

The impact of claw health and lameness on fertility in Austrian dairy herds

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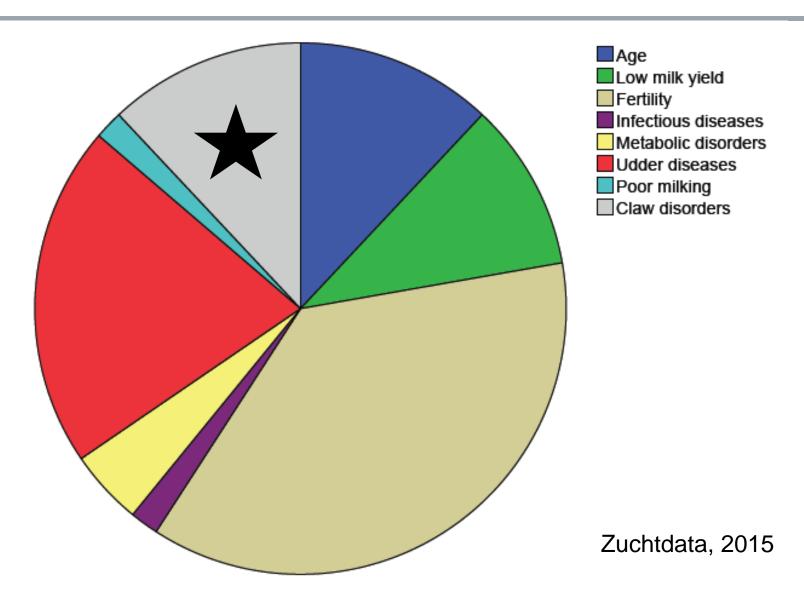
Is lameness a problem in dairy herds?



- Productivity (Cook and Nordlund, 2009)
 - fertility
 - ■milk production
 - ■economic
- animal welfare (Tremetsberger and Winckler, 2015)
- common reason for culling (Zuchtdata, 2015)

Culling and death in Austrian dairy herds





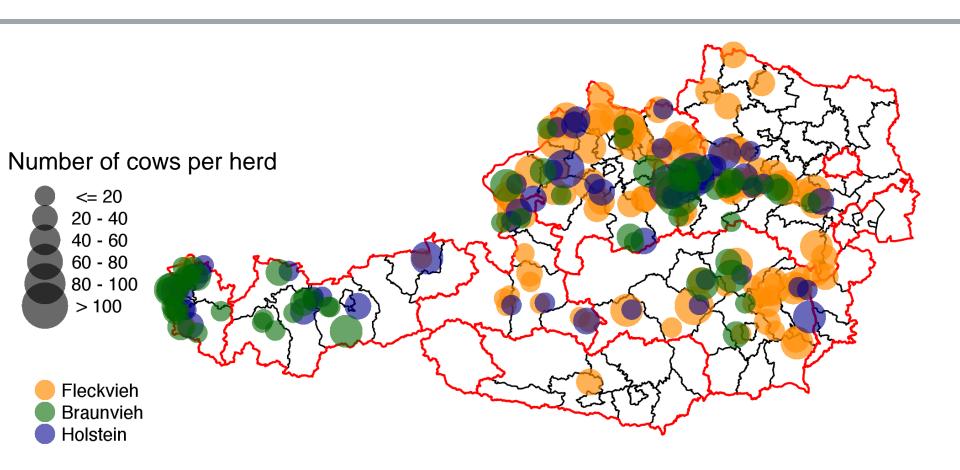


Efficient Cow





Herds in the study



In total 167 herds with ~5400 dairy cows were observed for 1 year



Gathering Data

- Animal recording data monthly
- Farmer: observations
- Vet: diagnosis
- Animal recording: Basis numbers, ketose, hoof-trimming
 - at every milk recording event (monthly)
 - j bodyweight, BCS, lameness scoring, ration, concentrate intake
- Animal breeding organisation
 - 1x linear description of all cows
- Food analyses 8 times during the year



Aim of the study

- Efficiency of dairy cows in Austria
- This talk:
 - ■The impact of lameness on fertility
 - i several fertility parameter

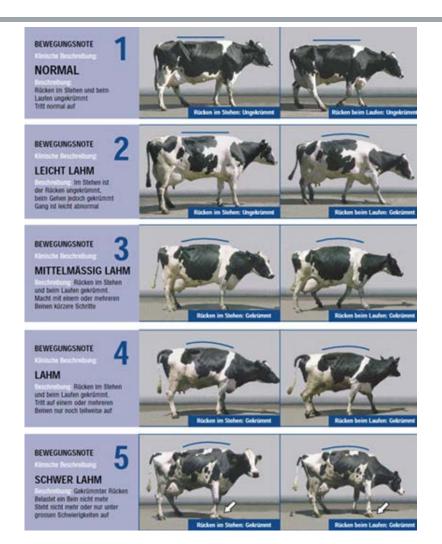


Data was taken from

- RDV Data (animal recording data)
- lameness scoring
- claw health data







Sprecher et al., 1997



Creating lameness groups

never lame	1
<3 x lame (score 2)	2
>3 x lame (score 2) or score 3	3
lame score 4	4
severely lame (score 5)	5

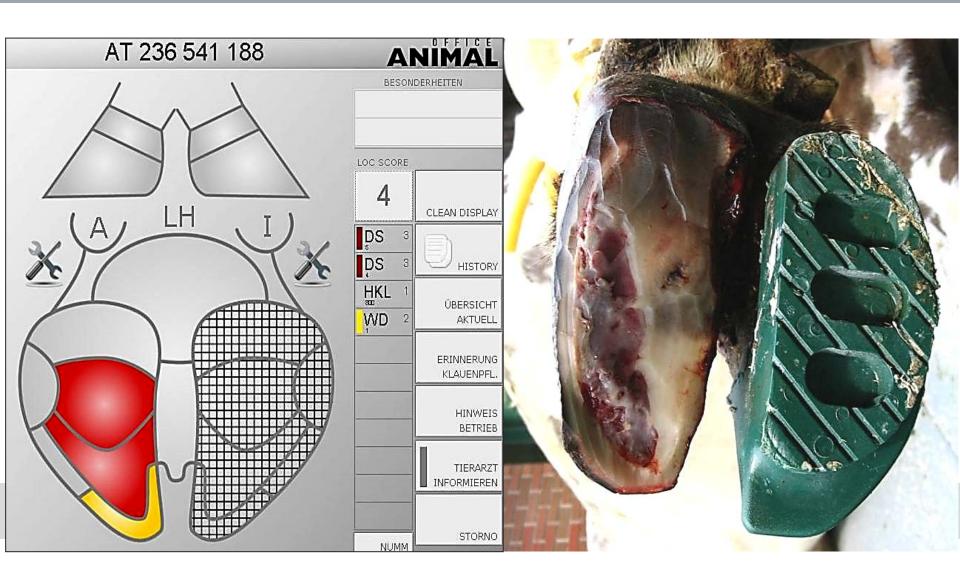


Documentation





Electronical documentation





Documentation on paper

Gesundheitsmonitoring Klauenerhebung Klauenpflegeprotokoll vom: Betrieb (LFBISNr.): Gesamtkuhzahl: Kl					gemeinschaft auenp			AC	K	KI	auenpfle	ger Nr.:			
				letzte Klauenpflege am:											
					Milchleistung ∅ kg/Jahr:										
				auenpflege durchgeführt bei Tieren					Rasse: FV HF BV P						
Haltung: Anbindeh. Laufstall				Stand/Länge: kurz mittel lang Entmis						istung: Festmist Gülle					
Liegefläd	che: Gur	mmi Be	ton Ho	och- T	iefbox			Eins	treu: St	roh Sã	igespäne	Strohn	nehl		
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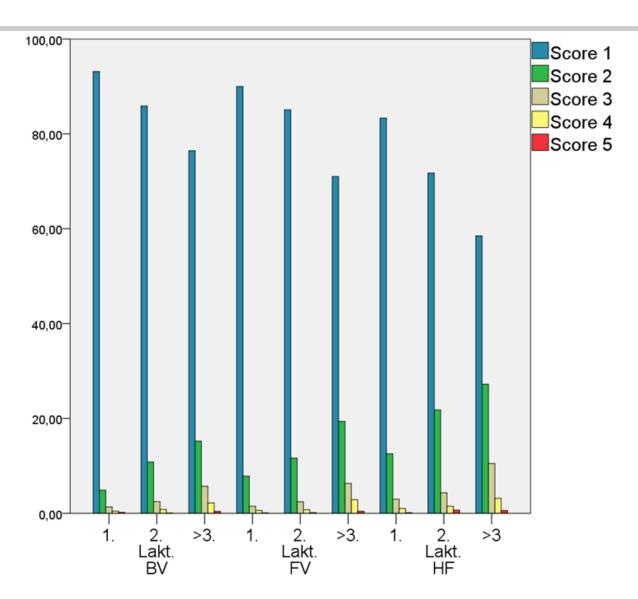






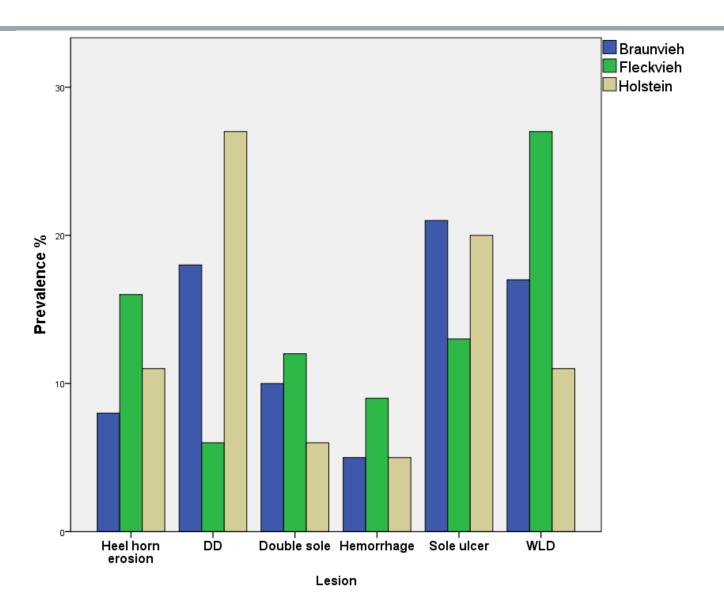
Lameness for 3 breeds in first, second and third+ lactation





Most frequent lesions in different cattle breeds





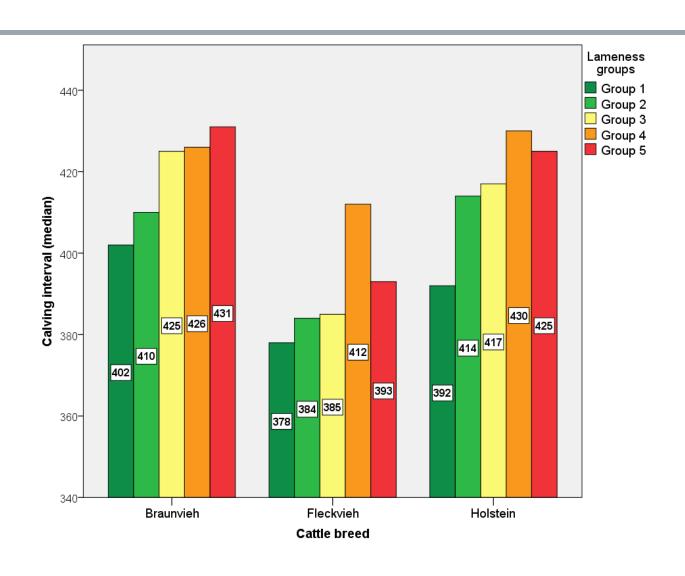


Impact on fertility parameter



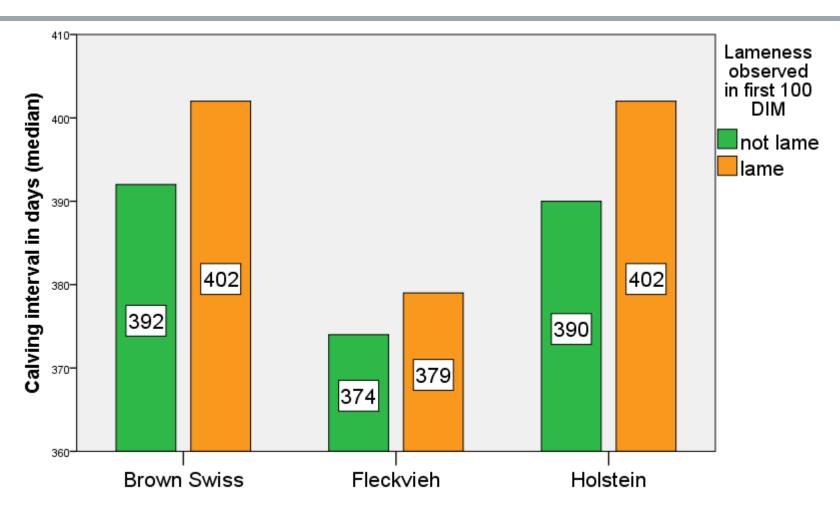


Calving interval



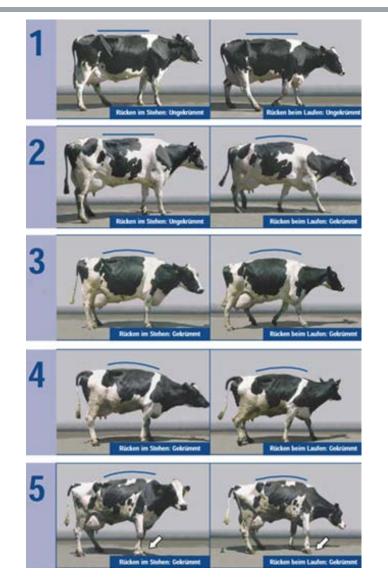
Lameness within the first 100 days in milk







Success of first Al



50,0 %	2311				
47,1 %	882				
41,1%	890				
35,4 %	192				
41,3 %	368				

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Discussion

- Different breeds are susceptible to different lesions
- Brown Swiss, Fleckvieh, Holstein
- Calving interval increases
 - 30 days by cows moderate/severely lame compared to nonlame cow
 - First 100 DIM are highly important (plus 10 days CI)
- First service conception rate decreases
 - NEB, laminitis, concurrent disease (endometritis)

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Conclusion

- Lameness is important issue in modern dairies
 - Detect early
 - Treat lame cows as soon as possible
 - Perform regular hoof trimming to detect early lesions which do not yet cause pain and lameness
 - Document claw health status for decision making
 - ¡ Establish breeding goals
 - Coming back to the aim of the bigger study:
 - ¡ Working on lameness increases efficiency on dairy farms



Efficient Cow



Thanks to all participating farmers and staff for gathering the data