



## ADDAs

### Advanced Dairying in Austria

Programme: COMET – Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies

Programme line: K-Project

COMET-subprojekt, duration and project type:

ADDAs, 09/2014 – 08/2017, multi-firm

## Light into the dark – Clarification of data protection law in cattle breeding

Due to mechanization and digitalization the amount of data increases in livestock farming. Lack of communication leads to multiple recording of individual data. Discussions over „Who owns the data?“ and, connected to that, „Who may use which data for which purpose?“ are an impediment to further development of preventive measures in cattle breeding. Until now, farmers assumed, that they owned the data in connection with veterinary treatments. Veterinarians see this information partially as their intellectual property. ADDAs brought light into the dark and thus created a basis for joint further development.



### Diagnostic data are essential to improve animal health

Data on the animal, but also the environment, are crucial for the improvement of animal health. In addition to individual information about an animal, such as the lineage, milk yield, feeding, fertility and health, data on housing and other environmental factors are used to optimize animal welfare and performance. The importance of preventive measures is increasing in that context. The great amount of data should be amalgamated, to make better use of them. Examples are the veterinary diagnoses on receipts on drug prescription. It is essential to record this data in a central data bank to genetically improve animal health on the long term and exclude animals that are extremely susceptible to disease, from breeding.



### Who owns the data?

To be able to connect and centrally save data, it is important to clarify the necessary requirements of the data protection law. If data come from different external data sources or groups of persons, the question „Who owns the data“ is often raised.

Until now, the farmers often assumed that they own for example data on drug receipts, because they consulted the veterinarian and paid for the treatment. Contrary, veterinarians see the data on these receipts partially as their intellectual property.



Fig. 1: Documentation of diagnoses and treatments according to Tierarzneimittelkontrollgesetz

The project 2.1 „Improvement of data management“ of the project ADDAs additionally focuses on the connection of different external data sources, such as data from laboratories and dairies, to avoid multiple recording of data and

generate better figures for the optimization of herd management. This can only be implemented technically and organizationally if all aspects of data protection law are clarified and the results are accepted by all partners. In the project ADDA a data protection expert, whom all partners trust, was commissioned by the representatives of the different advocacy groups.

### Impact and effects

This was the basis that the result will be accepted by all partners. The publication about data protection in cattle breeding is the first publicly available evaluation and clarification in the German speaking area. This allowed a correct and objective discussion of technical and organizational solutions of data connection in cattle breeding to gain added value from better analy-

sis and less effort for multiple data recording. Better tools for the prevention also help to increase the animal health and food safety

**Fig. 2: Overview of different data sources in dairy cattle farming**

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Zentrale Arbeitsgemeinschaft österr. Rinderzüchter	Oesterreich
Universität für Bodenkultur	Oesterreich
Tiergesundheitsdienste Nö,Oö	Oesterreich
LKV Austria GmbH	Oesterreich
Oesterreichische Tierärztekammer	Oesterreich

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