

Abstract Submission Form

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Preferred presentation

Oral

Preferred session

Session 10: New approaches in the field of functional traits for management and breeding

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Title of your paper

HappyFeet: Hoof Health Project in Italian Holstein cattle

Insert ABSTRACT text

Hoof lesions are a significant issue in dairy herds, with a prevalence ranging from 40% to 70%. In Italy, hoof lesions are the second leading causes of culling cows, following reproductive disorders. Hoof health is also related to economic and social consequences, resulting in increased labour expenses, reducing milk production, longevity, fertility, health and welfare. To reduce hoof lesions improved management practices and genetic selection are crucial.

Italian Holstein, Brown and Jersey Breeders Association (ANAFIBJ) in collaboration with a group of hoof-trimmers is collecting data on hoof lesions through the HappyFeet Project. Data are collected using an Android App developed by FA.MA Services (FA.MA Services, Milan (MI), Italy) and installed into a portable device (e.g., tablet) according to ICAR Atlas. So far, a total of 18.826 hoof lesions records have been stored, in the ANAFIBJ data-base, on 10.583 Italian Holstein lactating cows across 78 herds in Italy. Most frequent lesions are dermatitis (18%), sole ulcer (14%) and sole hemorrhage (9%). Further descriptive

statistics related to hoof lesions prevalence are studied based on season, including year, semester, quarter and trimester as well as factors like parity and lactation stage.
The objectives of the HappyFeet Project are to streamline data from hoof-trimmers to database, to provide a benchmark reference both for farmers and hoof trimmers and to set up a genetic and/or genomic evaluation for hoof health.

Enter keywords

hoof health, hoof lesions, claw health, italy, holstein, dairy