

Nedap Now, a tool for the dairy veterinarian

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Abstract

Nedap Now is a cloud-based software platform designed to enhance dairy farming through advanced data integration and insights. This paper examines the ease of use, data sharing capabilities, and farmer value propositions of Nedap Now, with a particular focus on animal reproductive performance and well-being. Additionally, it includes sections on animal and herd analysis to demonstrate the comprehensive benefits of the platform and how Nedap Now can be utilised as a tool for dairy veterinarians.

Introduction

Nedap Now is revolutionizing dairy farming by providing thousands of farmers globally with up-to-date access to critical data, enabling informed decision-making and proactive herd management. The software integrates seamlessly with existing herd management systems, offering advanced insights into cow health, fertility, and activity.

Powered by Nedap's lightweight and long-lasting cow collars, farmers are getting 8-10 years of valuable insights from a single device. Monitoring behaviour and activity across feeding, eating and rumination, Nedap Now surfaces insights for accurate heat detection, identifying animal health & wellbeing issues while tracking herd performance.

Ease of use

Nedap Now is designed with user-friendliness in mind. The cloud-based platform enables farmers to access data 24/7 from any location, across multiple devices, ensuring they can make informed decisions regardless of their physical presence on the farm. The intuitive interface simplifies interactions and data input, making it usable even to those with limited technical expertise.

Standardised worklists provide easy access to critical heat, health, and reproduction information, issuing alerts and push notifications when urgent attention is required. Customisable worklists and reports enhance usability by providing relevant insights tailored to each farm, team member, rural professional or veterinarian. Every member of the farm team can look at as much or as little detail as suits them – from specific and detailed activity data through to summarised dashboard insights.

Data sharing and access

One of the standout features of Nedap Now is its robust data sharing capabilities. The software allows for seamless integration with third-party systems, facilitating efficient data exchange and collaboration. Farmers can grant permission-based access to team members, rural professionals, and veterinarians, ensuring that everyone involved in herd management has the necessary information. A single veterinary practice or veterinarian can be granted access to multiple farms across all Nedap business partners, without limitation on the total number of farms accessed. This ability to share data enhances overall farm efficiency and supports more informed and collaborative decision-making processes.

Farmer value propositions

Nedap Now provides advanced insights into cow heat cycles, enabling timely and accurate heat detection. A simple star-based heat score streamlines decision-making. Alternatively, the animal's full heat activity is quickly available. Nedap Now integrates with all leading drafting systems, allowing for customisable automated drafts. This helps farmers optimise their mating performance, reduce labour, and provides an opportunity to improve reproductive performance.

Continuous monitoring of cow health data enables the early detection of potential issues, thereby reducing the risk of disease and enhancing overall herd well-being. A health score and trend are available for every animal; further detail is easily accessible, including rumination and eating time, as well as the level of inactivity. Farmers, in collaboration with their veterinarian, can take preventative measures based on data-driven insights, leading to healthier cows and higher productivity.

Veterinarian use cases

Using the herd monitoring feature, the herd cycling rate can be viewed both pre-mating and post-calving, allowing for the early identification of non-cycling cows. Interactive graphs are available, enabling easy identification of issues.

The reproduction checks worklist will automatically show non-cycling cows. Settings can be customised for the minimum days in milk to display animals as non-cyclers, as well as those that have never cycled or have gone over 24 days without a heat and not mated. This worklist also features abortion warnings, highlighting cows which have been confirmed pregnant but have shown a heat since that confirmation.

Where necessary, custom reports can be created to identify problem animals for treatment or to facilitate follow-up pregnancy diagnosis.

Nedap Now continuously monitors herd activity and cow health, enabling veterinarians to access up-to-date data on various health parameters, including rumination, eating, and activity. This enables early detection of potential health issues such as mastitis, lameness, or metabolic disorders. By identifying these potential problems early, veterinarians can recommend timely interventions, reducing the risk of severe health complications and improving overall herd wellbeing.

Custom worklists can be created to allow more detailed monitoring at specific times of the year.

For example, creating a worklist that includes cows between 15 and 45 days in milk, which have ruminated for less than 400 minutes in the last 24 hours, will identify cows that may be struggling with transition. Individual Health graphs can then be easily analysed and animals sorted for check and treatment.

Reporting

The Nedap Now platform enables users to access data 24/7 from anywhere, while also providing extensive historical data over extended periods. By combining data in one location, Nedap Now enhances analysis and insights, allowing dairy farmers and veterinarians to identify issues more quickly. Nedap Now's reliability ensures that even if the internet goes down, the system continues to work locally, providing uninterrupted access to critical data. Fully customisable and unlimited reporting can be driven from the collected data. Views, data columns, and filters can be added as needed, and each report can be saved, printed, or downloaded.

One platform, stacked technology

Nedap operates in the New Zealand market, partnering with renowned local businesses, and offers cow collars, smart ear tags, sort gates, milk meters, and camera technology.

Nedap Now is a platform that enables the integration of stacked technology, allowing farmers, rural professionals, and veterinarians to access multiple data insights from various hardware layers by learning a single system.

Stacked technology examples

The Nedap SmartFlow milk meter is an entirely wireless device for both power and data, allowing for simple installation in most milking sheds. The innovative milk meter eliminates vacuum drops and fluctuations, which can negatively impact milk quality and udder health. The SmartFlow accurately records the milk yield and flow rate of individual cows during each milking session, providing valuable operational and strategic insights. Integrating with Nedap Now, SmartFlow contributes to improved herd management and overall farm productivity.

Nedap's new 3D camera technology for locomotion detection utilises advanced imaging and sensor systems to continuously monitor cow movement patterns. This technology tracks the gait and movement of each cow, surfacing any abnormalities or changes that may indicate health issues such as lameness. Early detection of locomotion problems are surfaced into Nedap Now, allowing farmers and veterinarians to intervene promptly. This reduces the risk of severe health complications and improves overall herd wellbeing and productivity. Besides detection, the technology provides farmers with objective insights regarding cow recovery. With over 4 million cow assessment scores, Nedap locomotion outperforms human experts and is a plug-and-play solution for most installations.

Integrating Gallagher's eShepherd and Nedap's SmartTag Ear tags has created a powerful tool for farmers. The Gallagher eShepherd virtual fencing technology enables precise grazing management, reducing the need for physical fences and allowing for better pasture utilisation. By integrating Nedap's SmartTag Ear and Nedap Now software, farmers will gain real-time data and insights into cow health and heat detection, enabling timely interventions and enhanced herd performance.

Conclusion

Nedap Now is a powerful tool that enhances dairy farming through ease of use, efficient data sharing, and valuable insights into heat detection, health monitoring, reproductive performance, and herd analysis. By leveraging this innovative software, farmers and veterinarians can improve herd wellbeing, optimise productivity, and make informed decisions that drive success across farms and practice.

