

Skema til afrapportering af ViD-projekter

Videncenter for Dyrevelfærd

1. Projektitel:

Benchmarking dairy cattle welfare across six countries (Benchmarking af dyrevelfærden i Danmarks og fem andre landes malkekvægsproduktion)

2. Projektstart og afslutning: 1 January 2021 – 31 March 2022

3. Projektleder og projektdeltagere (titel, navn, adresse, tlf., e-mail):

Project leader:

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Project participants (internal):

Associate professor Tove Christensen (IFRO, KU)

Professor Björn Forkman (IVH, KU)

Senior Advisor Henning Otte Hansen (IFRO, KU)

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Professor Søren Saxmose Nielsen (IVH, KU)

Project participants (external):

Senior consultant Peter Stamp Enemark (Arla)*

Professor Clare Palmer (Texas A&M University, USA)

* We declare a potential conflict of interest regarding the involvement of Peter Stamp Enemark who works for a company with a vested interest in the outcomes of the project. Peter's role has been to comment and facilitate contacts with informants in the dairy sector. In case of a conflict (which didn't occur) it was decided that decisions about how to frame the project and to present and analyse its findings should be taken by the internal project participants.

4. Baggrund for projektet (Kort beskrivelse af, hvorfor dette projekt blev i gang sat):

Two kinds of initiatives exist to counteract animal welfare problems in animal production. One establishes animal welfare legislation, where all production in the relevant country or region must comply with legally defined welfare standards. The other consists of market driven initiatives, where part of the production must meet specific welfare standards, typically based on resource-based indicators. These products may subsequently be sold with a particular label, typically at a price premium, or they may be part of minimum welfare standards defined by a retailer, a fast-food chain or the like. They may also be part of quality assurance schemes set up by the industry. However, little is known about the effectiveness, relative and absolute, of such initiatives; little is also known about the welfare consequences across different countries, which are characterized by having different combinations of legislation and market driven initiatives in place.

To enable such comparisons the Benchmark method was developed from 2018 onwards. So far, the method has been applied to pig and broiler production, but not to dairy production. Dairy production is an interesting case, both because of its long tradition of market driven welfare initiatives, and because there are big national differences, even in Europe, when it comes to legislation regulating dairy cattle welfare. Thus, while Sweden and Denmark have national legislation that make rather detailed welfare requirements for dairy cows, most other European countries only have legislation for calves based on the EU directive for calves (Council Directive 2008/119/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves). Therefore, there were good reasons to launch a Benchmark project looking at dairy cattle.

The results of the project will serve to increase transparency about how animal welfare is secured in dairy cattle production. Further, it may serve to improve our understanding of the relative role of legislation and market driven initiatives, and may give rise to suggestions for improvements in both areas. The project will, in various ways, serve to document and refine the Benchmark approach to assess and compare animal welfare across different kinds of welfare initiatives.

8. Populærvidenskabeligt dansk resumé (max 500 ord):

I dette projekt har vi sammenlignet dyrevelfærden i malkekvægsproduktionen og forbruget af frisk mælk på tværs af de følgende fem lande: Danmark, Nederlandene, Sverige, Tyskland og United Kingdom. Dette skete ved hjælp af Benchmark-metoden, som blev udviklet i et tidligere projekt finansieret af Videncenter for Dyrevelfærd. Denne metode tager ikke bare hensyn til de store forskelle i dyrevelfærdslovgivning, hvor Danmark og Sverige

har særlig lovgivning for malkekvæg, men også til forskelle i mærkningsordninger og andre markedsdrevne initiativer til fremme af god dyrevelfærd, som er udbredte i markedet for mælk og andre mejeriprodukter. Det første fund er, at der er store forskelle i Benchmark-niveauet mellem de fem lande: Der er en gruppe med et højt velfærdsniveau bestående af Danmark og Sverige med et Benchmark-niveau, der er næsten dobbelt så højt som baseline. I den anden ende af skalaen er der Nederlandene med et Benchmark-niveau tæt på baseline. Endelig ligger Tyskland og United Kingdom imellem de to ekstremer. Hvad der var bemærkelsesværdigt ved sammenligningen af landene, var for det første, at det land, Nederlandene, som ikke havde national lovgivning om velfærd for malkekøer eller ambitiøse industristandarder, klarede sig markant dårligere end de andre. En anden tydelig konklusion er, at der er plads til at udvide brugen af dyrevelfærdsmærker på mejeriprodukter, ikke mindst i Nederlandene og Tyskland. Produktion rettet mod dyrevelfærdsmærker er godt udviklet med mere end en 15% andel af produktionen i Danmark og United Kingdom. Sverige er en historie for sig, idet national produktion ser ud til at være den væsentligste dyrevelfærdsmarkør for de svenske forbrugere. Sammenligner man velfærdsniveauet i forbruget af frisk mælk med det, der findes i produktionen, er det slående, at der er ét land, Danmark, hvor mærkningen af frisk mælk ser ud til at være med udbredt end i de andre lande. Her er der et højere niveau af dyrevelfærd i den friske mælk, som sælges, sammenlignet med hvad der ses i produktionen. Forklaringen på dette ser ud til at være, at frisk mælk i Danmark typisk er mærket, mens det typisk ikke er tilfælde for de andre produkter såsom smør og ost. Derfor går en større andel af velfærds-mælken til produktion af frisk mælk, mens en større del af standardproduktionen går til produktion af smør og ost. Velfærdsmærker gør altså en positiv forskel. Hovedkonklusionen er, at både dyrevelfærdslovgivning og markedsdrevne initiativer betyder noget, når det gælder om at løfte malkekvægets velfærd over basisniveauet. En anden hovedkonklusion er at alle mejeriprodukter og ikke kun frisk mælk bør mærkes for at opnå den størst mulige effekt. Da markedet for velfærds-mælk udvikler sig hele tiden, og da lov om hold af kvæg endnu ikke er fuldt faset ind, vil det være vigtigt at følge udviklingen i Benchmark for malkekvæg over tid.

9. Populærvidenskabeligt engelsk resumé (max 500 ord):

In this project we compared animal welfare in dairy cattle production and consumption of fresh milk across the following five countries: Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The project did this by means of the Benchmark method developed in a previous project funded by the Danish Knowledge Centre for Animal Welfare. This method not only takes into consideration the large differences in animal welfare legislation, where Sweden and Denmark have specific welfare legislation for dairy cattle, but also differences in labelling schemes and other market driven initiatives to promote good

animal welfare which are quite widespread in the market for milk and other dairy products. The first finding is that there are big differences in the Benchmark for dairy cattle welfare in the five countries: There is a high-welfare group consisting of Denmark and Sweden with a Benchmark level nearly twice as high as the baseline. In the other end there is the Netherlands with a Benchmark level close to the baseline. Finally, Germany and the UK are in the middle between the two extremes. What stood out when we compared the welfare level in dairy production of the five countries was, firstly, that the country without national legislation on dairy cattle welfare or ambitious industry standards (the Netherlands) did markedly less well than the others. Another thing that stood out was that there is room to expand the use of welfare labels on dairy products, not least in Germany, and the Netherlands. Labels are well developed with more than 15% share of production in Denmark and the UK. Sweden is a story of its own here since national origin seems to be the main animal welfare marker for Swedish consumers. What was striking when comparing welfare level in consumption of fresh milk with that of the production of milk is that in one country, Denmark, where the welfare labelling of fresh milk seems to be more advanced than in the other countries. Here there is higher level of welfare in fresh milk sales compared to that found in the production. The explanation of this seems to be that fresh milk typically is labelled in Denmark, whereas other dairy products such as butter and cheese are typically not. Therefore, the welfare milk goes into production of fresh milk, while a larger share of the standard production goes into production of butter and cheese. So, labels make a difference. The main conclusion is that both legislation and market driven initiatives matter when it comes to improving dairy cattle welfare beyond the baseline level. Another conclusion is that all dairy products, not only fresh milk, should be labelled to get the full potential effect. Since the market for welfare milk is developing all the time, and since the Danish legislation is still not fully phased in, it will be important to follow developments over time.