

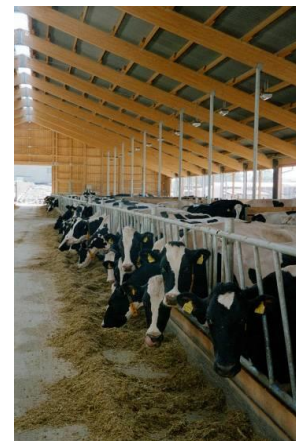
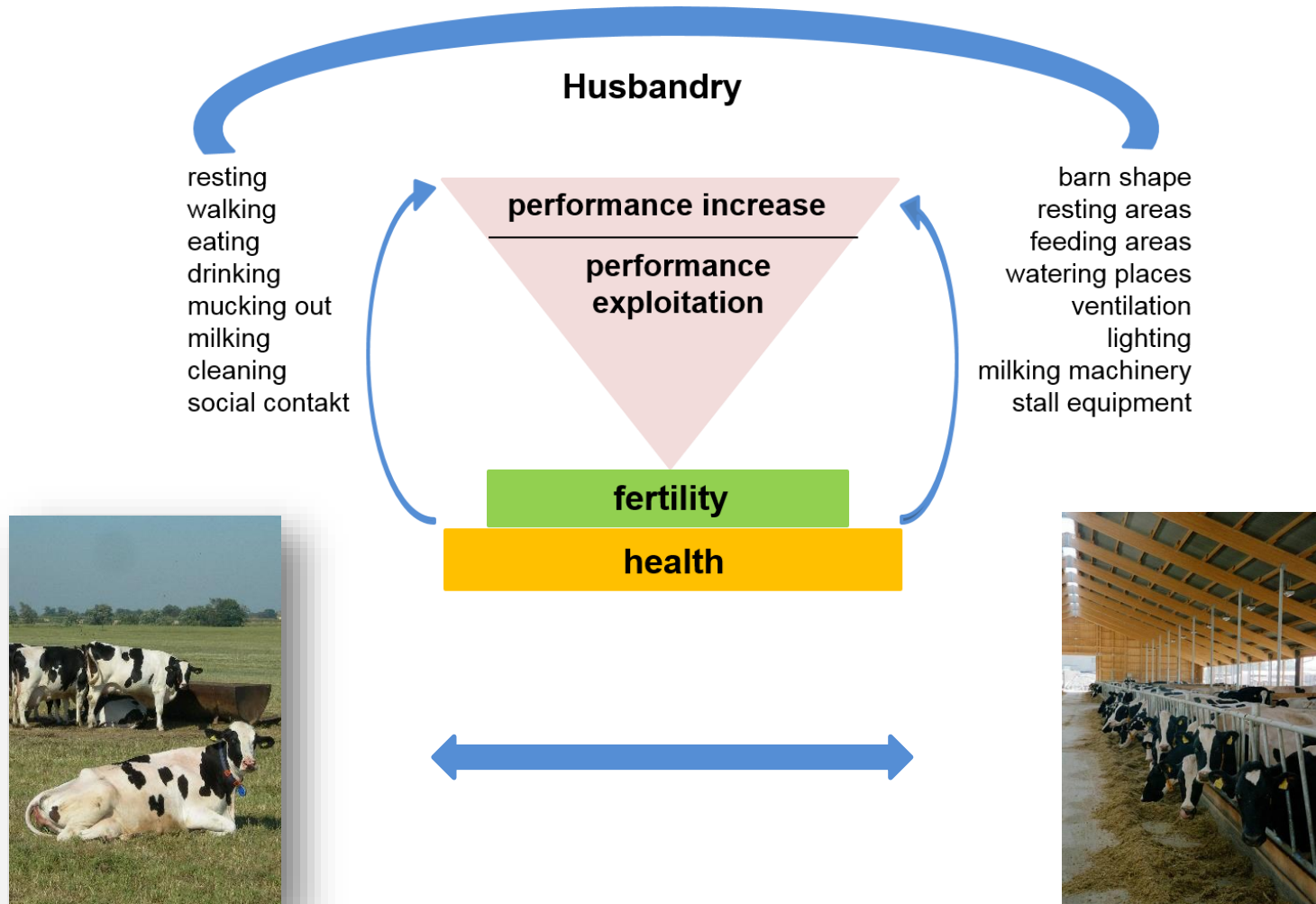
# DLG-Dairy Herd Manager

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# Dairy Herd Management



# Dairy Herd Manager

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- Responsible for overall daily, weekly, and seasonal management of the dairy herd
- Organises, observes and controls the main processes in dairy business: Milking, herd health, breeding, fertility, husbandry, feeding
- Herd Manager in a „sandwich-position“ between employees and the farm owner
- Supervises other dairy employees who milk, feed and take care of the cattle

**Identify weaknesses – evaluate – find solutions – control!**



# Animal Signals – What does the cow tell us?

Body  
condition

Temperature

Milkyield

The more you know about your herd,  
the more you can increase your farm's  
profitability

Ruminate

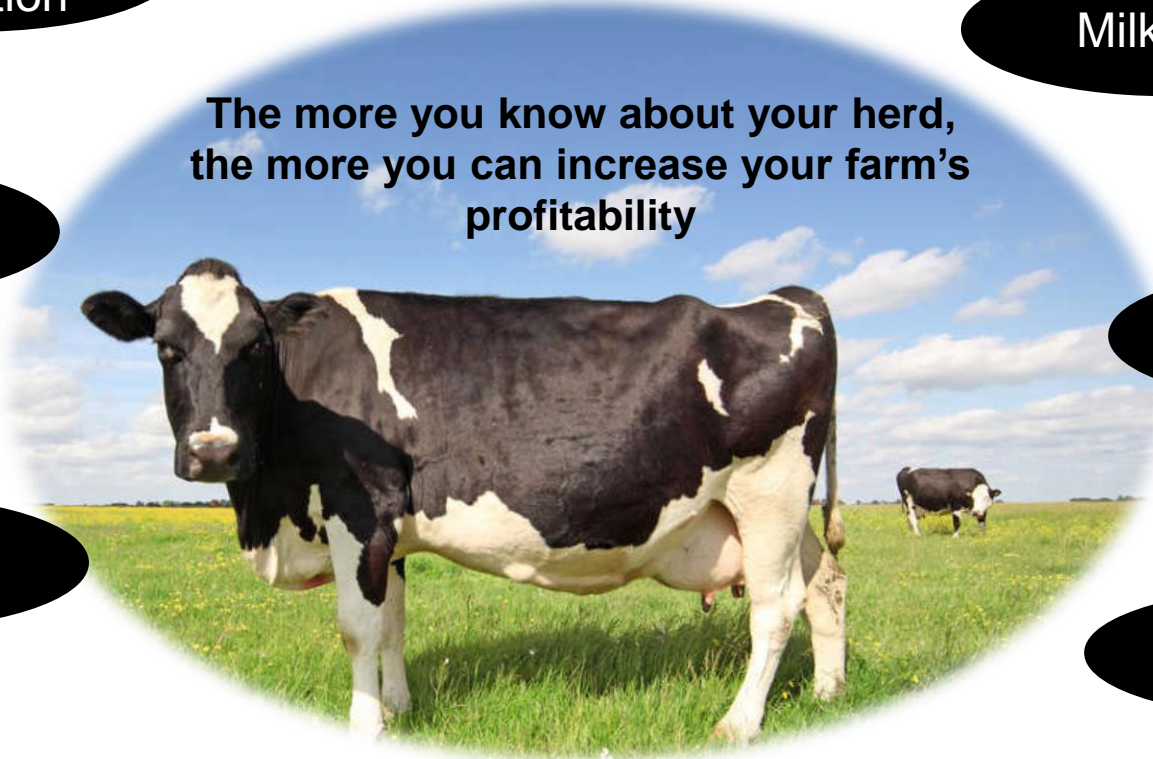
Manure

Feed  
intake

Udder, Legs,  
Hoofs

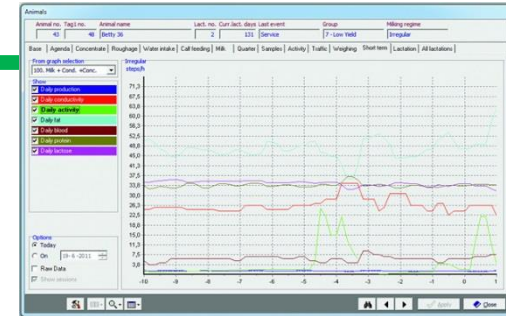
Behaviour

Locomotion



## Collect data „low tech“ and/or „high tech“

- ✓ maximize animal performance
- ✓ detect diseases in individual cows early
- ✓ detect herd level health and production problems early
- ✓ minimize the use of medication through preventive health measures

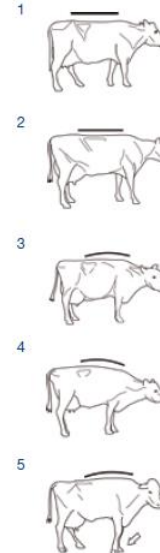


### Body Condition Score

Body condition score	Vertebrae at the middle of the back	Rear view (cross section) of the hook bones	Side view of the line between the hook and pin bones	Cavity between tail head and pin bone	
				Rear view	Angled view
1. Severe under-conditioning					
2. Frame obvious					
3. Frame and covering well balanced					
4. Frame not as visible as covering					
5. Severe over-conditioning					

Source (adapted from): A.J. Edmondson, L.J. Lean, C.O. Weaver, T. Farver and G. Webster, 1989. A body condition scoring chart for Holstein dairy cows. J. Dairy Sci. 72: 68-76

### Locomotion Score



Source (adapted from): Steven L. Berry, DVM, MPVM; Univ. of Davis, CA, and Zimpro® Corporation 1997, in J Hulsen, Cow Signals.



# Dairy Herd Manager

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## Core skills of herd managers

- Ability to plan and execute decisions independently
- Ability to delegate and implement tasks
- Ability to evaluate collected data and results
- Ability to communicate well and train staff



## Objective of three-week intensive DLG herd manager seminar:

- Provision of expert knowledge and the crucial management skills needed to successfully implement this knowledge
- DLG herd managers are able to identify weaknesses in dairy cattle farming and fully exploit potentials to ensure that herds yield sustainable economic success

# Course Details of the german herd manager seminar

- **Target group:**  
Herd managers, farm managers and dairy farm employees
- **Requirement for participation:**  
At least 1 year practical experience
- **Number of participants:**  
Limited to 16 person
- **Seminar duration:**  
3 units of 5 days each
- **Qualification obtained:**  
Certified DLG Dairy Herd Manager
- **Methods:**  
Presentations, practical exercises and demonstrations, farm visits, group work, workshops and discussions





## Cooperation with agricultural training and research institutes...

...since 2007

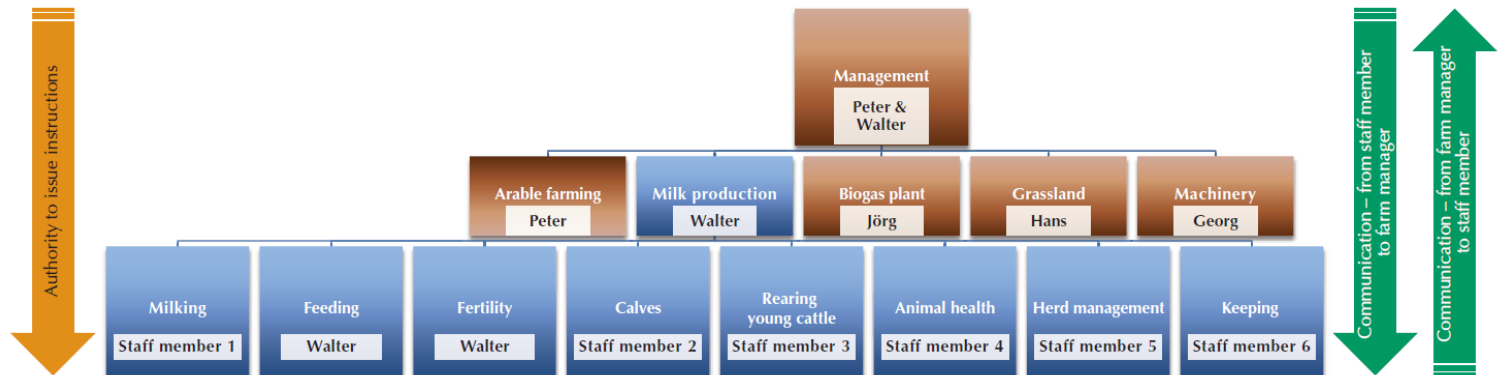


### Trainers: Experts in the field

- Farmers, herd managers
- Consultants
- Veterinarians
- Nutritionists
- Academic und industry specialists

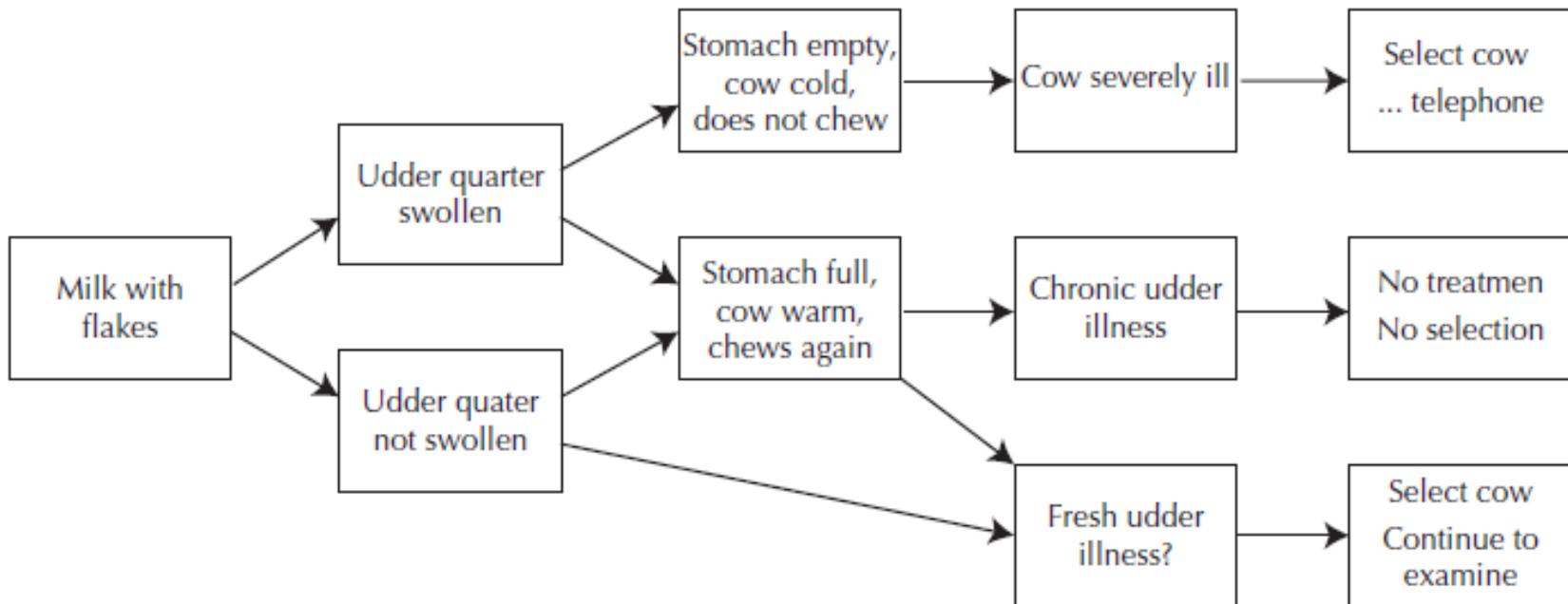
# Structured work organization

- ✓ Define areas of responsibility
- ✓ Workplace description
- ✓ Work plans for the individual function areas
- ✓ Shift plans
- ✓ Standard operating procedures (SOP)
- ✓ Communication



## Example for a standard operating procedure (SOP)

### „Selecting cows with udder illness“



# Fertility management

- ✓ Heat detection
- ✓ Artificial insemination (AI)
- ✓ Breeding program strategies
- ✓ Management aids
- ✓ Infertility
- ✓ Calving management
- ✓ Dairy genetics



# Calf and young cattle management

- ✓ The importance of colostrum
- ✓ Feeding for high growth rate
- ✓ The importance of hygiene and health
- ✓ Appropriate housing systems



# Dairy cow feeding

- ✓ Basics of cow physiology
- ✓ Nutrient requirements
- ✓ Feedstuffs
- ✓ Practical feeding and controlling
- ✓ Feeding systems and strategies
- ✓ Economy



# Milking and milking management

- ✓ Milking systems, milking technology
- ✓ Managing milk yield recording
- ✓ Milking routines, milking equipment
- ✓ Milk quality, Milk safety
- ✓ Udder health



# Husbandry of cows, cow comfort

## Design and controlling of:

- ✓ Resting areas
- ✓ Walking area
- ✓ Ventilation and lighting
- ✓ Water drinking areas
- ✓ Feeding areas





# Herd Health

## Managing and obtaining:

- ✓ Mastitis
- ✓ Lameness
- ✓ Ketosis, Acidosis, Milk fever
- ✓ Retained placenta.....

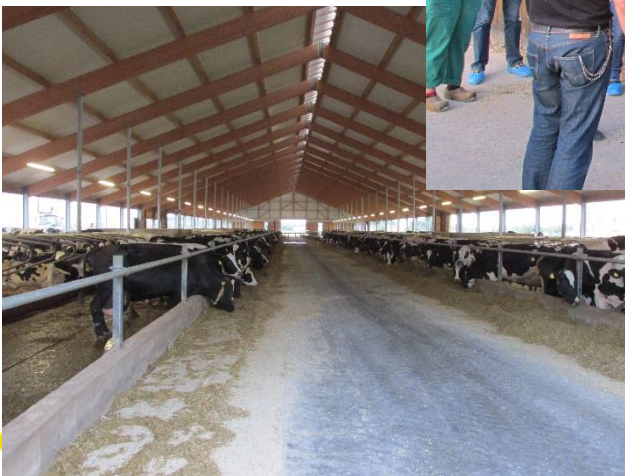


# “Learning by doing”





# “Visiting other farms and learn from colleagues”



# DLG-Dairy Herd Manager Seminar in Bulgaria

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## Data Collection Sheet for the "DLG Dairy Herd Manager" Seminar in Bulgaria

To design a bulgarian seminar for herd managers to meet your needs, answer your questions and solve your problems, we should be grateful if you would fill out the **questionnaire**

# THANK YOU!

