

# Dr. Liz Eckelkamp

## Univ. of TN Institute of Ag



# Tech Tools for Dairy Profitability: Making SMARTer Decisions

Dr. Liz Eckelkamp  
Associate Professor and Dairy Extension Specialist  
University of Tennessee

54<sup>th</sup> Annual Dairy Practices Council Conference



What comes to mind when you hear "Precision Technology"?

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.

# Precision Technologies

- What do I mean?
  - Enhancing human:
    - Observation
    - Labor
  - Supplementing human:
    - Data collection
    - Decision-making
- Full replacement
  - Calf feeder
  - Robotic milking
  - CIP system
- Supplementation
  - Heat detection
  - Electroconductivity
  - Herd management software

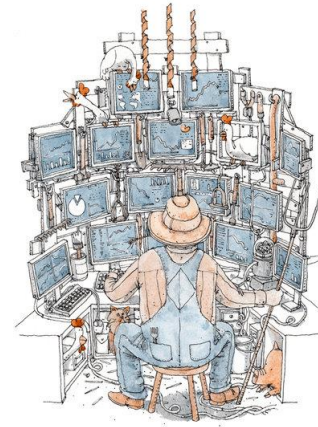
# Precision Dairy Management



*The use of automated, mechanized technologies toward refinement of dairy management processes, procedures, or information collection*

## Something to keep in mind

- Farmer first, data second

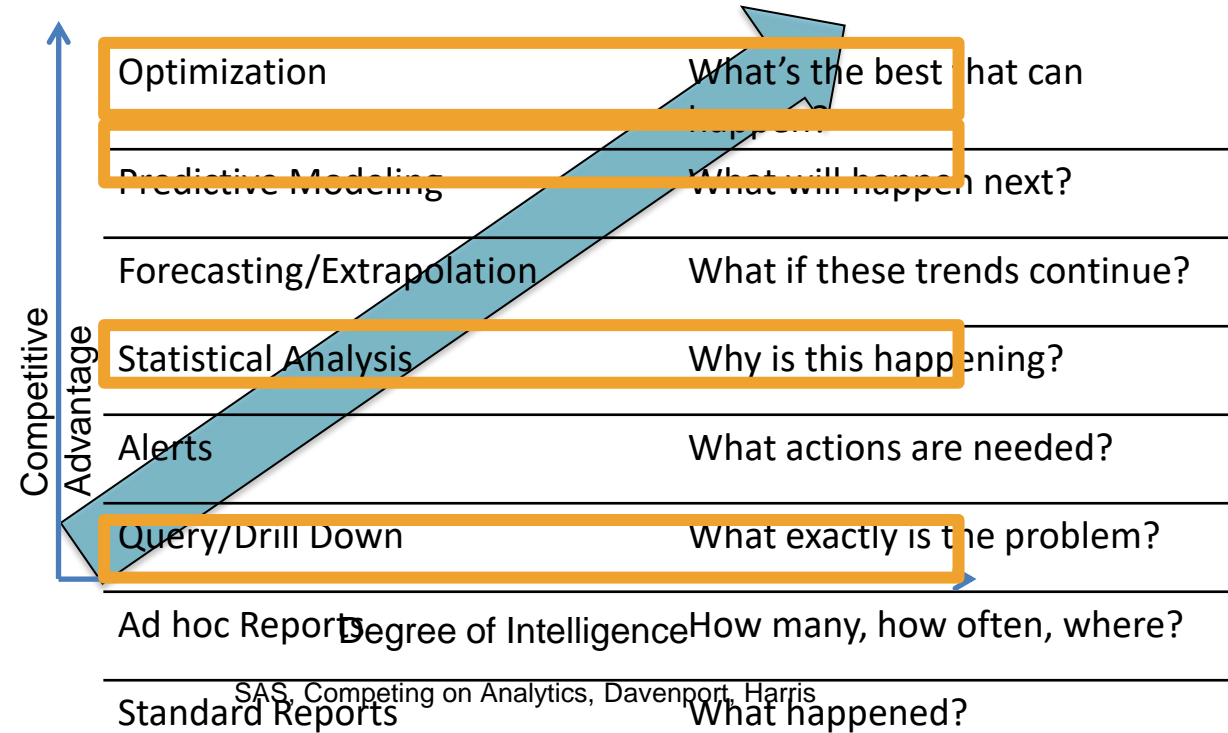


## Using analytics to improve performance



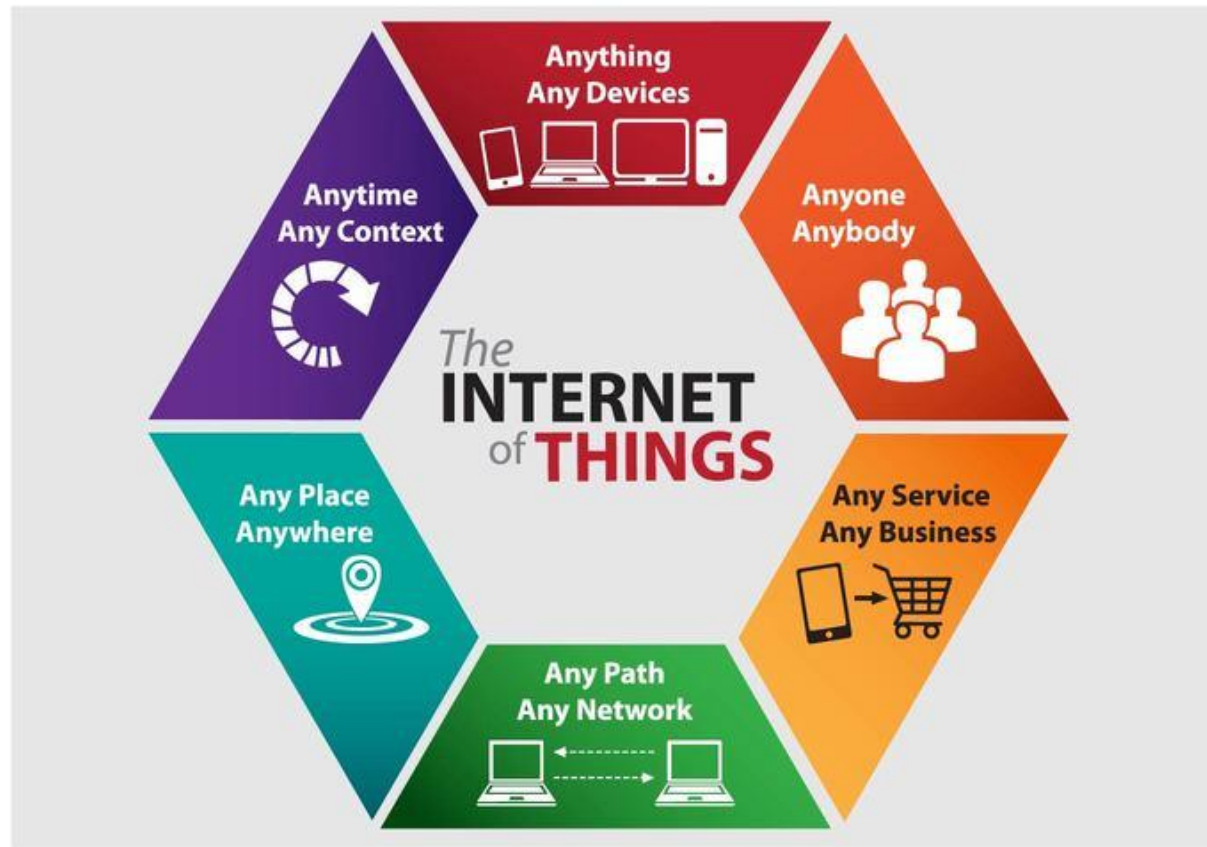


# Business Intelligence and Analytics



**“In God We Trust; All Others Bring Data.” – William Edward Deming**

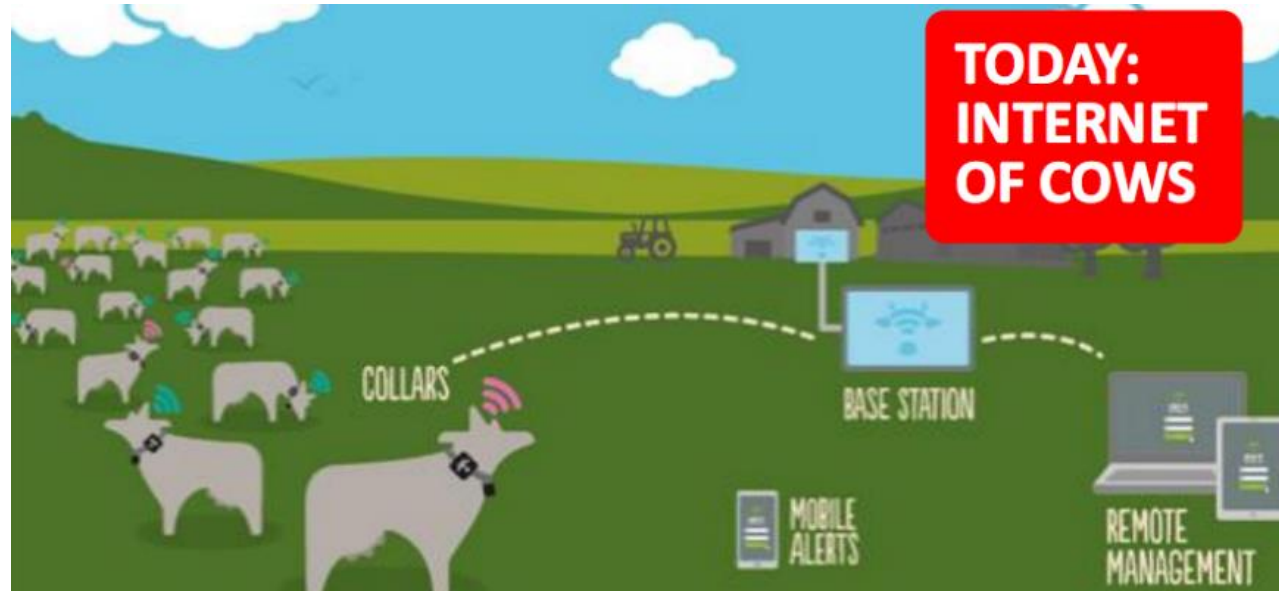




What are your top two data security concerns related to technology you use?

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.



## Path to success



Integrate



Analyze



Visualize

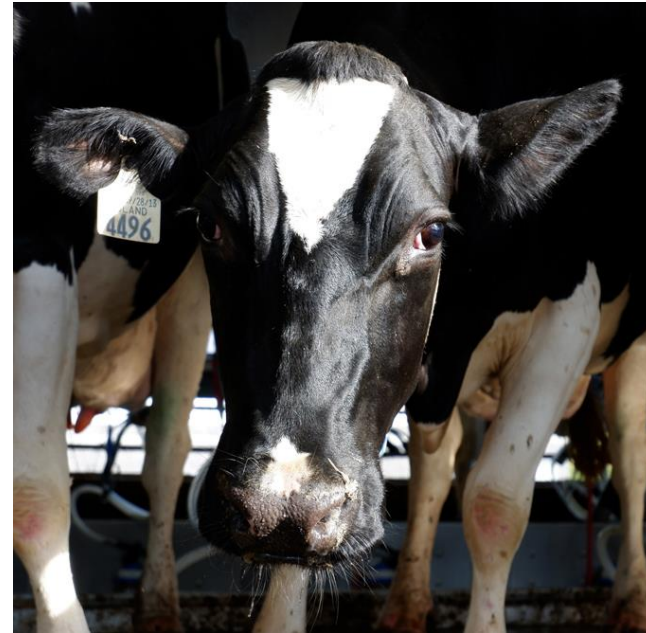
What are you two greatest needs when engaging with members in your dairy community?

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.



**How does this relate to:**



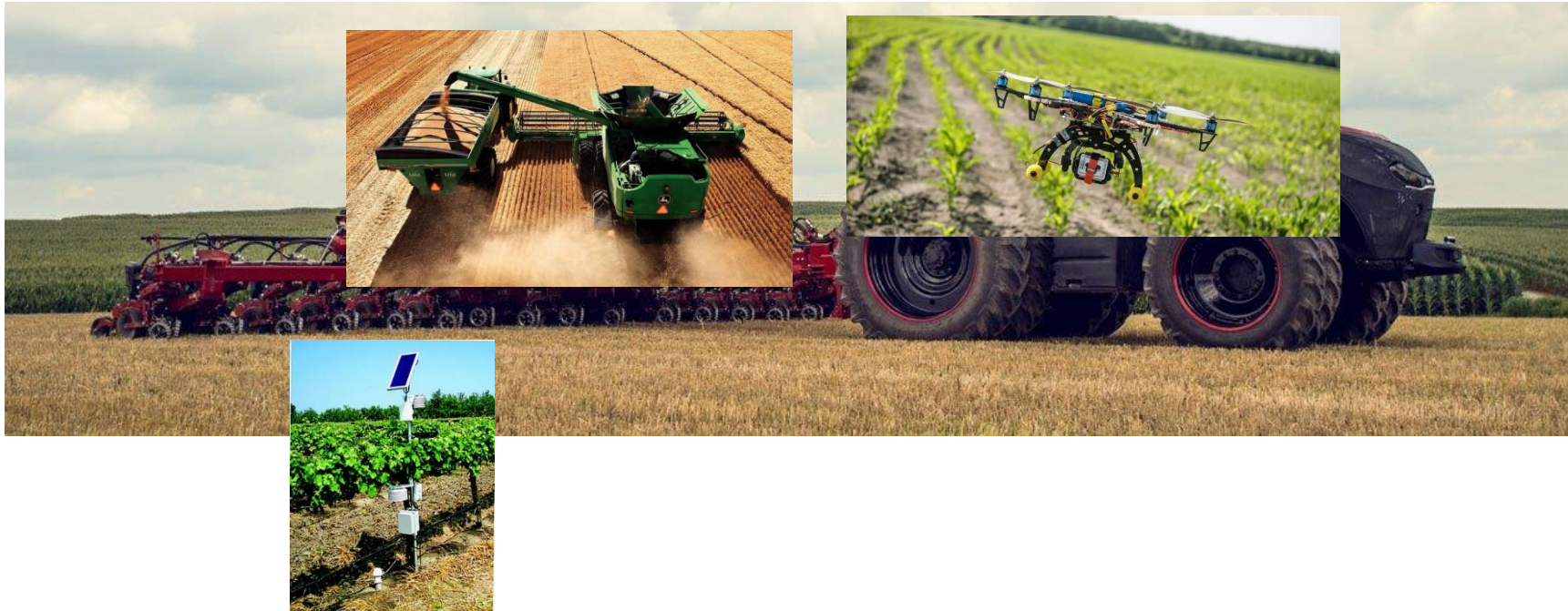


## What counts as technology?

- Wearable
- Part of the milking system
- Stand-alone
- Management software



# Precision Farming



# Feeding



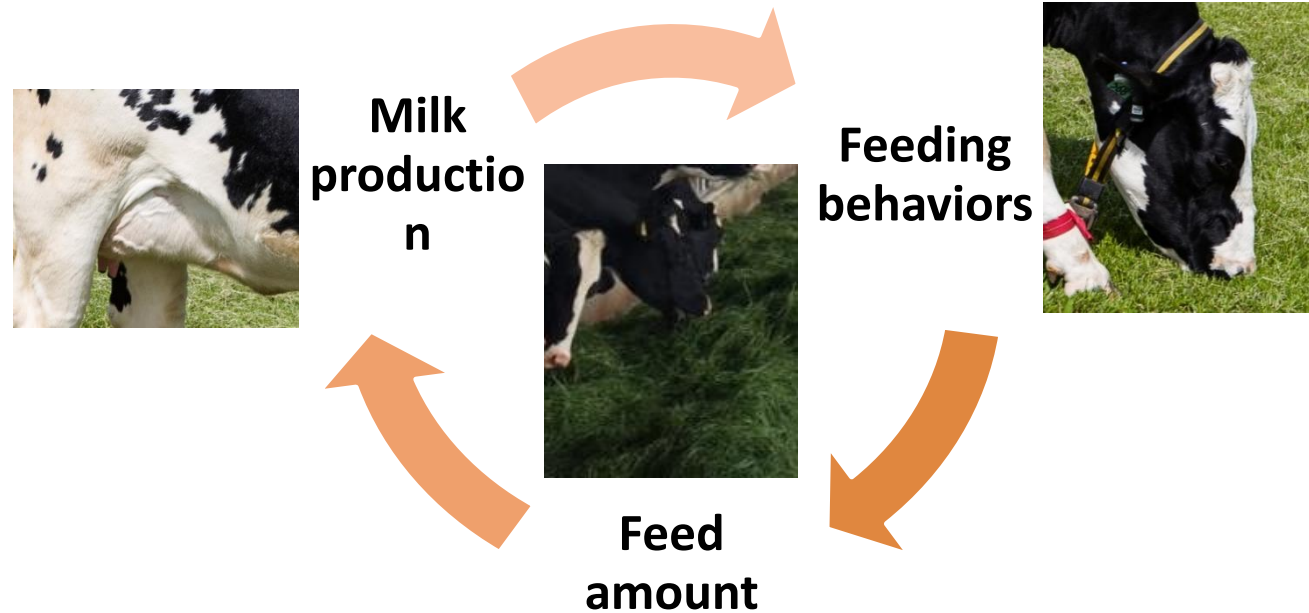


## Automated TMR mixing

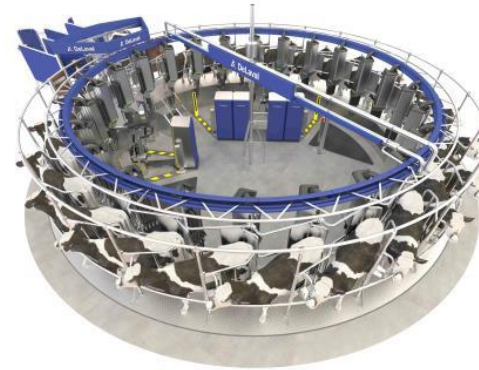


# Precision feeding

- So why does it matter?
  - More than just replacement of labor

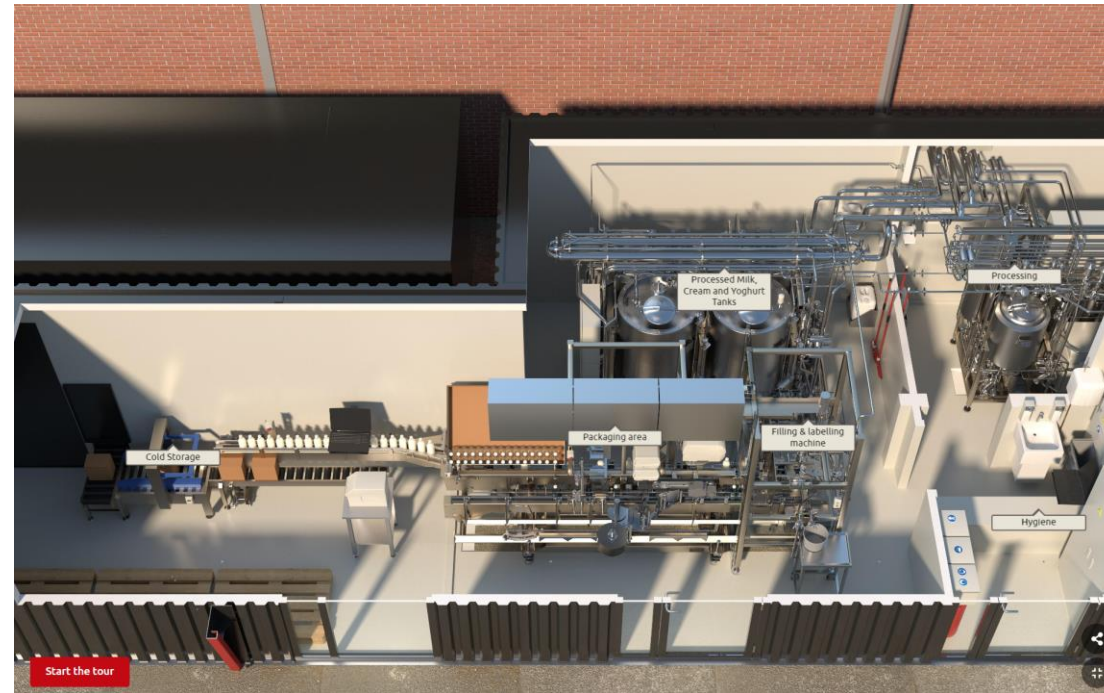


# Automated Milking Systems



# Automatic Processing?

- Lely Orbiter
  - Still in testing
  - Not FDA approved





# Data management solutions





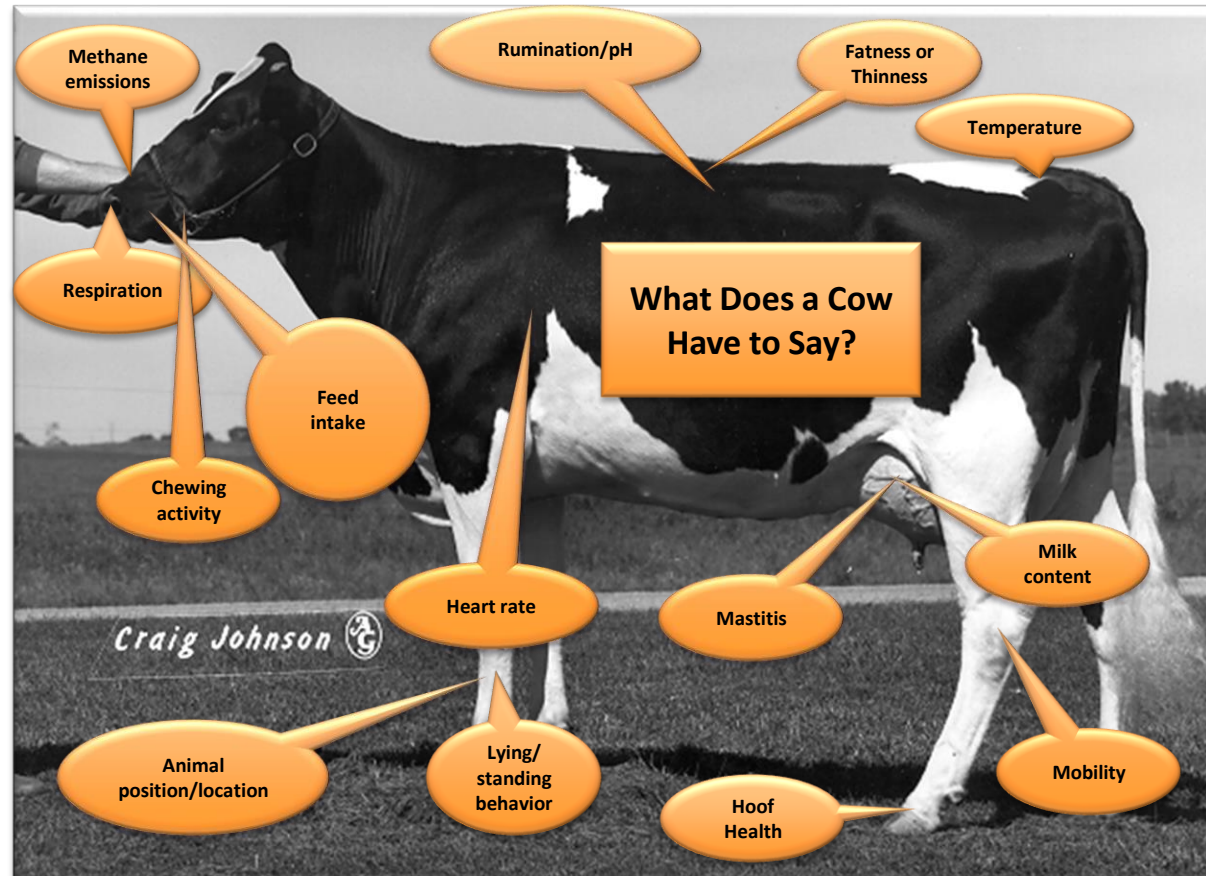
# Precision dairy monitoring

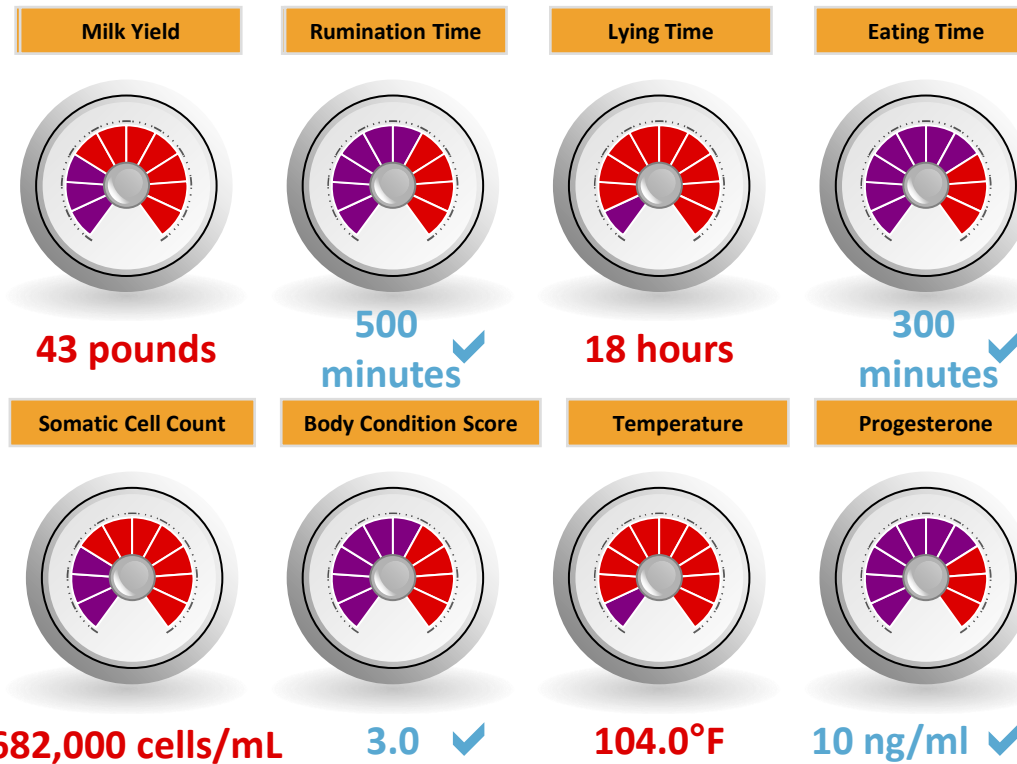


## Precision dairy monitoring uses

- Estrus Detection
- Mastitis Detection
- Fresh Cow Disease Detection
- Lameness Detection
- Calving Detection
- Genetic Traits
- Management Monitoring







© Copyright Showeet.com

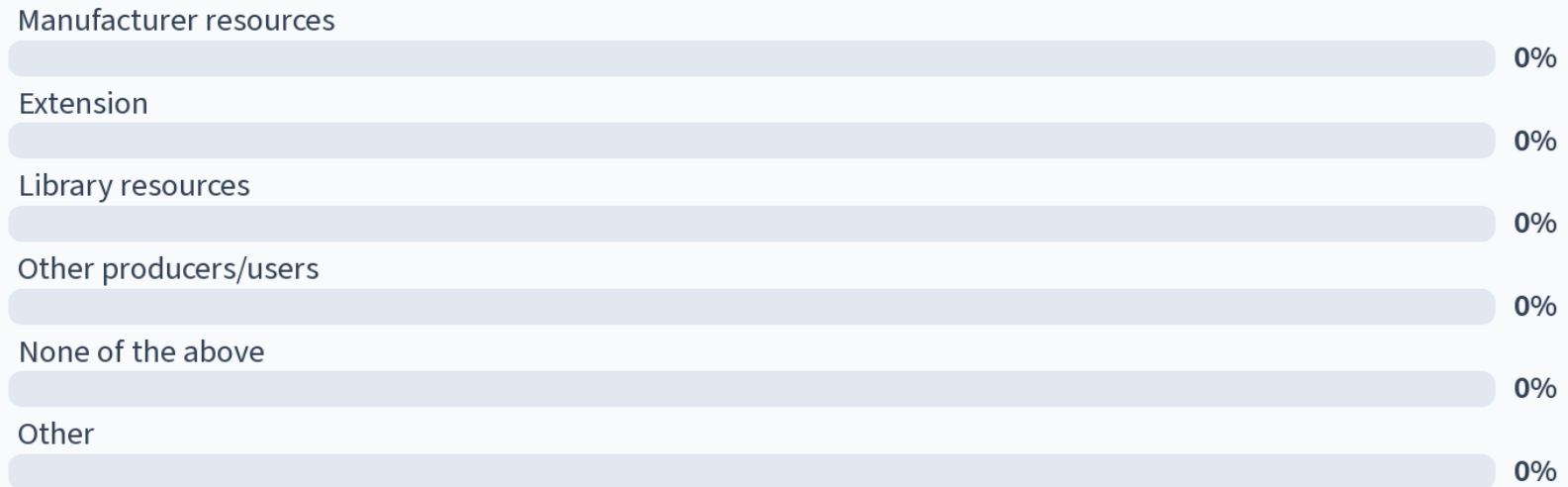
## Precision dairy benefits

- Improved animal health and well-being
- Early detection
- Increased efficiency
- Improved product quality
- Minimized adverse environmental impacts
- More objective measures

## Ideal technology

- Explains an underlying biological process
- Can be translated to a meaningful action
- Cost-effective
- Flexible, robust, reliable
- Simple and solution focused
- Readily available information

## What resources do you use when looking for information about precision technologies?



## The options are endless





# Inline somatic cell count

Mastiline



Lely MQCC



DeLaval OCC



CellSense



## DeLaval Herd Navigator™

- Milk measurements
- Progesterone
  - Heat detection
  - Pregnancy detection
- LDH enzyme
  - Early mastitis detection
- BHBA
  - Indicator of subclinical ketosis



# Neck or Ear Based Behavior Monitoring



# Physiology Monitoring



**Vetcheq**



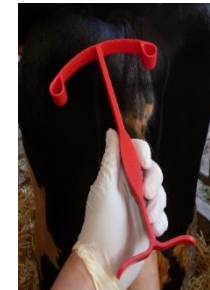
## Leg based behavior monitoring



# Real time location systems

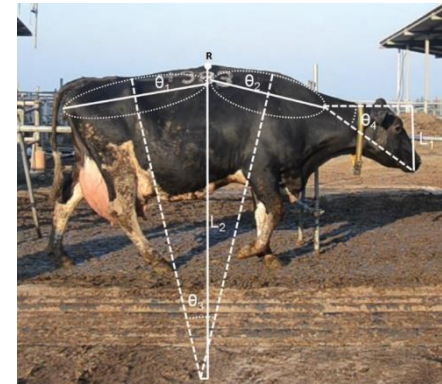
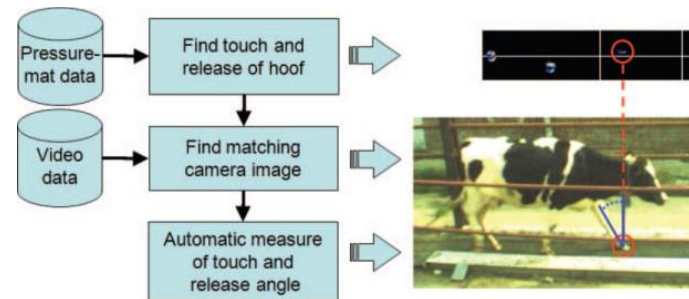


# Calving detection



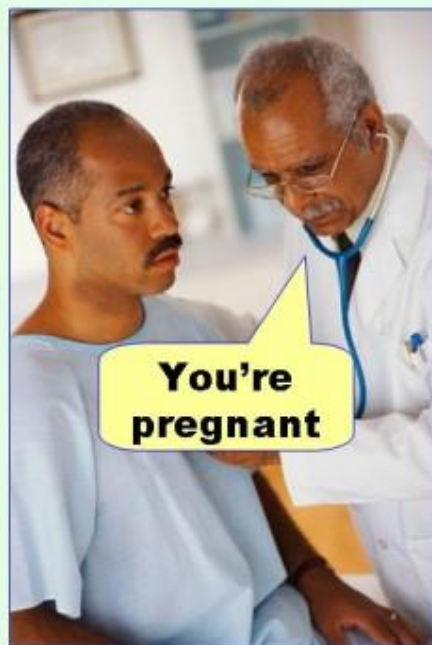


# Objective Measurements





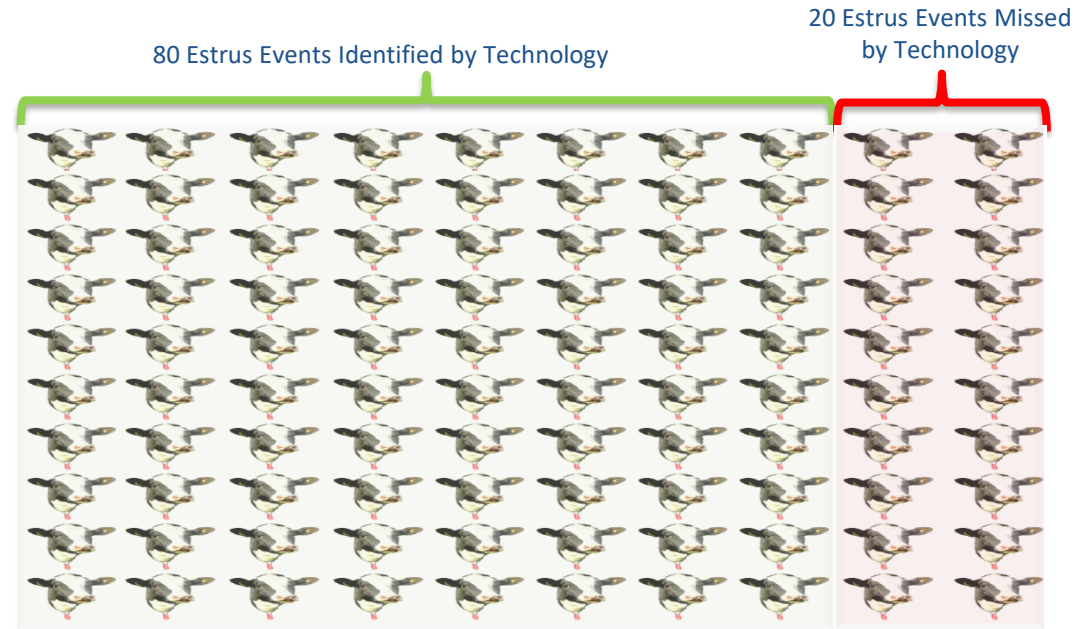
**Type I error**  
(false positive)



**Type II error**  
(false negative)

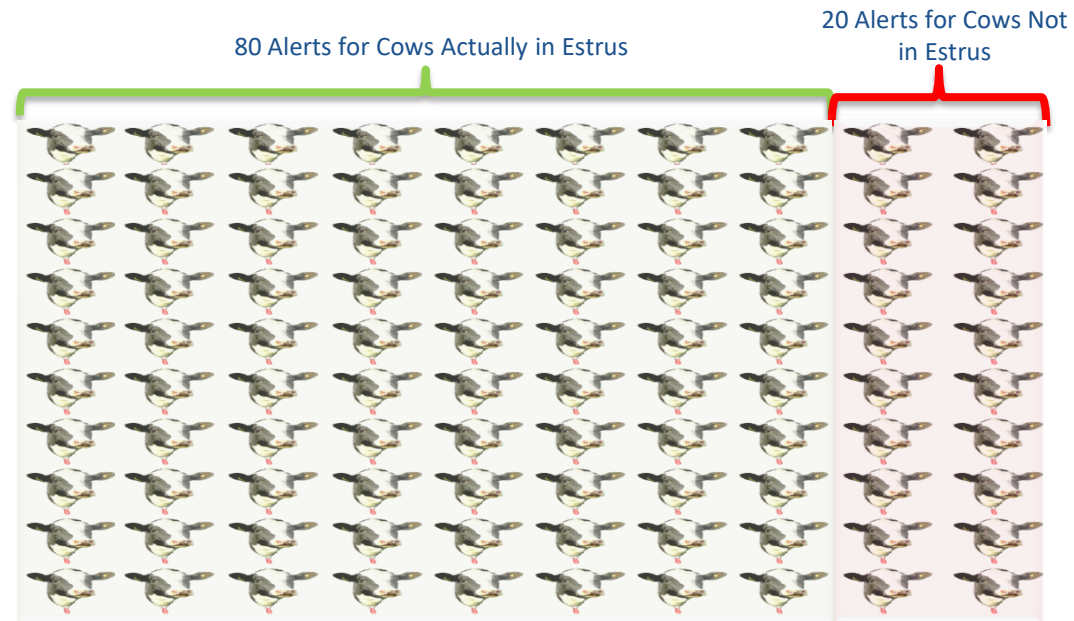


# How many cows with a condition can we find?



Example: 100 estrus events

# How many alerts coincide with an actual event?



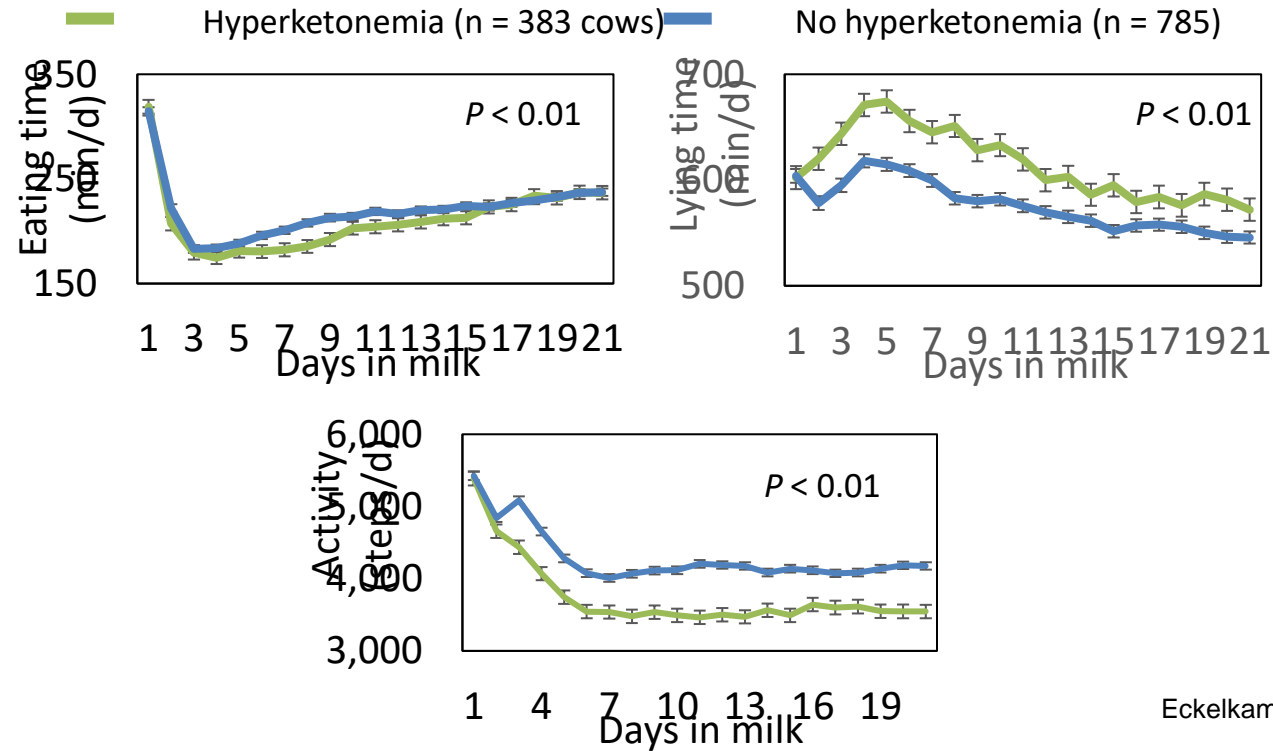
Example: 100 Estrus alerts

Assume we have 300 cows

	Alert +	100	Alert -	200
Estrus +	100	True positive (TP) 80	False negative (FN) 20	
Estrus -	200	False positive (FP) 20	True negative (TN) 180	

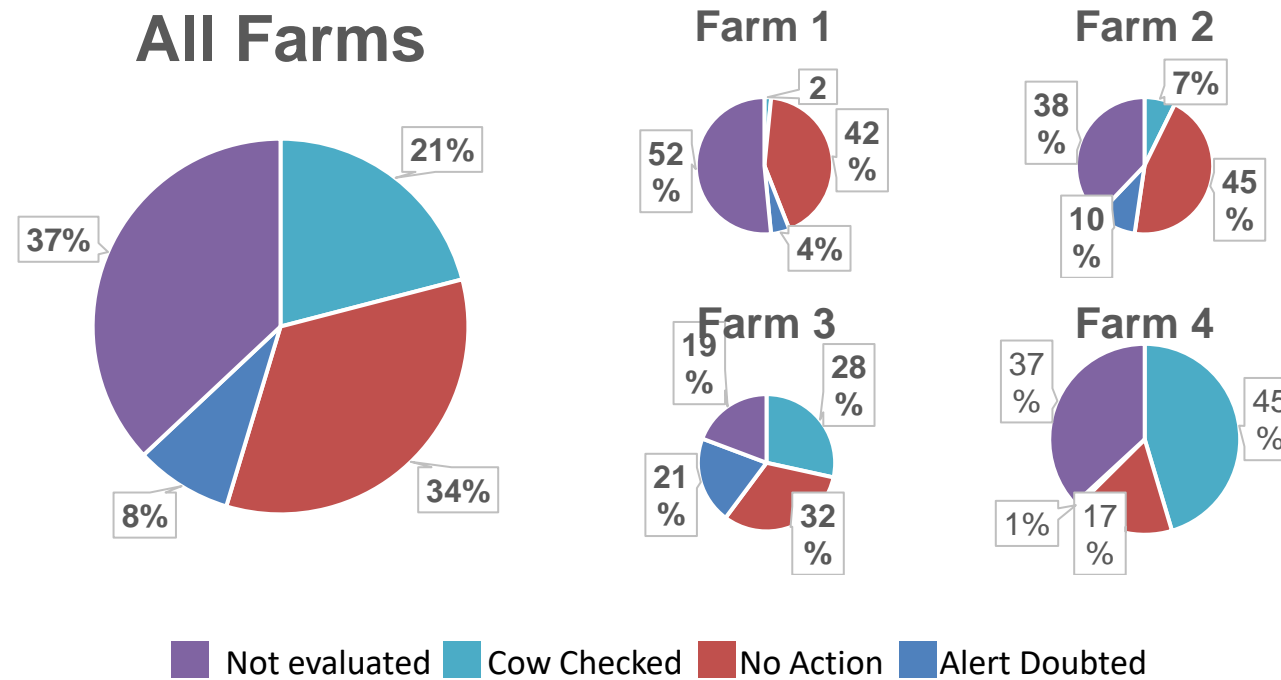
Specificity = 80%

## Differences in observation



Eckelkamp et al., unpublished

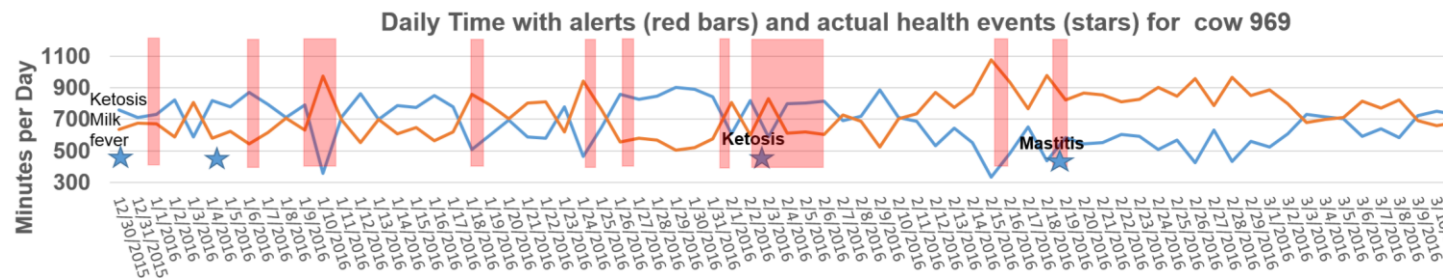
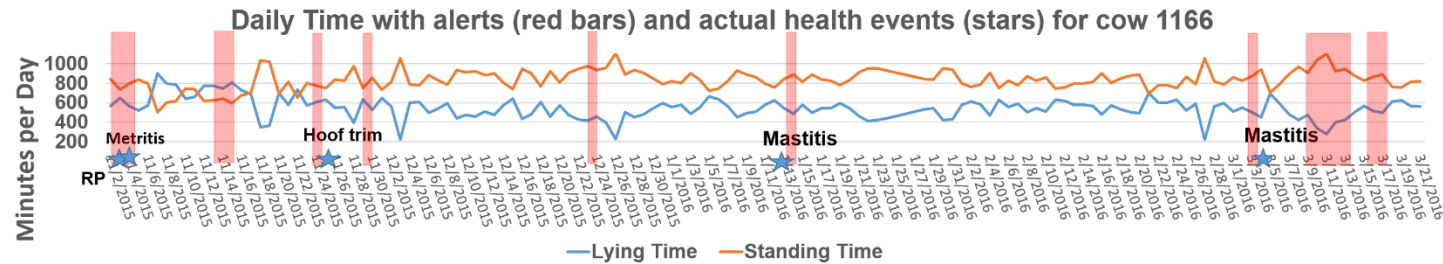
# Farmer use of real alerts



Eckelkamp et al.,  
2021



# Why?



Eckelkamp et al., unpublished

## So what now?

- Machine-learning?



# Fresh cow disorders

## Traditional analysis

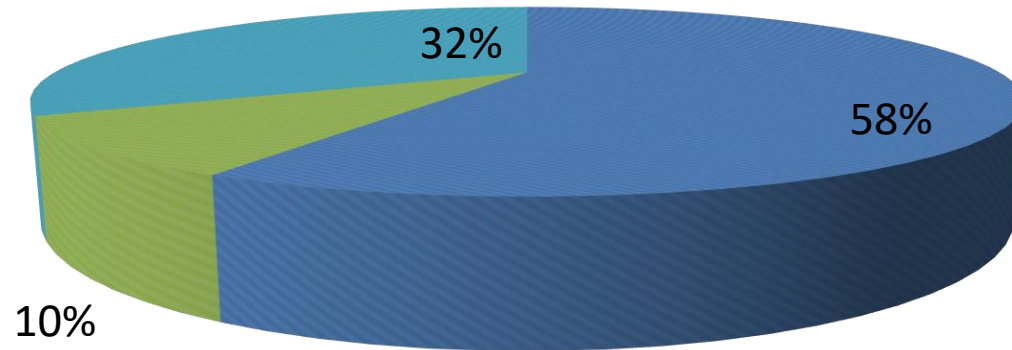
- Detecting any disease
  - 51 to 56% balanced accuracy
- Detecting a specific disease
  - 50 to 53% balanced accuracy

## Machine-learning

- Detecting any disease
  - 73 to 75% balanced accuracy
- Detecting a specific disease
  - 76 to 78% balanced accuracy

Eckelkamp et al., unpublished

# Calving detection



## Traditional analysis

- Alert Within 48 Hours Before Bolus Expulsion
- No Alert Provided
- Alert Greater than 48 Hours Before Bolus Expulsion

Hardy et al., 2015

## Machine-learning

Technology	Sensitivity	Specificity
HR Tag	55.6%	91.8%
IceQube	88.9%	93.5%
Combination	100.0%	96.5%

Borchers et al., 2015

**So what?**



## Practical considerations

- Technology
  - Must fill an on-farm need
  - Must have a practical outcome
  - Must enhance or replace labor or observation
  - Must have a good service team
  - Must provide good start-up guide



## Practical considerations

- Farmer
  - Must be willing to use the technology
  - Must be a good manager
  - Must be able to incorporate technology into farm
  - Must have a good service team



## What other considerations come to mind?

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.

# Questions?

Dr. Elizabeth Eckelkamp

Associate Professor

[eeckelka@utk.edu](mailto:eeckelka@utk.edu)

244 Brehm Building

Knoxville, TN 37996

(865) 974-8167



@utdairy



@DairEgirl



@UTIADairy

