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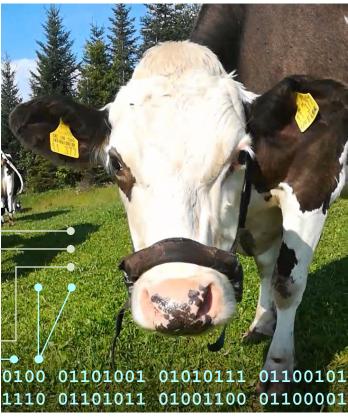


MINISTRY OF FOOD, RURAL AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

















## Possibilities and prerequisites for digital-technical systems in horse husbandry

Linda Thurid Speidel 75<sup>th</sup> EAAP Annual Meeting 1/5 September 2024 - Florence, Italy



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#### **Introduction**

Background

Horses are predominant livestock animals in many German metropolitan regions

Most of work
processes
associated with
horses are carried
out manually

Research approach

Digitalisation and mechanisation promise far-reaching changes on animal farms

lack of research into digitalisation and mechanisation on horse farms

Research questions

Which digitaltechnical applications currently exist on horse farms?

Which prerequisites are required for establishing the systems?



#### **Material and Methods**

## **Expert interviews and practical observations**

- Various digital technical systems
- Different horse farms

#### **Online Survey**

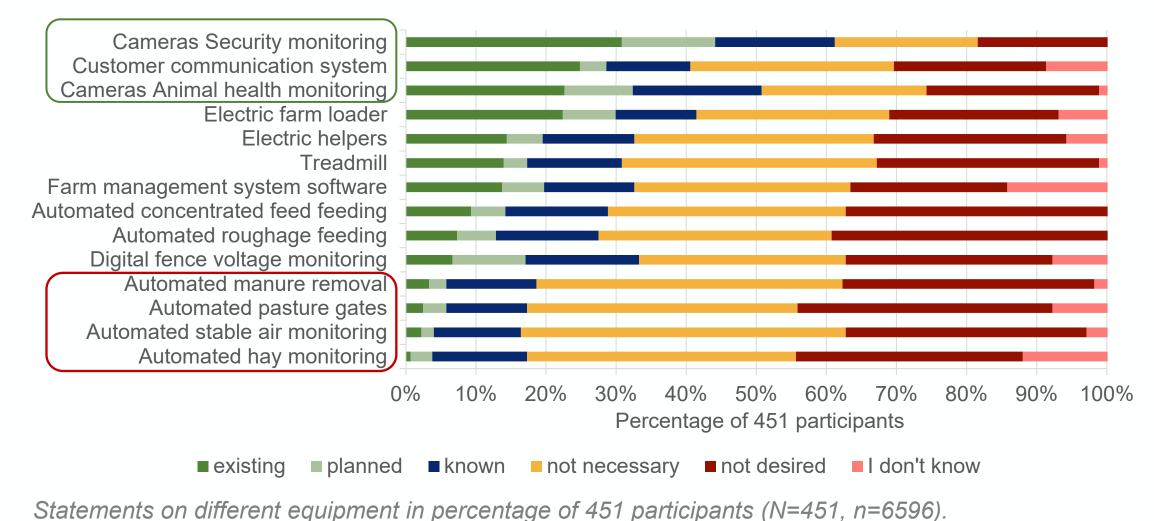
- With 451
   stakeholders on horse
   farms in Germany via
   Google Forms
- Managers, employees and customers

#### **Analyses**

- Excel, R-Studio and SPSS
  - Frequency distributions (chisquare test)
  - Mean comparisons (Welch-Anova)
  - Correlations
    (Spearman rank correlation)



### **Results – Existing Systems on horse farms in Germany**



Data basis: Own evaluations of the data set on the status of digitalisation on German horse farms, 2022

5



# Results - Prerequisites for digital-technical Systems on horse farms



**Prerequisites** 



Use of digital technology

 e.g. cameras, automated feeding, software for communication and management

- ✓ The type of housing (group or individual)
- ✓ internet connection
- √ willingness of farm managers to invest

- more frequently on horse farms with a reliable internet connection
- ➤ and with a division of horse husbandry into functional areas.



## **Discussion – Digital-Systems on horse farms**



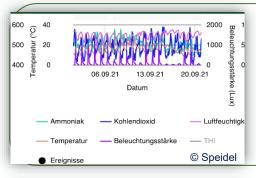
Camera surveillance with artificial intelligence

Animal control, birth and health monitoring



Self-operating manure removal robot

- Saving labour and time
- Economic advantage



Digital stable air monitoring

- Monitoring
- Simplified management decisions



Time-controlled feeding for individual husbandry

- Saving labour and time
- > Optimisation of animal welfare



Digital monitoring of fence voltage

➤ Labour time savings



Feeding by transponder for group husbandry

- Saving labour and time
- Economic advantage



### **Conclusion**

Clear communication of benefits

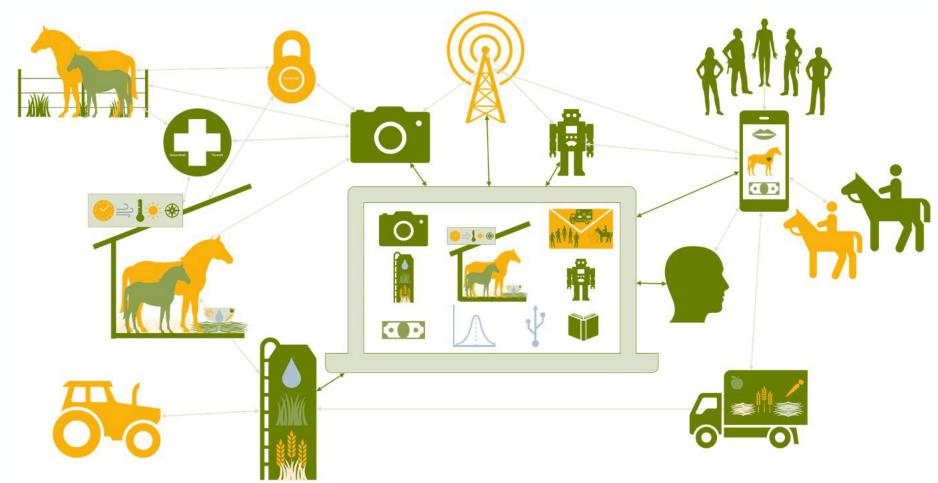
animal welfare and economic advantage

Review of appropriate use on an individual farm basis

fulfil the prerequisites and provide added value for the company



## **Future horse husbandry**



Interfaces on a horse farm © L.T. Speidel, 2020











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