



76 Research paper

The effect of a national mastitis control program on the attitudes, knowledge, and behavior of farmers in the Netherlands by Jansen, J., Van Schaik, G., Renes, R.J. and T.J.G.M Lam
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in **Significant Impact Group(s)**: AMU reduction strategies \ Monitoring and surveillance \ Antibiotic use ; Prudent use AB

Species targeted: Dairy;

Age: Adult;

Outcome Parameter(s): Average annual bulk milk somatic cell count (BMSCC); Udder health

Summary: This study aimed to explore the effect of a national mastitis control program on Dutch farmers' attitudes, knowledge, and behavior regarding mastitis. Dairy farmers completed a survey on attitudes, knowledge, and behavior regarding mastitis before the start of a national mastitis control program in 2004, and 204 completed a similar survey in the final year of the program (2009). Although the average annual bulk milk somatic cell count (BMSCC) remained the same, the farmers' self-reported attitudes, knowledge, and behavior changed significantly. The results show that a national mastitis control program can be successful in changing attitudes, knowledge, and behavior regarding mastitis. Results suggest an association between a change in BMSCC on individual farms and a change in attitudes, knowledge, and behavior. Although more research is needed to identify the long-term effect of these changes, this study can contribute to an increased understanding of the effects of animal health programs.

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