



Topic/Title (English)

What's a healthy cow? Determinants of livestock health

Summary

In veterinary medicine, especially in livestock production, the definition of health is still very much dominated by the concept of disease absence. Nonetheless, "Health" should not be limited to a dichotomous state (healthy vs. unhealthy) and must encapsulate elements that enable the animal to perform full physical and social functions, cope with changes in the environment and successfully deal with pathogens, toxins and external stressors. In public health, the determinants of health (DOH) model is a widely accepted model for understanding health. This model incorporates 12 health determinants that play a significant role in the health of individuals and populations. Recently, a DOH model was developed for wildlife species. The wildlife DOH model largely resembles DOH models developed for human health. This leads us to question: can a valid DOH model be developed for livestock species? In this project the student will a) conduct a literature review to learn about the different concepts of health in order to become familiar with the work already done in the field. This process should inform the next steps b) create a strategy (e.g. questionnaire, participatory approaches) to collect data about concepts of livestock health from relevant stakeholders such as farmers and veterinarians. Results from the questionnaire will be used to; c) develop a DOH model for dairy cows based on the data collected; and d) compare the resulting model with existing DOH models.

Subject area (keywords)

Livestock health; determinants of health; population medicine

Language thesis (Norwegian and/or English)

English

Bachelor or Master thesis

Master thesis

Credits

30 to 60 ECTS



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Project/company

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