



Economic losses resulting from subclinical mastitis in dairy cows

A. Jemeljanovs, S.Cerina, I.H.Konosonoka

Latvia University of Agriculture, Research Institute of Biotechnology and Veterinary Medicine „Sigra”, Sigulda, Latvia, www.sigra.lv, sigra@lis.lv

OBJECTIVES

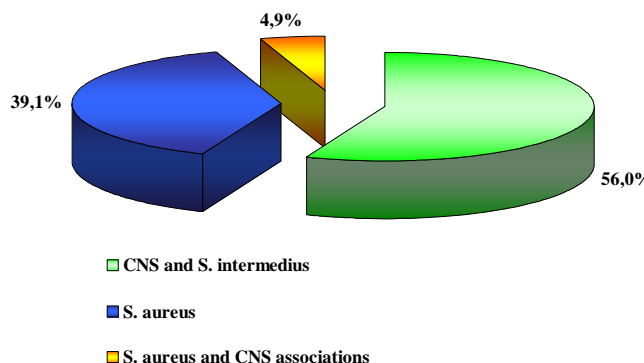
The objective of the current study was to ascertain the number of losses due to subclinical mastitis in dairy cows in Latvia.

INTRODUCTION

It is clear that clinical and subclinical udder infections remain essential problem in dairy herds in Latvia. They are present in all Latvian herds and in almost half of the dairy cows. The disease leads to major economic losses to farms with a high density of cows.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The objective of the current study was to investigate economic losses of the mastitis pathogens in the dairy farms in Latvia. The study was carried out at Vidzeme region, from September 2008 to September 2009. In total, 577 subclinical and clinical mastitis secretion samples from the different farms in Vidzeme region were analyzed.



The percentage of the *Staphylococcus* spp. in subclinically diseased cows' udder secretion samples



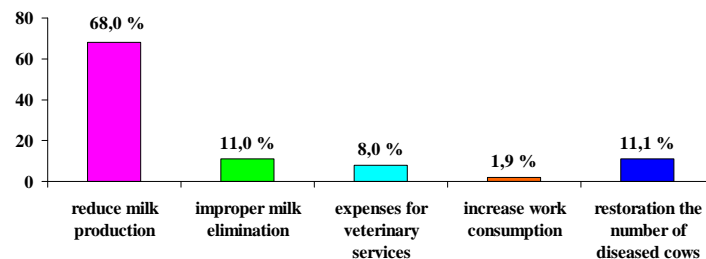
RESULTS

It has been seen that the most frequent cause of subclinical mastitis is *Staphylococcus aureus* in dairy cows. In Latvia replacement of predominating agents of mastitis from the genus *Streptococcus* to the genus *Staphylococcus* has been observed. Among the species of the genus *Staphylococcus*, CNS and coagulase positive *Staphylococcus intermedius* predominated in subclinically, and *S. aureus* in clinically diseased cows' udder secretion samples.

The disease in farms has caused significant losses :

- reduction in productivity 45-50%;
- treatment costs 20-25% ;
- elimination 30-35%.

It is estimated that a decrease in productivity due to mastitis in cows research the loss of approx 113.00 Euro in year.



The amount structure of previously mentioned economic losses

CONCLUSIONS

- It has been seen that the most frequent cause of subclinical mastitis is *Staphylococcus aureus* in dairy cows
- Approx 1.65 kg of a cow has been lost per day that may reach 503 kg during the whole period of lactation.
- To minimize economic losses resulted from subclinical mastitis it is necessary to comply with animal welfare requirements, to ensure the proper functioning of the milking equipment, the proper preparation of milking the cows, balanced feed and the use of vaccines for the treatment of mastitis according to the scheme.