



Time management in stable routines

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Background

- Daily stable routines are very labor-intensive manual work by tradition
 - feeding, taking horses to the paddocks and keeping the stable clean
- In Finland, working times at stables have been researched only few times - idea to measure time in different stables

Material and methods

- HAMK implemented a case study in co-operation with advisor organization ProAgria at **five stables** in 2013
- Aim was to find out
 - **how much time** is used for stable duties daily
 - what are the **reasons for diversity in workloads**

Material and methods

- Stables represented purposely different forms of activity - basic routines were same
 - Riding school, (trotter) training stable, breeding stable and two boarding stables
- One day at each stable **measuring the working times and distances between the facilities**

Results – roughage feeding

- “Traditional”, small square baled hay the least time consuming way to feed roughages (in the stable and paddock)
 - Big (silage) bales and (slow feeding) hay nets are slower ways to feed haylage
 - Average time to roughage feeding: 51 sec/horse (varied 23-73 sec/horse!)
 - Preparing and handing-out included

Results – concentrate feeding

- A ladle from a feeding trolley was the fastest way to give the concentrates
 - Simple and uniform feeding!
- The average time per horse was 18 seconds
 - In most cases the last feeding (in the evening) was the most time-consuming because of supplementary feeds

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Other stable routines - paddocking

- Distance between the paddocks and the stable is relevant when taking the horses out
 - “Blanketing”?
 - Leading two horses?

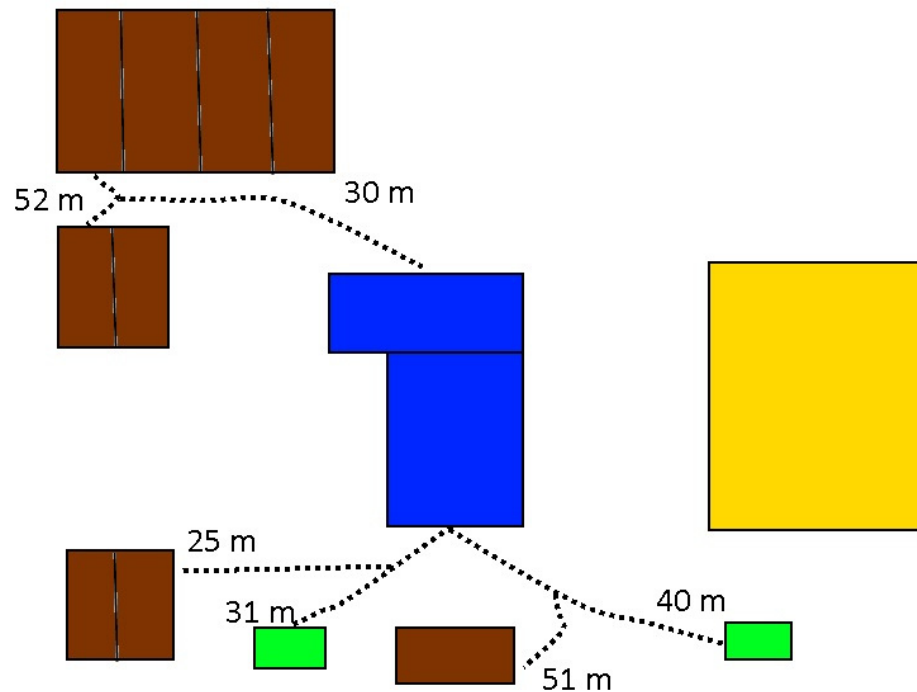


Photo: Terhi Thuneberg

Stable 1

To paddocks: 25-51 m

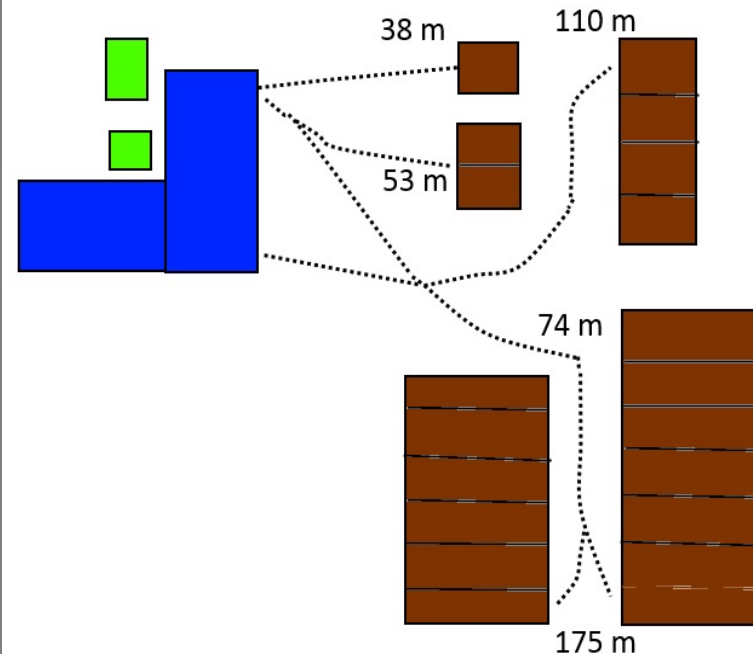
Manure and bedding storages
further



Stable 2

To paddocks: 38-175 m

Manure and bedding storages
next to stable

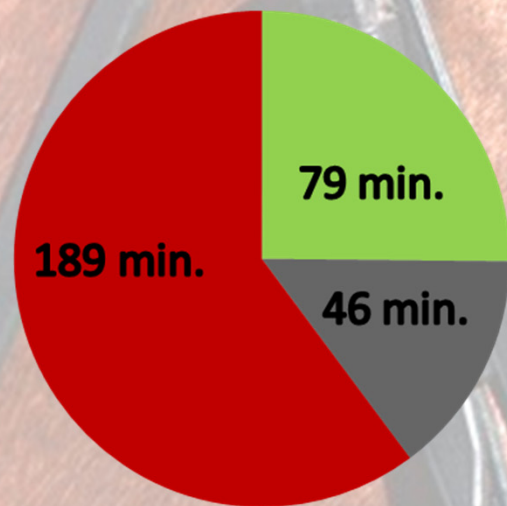


Other stable routines - cleaning

- Big variation (1,7 – 6,4 minutes) in the mean cleaning time (5,4 minutes) per one box because of:
 - Bedding materials and systems
 - Cleaning facilities
 - Worker
 - Distance between stable and manure and bedding storages

Comparison of two boarding stables

Working time in one day:

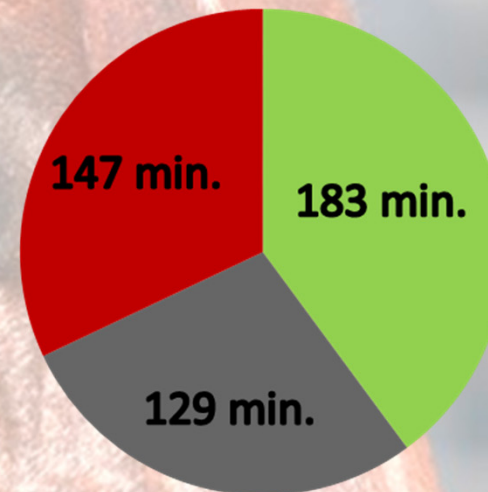
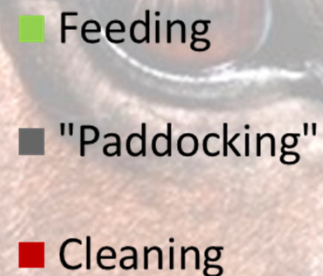


Stable 1

24 horses

13 minutes /horse/day

Total working time 5,24h/day



Stable 2

19 horses

24 minutes /horse/day

Total working time 7,65h/day

Comparison of two boarding stables

- total working time
 - Stable 1: 1900 h/year
 - Stable 2: 2800 h/year
- ⇒ In stable 1 total working time **0,5 man-year** (full time equivalent, Fte) **less** than in stable 2
- ⇒ 12 000€ smaller costs
- ⇒ ~40€ smaller costs/horse/month

Conclusions

- Results cannot be compared directly; several factors affect
- Place the operations rationally (take into account already in construction planning!) ⇒ avoid wasted steps and stages
- Use automation (feeding and manure removing) ⇒ simplify and quicken the work and shorten the working day

Conclusions

- Use appropriate and ergonomic tools and machines
 - Stop to think and measure (step counter/tracker etc.) - benchmark and test – develop and improve!
- ⇒ **Saving in working time means decreasing in labour costs and better profitability!**
- ⇒ **Welfare!**

Thank you for your attention!

