

Changes in the work of a
veterinary practitioner in dairy
farming in the Netherlands:
towards more sustainability

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110 farmers, 100 cows average



Changes in my work since 2004 by two triggers:



1. NLF exchange visit to
India on use of herbs



2. National Antibiotic-
reduction program
in Dutch livestock farming



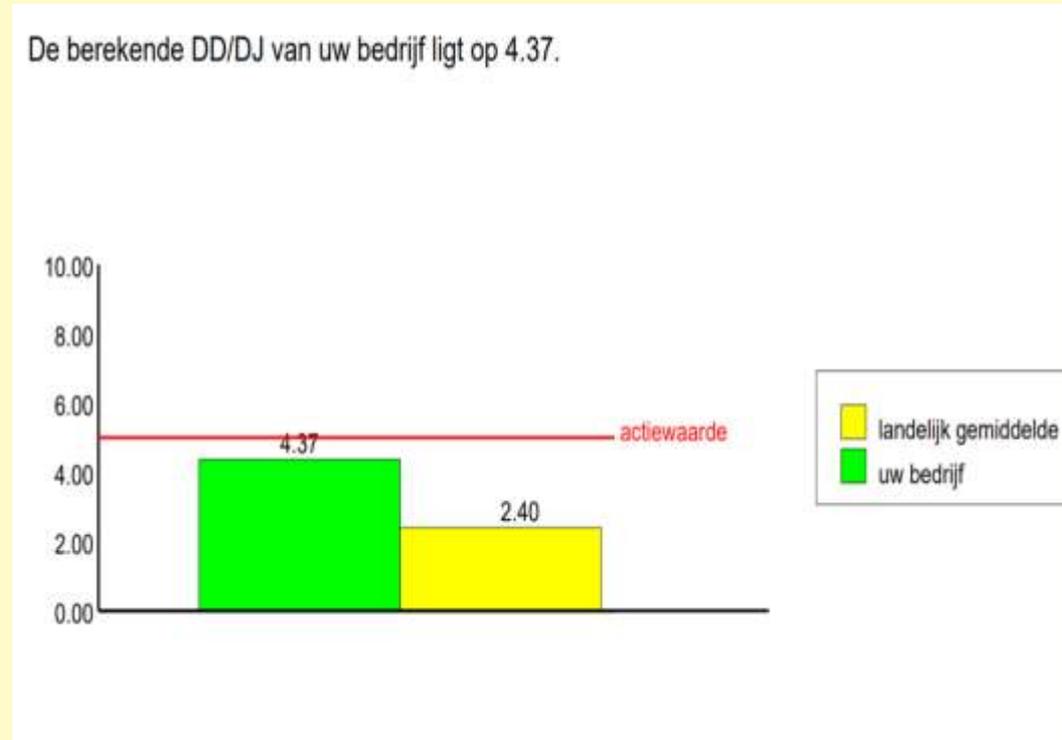
Effect of National Antibiotic-reduction program on dutch dairy farmers

1. Increased awareness

2. Change of habits by benchmarking

3. More attention to good management

4. Search for natural alternatives



Example 1: dry cow therapy

1. Awareness:

why give antibiotics to a healthy dry cow?

2. Change of habits by benchmarking:
I am using more antibiotics than my neighbour



3. More attention to good management:
Management checklist for dry cow period

4. Search for natural alternatives:
Oral bolus with garlic extract

Example 2: Calf rearing

Restricted antibiotic use

More attention to calf management: colostrum, antibody titers, milk replacer quality, vaccination

Natural treatment: Indian recipe (in collaboration with NLF India - Trans-Disciplinary University (TDU) and GLOHMSIWA)



NLF India recipe for calf diarrhoea:

Ingredients: Cumin, Turmeric (curcuma), black pepper, Fenugreek, Poppyseed, Asafoetida

Roast in a dry pan

Mix with garlic, onion and jaggery (sweet syrup)

Apply in the mouth of the calf



Use in practice

One farmer (>400 milkings cows) uses this recipe for prevention of diarrhoea (in first two weeks)

I use it on small scale (takes time to prepare the recipe fresh)

Good results with chronic diarrhoea cases in calves



Difficulties Calf Diarrhoea

On big farms sometimes necessary to use antibiotics periodically due to:

- Peak in calving
- Not following protocol calf management
- Changes in personnel
- Changes in dry cow management

Other developments towards more natural livestock farming:

In pasture: what is the effect of herbs in grassland on the health of the soil and health of the cow?





NLF Netherlands: farmers during training session on introducing herbs in grassland – to diversify Raygrass monocultures



Species used

- Chicory
- Plantain (*Plantago Lanceolata*)
- Yarrow (*Achille Millefolium*)
- Carum Carvi
- Clovers (*Leguminosae*)
- Other grasses (*Festuca arundinacea*, *Phleum Pratense*)



Cattle health benefits multispecies pasture



- Antiparasitic
- Improvement protein metabolism in rumen
- Higher in organic minerals
- Anti-inflammatory
- Liver-protective

Thank you for your attention!

