

Dairy farmers' compliance with culling recommendation in paratuberculosis programme

Søren Saxmose Nielsen¹ & Carsten Kirkeby² ¹University of Copenhagen & ²Technical University of Denmark

Danish ParaTB Programme

Started in 2006

- Incl. 30-40% of dairy cattle
- To improve animal health & farming profitability
- 4 annual ELISA screenings required
- Culling specific cows has proven effective



Recommendations to farmers

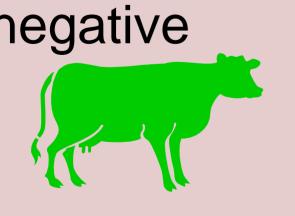
- Identify high risk animals ("Red" and "Yellow")
- Avoid use of milk and colostrum from high risk cows
- Segregate high and low risk cows at calving
- Clean calving area after high risk animals
- Swift removal of calves born to high risk dams
- Cull "Red" cows quickly before next calving

11,789/1,366,015 (0.9%) records were Red cows that were recommended culled & could possibly calve Study population: 30,848 possible calvings by Red COWS

Results

Cow categorisation

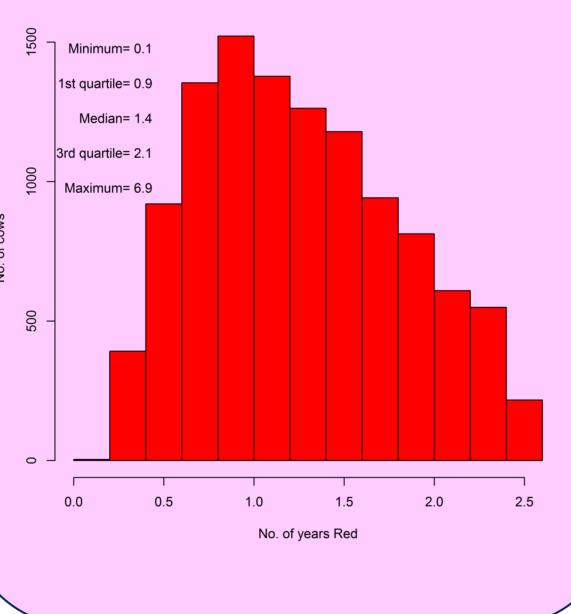
- Red: repeated testpositive
- Yellow: fluctuating test-responses
- Green: repeated test-negative



29% calved after being Red

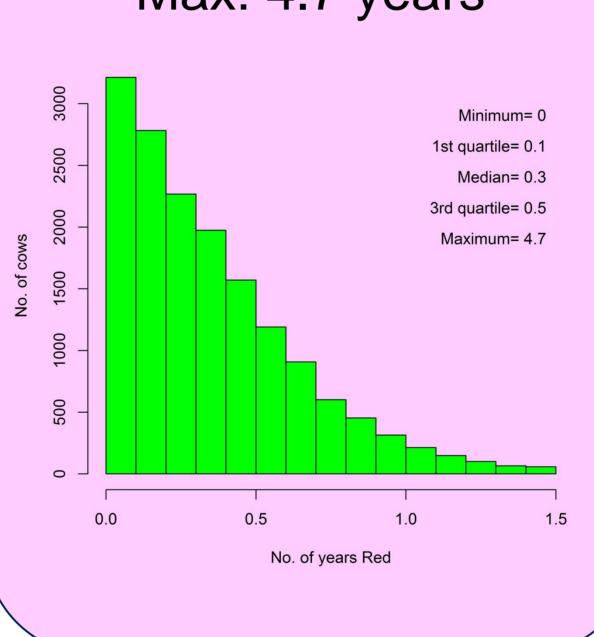
(3,364/11,789)

Stayed in herd Median: 1.4 years Max: 6.9 years



71% did NOT calve after becoming Red (8,425/11,789)

Stayed in herd Median: 0.3 years Max: 4.7 years



Materials

Objective

Compliance?

Do farmers follow

recommendations on

culling of Red cows?

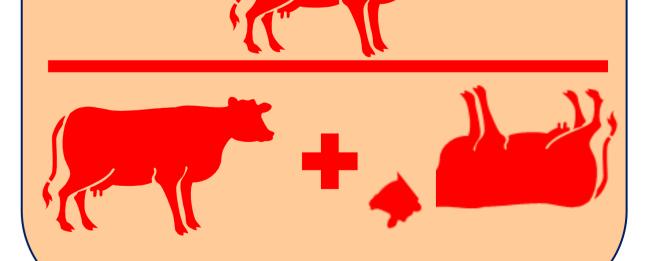
Characterise compliance with the culling recommendation

Conclusion

71% of farmers culled their cows as recommended

Still, some red cows stayed in the herd for long and can thus infect their offspring and herd-mates

cows (not culled)?



Prevalence of Red

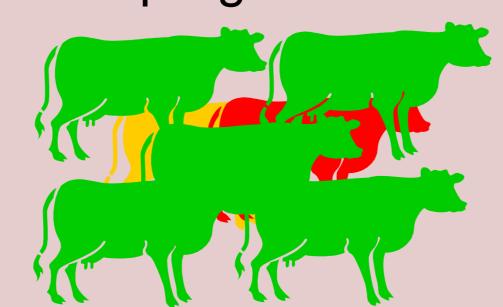
Testing

- Indirect Milk ELISA (ID-Screen®)
- Positive if S/P ratio >0.33



Herds and animals

- Enrolled herds in 2008-15
- All lactating animals tested in programme



Did Red cows calve again? Methods

How long did Red cows stay in the herd?