

Camera technology to bring large scale data from commercial herds

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The vision and challenge

- No doubt that camera technology can produce large scale data from commercial herds
- The challenge is to transform the information content in the pictures or videoes to valuable phenotypic information





Building strong genomic reference populations for genetic improvement

Many applications in animal and plant production

- High throughput **phenotyping in plants**
- Drone technology
- Tracking in pigs and poultry
- Milking Robots
 - 3D camera for cow movements and teat detection
- **CattleEye** lameness BCS Mobility





How can camera technology add value?

- Hard to measure (expensive) traits
- Lower phenotyping costs -> increasing amount of registrations (high throughput phenotyping)
- Round the clock 24/7 registrations
- Objective and precise compared to subjective phenotyping
- Sequence of pictures or videosnapshots compared to pointregistration
- Survelliance



How can camera technology add value?

Document production systems (ESG and climate)



Powerful tool combined with Al-Technology and robot development



The intelligent "eye on the cow"

EXAMPLES FROM APPLICATIONS IN DAIRY CATTLE

CFIT - Cattle Feed In Take

Registrations of individual cow's feed intake and weight





CFIT – Aim and purpose

- To develop a 3D camera system that can measure feed intake at individual cow level at each visit
- The system may not:
 - Disturb **daily routines** on farm
 - Disturb cow behavior
- Should be same system as for identification
- Data to be used for breeding and management



The CFIT system – registration 24/7

Registrations are based on **3D images** and the use of **artificial intelligence**





Cow identification and weight measure







Measure of individual feed - Identification





3D Camera – time of flight





Cow Identification from Contour to MASK-CNN

• ID accuracy with contour model 95-98% in Jersey

• Change of algorithm from contour to MASK-CNN

• Including colour, patterns, contours in model

• ID accuracy +99% in all three breeds



Contour



Installations and Agreements with test herds





Data flow and amount 2023



cameras

90,000,000+

images per day

700.000+

feed visits per day



meals per day







Integrated system

- Algorithms
- Hardware
- Fit into the barn
- Automized system surveillance
- Event detection
- Data integration

Validation study

Validation study at Aarhus University

Challenge the camera system with **different feed densities** – especially with different silage types

- Measure of feed from scales and cameras
- 4 diets:
 - 1. grass silage & barley
 - 2. grass silage & dry beetroot
 - 3. maize & barley
 - 4. maize & dry beetroot

• 48 HOL cows in trial

Giagnoni et al.,2022



High correlation between kg and volume



Giagnoni et al.,2022





Weight Predicted versus Scale



1,329

Measurements from 102 Jersey cows

460 kg

Average weight (350-650 kg)

4000 contour points per picture



model

Predicted



Weight - scale

Preliminary genetic analysis

Data

Breed	Trait	Number of records	Mean	Minimum	Maximum
Holetoin	DMI	65,393	27.7	12.7	40.9
	BW	65,293	675.8	448.4	905.0

Cows with phenotypes: **2,668**

Cows with genotypes: **1,824**

Manzanilla-Pech et al., 2023



Heritabilities

Trait	Pedigree	Genomic
DMI	0.23 (0.02)	0.25 (0.02)
BW	0.47(0.05)	0.51(0.04)

Manzanilla-Pech et al., 2023





CFIT registrations in the Saved Feed index



for the three breeds in early 2025

CFIT and management

Antal koer



Development of Management software used in the CFIT test herds

Feeding table

18-5-2021



Bord 1 🗸 🗸







Herd level



Cow level

Ko nr.	EKM (kg)	Tid siden måltid (tt:mm)	Lakt.nr	Dage fra klvn
056762 - 04737	40	15:41	3	181
056762 - 04542	51	9:41	3	159
056762 - 05376	32	7:53	1	177
056762 - 03879	50	5:23	5	127
056762 - 03752	56	5:15	5	123
056762 - 03393	0	5:10	7	8
056762 - 04594	44	4:52	3	177
056762 - 05374	44	4:30	1	156
056762 - 05398	37	4:24	1	114
056762 - 05024	43	4:22	2	130

Køer med længst tid siden sidste måltid

Better claw health with use of Artifical Intelligence

Project period: 2023-2026

Peter Raundal, SEGES Innovation





Mælkeafgiftsfonden



Motivation

- In Denmark yearly more than **700,000 registrations** of hoof treatments
- Approximately 50% of all hoof treatments have at least one claw diagnosis
- Today registrations are done **manually**

- Automated registrations will initiate more registrations of higher quality giving the farmer a better tool to increase claw health in own herd
- More accurate breeding values for claw health



Installations on the hoof trimmer box





Two antenna for recording electronic eartag





How does it work?

- Cameras record during hoof trimming
- Al-model trained to recognize:
 - A hoof (extract all other noise)
 - Hoof trimming the cow registrated as trimmed
 - Model is trained to recognize 24 different claw diagnoses
 - Treatment claw bandage and/or shoe
- Registrations uploaded to the central cattle database (DMS)





Improved animal welfare and production with use of new technologies (WelCowTech)

Project in pipeline (2024 - 2027)

Lars Arne Hjort Nielsen, SEGES Innovation







Economic value

- Actions which increase the cows laying time and milk production (feeding and grouping)
- Early detection of sick and lame cows



Saving of workload

- Surveillance of cows through Al
- Detection of cows for hoof trimming and observation

Assurance of production quality

- Document animal welfare in an objective manner
- Document variation in behaviour
- Reduced climate impact through increased longevity



To sum up



Camera Technology can produce large scale data from commercial herds and provide **new phenotypes** valuable for both management and breeding



Camera technology combined with **AI technology** is an area **under huge development**



Important future tool to **improve management** and **genetics** in dairy production



Thank you!