

The impact of husbandry conditions on claw health in Austrian dairy herds

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Is lameness a problem in dairy herds?



Klinik für Wiederkäuer

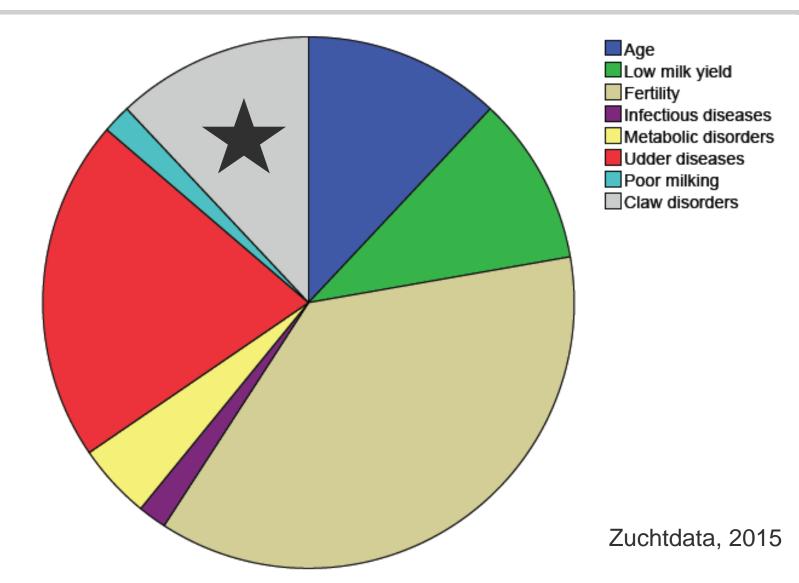
Productivity (Cook and Nordlund, 2009)

- fertility
- milk production
- economic
- **animal welfare** (Tremetsberger and Winckler, 2015)

Common reason for culling (Zuchtdata, 2015)

Culling and death in Austrian dairy herds







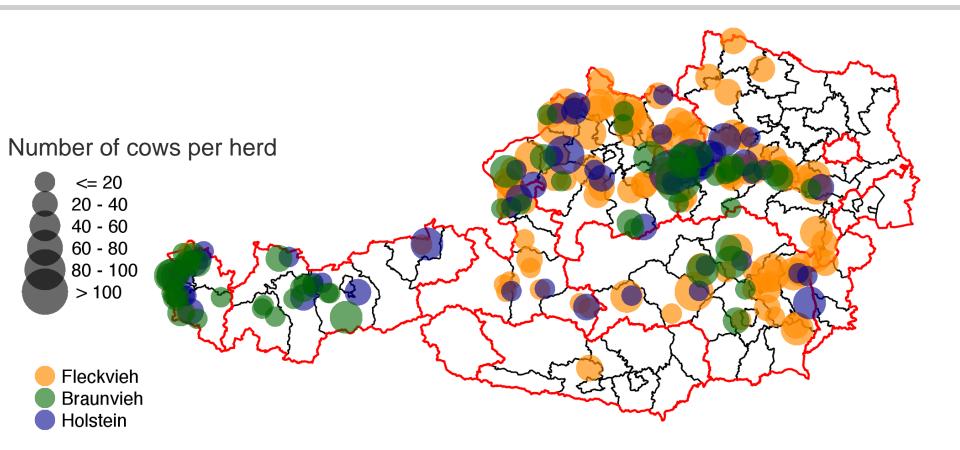
Efficient Cow



Herds in the study



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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)
 - □ 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

Klinik für Wiederkäuer

Efficiency of dairy cows in Austria

This talk:

The impact of housing condition on lameness



Data was taken from

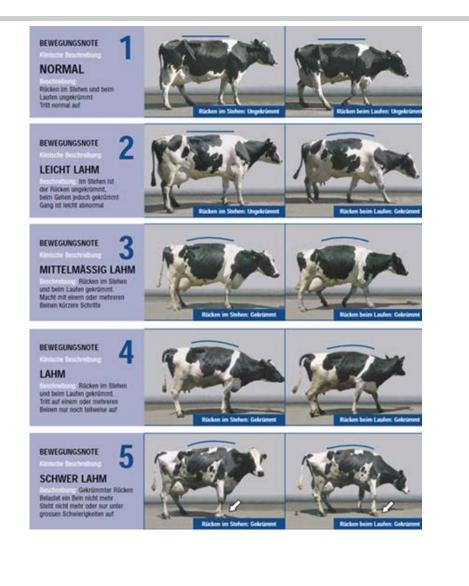
- RDV Data (animal recording data)
- Farm data (housing, pasture,...)
- lameness scoring
- claw health data

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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
Iame score 4	4
severely lame (score 5)	5

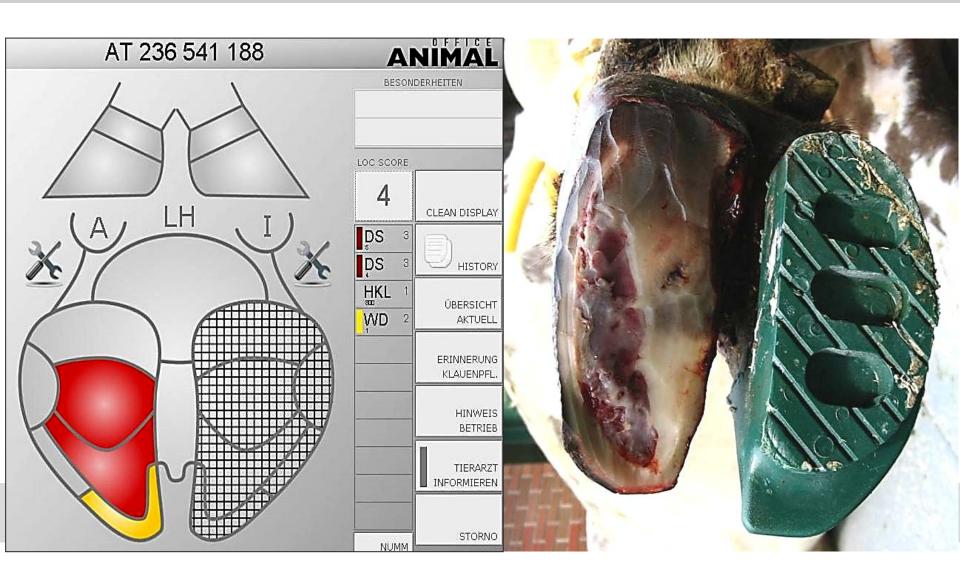
Documentation





Electronical documentation

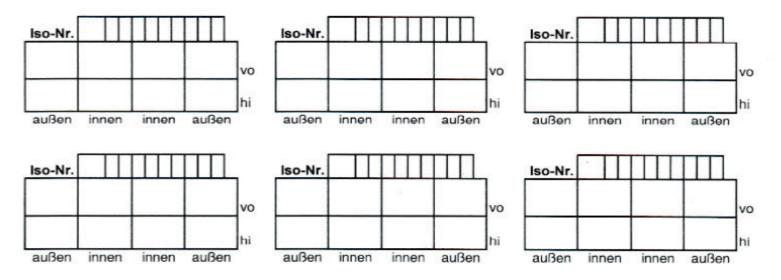




Documentation on paper



Gesundheitsmonitoring Klauenerhebung	Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreichischer AC	Klauenpfleger Nr.:	
Klauenpflegeprotokoll vom:	letzte Klauenpflege am:		
Betrieb (LFBISNr.):	Milchleistung Ø kg/Jahr:		
Gesamtkuhzahl: Kl	auenpflege durchgeführt bei Tieren	ieren Rasse: FV HF BV P	
Haltung: Anbindeh. Laufstall	Stand/Länge: kurz mittel lang	Entmistung: Festmist Gülle	
Liegefläche: Gummi Beton H	och- Tiefbox Eins	treu: Stroh Sägespäne Strohmehl	
Bodenbeschaffenheit: Spalten	planbefestigt (Gussasphalt, Beton, Gumm	ii)I Tretmist Weidegang: ja nein	



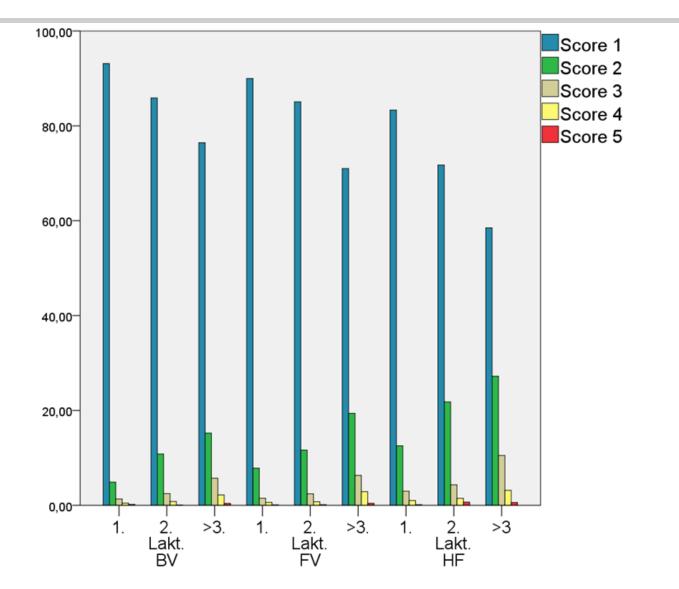






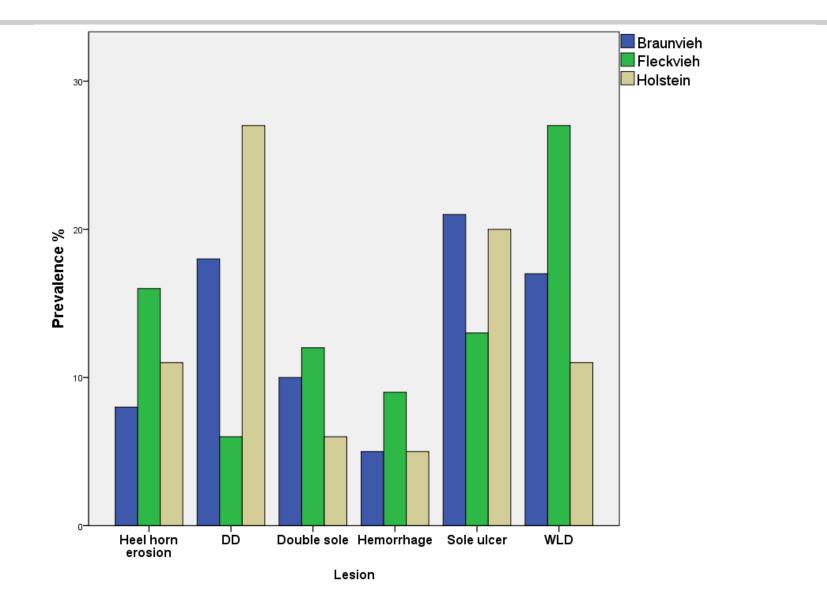
Lameness for 3 breeds in first, second and third+ lactation





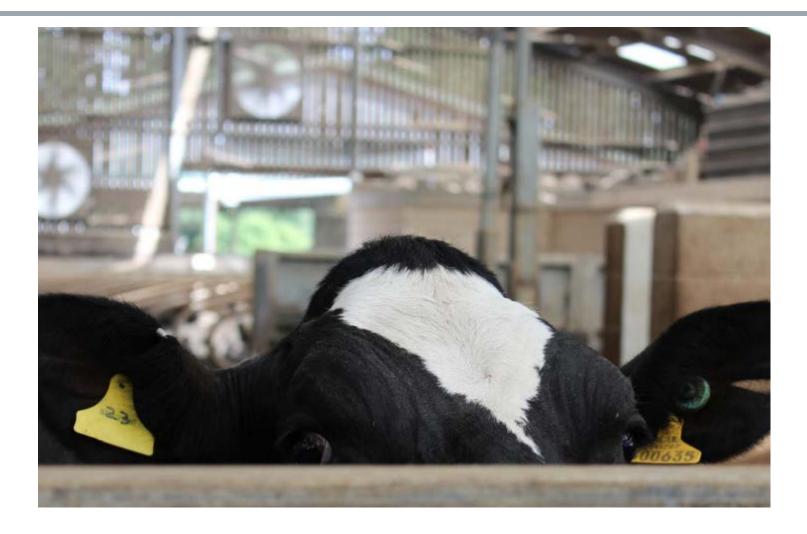
Most frequent lesions in different cattle breeds





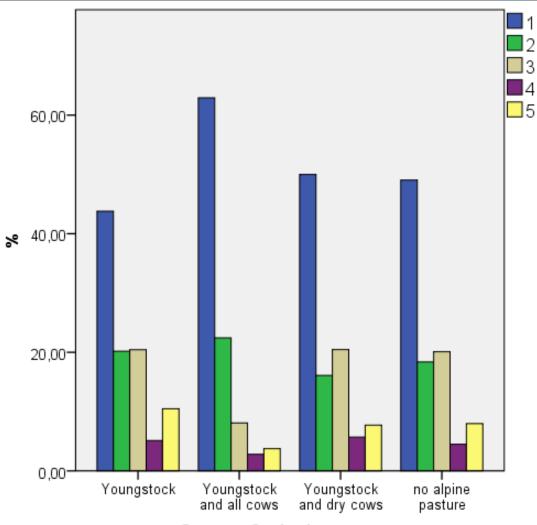


Farm specific factors affecting lameness



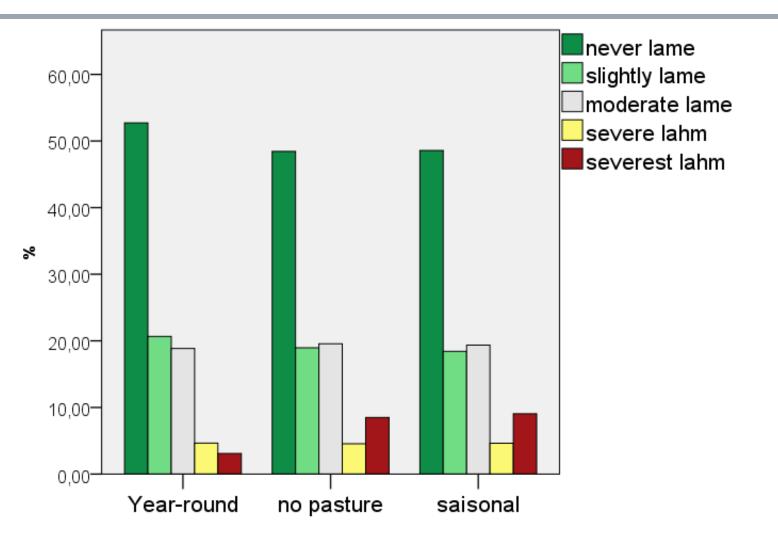


Alpine pasture



Groups of animals at pasture

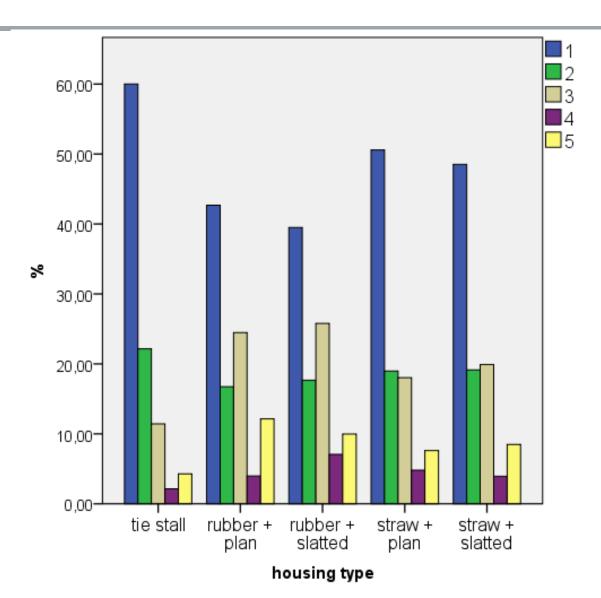
Does pasture make the difference?



vetmeduni vienna



Housing







- Different breeds are susceptible to different lesions
- Brown Swiss, Fleckvieh, Holstein
- Pasture does not make the difference
- Alpine pasture in summer is beneficial
- Tie stall keeping gave best results
 - followed by freestall cubicles with deep (straw) bedding
 - worst results for rubber mattress
- Plan concrete scored better than slatted flooring



Conclusion

- Lameness is a big issue in modern dairy farming
- Management on farm is most important for prevention and early detection of lameness
- Coming back to aim of the bigger study:
 - Creating an optimal environment is essential to increase efficiency in dairy herds





Efficient cow



Thanks to all participating farmers and staff gathering the data