

# Artificial intelligence for measuring the respiration rate in dairy cows

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Landwehr, T. Amon, G. Hoffmann

# Why do we record the respiration rate in cows ?

- Respiration rate (RR) = Very sensitive parameter for heat stress, pain and diseases
- Suitable animal welfare indicator
- Counting of flank movements through observation → Laborious and time-consuming
- Objective: Automatic and less biased RR Recording

Approach 1: Analysing the flank movement of the cow



Source: ATB, 2019

Veterinary Research Communications  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11259-022-09984-7>

## RESEARCH

### How should the respiration rate be counted in cattle?

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KAMI  
(07/2021- 06/2024)

With support from



Project manager



by decision of the  
German Bundestag

## Artificial intelligence for recording of respiration in dairy cows

● Infrared camera

● Depth camera



Source ATB, 2020



LEIBNIZ  
INNOHOF



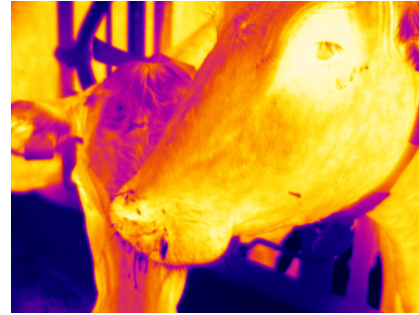
# Infrared Thermography (IRT)

## Fundamental principle:

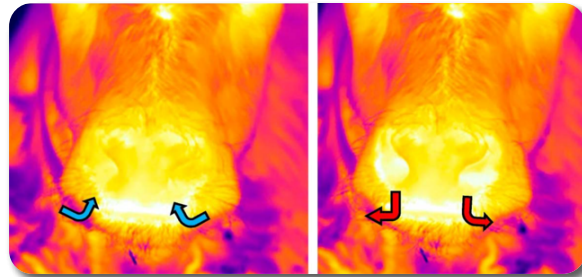
Measuring the temperature of the airflow through the nostrils

- cold air flows in
- warm air flows out

→ Temperature difference is shown by color change on thermal images

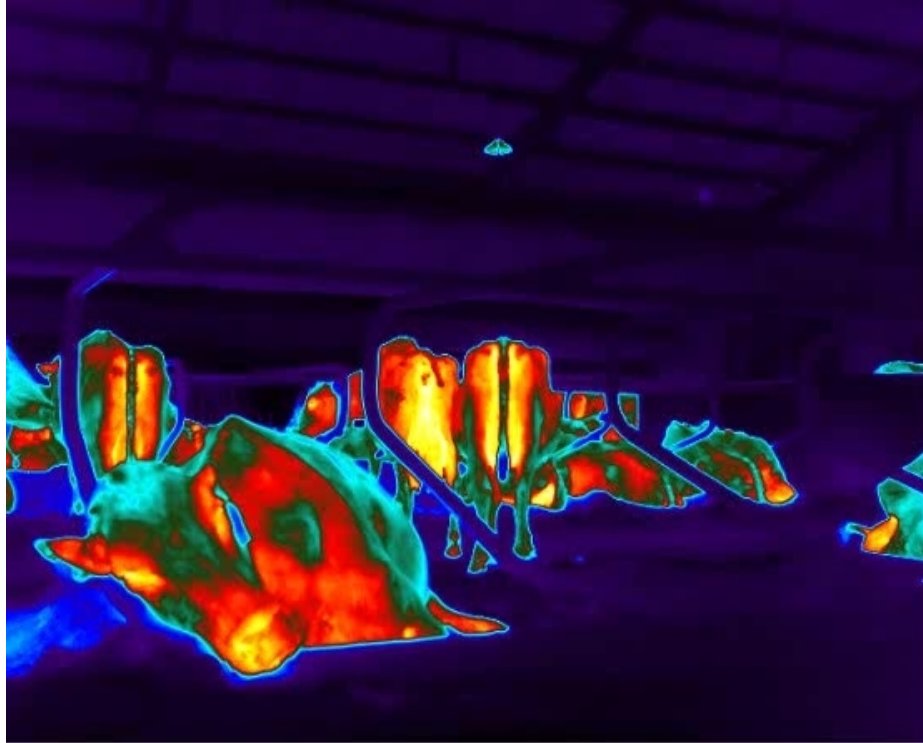


Dißmann, ATB 2022



Lowe et al., 2019

# IRT Recording



Source: ATB 2022

# Previous Studies



Article

## Infrared Thermography—A Non-Invasive Method of Measuring Respiration Rate in Calves

Gemma Lowe <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Mhairi Sutherland <sup>3</sup>, Joe Waas <sup>2</sup>, Allan Schaefer <sup>4</sup>, Neil Cox <sup>5</sup> and Mairi Stewart <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> School of Science, The University of Waikato, Hamilton 3216, New Zealand  
<sup>3</sup> AgResearch Ltd., Ruakura Research Centre, Hamilton 3214, New Zealand  
<sup>4</sup> Animal Inframetrics, Box 5451, Lacombe, AB, T4L 1X2, Canada  
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Received: 16 May 2019; Accepted: 3 August 2019; Published: 7 August 2019



Article

## Breathing Pattern Analysis in Cattle Using Infrared Thermography and Computer Vision

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J. Dairy Sci. 100:3893–3901  
<https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2016-12055>  
© American Dairy Science Association®, 2017.

## The use of infrared thermography and accelerometers for remote monitoring of dairy cow health and welfare

M. Stewart,<sup>\*,1</sup> M. T. Wilson,<sup>\*</sup> A. L. Schaefer,<sup>†</sup> F. Huddart,<sup>‡</sup> and M. A. Sutherland<sup>‡</sup>  
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<sup>‡</sup>AgResearch Ltd., Private Bag 3123, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand

# IRT Camera



Source: Teledyne FLIR 2023

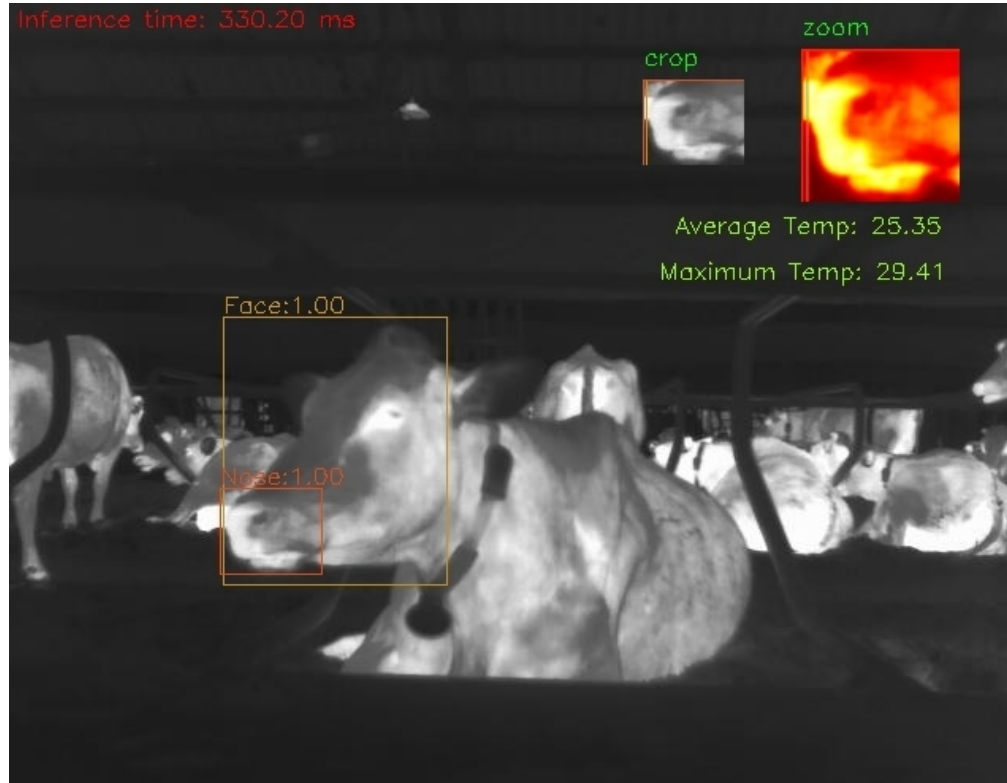
- FLIR A65
- Permanently installed



Source: ATB 2023



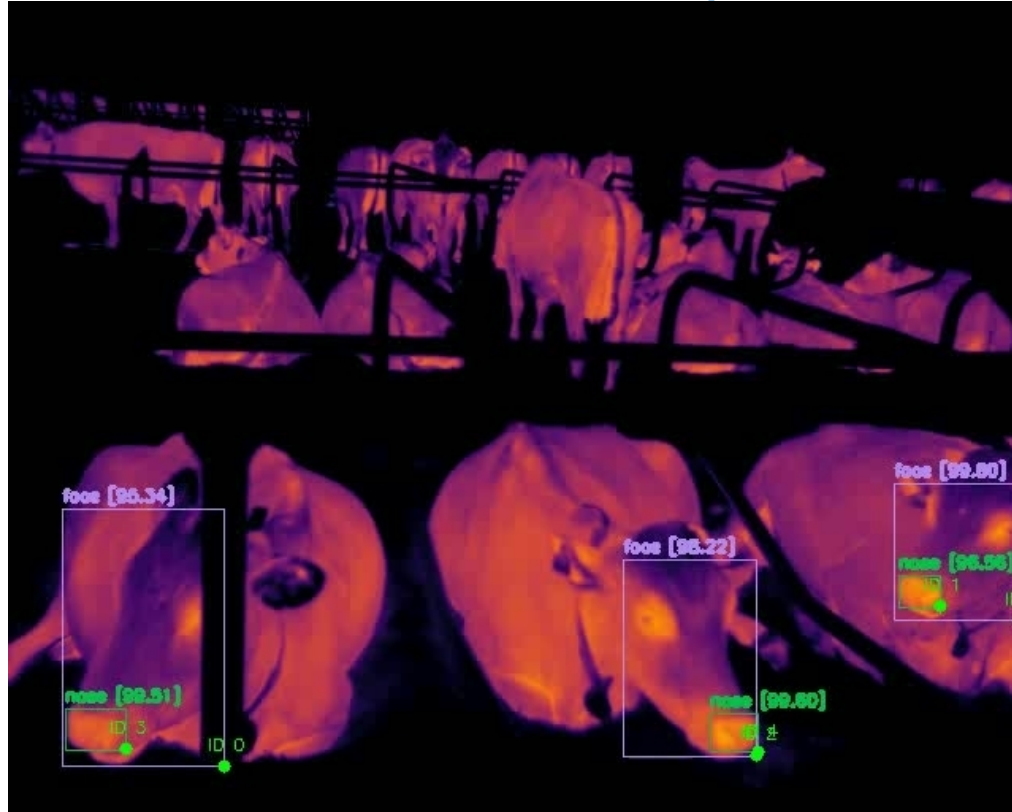
# Area of Interest (AOI) Detection



Source: ATB & Uni Hildesheim 2022

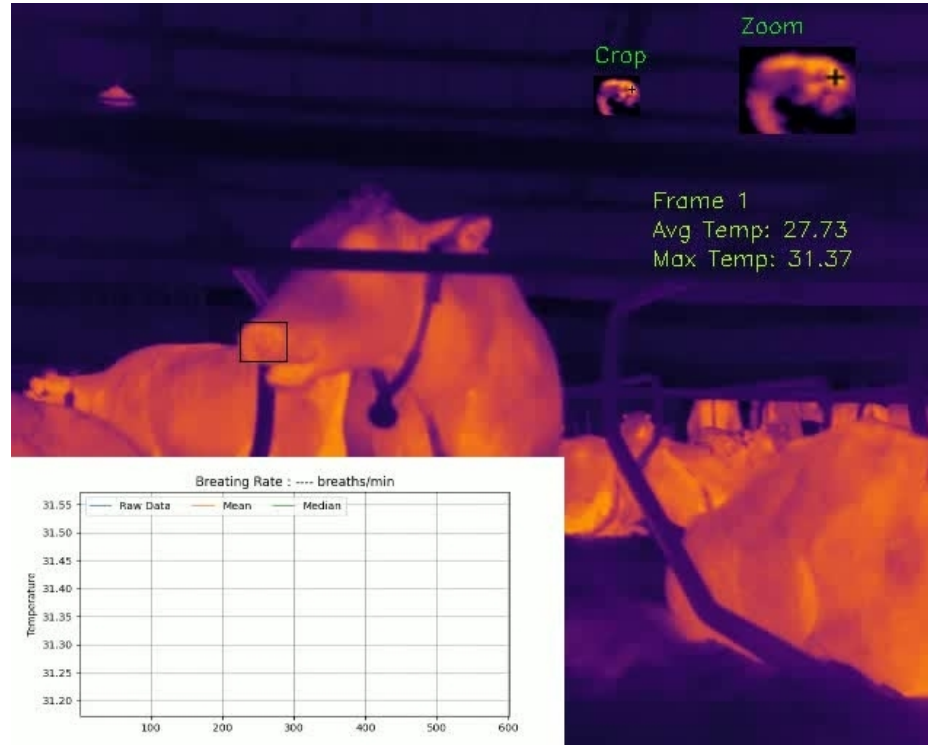


# AOI Detection of multiple cows



Source: ATB & University Hildesheim, 2023

# RR recording using IRT



Source: ATB & University Hildesheim, 2023

# Depth camera D455 IntelRealsense

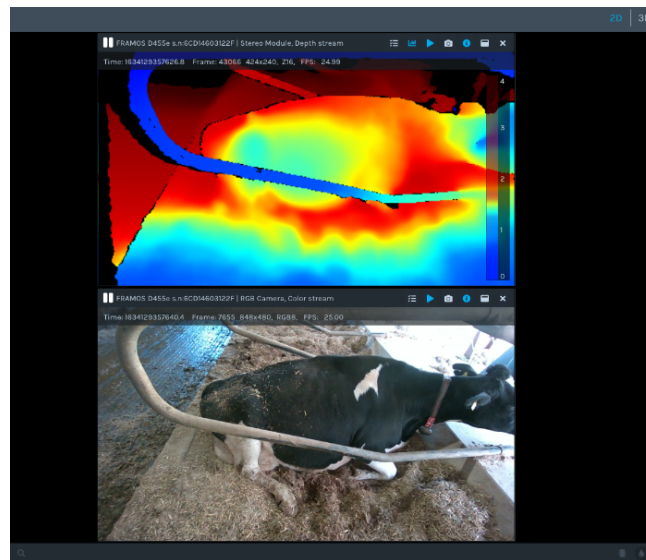


- Depth Resolution: 1280 x 720
- Distance 0,6 to 6 m

[Source; FRAMOS Depth Camera D455e \(camera only\) | FRAMOS](#)

## Fundamental principle:

Measuring the respiration rate in cattle by automatically counting the flank movement



Source: ATB 2022

# Previous studies

Proceedings of the ASME 2015 International Design Engineering Technical Conferences &  
Computers and Information in Engineering Conference  
IDETC/CIE 2015  
August 2-5, 2015, Boston, USA

DETC2015-46309

## NON-CONTACT MONITORING OF PRETERM INFANTS USING RGB-D CAMERA

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## **Hot topic: Automated assessment of reticulo-ruminal motility in dairy cows using 3-dimensional vision**

**X. Song,<sup>1,2\*</sup> P. P. J. van der Tol,<sup>1</sup> P. W. G. Groot Koerkamp,<sup>1</sup> and E. A. M. Bokkers<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>3</sup>Animal Production Systems Group, Wageningen University and Research, PO Box 338, Wageningen, 6700 AH, the Netherlands

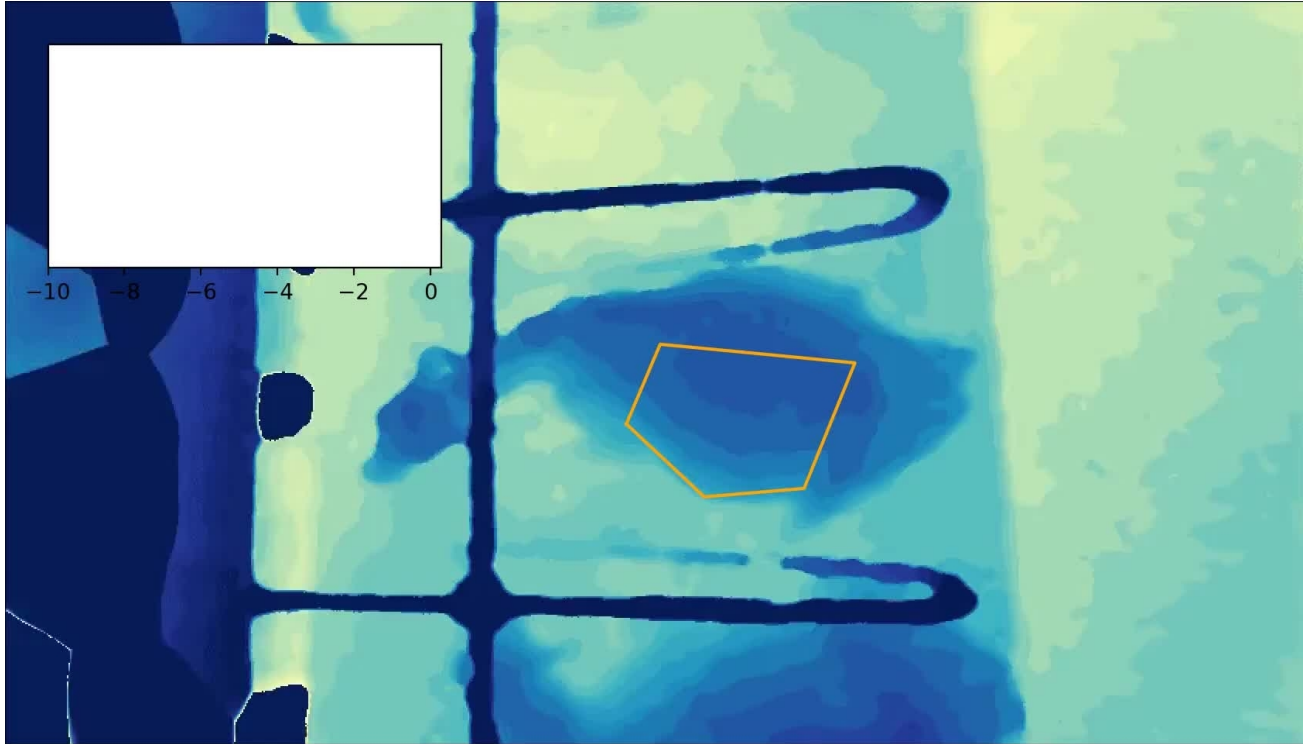
# AOI Detection

- Pose Estimation Model - SLEAP



Source: ATB 2022

# RR Recording Using Depth Images



Source: ATB & Dida, 2023, [Colormap reference — Matplotlib 3.7.2 documentation](#)



# RGB recording without modeling



Source: ATB & Dida 2023



# Recording of the RR using magnification



Oh et al. 2018

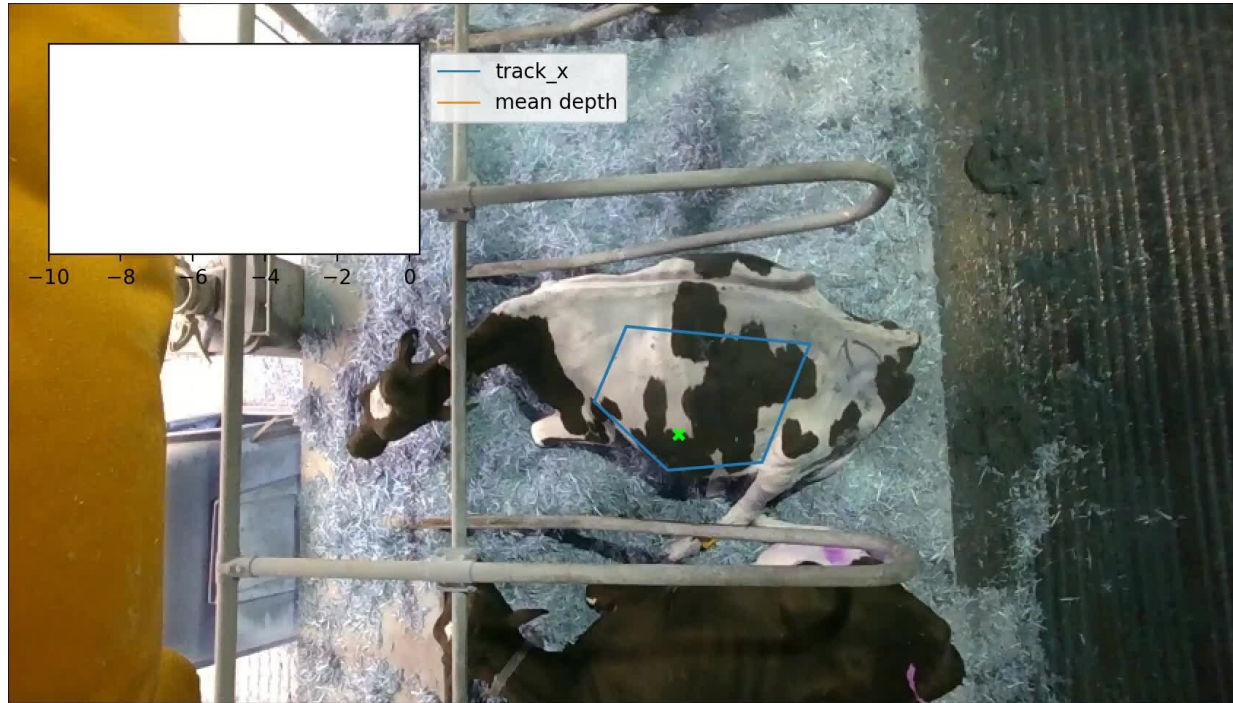
DOI: 10.1007/978-9-439-01225-0\_39 - Corpus ID: 4718360

## Learning-based Video Motion Magnification

Tae-Hwan Oh, Bonchaeal Jang, Chaoyi Kim, Mohamed A. Elgharib, F. Durand, W. Freeman W. Matusik, less  
Published in European Conference on... 8 April 2018 • Computer Science

**TLDR** This paper seeks to learn the filters directly from examples using deep convolutional neural networks, and shows that the learned filters achieve high-quality results on real videos, with less ringing artifacts and better noise characteristics than previous methods.

# Mean depth and Motion magnification tracking in comparison



Source: ATB & Dida 2023

# Conclusion

Camera Type	Infrared Camera	Depth Camera	
Image Type	Infrared thermography	Depth images	Magnified RGB images
Location	Outside	Inside	Inside
Place of Camera	In front of the lying cubicle	In the lying cubicle	Before the milking robot
Number of cows that can be recorded	Max 2-3	Max 1-2	1
Costs	>10,000 Euro	Approx. 1,100 Euro	
Challenges	Animal identification, record more cows with one camera per day		Identification of unicoloured cows

# Future Steps

- Evaluation of the 3 methods regarding their accuracy
- Animal Identification in the lying cubicle
- Automatic reporting of the RR in real-time
- Integration in herd management system

# Thanks for your attention! Questions?



With support from



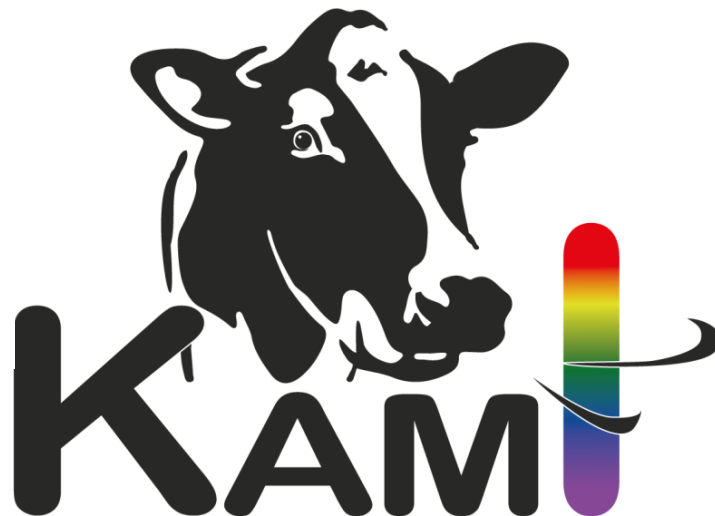
Federal Ministry  
of Food  
and Agriculture

by decision of the  
German Bundestag

Project manager



Federal Office  
for Agriculture and Food



[ldissmann@atb-potsdam.de](mailto:ldissmann@atb-potsdam.de)



LEIBNIZ  
INNOHOF

# Reference Method



- RR Sensor

Source: ATB 2020



J. Dairy Sci. 102:690–695  
<https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2018-14999>  
© American Dairy Science Association®, 2019.

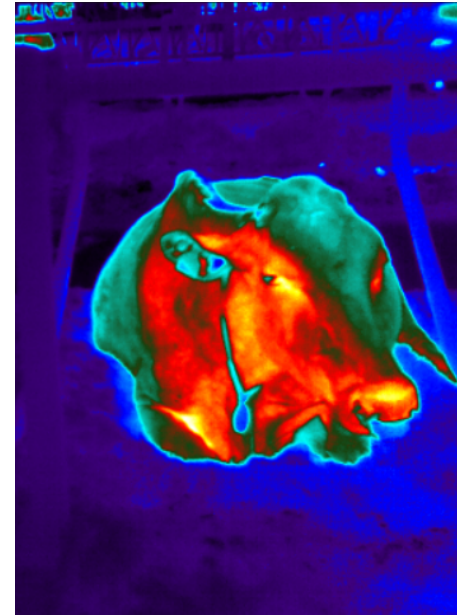
**Technical note: Development of a noninvasive  
respiration rate sensor for cattle**

S. Strutzke,<sup>1</sup> D. Fiske,<sup>1</sup> G. Hoffmann,<sup>1\*</sup> C. Ammon,<sup>1</sup> W. Heuwieser,<sup>2</sup> and T. Amon<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB), Department of Engineering for Livestock Management, Max-Eyth-Allee 100,  
14469 Potsdam, Germany

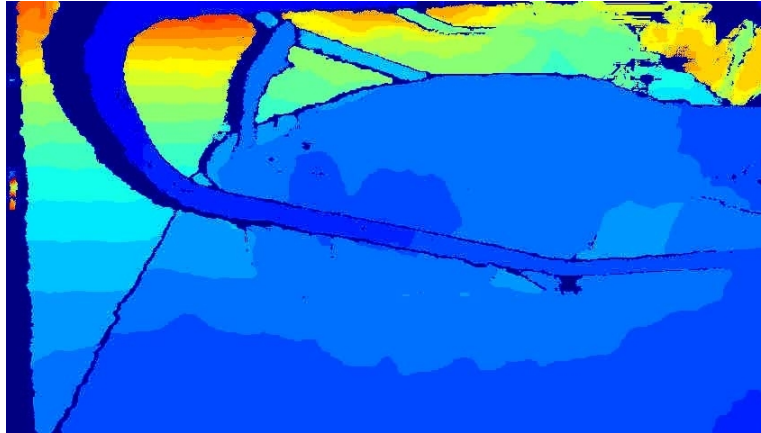
<sup>2</sup>Clinic of Animal Reproduction, and

<sup>3</sup>Institute of Animal Hygiene and Environmental Health, Department of Veterinary Medicine, Freie Universität Berlin, 14163 Berlin, Germany



Source: ATB 2023

# Recording of RR





# Area of Interest Detection \_SLEAP



# Video daten Rec 24 bunt

