

Reasons for on-farm mortality on Swedish beef and dairy farms

If emergency slaughter had been available, how much beef meat could potentially have entered the human food chain?

Methods

A questionnaire (online and in paper format) to Swedish beef and dairy producers during autumn 2022, covering:

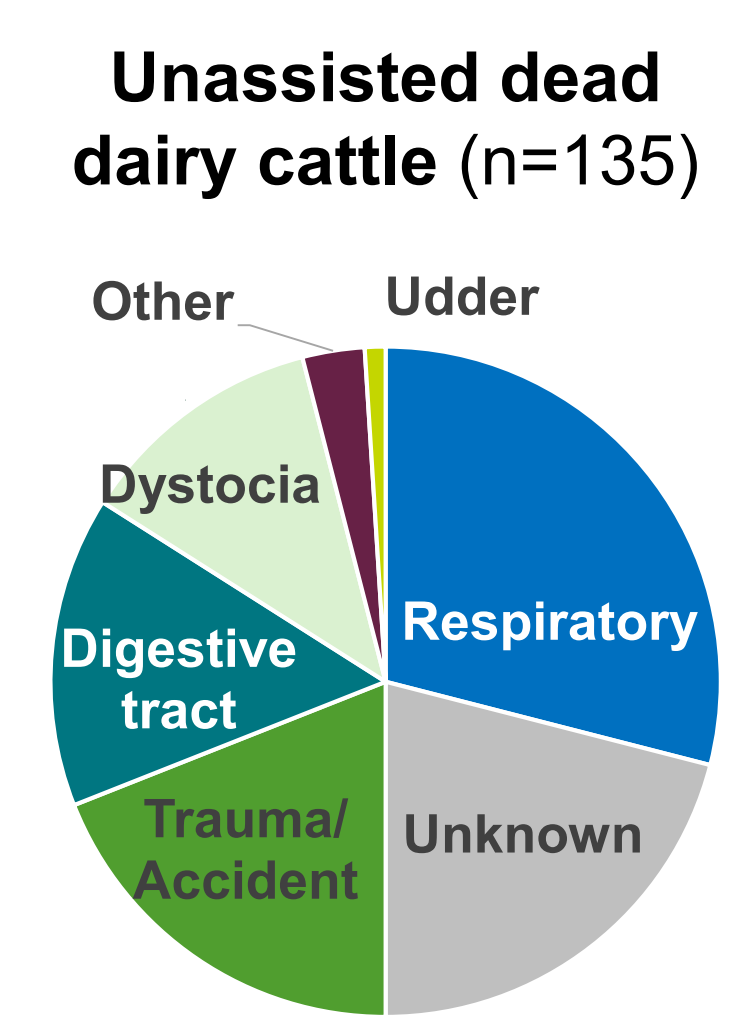
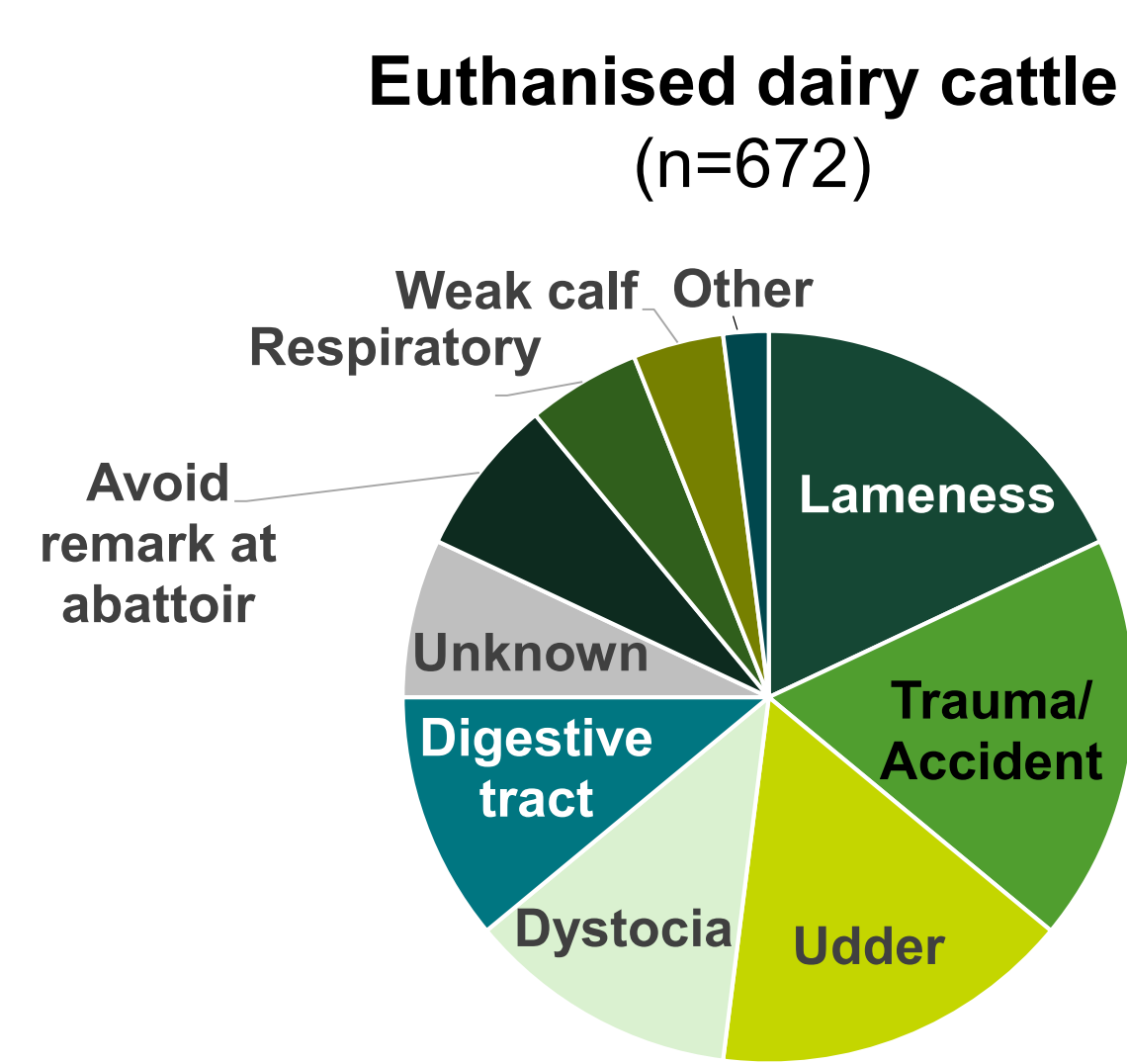
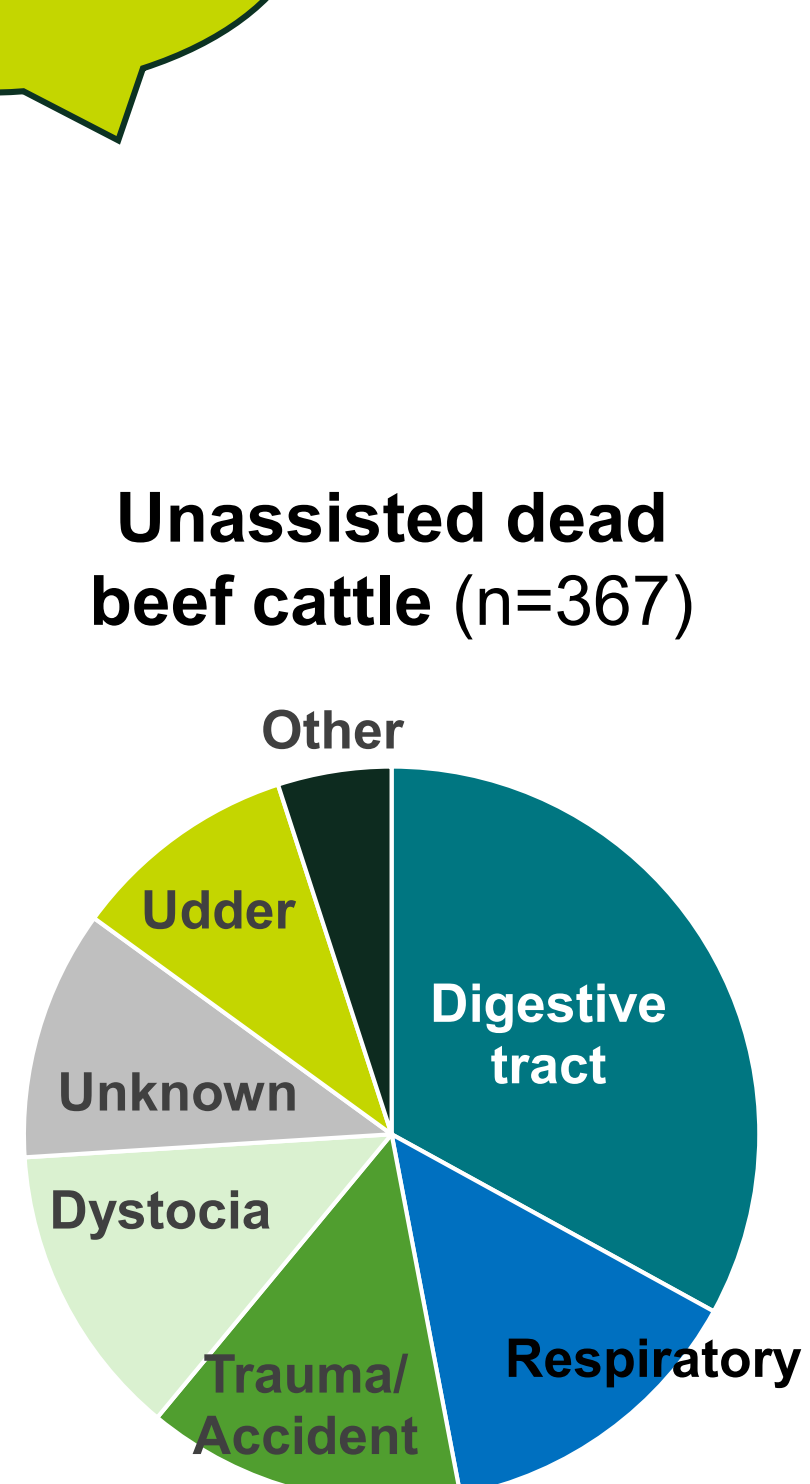
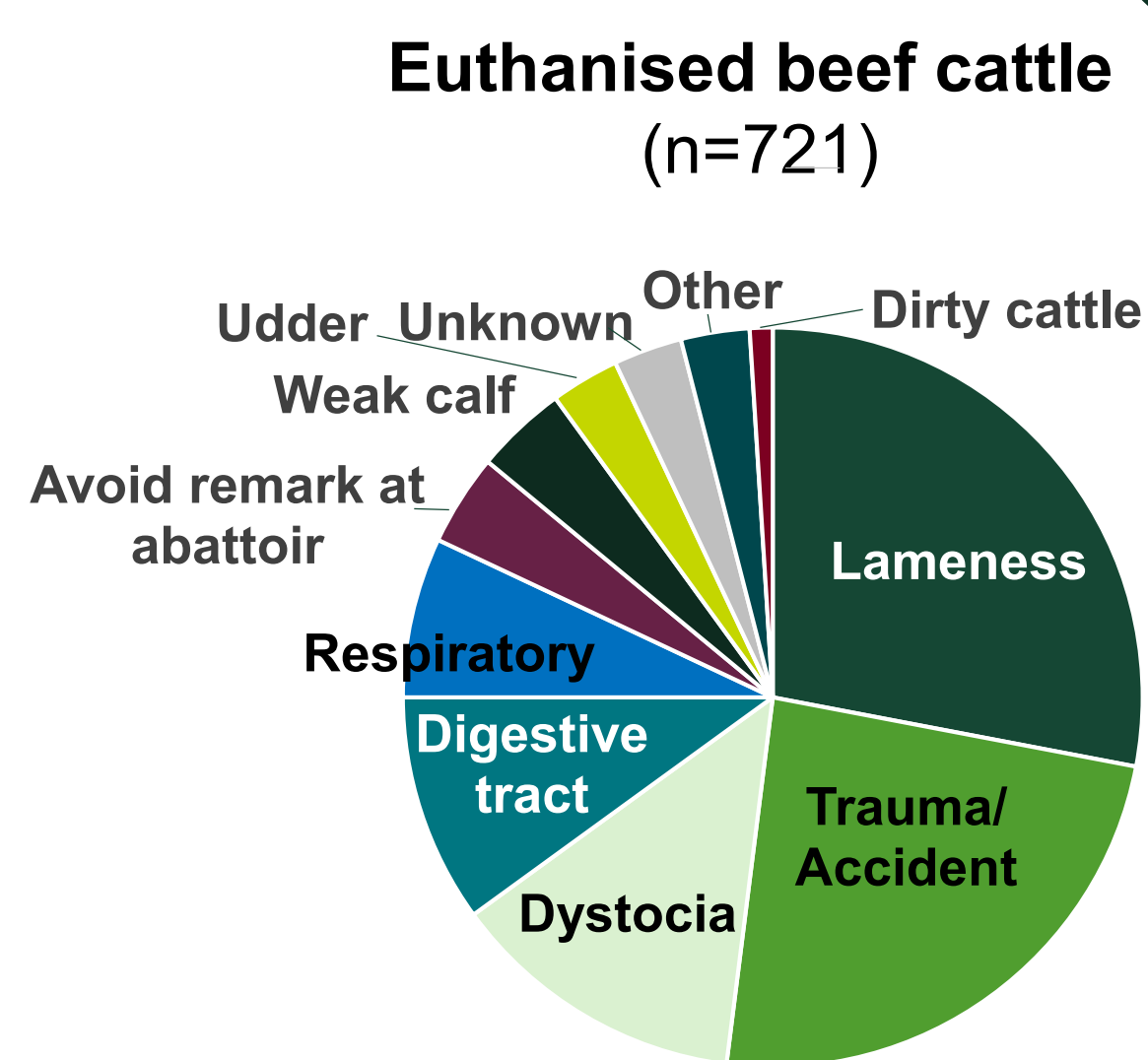
- reasons for on-farm mortality
- home slaughter practices
- attitudes towards emergency slaughter



Results

- Lameness and accidents are top reasons for on-farm mortality
- Home slaughter of animals affected by acute accidents occurred on 60% of the farms.
- Most farmers (82%) stated the presence of animals that could have been emergency slaughtered if that service had been available

Responses from 340 farmers



Conclusions

- Prioritize measures to combat lameness, trauma and respiratory problems
- Home slaughter = measure against food waste
- High interest in a functioning emergency slaughter service, but concerns expressed for animal suffering

Read more about the project "Loss of beef during primary production in Sweden"

