Determinants for Treatments in Relation to Udder Health in Danish Dairy Cattle Farms

Gussmann, Maya Katrin; Græsbøll, Kaare; Kirkeby, Carsten Thure; Saxmose Nielsen, Søren; Toft, Nils; Farre, Michael; Hisham Beshara Halasa, Tariq

Publication date: 2017

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Link back to DTU Orbit

Citation (APA):

General rights
Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.
Determinants for Treatments in Relation to Udder Health in Danish Dairy Cattle Farms

Maya Gußmann¹, Kaare Græsbøll¹, Carsten Kirkeby¹, Søren Saxmose Nielsen², Nils Toft¹, Michael Farre³, Tariq Halasa¹
¹DTU National Veterinary Institute, ²University of Copenhagen, ³SEGES, Denmark

Introduction
Regular cow level registrations in the Danish Cattle Database include registrations about e.g. milk yield, SCC and calvings, but also about diseases and antibiotic treatments of cows. These data could potentially be a useful source of information for the development of herd-specific udder health management programs tailored to the farmer’s preference. With tailored programs farmers may be more motivated to adopt effective management programs that can also enhance a prudent use of antibiotics.

What are the driving factors for antibiotic treatment in relation to udder health on dairy farms?

Data
518 Danish dairy farms with recordings for
- Antibiotic treatment
- Calvings
  → Parity
  → Lactation stage
from 2009 to 2015.

Statistical analyses
- Farm-wise
- Logistic regressions to predict treatment

For 458 farms without extreme regression coefficients:
- AUC to test prediction capability of the model

For 429 farms with all coefficients available:
- Principle Component Analysis (PCA) of the regression coefficients
- Clustering of farms

Results
Multivariable logistic regression showed significant association between predictors and treatment, though not on all farms. On 77 farms all predictors were significant.

Fitting the regression models on 90% of the cows and testing on the remaining 10% yielded a mean AUC of 0.78, indicating a good predictive capability of the model (see histogram).

The first two principal components explain more than 50% of the variance. PCA and clustering show three clusters, one around parity, one around lactation stage and average milk yield and one around clinical registrations, PCR and SCC (see dendrogram and Figure 1).

Summary
The results indicate that farmers have different reasons for antibiotic treatment in relation to udder health. Some focus on age, or production, while others focus on disease indicators such as positive PCR or SCC.