

Norway: ok to go through national register

Sweden: Växa, should be okay

Finland: most of positive farms through Naseva herd health system

Denmark: must find out, but will find a solution

Background Information for the Farmer

We are contacting you because, according to national registry data, your herd has been identified as having *Streptococcus agalactiae* within the past five years. The purpose of this questionnaire is to better understand how this has affected your herd and how you have managed the situation. Your insights will help improve udder health programs and support services for dairy farmers. The questionnaire should preferably be answered by a person that is responsible for herd management on your farm. In case you think *Streptococcus agalactiae* was falsely detected in your herd, please still answer the first question, as this is also relevant information.

Section 1. *Streptococcus agalactiae* status

1.1. What is the current *Streptococcus agalactiae* status of your herd?

- ☐ *Streptococcus agalactiae* is currently present in my herd
- ☐ *Streptococcus agalactiae* is not present now, but it has been within the last 5 years
- ☐ *Streptococcus agalactiae* has been detected, but I am convinced it was a mistake, please explain _____ (questionnaire ends here)
- ☐ I must be contacted by mistake, to my knowledge *Streptococcus agalactiae* was not detected in my herd during the last 5 years (questionnaire ends here)

Section 2. Demography and farm characteristics

Please provide the following background information to help us better understand your farm's context.

2.1. Your age

- ☐ Under 25
- ☐ 25–35

- ☐ 36–45
- ☐ 46–55
- ☐ Over 55
- ☐ Prefer not to say

2.2. Your gender

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer not to say

2.3. Your role on farm

- ☐ Owner
- ☐ Manager
- ☐ Other _____

2.4. Herd Size

(Total number of cows, including both milking and dry cows)

_____ COWS

2.5. Milking System

- ☐ Milking parlor
- ☐ Rotary system
- ☐ Automatic milking system (AMS/robotic)
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

2.6. What is the Bulk Tank Somatic Cell Count (BTSCC) for the last 3 months?

(Average BTSCC level, if known)

- ☐ Below 100,000
- ☐ 100,000–199,999

- ☐ 200,000–299,999
- ☐ 300,000 or more
- ☐ Not sure

2.7. What level of dry cow therapy is typically used on your farm?

- ☐ 0–30% of cows treated
- ☐ 31–60% of cows treated
- ☐ nearly all cows treated
- ☐ Not sure / no specific strategy
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

2.8. Do you buy any animals from other herds for your herd?

- ☐ Yes – regularly (yearly or more often)
- ☐ Yes – occasionally (when needed, not every year)
- ☐ No – never

2.9. Additional Comments

(Optional – please share anything else you would like us to know)

Section 3. Understanding *Streptococcus agalactiae* on your farm

3.1. For how long time has *Streptococcus agalactiae* been present in your herd (if not present now, how long was the latest period)?

- ☐ less than 1 year
- ☐ 1–5 years
- ☐ 6 years or more
- ☐ Not sure

3.2. How did you first find out that *Streptococcus agalactiae* was present in your herd?

- ☐ Bulk milk sample
- ☐ Individual cows' sample
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ Other _____

3.3. What was your initial reaction upon receiving the information that *Streptococcus agalactiae* was found in your herd?

(Select all that apply)

- ☐ I was not concerned
- ☐ I shared the information with my veterinarian or other advisors
- ☐ I shared the information with colleagues and/or employees
- ☐ I was afraid of the consequences for udder health (scc, clinical mastitis, treatments)
- ☐ I was afraid of the consequences for milk quality (bacterial count, scc)
- ☐ I was afraid of the economic consequences
- ☐ Other *(Please describe how you felt)* _____

3.4. How do you think about the situation now?

(Select all that apply)

- ☐ I am not concerned
- ☐ I experience consequences for the udder health (scc, clinical mastitis, treatments)
- ☐ I experience consequences for milk quality (bacterial count, scc)
- ☐ I experience economic consequences
- ☐ Other *(Please describe your current thoughts or emotions)* _____

3.5. At/before the time of the first diagnosis, did you believe your herd had an udder health problem?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

3.6. Do you think the presence of *Streptococcus agalactiae* in your herd has a negative impact of the following?

(Select all that apply)

- ☐ Milk production
- ☐ Udder health (scc, clinical mastitis, treatments)
- ☐ Milk quality (bacterial count, scc)
- ☐ Culling rate
- ☐ Use of antibiotics
- ☐ Consumer trust or public perception
- ☐ Farm sustainability
- ☐ Professional pride
- ☐ Personal or staff stress levels
- ☐ Possibility of zoonotic transmission
- ☐ Trade opportunities or sales
- ☐ Participation in farm shows or exhibitions
- ☐ Raw milk sales *(if relevant in your country)*
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other

3.7. Do you know how your herd became infected with *Streptococcus agalactiae*?

- ☐ Yes – I purchased infected animal(s)
- ☐ Yes – please explain: _____
- ☐ No

3.8. In your opinion, how does veterinarians coming on your farm view the presence of *Streptococcus agalactiae*?

- ☐ Not concerned
- ☐ The veterinarians are alert of udder health consequences
- ☐ The veterinarians suggest implementing control measures against *Streptococcus agalactiae*

- ☐ The veterinarians suggest eradication of *Streptococcus agalactiae*
- ☐ The veterinarians do not know about the presence of *Streptococcus agalactiae*
- ☐ Other (Optional – please describe briefly) _____

Section 4. Planning and actions to manage *Streptococcus agalactiae*

4.1. Do you have a plan to manage *Streptococcus agalactiae* on your farm (does not have to be written)?

- ☐ Yes – for eradication (trying to get rid of the bacteria)
- ☐ Yes – for control (trying to keep a low level of infected animals)
- ☐ No – there is no plan

4.2. Which management measures have you implemented (or did you implement) against *Streptococcus agalactiae*? - and in your opinion, how effective are they?

(Please rate the effectiveness of each measure on a scale from 1 = Not effective to 5 = Very effective)

Measure	1	2	3	4	5	Not used
Culling of infected cows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Segregation of infected cows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lactation antimicrobial treatment (mastitis)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dry cow therapy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dry off single quarters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved milking hygiene	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of post- or pre-milking teat disinfection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to milking equipment or maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular testing and monitoring on milk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff training and protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased cleaning of water troughs/drinking source	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Measure	1	2	3	4	5	Not used
Increased cleaning of feeding table/equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased cleaning of stalls/bedding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.3. Could you increase your efforts to manage *Streptococcus agalactiae*?

(Select all that apply)

- ☐ Yes - I try to improve all the time
- ☐ Yes – but I do not have the time/resources
- ☐ Yes – but I do not have the knowledge
- ☐ No – I believe the current measures are sufficient
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ I don't know

4.4. How is your veterinarian involved in the management of *Streptococcus agalactiae* on your farm? And if not. Who else are involved?

(Free text)

Section 5. Motivation to Eradicate (voluntary)

This section is for farms where Streptococcus agalactiae is currently present

5.1. What would motivate you to start an eradication program?

(Free text – e.g., financial incentives, advice from vet, peer influence, milk buyer requirements)

Section 6. Eradication Experience (voluntary)

This section is for farmers who have eradicated Streptococcus agalactiae from their herd (went from having Streptococcus agalactiae to no streptococcus agalactiae)

6.1. How did the eradication go?

(Please describe the steps, strategies, or key factors that led to success.)

6.2. What motivated you to start an eradication?

(Free text)

6.3. Was it worth the effort? Are you satisfied with the results? Why or why not?

(Free text – feel free to include both positive and negative aspects.)

6.4. What improvements did you notice after eradication?

(Select all that apply and feel free to add others)

- ☐ Lower somatic cell count (SCC)
- ☐ Increased milk yield
- ☐ Fewer mastitis cases or treatments
- ☐ Reduced use of antibiotics
- ☐ Less stress for staff or yourself
- ☐ Improved reputation or marketability
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____