“Neuro Cattle” Project

Background

Following the development of a technology for the electronic identification of small pets, the company ‘ID-Import OY’ responded to interest from farmers to apply the same technology to the “tagging” of cattle. Conventional ear tagging and inspection of cattle is time-consuming and hard work. With electronic tagging it is possible to inspect even the largest herds in just a few hours. Plus on more automated farms it is possible to use electronic tagging for the identification and feeding of animals in the milking parlour.

Objective

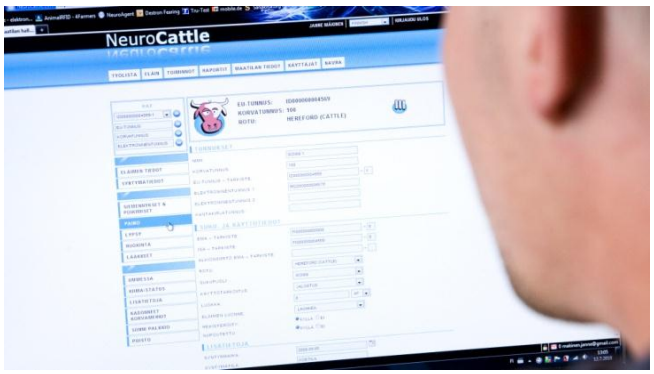
The aim of the Neuro Cattle project is to develop a versatile electronic system (using wireless technology) that enables the farmer to collect data on his/her cattle directly “in the field”. The electronic tag attached to the animal’s ear contains a memory chip that can be read by a capture device which then uses Bluetooth to connect to a suitable PDA for the editing and/or storage of data.

Main Activities

The project has focused on development of the software needed for collection, processing and storage of the data collected from the electronically tagged cattle (e.g. unique identification number, weight, location, transfers, calving history, veterinary treatment etc.). The software includes the option to send data directly to the official livestock register and is fully compatible with a range of other technologies. Its functionality has been tested on many farms around Finland.

Results and Benefits

Neuro Cattle simplifies the identification and monitoring of cattle and makes it easier to fulfil a range of official obligations related to livestock management. Electronic tagging and identification is easy compared to traditional approaches, it also greatly reduces the risk of accidents when handling animals, speeds up the routine identification and monitoring of cattle, and consequently leads to savings in both time and money for the farmer.



At a glance:

Theme:
Rural Quality of Life and Economic Diversification

Sub-theme:
Rural economic diversification

Keywords:
Alternative technology
Animal health
Cattle
Innovation
Monitoring

Country/Region:
Finland / North Ostrobothnia

Beneficiary type:
Individual farmers
Producer groups

Project cost:
€20,000 - €99,999

RDP Measure:
312 – Support for business creation and development

Duration:
Start date: July 2008
End date: December 2009

Last updated:
28 December 2010

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Lessons Learnt

Electronic ear tagging is an innovation in Finland and more generally across the EU. There is a clear demand for it and a great market opportunity. According to the Managing Director of ID-Import Oy, Pekka Salmela, "Customers have been satisfied with the software. We have had some good ideas for development from them, to make the programme even more efficient. There will be a greater need for it in future." The programme is currently mainly used on beef and dairy farms, but the aim is for the software to be used in all livestock production sectors.

Data from the Neuro Cattle system may be used by farmers, meat processors, vets, officials etc.

Project Cost

EUR 99 500

Contact Information

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