MAST - A MASTITIS MONITORING SYSTEM

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In 1973 the first ideas of a computor monitoring system were discussed, but only in 1987 the plans were carried out. Due to changes in the organisation of the national mastitis control programme, adjustments have had to be implemented continuously, resulting in a system with a great range of possibilities, that can be introduced as required.

The system is an independent data base, but connected to the National Cattle Data Base at the Danish Agricultural EDP Centre, in order to exchange relevant informations.

The present version consists of,

Herd level surveillence programme: Problem herds are selected, on basis of (1) bulk milk total SCC's from the Milk Quality Programme, (2) results from screening bulk milk samples for haemolytical streptococci (especially group B streptococci) and (3) results of previous analyses of quarter milk samples.

A set of codes controls printing of information for the farmer, and forms for the staff of the Cattle Health Service.

Laboratory programme: Data from the yield control programme, and data obtained by the test milker, are transferred to a programme dealing with results from analyses (e.g. microbiological and CMT) of quarter milk samples. Cow level data are stored, using cows' identification, not farms' identification. Connecting the system with a Fossomatic has been discussed.

Data are simultaneously transferred to a programme generating a report for the farmer, and to the above mentioned herd level surveillence programme.

An other programme deals with results from analyses of bulk milk samples; at present screening for group B (and other haemolytical) streptococci. The system can easily be expanded to deal with Staphylococci, Listeria spp., Salmonella spp., etc.

Farm survey programme: PC-programme for registration of data concerning housing, milking equipment, feeding, hygiene, and general management.

Using a portable PC with a printer, a report is printed at the end of the visit to the farm.

The main purpose of the system is to provide a tool for better and more usefull advising of the farmer. An other important issue is to make collected data available for research projects.

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