



Improved claw health by selection -a Nordic experience

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CONCLUSION

Clear phenotypic and genetic trends have been achieved for claw health in the Nordic countries, here shown under Swedish conditions.

AIM

The aim of this study was to investigate the phenotypic and genetic trends of claw health traits and Claw Health Index (CHI) under Swedish/Nordic conditions.

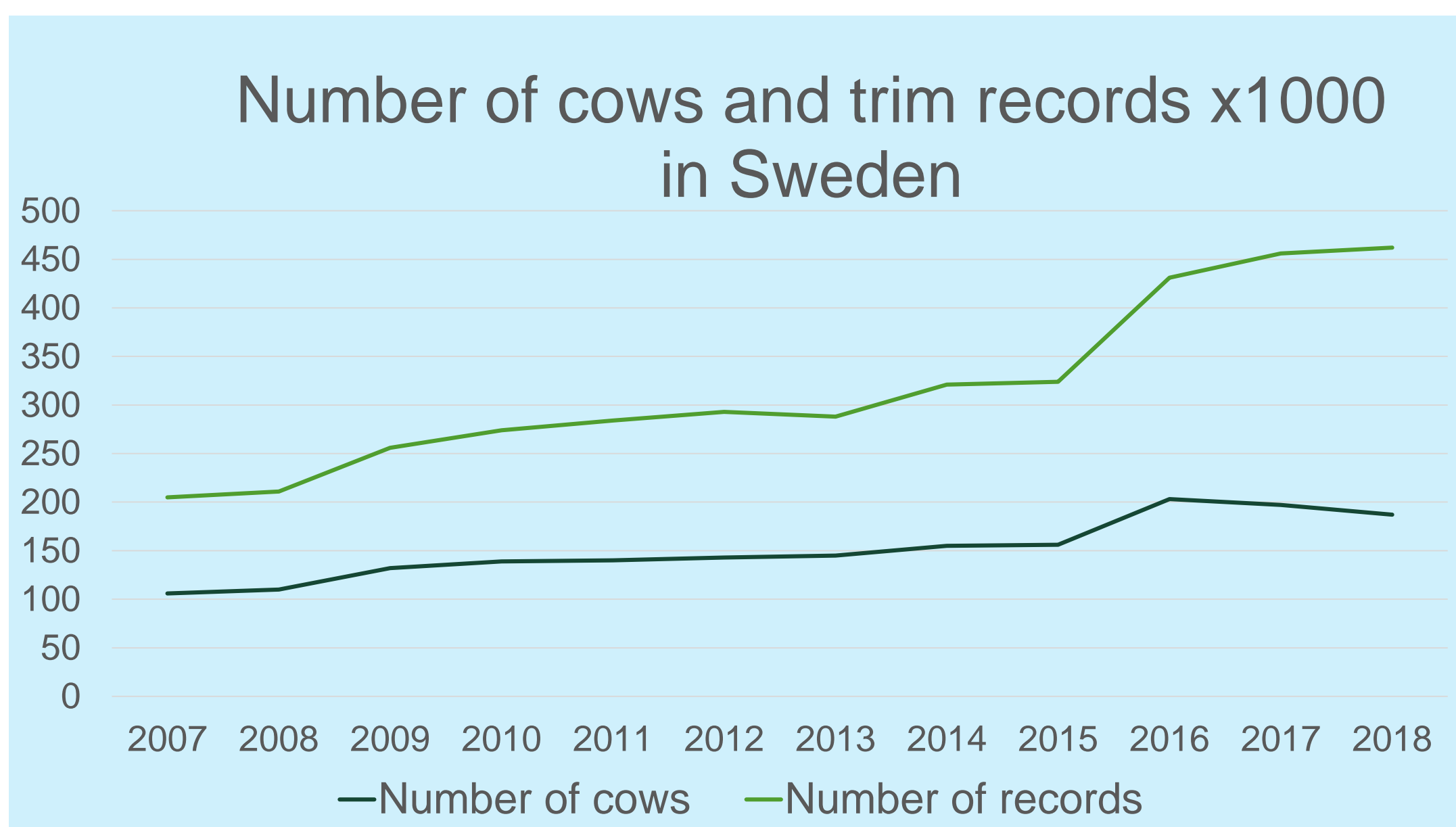
BACKGROUND

Claw trimmers record claw disorders during the routine trimming and according to the same protocol in Sweden Denmark and Finland. The records are used for herd health management and to estimate breeding values. The CHI is based on seven different claw traits and has been available since 2005. The CHI is included in the Nordic Total Merit index.

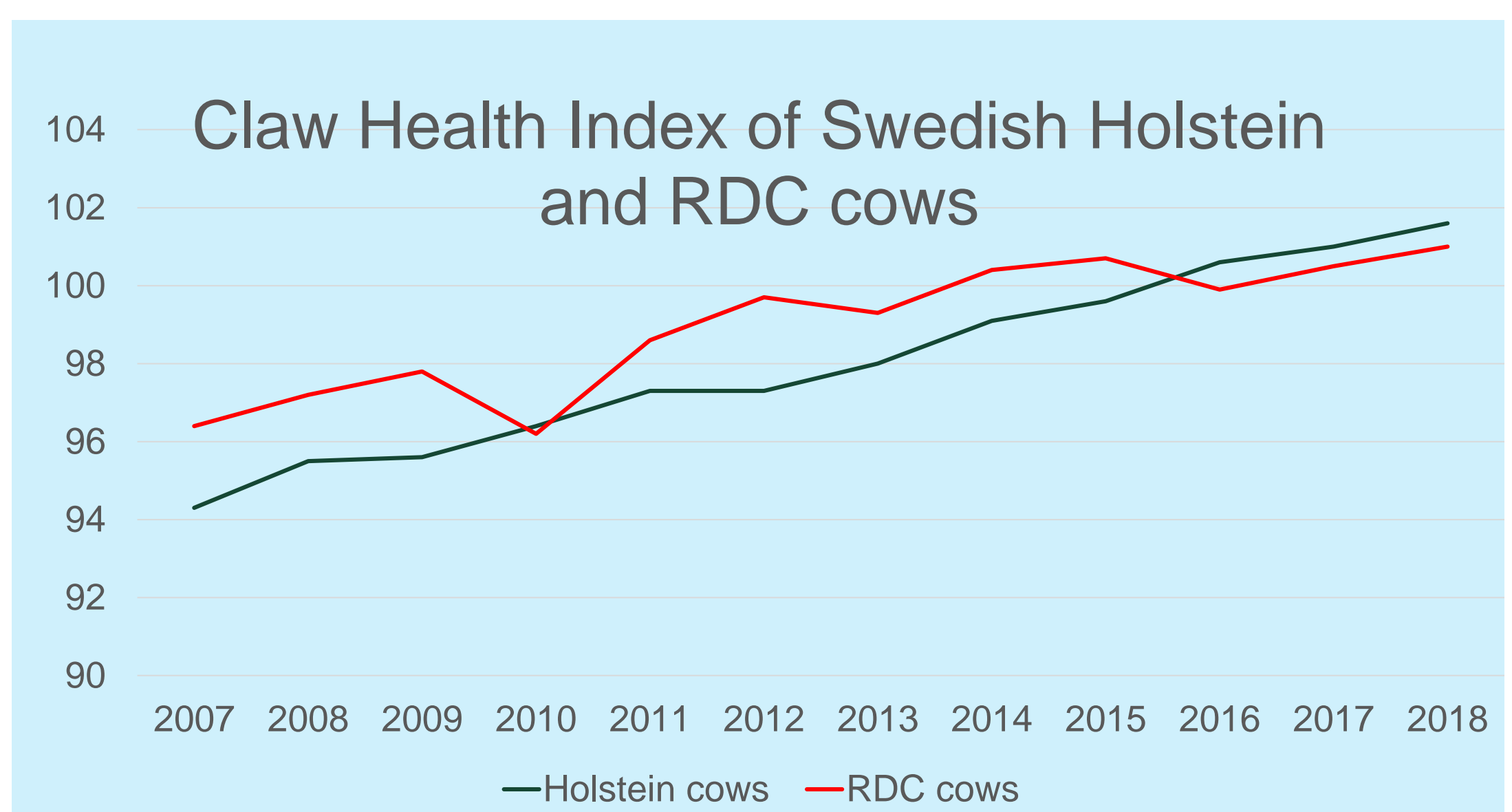
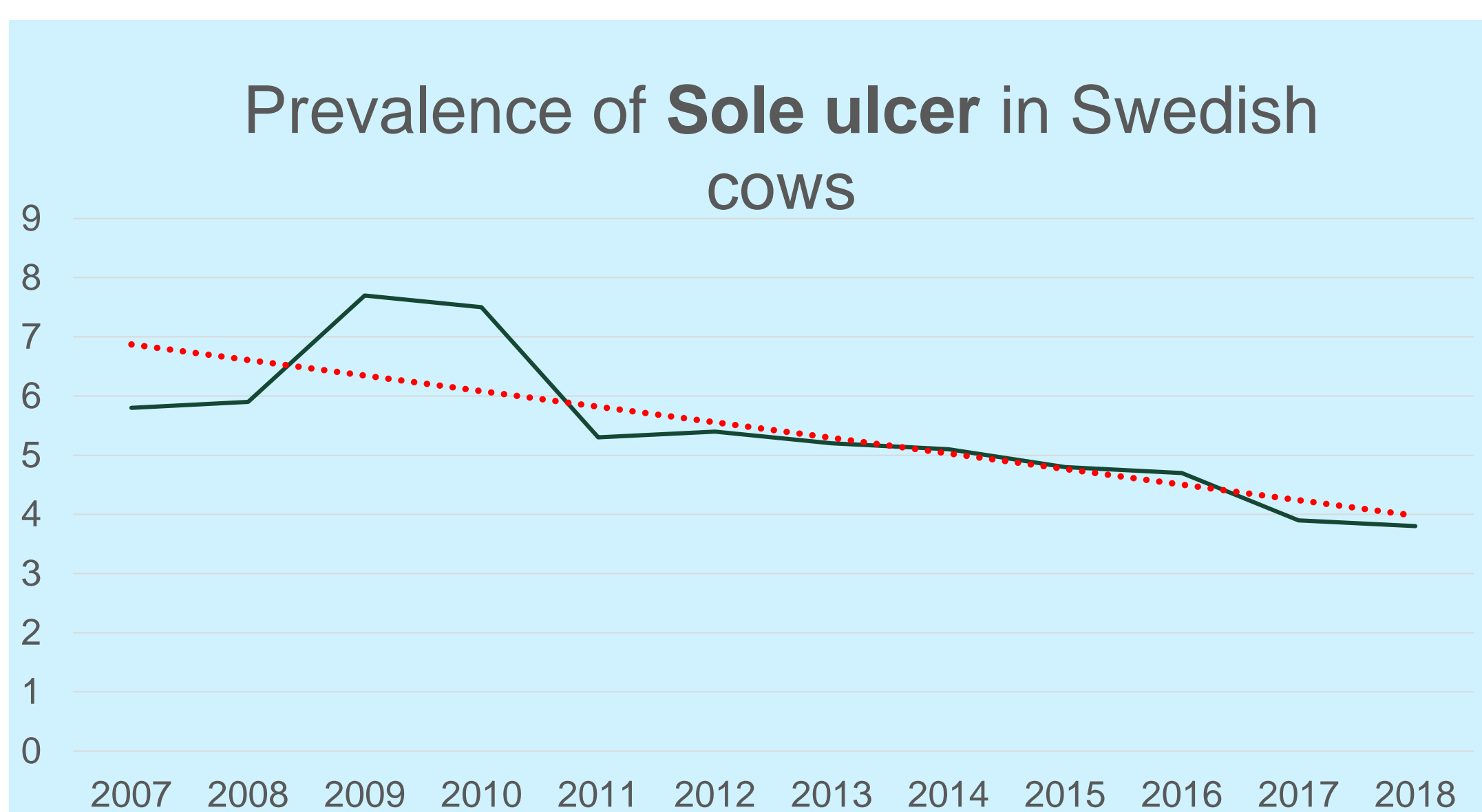
DATA

The proportion of cows with different claw disorders between 2007 and 2018 were retrieved from Växa Sverige. The number of recorded trimmings has increased and are presently nearly 500 000 per year. Breeding values on Swedish cows was calculated by the Nordic Cattle Genetic Evaluation (NAV) for cows born between 2007 and 2018.

RESULTS



Prevalence of Swedish claw records	Annual trend, % 2007-2018
Sole ulcer	- 0,3
Sole hemorrhage	- 0,7
Heel horn erosion	- 0,9
Digital & interdigital dermatitis	0,2
Cows without claw disorders	0,7



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