

Swedish dairy farmers' attitudes towards herd health management

AIM

To explore Swedish dairy farmers' perceived barriers to work proactively with animal health together with a veterinarian

METHODS

- ❖ Six focus groups interviews were conducted
- ❖ In total, 33 participating farmers
- ❖ Interview recordings were transcribed and coded using thematic analysis

CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ Farmers had difficulties in defining herd health management.
- ❖ They acknowledged the implementation of herd health management, but did not see which role the veterinarian might play, as veterinarians were mainly associated with treating acutely diseased cows.
- ❖ There is a potential for veterinarians to improve communication, knowledge about risk factors and their skills in herd health management.
- ❖ Veterinarians need to describe their services and the potential benefits more proactively.

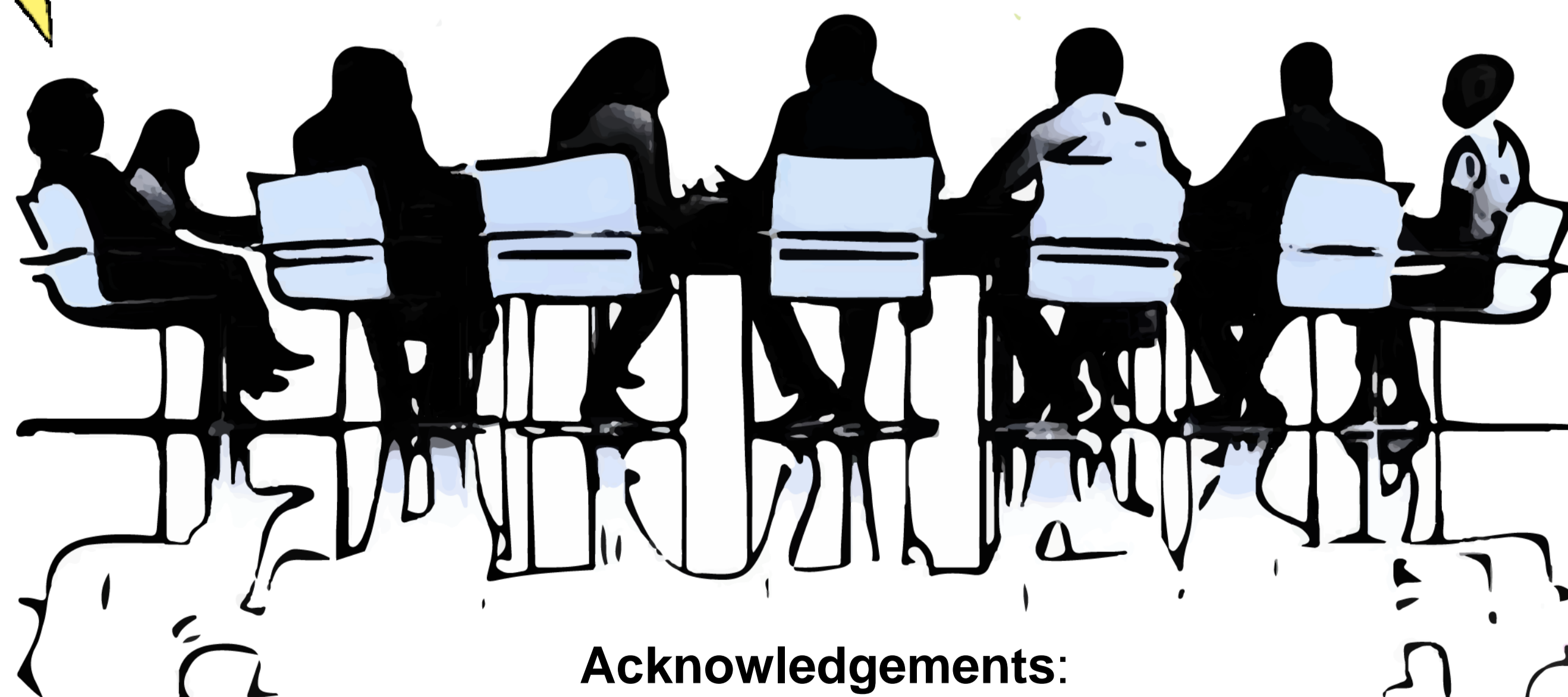
"It's about getting the confidence and trust, so that you feel that you can discuss with your veterinarian. That's the most important really"

"Those who don't ask for help, I think they look solely at the cost"

"If I don't contact the vet that's because I don't get the information I want. But it's specifically the knowledge, I don't think I get the knowledge I need"

"One doesn't think about 'prevention'. It is something you do, but it is hard to put words on it"

"We don't think about that [preventive work] when things are fine, then you just go home and sleep well. It's no use to start looking for problems, because then you will definitely find them"



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