



Animal Health Monitoring

Dairy farmers can only supply milk from healthy cows. The farmer is obligated to monitor health and wellbeing of the cows. In the Netherlands three systems of monitoring have been developed, based on European law and criteria determined by the dairy sector. These systems have been approved by government, who also manage oversight over these systems. When an insufficient score occurs, animal health will be checked more frequently by the veterinarian.

Which animal health monitoring systems are there?



In the Dutch dairy sector there are **three systems** for monitoring and providing insight of animal health: The Periodic Company Visitation (PCV), the Continuous Animal health Monitoring (CAM) and the CowCompass. Each dairy company provides access to one of these monitoring systems for their farmers. Every farmer has to use one of these monitoring systems. Also the farmer collaborates with a permanent veterinarian to continuously improve animal health and wellbeing.



For all systems of monitoring, when an insufficient score occurs, animal health is mandatorily checked more frequently by the veterinarian. The **Central Organ for Quality matters in Dairy foundation** (COQD) checks the dairy companies for proper appliance and usage of these systems.

Factsheet Animal Health Monitoring

What is the Continuous Animal Health Monitoring (CAM)?



The Continuous Animal health Monitoring is based on the **already available data**, such as information of milk samples of from individual cows and the health status of the farm. The Continuous Animal health Monitoring score indicates the status of the animal health and wellbeing within the dairy farm.



The scores of the farm are **compared to the national average**. By presenting this benchmark, farmers are encouraged to improve the animal health.



The veterinarian visits the farm for a minimum of two times a year.

What is the CowCompass?



The veterinarian visits the farm twice a year to make up the CowCompass. The CowCompass is an integral risk analysis of the farm. The farm is evaluated on **seven items**: milking, feeding and water, housing, animal wellbeing, animal disease and handling of young cattle.



The CowCompass supplies the farmer with **handles** to improve health and wellbeing of the cows. As such the CowCompass is a monitoring system but also a management tool for the farmer.

What is the Periodic Company Visitation (PCV)?



For the Periodic Company Visitation the veterinarian visits the farm four times a year. The veterinarian checks the **health of each individual cow** and fills out a checklist.





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Did you know ...



... Every Dutch dairy farmer is obligated to monitor health and wellbeing of his cows?



... Dairy farmers are obligated to fill out on the monitoring systems? If they do not, they can not supply milk to a dairy company.



... in the Netherlands there are three systems of monitoring available, based on European legislation? These are the CowCompass, the Continuous Animal health Monitoring and the Periodic Company Visitation.



... the Dutch government manages oversight of the appliance and usage of these systems?