

Detection of *Streptococcus agalactiae* in Danish Dairy Herds by Different Methods

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Streptococcus agalactiae (*S. agalactiae*) is a contagious pathogen, causing primarily subclinical mastitis and high somatic cell count, consequently, affecting milk production and quality. Therefore, detection of the pathogen is crucial, when monitoring the prevalence and infection rate. This study showed that including additional detection methods, other than the standard mandatory collection of bulk milk samples, improves the ability to find infected herds. Findings of *S. agalactiae* in individual cow milk samples analyzed either by PCR or bacteriology, was responsible for 56 % of herds found infected within Juli 2021 and June 2023. However, in only 11 % of the cases, *S. agalactiae* was rediscovered in bulk milk samples up to 3 months after detection. This might be due to dilution of the pathogen in bulk milk of large herds. Accordingly, further research is needed to explore this issue.

Key words: *Streptococcus agalactiae*, surveillance program, udder health