





Euroopa Maaelu Arengu Põllumajandusfond: Euroopa investeeringud maapiirkondadesse

Beef cattle welfare

Requirements and their assurance

Lena Stengärde Jannica Krafft







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Requirements and their assurance

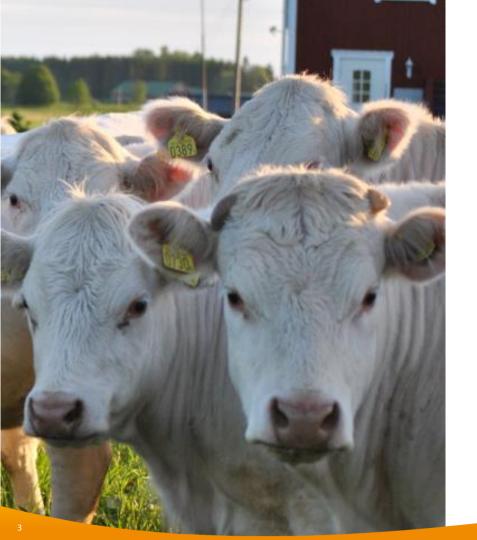
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Beef cattle welfare

Requirements and their assurance

- Beef production, biosecurity and welfare
- Herd management
- Calving, diseases and parasites









Swedish production





Swedish agriculture

- 40,7 million hectare
- 69% woodland
- 8% arable land
- 993 340 ha with grain
 - Winter wheat
 - Self sufficient in grain (carrots and sugar), average 50%
- 1 066 166 ha grass land (pasture and lay)
- Largest crop in Sweden
- 455 100 ha permanent grassland (natural grazing)
- 1 450 000 cattle
 - 296 543 dairy cows (19% organic)
 - 213 102 suckler cows
 - Dairy largest sector economically









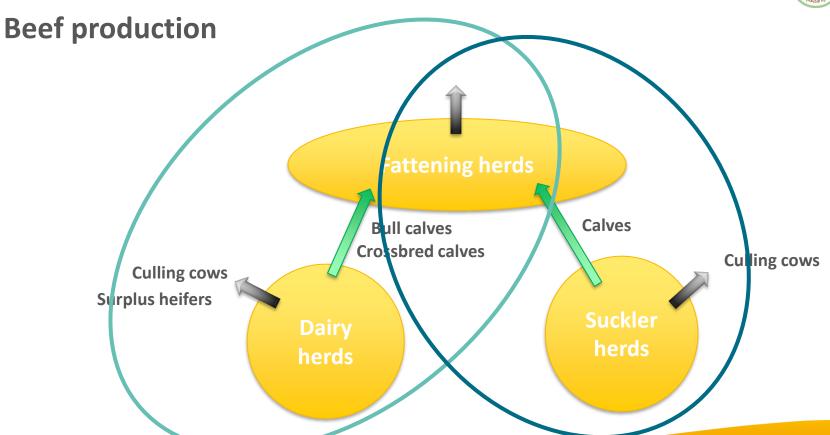
Fattening herds/meat production in Sweden

- A lot of the meat as a biproduct from dairy businesses (ca 60%)
 - Bull calves
 - Surplus heifers
 - Culling cows
- Suckler herds
 - Calves
 - Culling cows
- Raise all bulls
- Stay in Sweden
- Fully integrated herds both in dairy and beef breed herds
- Cows all over the country, largest herds in the south of Sweden.









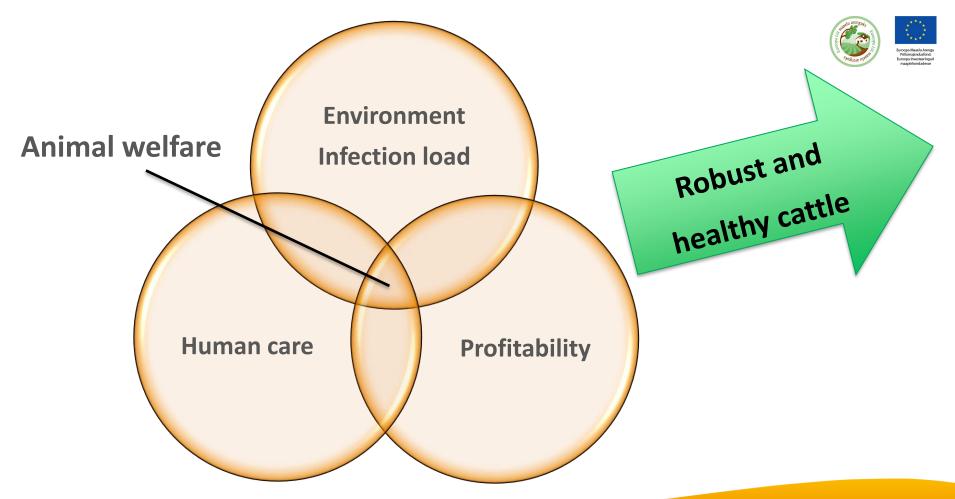


Suckler cows, herds

- 9900 herds
- Average herd size 21,5 cows
- 65 herds with more than 300 cows
- Main type of production requires about 100 calving's
- Breeding, meat or environment (via pasture)
- Breeds
 - Charolais, Hereford, Angus, Simmental, Limousin
 - Belgian blue, not allowed in Sweden













Outcome

&



Performance indicators

The

The animal







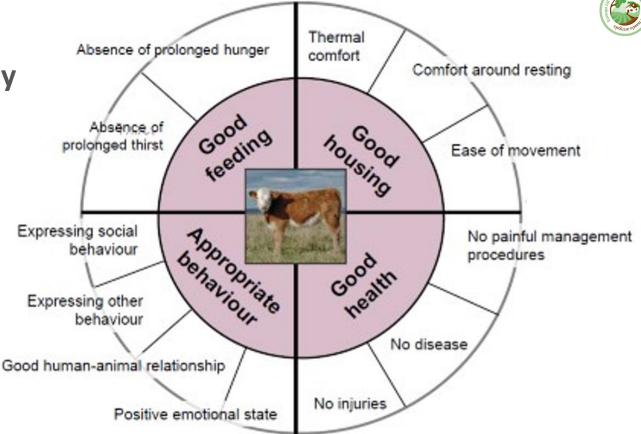








Cattle welfare Welfare quality









Control programs and biosecurity



Successful control programs

Polyman Media Euroopa M Polyman Euroopa M Polyman Euroopa M Polyman Euroopa M Polyman Maselidi

Bovine tuberculosis 1978

• Brucellosis 1950

• Salmonellosis Low prevalence 4 % dairy, rarely in suckler herds

• Enzootic leucosis 2001

BSE
 One case 2006, atypical BSE

• IBR 1998

Paratuberculosis (Johne's disease)
 2005 Import

• BVD <2011, officially free 2022

- Dairy herds: bulk milk, blood samples, autopsies
- Suckler herds: blood samples at slaughter, autopsies









Legislation





Factors for success – Examples





- Geography
- Restricted import no live animals to dairy farms
- Swedish Farmers Disease Control Program (SDS: agreement by the industry to test imported animals)
- CDB (Database for all cattle and movements)
- Effective logistics for sampling (Bulk milk and at slaughter houses)
- Collaboration and trust
- Research





Controls and voluntary programs

 Central 	Data	Base
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Animal welfare controls by official inspectors

Surveillance of certain diseases

Smittsäkrad besättning

Cattle held on pasture without built shelter

Bull breeding evaluation stations

· Health and function breeding bulls

Health certificates

Mandatory

Mandatory

Mandatory

Voluntary but legislation

Voluntary but legislation

Voluntary

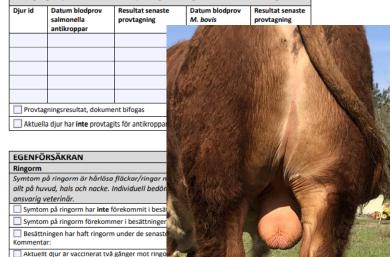
Voluntary

Voluntary

PROVTAGNING



Provtagningen syftar till att hindra smittspridning av allvarliga smittor mellan besättningar.



Invärtes parasiter

dosen minst 21 dagar före leverans.

Vaccinationsjournal där djurid, datum och prepi

Djur infekteras med lungmask eller stora leverflundran på bete. Om djuren inte har vistats på bete är risken liten för att de sko bära på smitta. Uppgift på slaktanmärkningar för det senaste året kan fås från det slakteri som djur har skickats till.

- Aktuella djur har aldrig varit på bete, gå vidare till punkt 5
- Symtom på lungmask eller stora leverflundran har **inte** förekommit i besättningen under desenaste 3 åren
- Lungmask misstänks eller har konstaterats i besättningen under de senaste 3 åren



Smittsäkrad besättning – a biosecurity program for cattle herds

- Launched in 2015
- Växa operates the program
- Aim: To reduce the spread of infectious diseases between and within cattle farms
- Voluntary
- State program Swedish board of Agriculture
- State funded and annual fees for farmers (100 EUR)









How to motivate the farmer

- Economic incentives
 - State economic compensation in case of Salmonella
 - Demands from insurance companies, banks (loans), other industry programs
- Different program steps (status)
- Relevant education
- Farmer-to-farmer communication, group pressure
- User-friendly systems









Affiliated herds



84 % of dairy cows and 58 % of dairy herds



22 % of beef cows and 8 % of beef cow herds







Smittsäkrad besättning

Extra education in biosecurity on farm

Veterinäry advisory visits Hygiene, biosecurity

Webbased course and self inspections



State financial compensation in case of Salmonella





Biosecurity risk assessment questionnaire

- Web based questionnaire regarding on biosecurity routines and facilities of the farm
- Divided into 7 areas
 - Animal contact, visitors/staff, transport/equipment, hygiene/health monitoring, feed, manure, surroundings
- Result after each section along with advice
- Results saved in the program
- Repeated every 18-24 months













www.smittsäkra.se

Smittspridning med människor



Smittspridning med människor





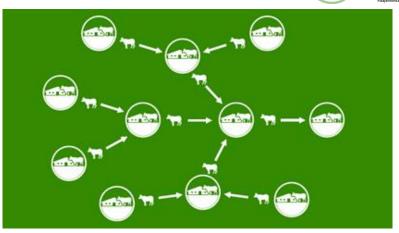




Other requirements



Veterinary biosecurity advice when rebuilding or constructing new buildings



Rules about contact between herds







Hygiene facilities for visitors





Besöksingång Smittsäkrad besättning

Kontakta oss innan du går in 📓



Smittsäkrad besättning

Välkommen till vår gård!

För att skydda djuren från smitta vill vi att alla besökare följer dessa rutiner:



ntakta _____ innan du går in



Tvätta och desinficera händerna före och efter besöket.



Använd i första hand gårdens egna skyddskläder och stövlar



Ta bara med dig väl rengjord utrustning.



Om du har varit i kontakt med djurbesättningar i utlandet, vänta 48 timmar innan du går in till våra djur (fem dygn om du har varit i ett land som har mul- och klövsjuka).

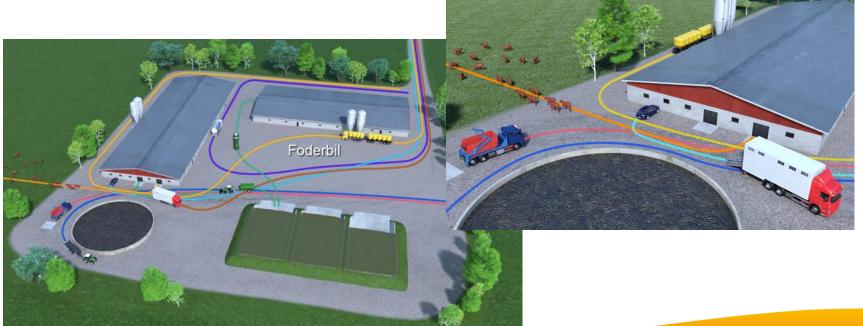
Vid organiserad besöksverksamhet gäller särskilda regler.







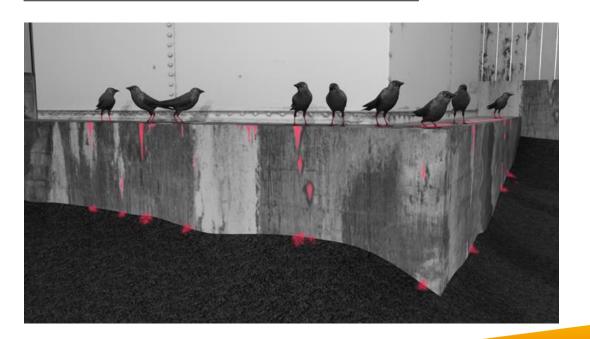
Internal/external traffic





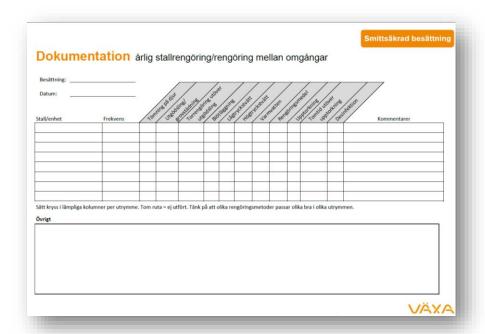


Feed storage hygiene





Cleaning routines



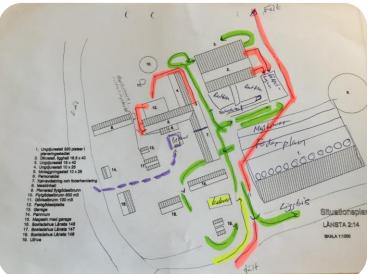


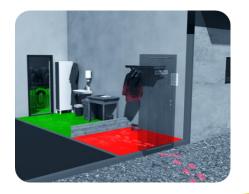


Veterinary visit - Advice

- Results of the risk assessment
- Results of the checkpoints







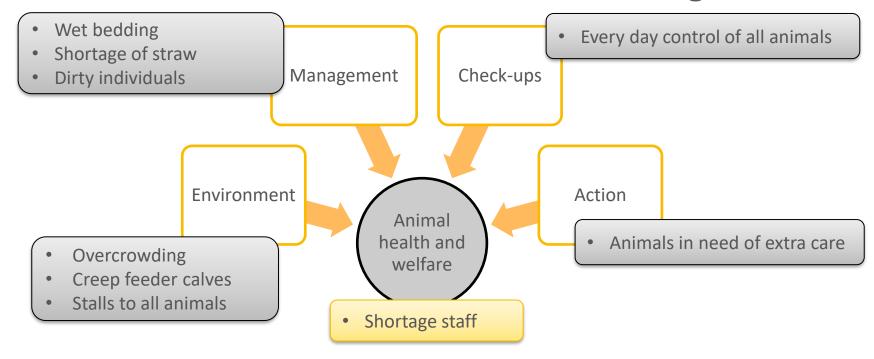








Official controls welfare, common shortcomings









Be prepared



Används stallar och boxar till den djurstorlek eller djurkategori som de är byggda för? Om inte kontrollera att måtten ändå unnfuller lagkraven Undvik onödiga anmärkningar (vxa.se)









All checkpoints ok

Animal holding ok

Voluntary

actions

The herd decides actions themselves

Commanding actions

The herd must improve

Sanctions

Fines
Prison
Ban of keeping
animals





Herd management









Suckler herd management, basics

- Herd animals
 - Eat, drink, rest together
 - Natural herd size 60- 80 animals
 - Sub groups with 10-12 animals
 - Find their place in 1-2 days
 - Sensitive to stress
 - Important to take into

consideration when planning

- Feeding place
- Placing and design of water troughs
- Cubicals, shelters

Lowest ranked animals sets the bar for the whole herd!

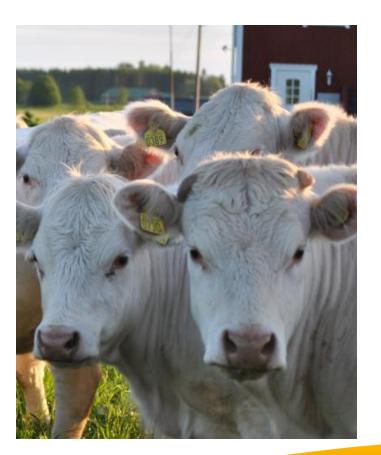






Success with suckler cows!

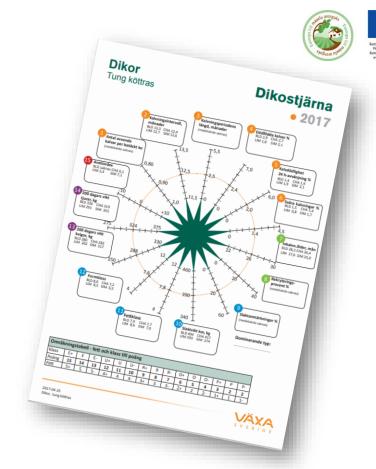
- Good fertility and long-lived
- Surviving calves in good health
- High daily weight gain in calves
- Low variable costs







- Weaned calves per covered cow
 - Fertility
 - Pregnancy
 - Calf mortality
- Calf weight at weaning
- Lenght of calving period
- Calving interval
- Replacement rate
- Variable costs (housing, man hours)









KAP Breeding

K (Beef), A (Breeding), P (Production)

- Purebred herds
- Regular weighing
 - Birth, 200 days (weaning), 1 year
- Conformation
- Base for breeding
- Statistics

4 important breeding values

- FIX Easy Calving
- MIX Maternal traits
- PIX Production traits
- AIX Breeding value, An economical value of FIX, MIX and PIX together









Sire breed

Crossbreeding gives a heterosis effect

The land of the farm, type of feeding, and destination for the offspring should determine what breed is chosen



Lighter breeds suitable for pasture based systems







Slaughter and follow-up

- Results from abattoir
- Directly to farmer
- Processed in some management tools
 - Key numbers
 - Heifer calving age
 - Replacement %
 - Slaughter planning etc.









Slaughter and follow-up

- Weight, fat, class
- EUROP-system
- Age
- Daily weight gain
- Payment
- Goals

Grad av marmore	ering	Е	U	R+	R	R-	0+	0	0-	P+	Р	
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	250 - 274,9	4600	4550	4500	4475	4450	4395	4350	4325	4100	3495	
	225 - 249,9	3250	3200	3150	3125	3100	3075	3050	3025	2950	2550	
	200 - 224,9	2950	2900	2850	2825	2800	2775	2750	2725	2650	2250	
	- 199,9	2550	2500	2450	2425	2400	2375	2350	2325	2250	1850	
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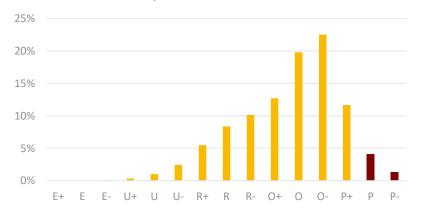


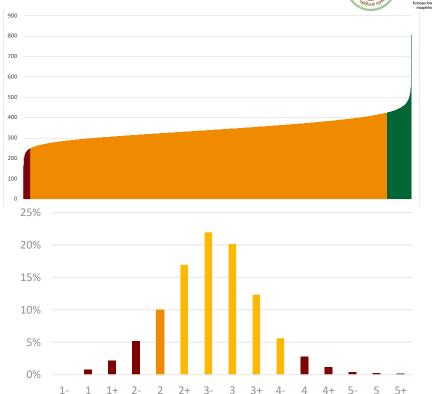




Slaughter and follow-up

- Weight most important
- Fat and class
 - Sex
 - Breed
 - Maturity











Slaughter and follow-up, remarks

Inspection

- Before and after slaughter
- Food security
- Results in remarks noted

Interpretation

- Frequency
- Which ones?
- Prevention?
- Mechanical injury
- Liver damage parasites, abscesses
- Lung/heart-decease











Suckler herd management, basics

Larger, heavier breed with good milk production requires good pasture in the summer and more feed in winter

Smaller and tougher breeds suits less fertile lands and requires less feed in the winter

The more even a herd is, the easier it is to manage the feeding







Cow-calf operations in general

- Calves
 - Sold at weaning, 5-7 months
- 150 abattoirs, 8 have 90% of the market
- Transports
 - Maximum 8 h (legislation)
 - Permit and training required
- Animal sales
 - Between farms
 - Via personnel from abattoirs







- Pasture based
- Spring calving
- Housing















- Bedding
- Cubicles
- Separate resting place for calves is required by law

















Suckler herds, housing

- Shelter
 - Stationary
 - Movable











Suckler herds, housing

- Ranch
 - Withouth built shelter









In the winter...

- Feed requirements slightly increased
 - Wind
 - Water
 - Body condition
- Lactating cows and fattening animals needs rarely affected



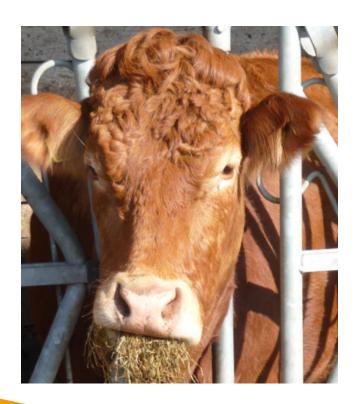








Sorting the cows



- Control the feed intake
- Older animals, good condition (80 % of requirements)
- After first lactation, cows with twins, lower condition scores (100% of requirements)
- Pregnant heifers







Suckler cows - Nutritional needs

- Body condition
- Size
- Age
- Pregnancy
- Breed milk production
- Climate





(BCS 1-3)

Mycket mager, skelettstrukturen syns tydligt, samtliga revbenen synliga, svag lärmuskulatur, ländkotornas tornutskott syns tydligt





Klass 2 – Mager (BCS 4)

Mager, men de framre revbenen är ej synliga, ländkotornas tomutskott kan kännas med handen, inget fett i dröglappen.



Klass 3 – Bra hull vid kalvning (BCS 5-6)

Normalhull, ländkotornas sidoutskott ej synliga, antydan till fettinlagring i svansgropen, inga revben synliga.



Klass 4 -

(BCS 7)

Höttbenen något synliga, fettknutor vid svansgropen, ländkotornas tornutskott kan endast känna vid kraftligt tryck. Tydlig fettinlagring i dröglappen.



Klass 5 -

(BCS 8-9)

Extremt fet, skelettstrukturen svår att identifiera, rörligheten kan vara nedsatt.







Heifers

- At first calving, 24 months old, daily weight gain should be 600-900 g/day
- Should weigh about 80% of adult weight at calving
- After calving a daily weight gain of 200-400 g/day is optimal
- Free access to forage containing about 10,5 MJ/kg DM







Feeding suckler cows

- Mainly forage and pasture
 - A lot of calcium
 - Need phosphorus and trace elements
- Selenium important
- Selenium and vitamin E before calving









Before calving

- More than half of the foetal growth the last month
- Not enough nutrients the last month
 - → weak calves
 - → decreased milk production
 - → fertility problems



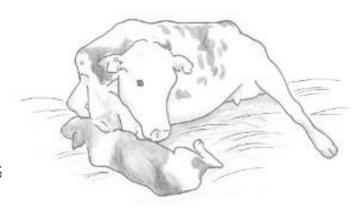






Calving

- Space
- Separate from other cows
- Cleanliness/hygiene
- Safe to assist
- Easy to keep an eye on the cows before, during & after calving
- Check-ups often
- Check new born calf including suckler reflex
- Make sure the calf gets colostrum











Weak newborn calves

- Suckling reflex?
- Colostrum
- Extra heat and management
- Stillborn calves 2,5 %
- Calf mortality day 1 to weaning 1,4 %

Colostrum intake within 4 hours

Calving	Strong suckling reflex	Weak suckling reflex
No help	8 %	78 %
Some help	26 %	94 %
Lots of help	49 %	98 %

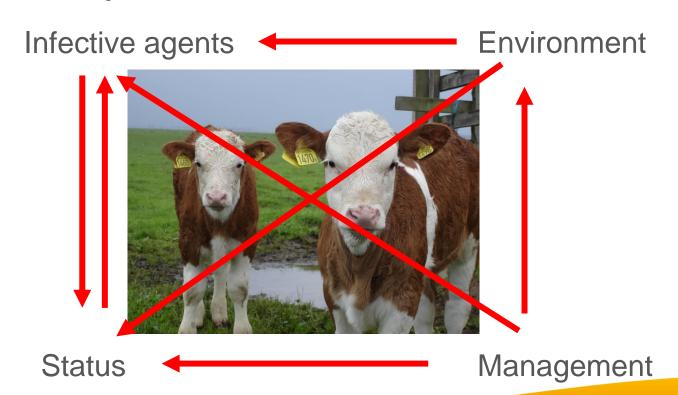
Elisabeth Homerosky et al. 2017







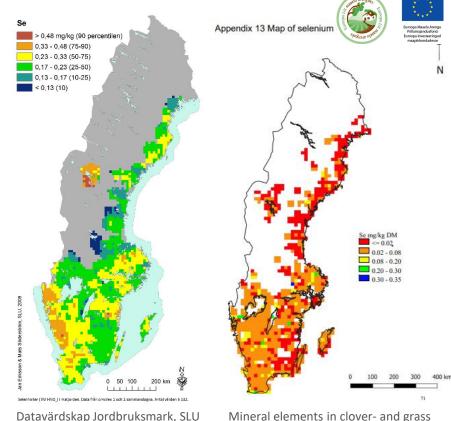
Robust calves stay healthier





Selenium deficiency

- · Low selenium in ground
- Non-organic- Selenite and Selenate
- Organic- Seleniumyeast, selenomethionine
- Continuous intake in feed
- Small body reserves
- Selenium in uterus, calf reserves first 30-60 d
- Key times for selenium (STRESS)
 - To the cow before calving
 - To calves before stress
 - To bulls and cows before breeding



Mineral elements in clover- and grass forage in Sweden Kajsa Lätt, SLU, 2019

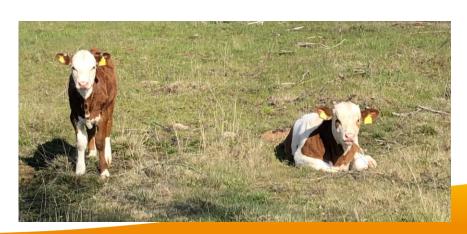






Symptoms

- Diffuse, a herd health problem
- Congenital- around calving
- Stillbirths
- Classic white muscle disease recumbent calves, alert, eats, no fever
- Most commonly 4-6 weeks old, fast-growing calves
- Gait abnormalities
- Brown urine (myoglobin)
- Decreased growth rate
- Decreased immunity
 - Disease
- Lower fertility









Multifactorial

Axcess

Needs

Stress

- **r** Feed
 - Mineral feed
 - Group size and feeding
- Growth rate
 - Grazing
 - Regrouping
- Transport
 - Other disease
 - Heat and cold stress







Biosecurity, spread of disease

- Animal to animal (nose to nose)
- Manure to animal
- Airborne spread within farm or in stall OR between farms
- Surroundings to animal
- Equipment to animal
- Feed to animal
- Human to animal OR Animal to human zoonosis

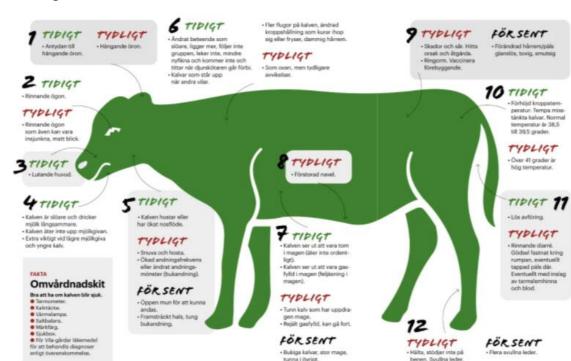






Find calves in need early

- Body posture
- Feed intake
- Dehydration
- Head tilt
- Joints
- Diarrhoea
- Nasal discharge
- Coughs
- Eyes









Calf check

- Both in distance and hands on
- Faeces?
- Nasal discharge or coughing?
- Swollen?
- Lameness?
- Navel ok?
- Body temperature? 38,5-39,5°C
- Dehydration? Skin turgor?







- Rotavirus
- Coronavirus

Cryptosporidium Parasite

Eimeria Parasite

E. Coli Bacteria

Salmonella Bacteria





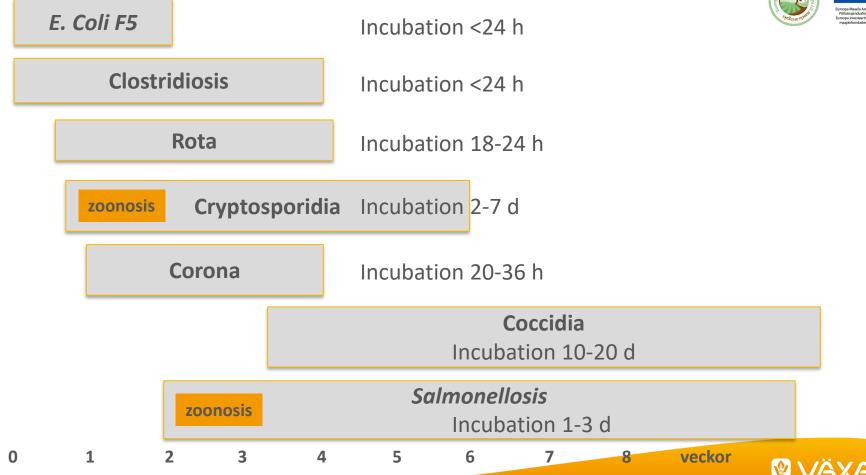






Infectious agents diarrhoea









Treatment diarrhoea

- Water, electrolytes and milk to calves with diarrhoea and suckling reflex
- Calf standing or in upright position, if flat on side veterinarian
- Rule of thumb a total of 15 % of body weight 2-3 times per day
- Antibiotics Rarely
- Coccidia treatment Sometimes
- NSAID Makes the calf feel better









Pneumonia PEACE AND QUIET

- Isolate sick calves
- Nice and cosy, no draught
- Keep warm
 - Calf jacket
 - Heat lamp
 - Plenty of straw
- Help the calf to get feed
 - If dehydrated, electrolytes and water





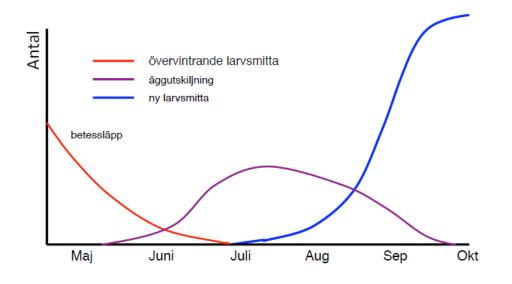
Treatment respiratory disease

- Early treatment
- Penicillin
- NSAID
- Cull if necessary





Gastrointestinal parasites, life cycle



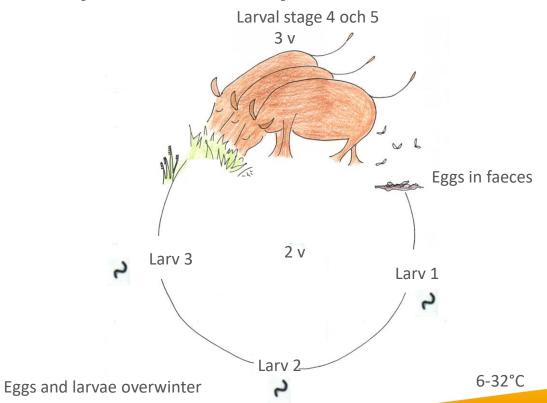
- Temperature
- Rainfall
- Sunshine
- Snow
- Vegetation
- Mechanical intervention
- Other micro organisms







Gastrointestinal parasites, life cycle

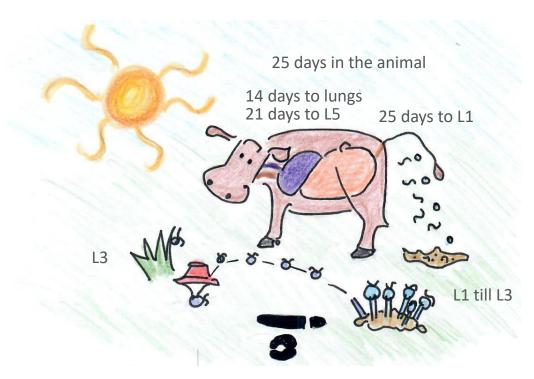








Lung worm (Dictyocaulus viviparus)

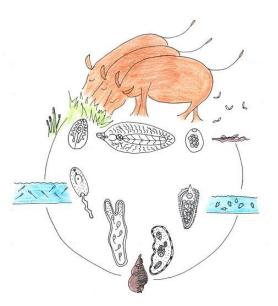








- Liver damages
- Decreased milk production
- Decreased live weights/emaciation
- Fever
- All ruminants
- Alla ages
- Deaths









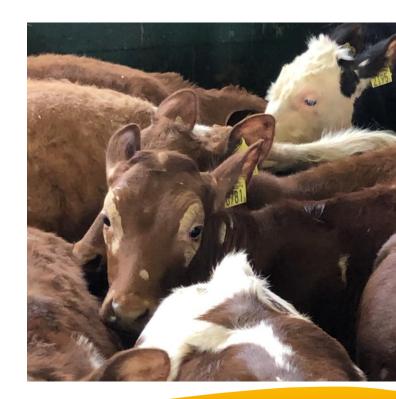






Ringworm a zoonosis

- Trichophytes
- Stays in the environment for a long time
- Immune suppression sensitive calves!
- Treatment varies
- Less symptoms outdoors
- Vaccination available







- Not so common in Sweden
- Different bacteria, Moraxella spp.
- Usually a vector- flies most common
- Treat early with antibiotics to reduce risk of spread by vectors
- Always treat both eyes on affected animals
- Prophylactic treatment to reduce amount of flies
- Painful











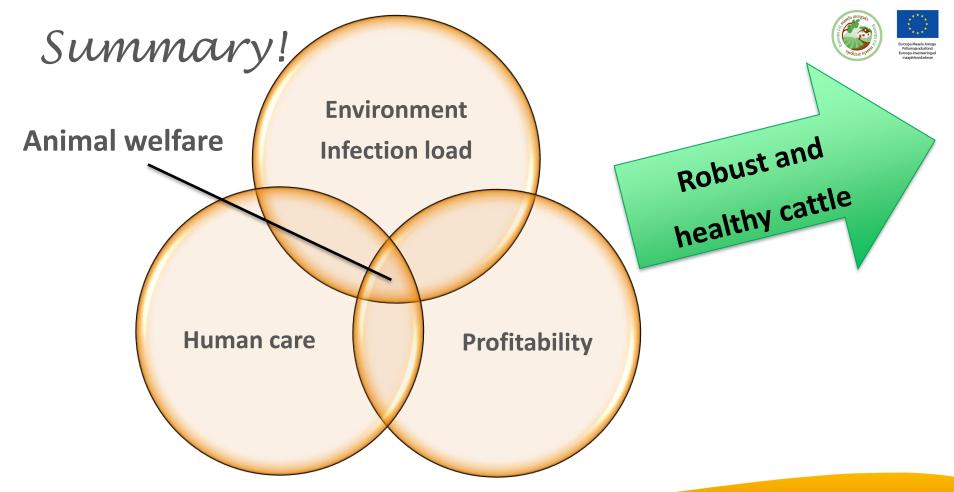




Weaning strategies

- All at once
- Nose tray, hinders the calf from having milk
- Fence-line weaning
- 1/3 of the cows per week





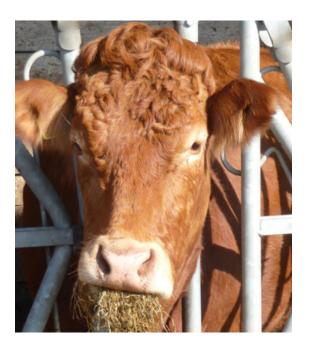
Summary!

Anguage country



Success with suckler cows!

- Good fertility and long-lived
- Surviving calves in good health
- High daily weight gain in calves
- Low variable costs









Acknowledgements

- Thank you for inviting us
- Thank you for listening
- Thanks to the interpretors
- Thanks to all contributors that helped with some of the slides:
- Anna-Lena Hegrestad
- Sofie Andersson
- Katinca Fungbrant

