

Herd health monitoring

Problem: A compromised health status of the herd leads to an increase in costs on the part of the farmer. The purpose of the health management of the flock has recently changed from a simple curative method to being predominantly preventive. In this context, individual sick animals have become an indicator of the health of the entire herd, rather than a problem limited to the single animal. The monitoring and health management of the flock have therefore become increasingly important and demanding topics for breeders, and allows early identification of health problems.

Solutions: In the herd health monitoring system, the recording of all pathological events, not only those followed by a treatment, is therefore essential. This allows the breeder to realize the frequency of the event over time.

Laboratory analyzes also prove to be a valid monitoring tool as they allow the characterization of the pathogen present on the farm. The analyzes can in fact be carried out on all matrices (milk, blood, feces, placenta, semen...).

Practical recommendations:

- apply the provisions contained in the compulsory plans for the prophylaxis of infectious diseases of animals and properly keep the relative documentation;
- adhere to voluntary control and eradication programs to improve the health status of the farm;
- correctly follow vaccination programs for the control of infectious diseases;
- introduce in farms subjects from known farms;
- house the new animals that enter the farm for a period of quarantine in separate and isolated rooms.