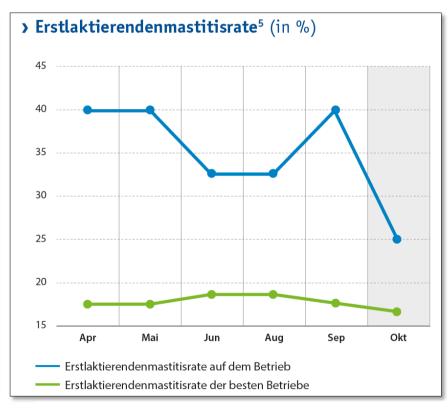
Efficiency of dry period last 12 months





Rate of heifer mastitis

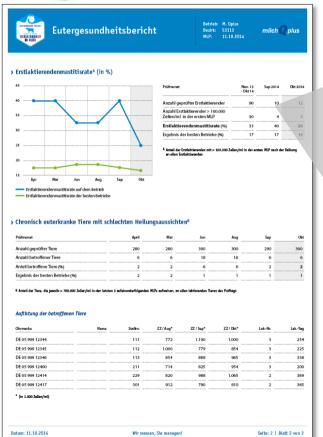




⁵ Anteil der Erstlaktierenden mit > 100.000 Zellen/ml in der ersten MLP nach der Kalbung an allen Erstlaktierenden



Rate of heifer mastitis



Prüfmonat	Nov. 13 - Okt 14	Sep 2014	Okt 2014
Anzahl geprüfter Erstlaktierender	90	10	12
Anzahl Erstlaktierender > 100.000 Zellen/ml in der ersten MLP	30	4	3
Erstlaktierendenmastitisrate (%)	33	40	25
Ergebnis der besten Betriebe (%)	17	17	16

5 Anteil der Erstlaktierenden mit > 100.000 Zellen/ml in der ersten MLP nach der Kalbung an allen Erstlaktierenden



Key figures as indicators

Low proportion of udder healthy animals?

- General indicator
- Do I have to focus on udder health?

Many animals with poor prognosis?

- Do I have a problem with cow-related pathogens?
- Are culling decisions reasonable?
- How effective is my therapy concept?

Strategic monitoring of herd status

- Use as early warning system
- Uncovering of weak pointsControl of success

Too many new infections during lactation?

- Bedding / housing hygiene?
- Teat condition?
- Milking quality and hygiene?
- Pasture?
- Use of new products?

How good do my heifers start into lactation?

- Housing hygiene?
- Feeding and supply with vitamins, minerals and trace elements?
- · optimally timed transit feeding?
- Calving management?
- Positive are Separate heifer group, Early mating (age at first calving < 27 months)?
- Negative are exceeding edema? Early opening of teat canal? Overcrowding? Juvenile suckling?

How good is dry cow management working?

- Bedding / housing / calving hygiene
- Body condition at drying off?
- No antibiotic treatment at drying off, no internal teat sealer?
- Efficiency of therapy at drying off?
- Are culling decisions reasonable?
 - Negativ are → long re-bedding intervalls?, Overcrowding? High milk yield at drying off? Too many animals with poor prognosis?



Fact sheets and checklists





What is the current situation?

- Key figures are calculated for each farm since 2015.
- Training institutions included the work with SCC key figures and factsheets in their program.
- Despite intensive information, key figures are not yet used by farmers and vets on a really broad basis.
- Administrations and politicians are requesting national and regional data, using SCC key figures for fact-based decision making and political discussions.





What is coming up next?

- SCC key figures will find their way into practical use as pressure is increasing on dairy farmers and administrations. There is a need to argue fact-based in public debates about animal well-being and animal health protection.
- Within the ZellDiX-project we are working on more key figures using DSCC.
 This will add value to prudent decision making in herd management and to better evaluation/management of the infection dynamics regarding mastitis.
- We envisage to have practical tools for farm use available in 2019.









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by decision of the German Bundestag





