Streptococcus agalactiae

Development and status of the Danish programme

Erik Rattenborg

DVM, Ph.d.

History

1954. A national control programme was launched.
Culture from milk tanks and milk cans

1963. Compulsory eradication and surveillance programme.

1964-1995. Different testing intervals. From 4 times a year to once every other year.

1995-2017. One test of bulk tank milk annually.

2012. Change from culture to PCR.

2017-. Two annual bulk tank milk tests. (Legislation: 'At least one')

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History

Legislation

<u>In the good old days.</u> Compulsory eradication and prohibition of selling cows from infected herds. Governmental subsidies.

1995. Voluntary eradication. Governmental subsidies discontinued.

2005. Selling cows from infected herds allowed. However, obligation to inform. No cows allowed in shows where milking takes place.

Regulations in place 2024

Legislation

-Surveillance in all dairy herds at least once annually. (Twice annually).

-All infected herds registered in public register (CHR).

-Obligation to inform to all who gets in contact with the herd.

-No cows from infected herds in shows where milking takes place. (no cattle from infected herds).

The register – infected status

'Infected status' of herd (since 2018)

- Positive bulk tank sample (culture or PCR < 40). If two subsequent samples within 30 days are negative, the herd is not classified as infected.
- Positive sample (culture or PCR < 40) from a cow with *clinical* mastitis. Officiel lab. only.
- Positive sample (culture or PCR < 30) from cow with *subclinical* mastitis. Officiel lab. only.
- Entry of cows from infected herds

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The register – regaining free status

Regaining free status

- Negative test (pooled individual samples) of all milking cows. Collected the same day.
- Negative test of all cows (individual quarter samples). Collected the same day.
- Four succesively negative bulk tank milk samples collected with intervals of 30 to 45 days.
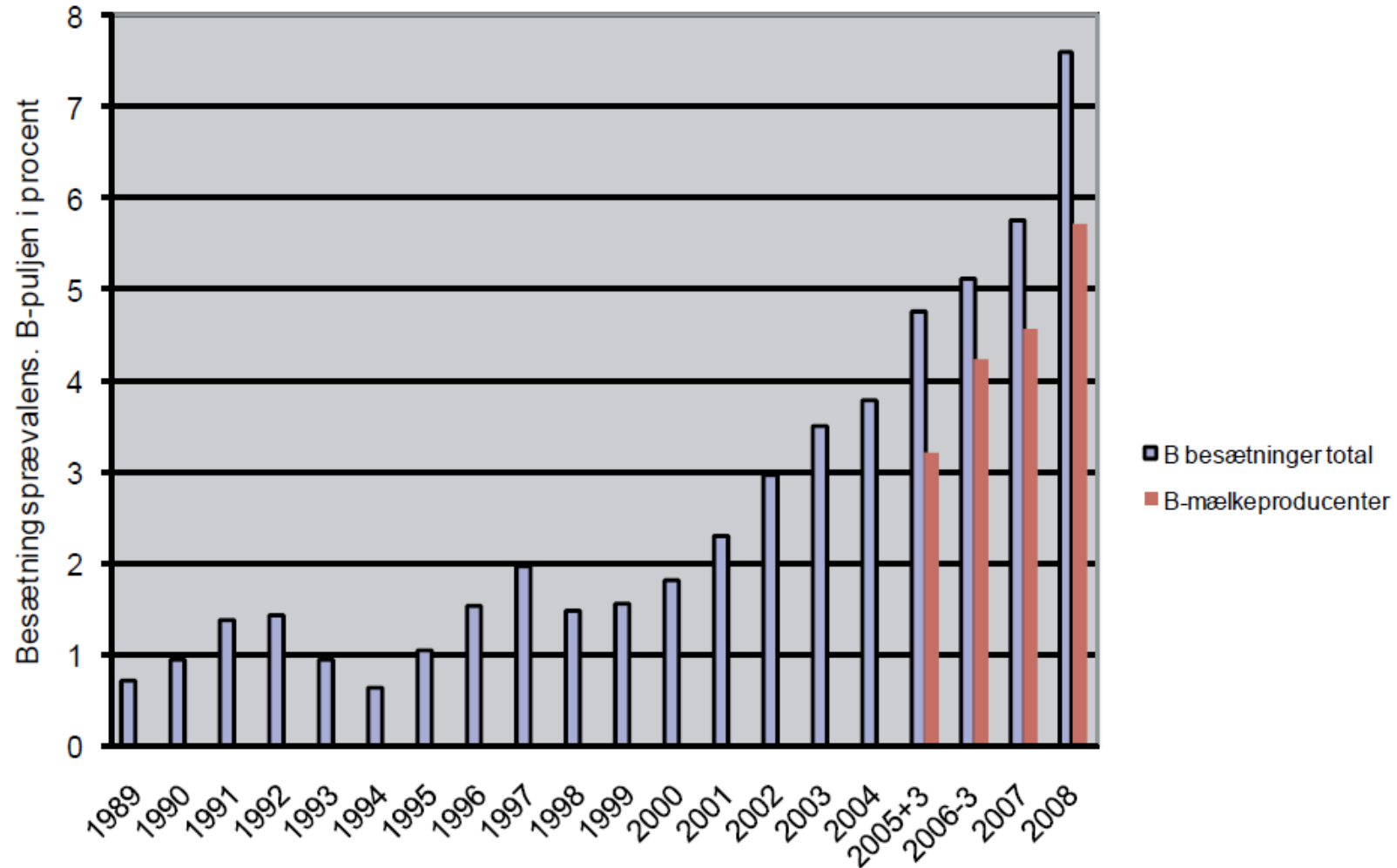
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Results – in the good old days

1950's.   20-30% prevalence of infected herds.

1970's.   Decrease to 1,9% prevalence.

1980's.   1-2% prevalence.

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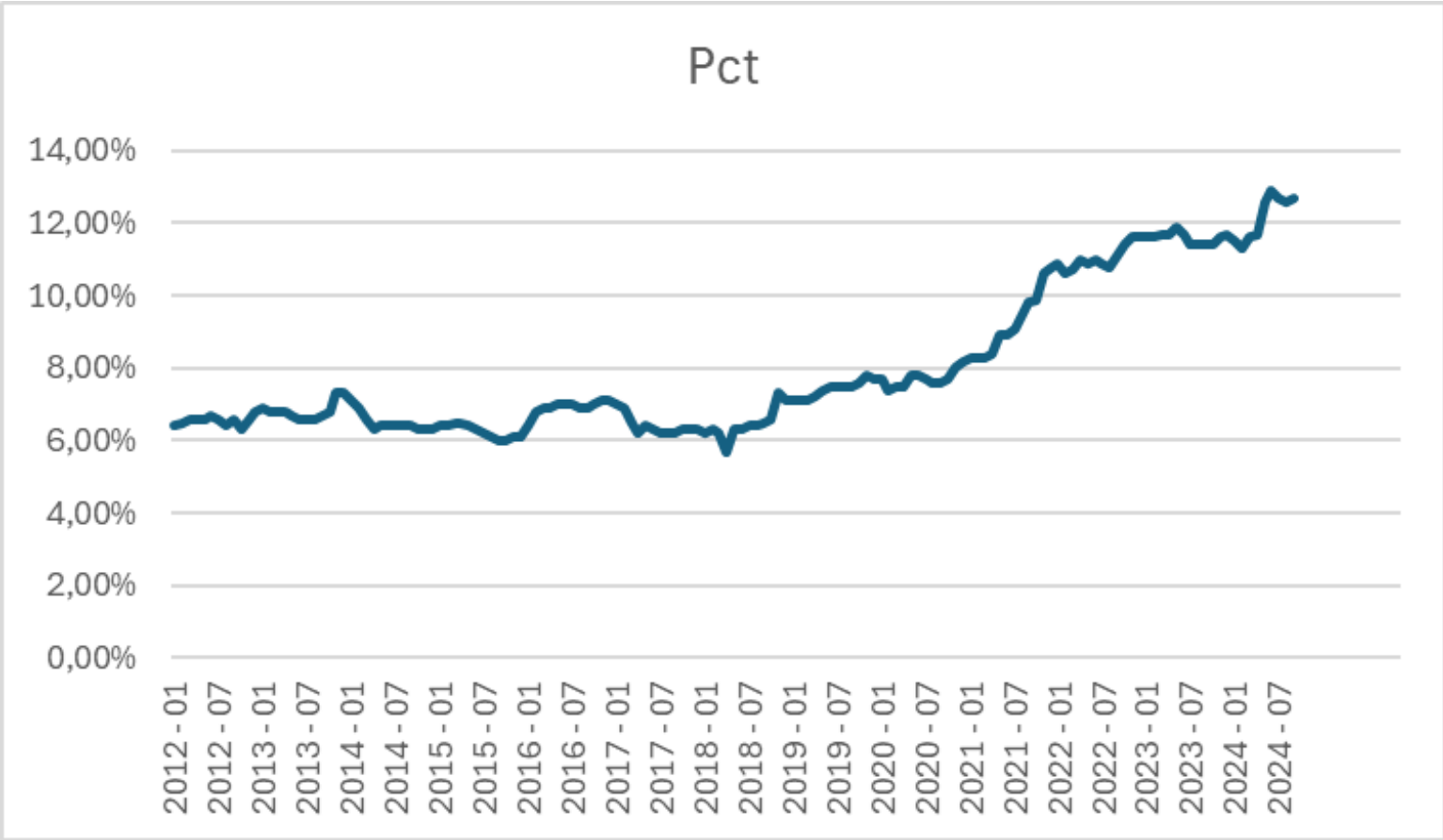
Results – 1989 to 2008

Results – prevalence dairy herds 2012 to 2024

Conclusion

When legislation was implemented, the prevalence decreased

When legislation has been eased, the prevalence increased

Regulations must be precise

Complexity of farm structures and herdsize make disease control more difficult