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**Dairy farmers’ compliance with culling recommendation in paratuberculosis programme**

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### Background

**Danish ParaTB Programme**
- Started in 2006
- Incl. 30-40% of dairy cattle
- To improve animal health & farming profitability
- 4 annual ELISA screenings required
- Culling specific cows has proven effective

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### Recommendations to farmers

- Identify high risk animals (“Red” and “Yellow”)
- Avoid use of milk and colostrum from high risk cows
- Segregate high and low risk cows at calving
- Clean calving area after high risk animals
- Swift removal of calves born to high risk dams
- Cull “Red” cows quickly – before next calving

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### Results

- 11,789/1,366,015 (0.9%) records were Red cows that were recommended culled & could possibly calve
- Study population: 30,848 possible calvings by Red cows
- 29% calved after being Red (3,364/11,789)
- 71% did NOT calve after becoming Red (8,425/11,789)
- Stayed in herd
  - **Median:** 1.4 years
  - **Max:** 6.9 years
  - **Stayed in herd**
  - **Median:** 0.3 years
  - **Max:** 4.7 years

### Compliance?

- Do farmers follow recommendations on culling of Red cows?

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### Objective

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  - To improve animal health & farming profitability
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### Conclusion

- 71% of farmers culled their cows as recommended
- Still, some red cows stayed in the herd for long and can thus infect their offspring and herd-mates

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### Testing

- Indirect Milk ELISA (ID-Screen®)
- Positive if S/P ratio >0.33

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### Herds and animals

- Enrolled herds in 2008-15
- All lactating animals tested in programme

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### Materials & Methods

- Did Red cows calve again?
- How long did Red cows stay in the herd?