

## **RYK – Milkrecording**

RYK is the abbreviation of the Danish words for Registration and Milk recording. The organisation was founded in 2002 by a merge of 27 local recording associations. There are still 2 smaller organisations outside RYK, both operating in the northern part of Jutland. RYK is the responsible body to monitor also herds in those organisations.

RYK serves 2850 herds with an average of 185 cows. Outside RYK is 65 herds with an average of app. 185 cows.

RYK is a non-profit foundation owned by the national organisation of farmers, the Agricultural and Food Council, <http://www.agricultureandfood.dk/>.

Agriculture and Food has delegated the daily business to a board of 13 individuals, who runs the organisation in close cooperation with the management. 11 of those are dairy farmers, and 2 represents staff.

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Local elected users of RYK service | 8 |
| Agriculture and Food appoints      | 2 |
| Viking Denmark appoint             | 1 |
| Field technicians appoint          | 1 |
| Office staff appoint               | 1 |

### **Financials**

The annual turnover is approximately 120 mio. DKK (16 mio. €). The total amount is collected on the basis of monthly invoices to milk recorded herds and the service they demand.

RYK does not get any public or industry funding.

### **Milk recording, costs**

Basic service as 11 annual testdays and rental of equipment for method recording is app. DKK 150 (20 €) per cow and year. This includes analysis for fat, protein, BhB and somatic cells.

Additional services including manpower to assist at milkings, will be charged by the hour.

### **Equipment**

For service on the farms for milk recording and milksampling, we possess and rent out the following types of equipment:

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| TruTest Electronic Milk meter         | 3,500 |
| Lely Shuttle-B                        | 160   |
| DeLaval VMX Autosampler               | 120   |
| Handheld barcode scanners for samples | 100   |

### **Services**

The backbone is traditional recording service to milk producers 11 times a year. A minor part of herds (10%) has chosen to have only 6 annual test days.

### **Milk samples**

We produce 5,4 mio. milk samples every year for fat, protein, BhB and somatic cells. They are processed at Eurofins Lab in Brørup, in the southern part of Jutland, <http://www.eurofins.dk/eurofins-steins-og-agro-testing/kontakt/kontakt-maelk/>

Dairy farmers have chosen to order more analysis to 15 % of the samples, or app. 800,000:

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Johne's         | 500,000 |
| PCR (mastitis)  | 70,000  |
| Pregnancy check | 180,000 |
| Other           | 30,000  |

### **Data, datahandling and reporting**

All data is transferred to the national cattle database, also run by Agriculture and Food. All movements of animals plus calvings are reported by farmers through the web. Data from milk recording is handled and reported by technicians from RYK.

Data is dealt with according to ICAR Guidelines [www.icar.org](http://www.icar.org).

### **Database – National Cattle Database**

The National Cattle Database is owned and controlled by Agricultural and Food Council. First steps to create and establish a national database goes as far back as around 1960. From the start it was a joint venture between partners supporting dairy farmers:

- Milkrecording
- AI societies
- Herdbook
- Dairies
- Advisory services

Since then the database has expanded following development inside the cattle industry, and also when it comes to include more partners.

Today the database also includes:

- Administration of national animal ID (EU traceability and movement)
- Genomic data
- Breeding evaluation
- Data from abattoirs
- Animal health (treatments and reports from veterinarians)

On the basis of data provided by different sources, farmers and their advisors has access to a wide range of reports, analysis and benchmarking services. These options is for individual animals, groups within the herd and between herds and breeds.

**Certifications**

RYK is certified by ICAR in 2013.

**Staff**

RYK has a total staff of 63:

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Fieldtechnicians               | 45 |
| Regional offices               | 6  |
| Development and administration | 5  |
| Mechanical workshop            | 4  |
| Finance and management         | 3  |

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This document is produced by RYK, September 2016.