

Topic

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Technical efficiency



Animal welfare



Automatic calf feeding

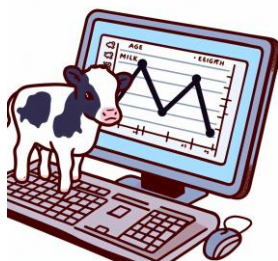
Background

Automatic milking of calves is an innovative solution that contributes significantly to improving efficiency and animal welfare in agriculture. With precision monitoring and an individual approach to each calf, better production results can be achieved and at the same time the health of the young animals can be taken care of.

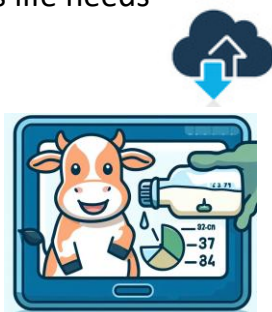


① **Identification of calves** – each calf is identified with a unique identifier - the system identifies and tracks life needs

② **Dose selection** - the system uses the data collected in the identification process, allowing precise dosing



③ **Feeding schedule and monitoring** - The system monitors consumption patterns, adjusting the feeding schedule and dosage. This helps to optimise growth and health



④ **Maintenance of hygiene and cleanliness** – The system ensures that feeding equipment is regularly cleaned and decontaminated, as well as providing clean water. It can also incorporate sensors to detect contamination



A beneficial investment in the future of the herd



⑤ **Data collection and analysis** – integrated data collection systems that record and analyse various parameters such as individual calf growth rates, consumption patterns and health indicators. This data can be used to analyse performance, detect health problems early and optimise the entire feeding process. Farmers can make informed decisions based on this data to improve the welfare and development of their calves

Positive features

- Efficiency and time saving
- Precision nutrition, individual doses
- Optimum hygiene
- Less stress for calves during feeding
- Health monitoring
- Faster growth, faster insemination
- Reduction in labour costs
- Increase in milk production (+ 15 000 kg)

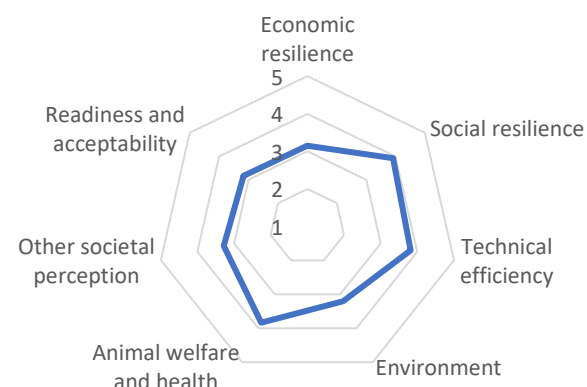
System

- 1. Identification of calves:** Vision and sensory systems identify each calf enabling a personalised approach to feeding.
- 2. Precise milk doses:** Advanced machines deliver precise quantities of milk to each calf, tailored to its nutritional needs.
- 3. Continuous monitoring:** Continuous monitoring systems keep track of the amount of milk consumed, the calves' behaviour and their general state of health

Specific advises

This is a modern and complex process that requires appropriate staff training and maintenance

Assessment of method



Equipment and investment needs

Implementing automated calf watering systems requires specialised equipment such as automated milking units, calf identification technology and monitoring sensors, along with infrastructure such as dedicated milking stations and feeding systems. The investment includes the purchase and installation of these technologies, ongoing maintenance costs and potential expenditure on staff training for system management and troubleshooting.

Quote of the farmer:

"...Automatic milking is a profitable investment in the future of the farm, it is optimal hygiene without additional work...."



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