



# Precision Livestock Farming

Precision Livestock Farming is the use of advanced technologies to monitor animal behaviour, characteristics, or other parameters in animals' surroundings aiming to determine the health, wellbeing, reproductive, or productive status of animals. It is a management support tool which provides 24/7 monitoring of the farm and can measure parameters which cannot be detected even by the best farmers' eye. It often provides farms with early-warning systems before any clinical signs of illness appear, allowing for early intervention in health problems to help limit the need for antibiotic treatments.

## Sensor Technology

Sensor technologies generally measure something about an animal or their environment. This information feeds into a system which analyses the data to provide information to the farmer or automatically perform corrective actions. Various sensors exist on the market to, for example:

- Monitor temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide, ammonia, and other emission measurements in animal housing.
- Automatically weigh and record growth measurements
- Measure body temperature, heart rate and animal activity and location

## Data Monitoring

Information collected from sensor technologies can be used in different systems to measure and monitor various aspects. These systems can send alerts to the farmer, often via a smartphone app, so that appropriate interventions can be made.

Precision Livestock Farming can be a useful tool in collecting, analysing and using animal health and production data with minimal effort. This can help to inform management decisions including treatment options, selective breeding, animal nutrition etc.

