



Improving claw health

Improving claw health

Introduction

- The hard beginning
- Target and expectations
- How we do
- Motivation and learning
- Keep focus
- Hard work pays off



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About us

In 2015....

- Me and my family
- Andekærgård
 - 180 cows – Crossbreed/Holstein
- Tiestall
- A lot of problems to solve
 - 250 bandages on 180 cows
- Help from a professional hooftrimmer
- 2 students



In 2020...

- Daily and weekly routines
- Andekærgård
 - 1200 Jersey (very few crossbreeds)
- New stables
 - Concrete floors
 - Welfare
 - Sand
 - Deep litter
- Do it ourselves
- 15 employees



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Where to begin?

- No registration AT ALL
- Bad health in hoofs – first visit from hooftrimmer
- Chronical cows
 - Toe necrosis
 - Digital dermatitis
 - High replacement rate
- Time is VITAL
- We had to do something by ourselves

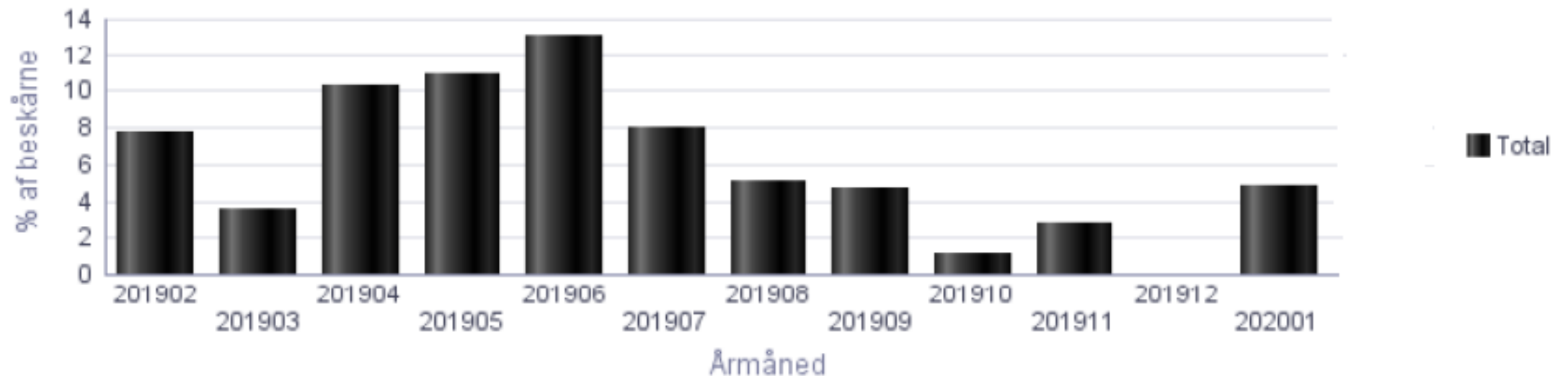


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Targets

- What is acceptable?
- Individual, depending on the herd
- Expanding the herd
- Explosion of heifers
 - > 5% of cows
 - > 3% of heifers

Digital Dermatitis



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Priorities

- Weekly schedule
- Prevent instead of repair
- Heifers
 - Clean hooves manually once a week
 - Hygiene
 - Water vs. products
 - Grazing heifers = strong hooves



- Cows
 - Detection every day – Focus!
 - Wash by every milking
 - Routines, routines, routines
 - Trim before dry-off
 - Trim 90-100 DIM
 - >220 DIM
 - Bandage + bandage
- Easy, simple and "single"



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Motivation by learning

- "Never ending, - always learning"
- Weekly meetings with staff handling cows
- No broken things!
- Hygiene and keep it clean
- Visibility – Posters
- Education
- My expectations to the staff



A large, red, multi-pointed starburst graphic with a dark blue outline, centered on the slide. It contains the main text.

Do NOT lose focus

Routines are necessary to keep focus

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Hard work pays off

- Always!
- How to learn the language of a cow?
- Sh** happens...
 - Learn from it



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Why is it so important that we improve the claw health?

Costly affair to have lame cows

- Lost of production efficiency
 - ↓ feed intake, milk yield, fertility
 - ↑ risk of culling
- Treatment: Hooftrimming, shoes, bandages
- Time

Animal welfare

- Cows will not show pain → weakness

More fun to work with cows that are healthy and happy!

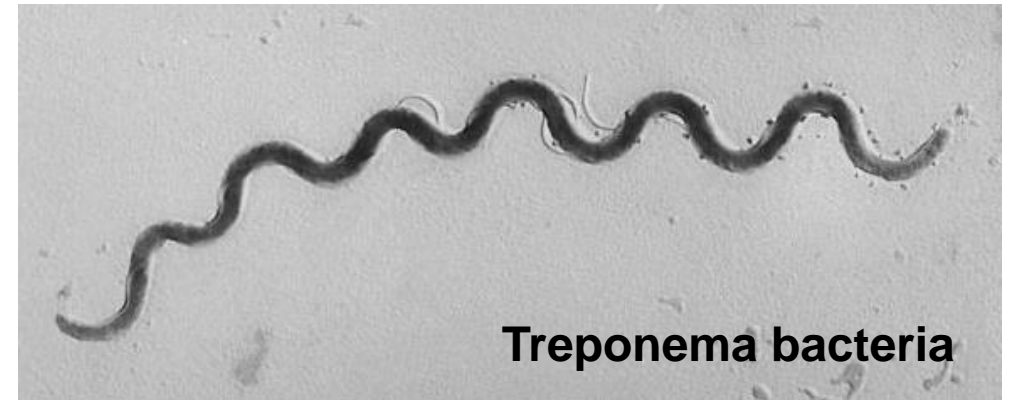


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What causes a lame cow?

Some kind of trauma in the hoof area

- Skin related lesions: Weakened skin → Bacteria's → Infection
→ Granulation tissue
- Horn related lesions: Weakened horn → Exposed corium → Bacteria's → infection



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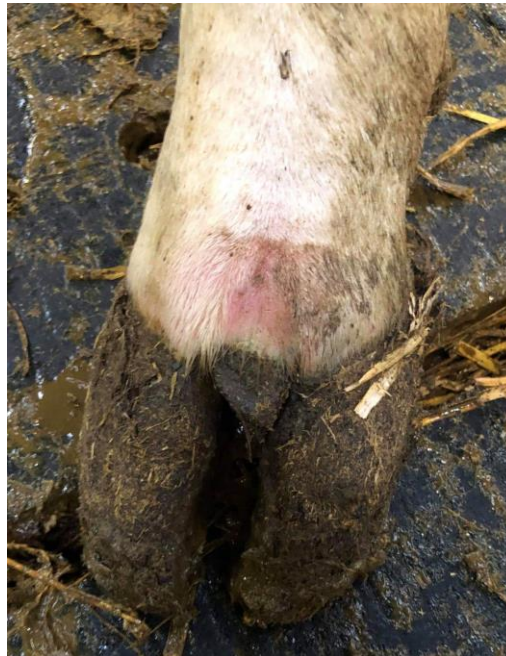
Common claw diseases that may lead to lameness:

Skin related:

Digital dermatitis (Digital)



Interdigital hyperplasia (Nydannelse)



Foot rot (Klovbrandbyld)



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Common claw diseases that may lead to lameness:

Horn related:

Sole ulcer (Sålesår)



**Abscess in the white line
(Byld i den hvide linje)**



Toe necrosis (Tånekrose)



Double sole (Dobbelt sål)



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The cost of having claw diseases:

An average Holstein herd with 200 cows

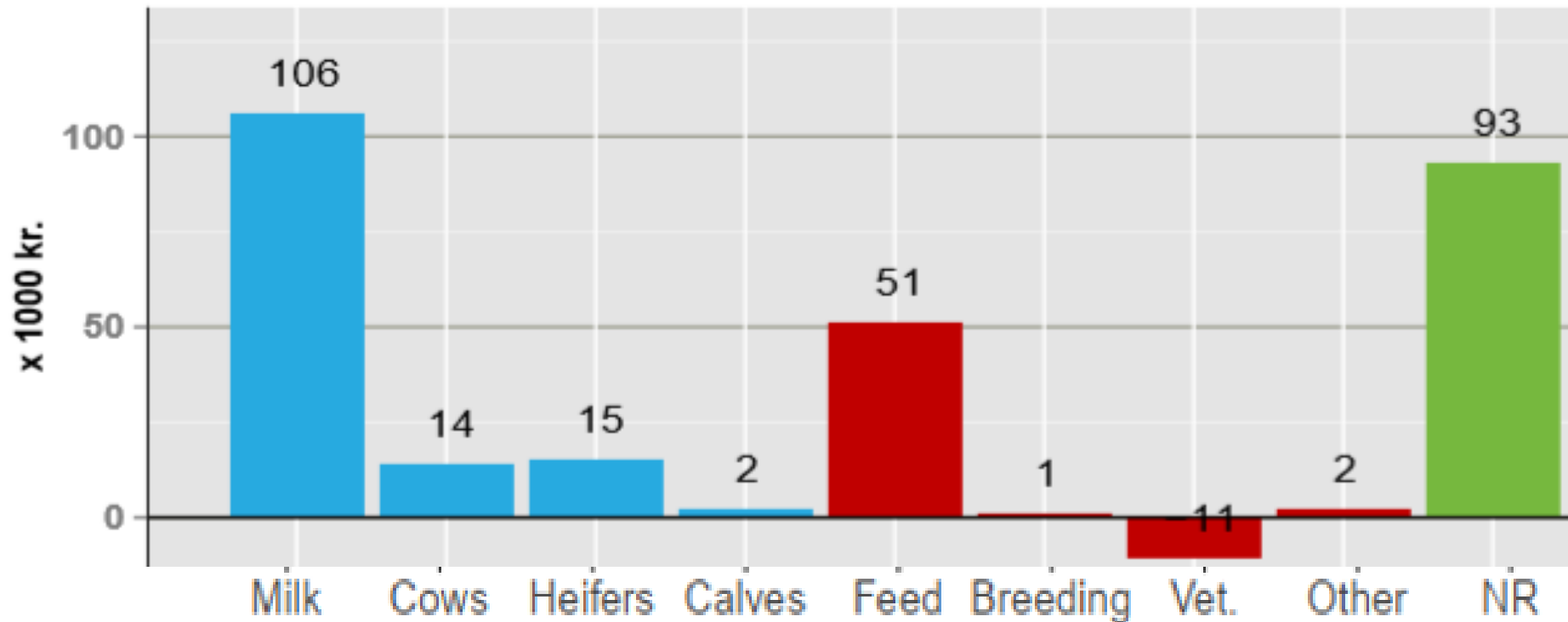
- EKM pr. Cow (365 days) = 11,000
- 39% culling rate

Claw diseases	Present production (Cases per 100 cows)	50% reduction	
		NR per cow	NR per year
Digital dermatitis	45	138 kr.	27.000 kr.
Horn related claw diseases*	30	439 kr.	93.000 kr.

* Sole ulcer, Abscess in the white line and Double sole

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The cost of having claw diseases:



Revenues

Expenses

NR

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How to detect lameness:

Pain sign

- Limping
- Lifting leg when standing

Indicators of lameness

- Walking speed & rhythm
- Stride length and foot placement
- Curved back
- Head position



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Severity of lameness

Normal walk

- Speed
- Back
- Head
- Placement of the hooves



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Severity of lameness

Mildly lame

- Speed
- Back
- Head
- Placement of the hooves



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Severity of lameness

Severely lame

- Speed
- Back
- Head
- Placement of the hooves



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Claw diseases – how they occur

Environmental impact

- Biosecurity
- Design of the stable
 - Loose screws
 - Slippery floor
 - Manure on the floor areas

Hooftrimming

Feeding

Health status



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How to improve the claw health

Treatment

- Cleaning the wound
- Bandages/shoes
- Recovery pens
- Painkillers
- Help from the hooftrimmer and veterinarian

(As soon as possible)!



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How to improve the claw health

Prevention of claw lesions

- Housing system
- Feeding
- Biosecurity
 - Intern/extern
- Heifers
- Hooftrimming
 - Drying off
- New routines
 - Washing the hooves/hoofbaths

More fun to work with cows that are healthy and happy!



Questions?

Thank you for participating

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