CLINICAL MASTITIS DECISION SUPPORT TOOL

PARTNERS

coles

Dairy Australia

DataGene
Solutions for Herd Development

UTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Charles Sturt University

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IN SHORT

This Food Agility CRC project delivered a clinical mastitis decision support tool that is free for Australian Dairy Farmers to download via a smartphone app. This app, when used cow-side in the dairy, enables better use of data to inform decision making, improve cow health and welfare and reduce the use of antibiotics.

> "This tool supports a shift away from visual diagnosis and blanket antibiotic use toward selective, data-informed treatment of clinical mastitis – enhancing antimicrobial stewardship while improving farm productivity."
>
> **Dr Stephanie Bullen, Dairy Australia.**

THE CHALLENGE

Mastitis is the number one health issue in dairy cows. It costs the Australian dairy industry $150m annually and accounts for two-thirds of the antibiotics supplied by vets to dairy farmers. Treatment decisions have historically been based on visual observation but incorporating data about the animal's history or type of infection to the decision-making process can significantly improve antibiotic use and treatment outcomes.

OUR APPROACH

This $3.5m, three-year project built a digital tool that collates the individual history data of each dairy cow. It is powered by AI to provide management advice to farmers and vets based on individual animal history and the type of infection. Advice includes which antibiotics to administer, if any. The final tool was released to the Australian Dairy Industry via DataVat, and is available on both Google Play and the Apple store.

foodagility

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