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Decision Support Systems in dairy cows farming: A 20-year scoping review of characteristics, applications, and future challenges

JAN SARO^{1*}, JAROMÍR DUCHÁČEK², LUDĚK STÁDNÍK², HELENA BROŽOVÁ¹

¹*Department of Systems Engineering, Faculty of Economics and Management,
Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic*

²*Department of Animal Husbandry, Faculty of Agrobiological Sciences, Food, and Natural Resources,
Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic*

*Corresponding author: saraj@pef.czu.cz

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Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM)

Table S1. Summary of included studies and DSS classification

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| Order | DSS type | Problem solved | Dairy cow sector | Model used | Author | Purpose | Input data |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Early mastitis detection | Animal Health, Welfare | Support Vector Machine (SVM) | (Khan et al. 2024) | IoT mastitis prediction system | IoT sensor data (milk parameters, activity, temperature) |
| 2 | Data-driven | Proactive herd health improvement | Animal Health, Welfare | Disease scoring system | (Saro et al. 2024a) | Disease scoring DSS | Disease scores, farmer observations |
| 3 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Milk production forecasting | Milk Production, Quality, Farm Business, Management | Deep learning algorithms | (Alwadi et al. 2024) | Milk yield prediction DSS | Historical milk production, animal characteristics, environmental data |
| 4 | Knowledge-based, Model-driven | Optimal diagnostic strategy selection | Animal Health, Welfare | Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) | (Um et al. 2024) | Infectious disease diagnostic tool | Diagnostic test results, disease prevalence, cost data |
| 5 | Knowledge-based, Model-driven | Mastitis test selection | Animal Health, Welfare | AHP, TOPSIS | (Akkose and Polat 2023) | Mastitis test selection DSS | Test characteristics, farm data, expert knowledge |
| 6 | Model-driven | Late-lactation milk forecasting | Milk Production, Quality, Reproduction, Genetics | Dijkstra, Wood, Wilmlink | (Innes et al. 2024) | Lactation curve forecasting DSS | Historical milk yield data, lactation stage |
| 7 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Herd health management optimisation | Animal Health, Welfare, Farm Business, Management | LSTM, linear trend model | (Saro et al. 2024b) | Web-based herd health DSS | Farm records, animal health data, milk yield |
| 8 | Communication-driven, Data-driven | Ketosis risk prediction | Animal Health, Welfare | Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost) | (Wang et al. 2023) | Ketosis risk prediction app | Prenatal indicators, cow health records |
| 9 | Knowledge-based, Model-driven | Farm sustainability analysis | Farm Business, Management, Environmental Impact, Resource Management | DEXi framework | (Wilfart et al. 2023) | Dairy sustainability assessment tool | Farm characteristics, sustainability indicators |
| 10 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Weed detection and control | Nutrition, Pasture Management | Fuzzy inference, neuro-fuzzy | (Chegini et al. 2023) | Pasture weed management DSS | Image data, weed density, GPS location |
| 11 | Knowledge-based, Model-driven | Plan disease control | Animal Health, Welfare | EuFMDIS | (Bradhurst et al. 2022) | Transboundary disease simulation model | Disease outbreak data, animal movement, geographical data |

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|-------|---------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 12 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Farm energy use optimisation | Farm Business, Management, Environmental Impact, Resource Management | Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) | (Shine et al. 2022) | Dairy energy assessment tool | Energy consumption data, farm size, equipment type |
| 13 | Communication-driven, Knowledge-based | Reduction of emissions and improvement of sustainability | Farm Business, Management, Environmental Impact, Resource Management | ICT, multi-actor platforms | (Amon et al. 2022) | Emissions, sustainability DSS | Farm data, emission sources, sustainability metrics |
| 14 | Data-driven | Robotic farm efficiency improvement | Farm Business, Management | ML (future) | (Perov 2022) | Robotic dairy management support | Robotic milking data, animal behavior, milk yield |
| 15 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Early disorder detection | Animal Health, Welfare | ML algorithms (Rpart) | (Zhou et al. 2022) | Predict cow health disorders | Automatic monitoring data (activity, feed intake, milk yield) |
| 16 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Heat stress and mastitis detection | Animal Health, Welfare | Data-mining hub | (Nogoy et al. 2021) | Real-time cow condition AI | Real-time sensor data, environmental conditions |
| 17 | Model-driven | Cow thermal comfort improvement | Housing, Infrastructure, Environmental Impact, Resource Management | Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) | (Tomasek et al. 2021) | Optimise barn ventilation | Barn design parameters, environmental conditions (temperature, airflow) |
| 18 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Lameness incidence prediction | Animal Health, Welfare | Naive Bayes, RF, MLP | (Shahinfar et al. 2021) | Lameness prediction tool | Locomotion scores, health records, sensor data |
| 19 | Model-driven (simulation) | Mitigating supply chain disruptions | Supply Chain, Logistics | Simulation-based framework | (Tsiamas and Rahimifard 2021) | Food supply chain resilience | Supply chain network data, disruption scenarios |
| 20 | Data-driven, Knowledge-based | Cattle productivity enhancement | Nutrition, Pasture Management, Farm Business, Management | Elemental status algorithm | (Bolodurina and Akimov 2021) | Assess cow productivity | Elemental status data (e.g. blood tests), productivity records |
| 21 | Model-driven | Identification of cows with reproductive issues | Reproduction, Genetics | Boosted classification trees | (Zaborski and Grzesiak 2021) | Detect conception problems | Reproduction records, cow physiological data |
| 22 | Model-driven | Aid TB disease control | Animal Health, Welfare | Classification tree analysis | (Romero et al. 2020) | Bovine TB risk factors | Bovine TB case data, farm risk factors |

4 Table S1 to be continued

| Order | DSS type | Problem solved | Dairy cow sector | Model used | Author | Purpose | Input data |
|-------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 23 | Model-driven | Quantification of genotyping returns | Reproduction, Genetics, Farm Business, Management | Deterministic equations | (Newton and Berry 2020) | Genotyping net benefit | Genotyping results, economic parameters, breeding objectives |
| 24 | Model-driven | Feed formulation optimisation | Nutrition, Pasture Management | Kernel Extreme Learning Machine (KELM) | (Fu et al. 2020) | Predict diet energy digestion | Diet composition, feed analysis data |
| 25 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Farm management optimisation | Farm Business, Management, Milk Production, Quality | Multi-disciplinary approach | (Arcidiacono et al. 2020) | Improve herd productivity | Various farm management data, animal health records, environmental data |
| 26 | Knowledge-based | Detection of difficult calvings | Reproduction, Genetics | Rule-based module (decision trees) | (Zaborski and Grzesiak 2021) | Dystocia detection | Animal behavior, physiological indicators (e.g., body temperature) |
| 27 | Knowledge-based, Model-driven | Prediction of FMD occurrence | Animal Health, Welfare | GIS-based MCDA | (Sangrat et al. 2020) | FMD risk area identification | GIS data, FMD outbreak history, animal movement data |
| 28 | Model-driven | Farm energy and profit optimisation | Farm Business, Management, Environmental Impact, Resource Management | Multi-objective optimisation (Genetic Algorithm) | (Breen et al. 2020) | PV system optimisation | Farm energy consumption, solar irradiance data, economic costs |
| 29 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Early warning for weight loss | Animal Health, Welfare, Nutrition, Pasture Management | Random forest model | (Dettmann et al. 2020) | Predict cow body weight change | Milk fatty acid profiles, milk recording data |
| 30 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Classify cattle health | Animal Health, Welfare, Farm Business, Management | Artificial Neural Networks | (Pimpa et al. 2019) | Dairy cattle health classification | Health records, physiological data, milk yield |
| 31 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Optimising farm energy investments | Farm Business, Management, Environmental Impact, Resource Management | Genetic Algorithm | (Shine et al. 2019a) | Energy investment optimisation | Farm energy data, technology costs, economic parameters |
| 32 | Model-driven | Maximising farm ROI | Farm Business, Management, Housing, Infrastructure | Genetic Algorithm | (Shine et al. 2019b) | Optimise farm infrastructure ROI | Farm infrastructure costs, economic data, production metrics |

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| Order | DSS type | Problem solved | Dairy cow sector | Model used | Author | Purpose | Input data |
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| 33 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Improving pasture management | Nutrition, Pasture Management, Environmental Impact, Resource Management | Case-Based Reasoning (CBR) | (Kenny et al. 2019) | Predict grass growth | Climate data, soil data, pasture measurements |
| 34 | Knowledge-based, Model-driven | Locating biogas production units | Environmental Impact, Resource Management | GIS-based MCDA, AHP | (Rodrigues et al. 2019) | Biogas plant site selection | GIS data, waste volume, energy demand, environmental regulations |
| 35 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Energy impact analysis | Farm Business, Management, Environmental Impact, Resource Management | Support Vector Machine (SVM) | (Shine et al. 2019a) | Predict electricity consumption | Historical electricity consumption data, farm size |
| 36 | Model-driven | Evaluating manure treatment | Environmental Impact, Resource Management | Dairy-CropSyst model | (Khalil et al. 2019) | Emissions, nutrient fate modelling | Farm management data, manure characteristics, soil data |
| 37 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Planning livestock evacuation | Risk, Disaster Management | BET_VH, TEPHRA2 | (Wild et al. 2019) | Volcanic evacuation decision tool | Volcanic hazard data, infrastructure network data, livestock locations |
| 38 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Assessing pasture quantity/quality | Nutrition, Pasture Management | SALUS, MDP, UAV | (Insua et al. 2019) | Pasture monitoring, prediction | UAV imagery, weather data, soil data |
| 39 | Data-driven, Knowledge-based | Improving herd health decisions | Animal Health, Welfare | Data collection, analysis algorithm | (Alawneh et al. 2018) | Herd health DSS | Herd health records, diagnostic data, treatment history |
| 40 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Optimising milk transport fleet | Supply Chain, Logistics | Simulation modelling | (Tryhuba et al. 2018) | Milk harvesting logistics | Milk collection routes, truck parameters, road conditions |
| 41 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Analyzing resource consumption | Farm Business, Management, Environmental Impact, Resource Management | Multiple linear regression (MLR) | (Shine et al. 2018) | Predict water/electricity consumption | Farm size, cow numbers, climatic data, consumption records |
| 42 | Communication-driven, Data-driven | Pasture management optimisation | Nutrition, Pasture Management | Data-informed decision tool | (Hanrahan et al. 2017) | Grassland management DSS | Pasture measurements, weather data, farm records |
| 43 | Data-driven | Real-time physiological info | Reproduction, Genetics, Animal Health, Welfare | Not specified (monitoring system) | (Yu and Maeda 2017) | Inline progesterone monitoring | Inline progesterone levels |

6 Table S1 to be continued

| Order | DSS type | Problem solved | Dairy cow sector | Model used | Author | Purpose | Input data |
|-------|-------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 44 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Improving feedlot efficiency and profit | Farm Business, Management (Feedlot) | Gradient boosting, random forest | (Flores et al. 2017) | Feedlot growth prediction, optimisation | Animal growth data, feed intake, cost data |
| 45 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Forecasting g feed intake | Nutrition, Pasture Management | Regression model | (Sivamani et al. 2017) | Predict livestock feed intake | Livestock data, feed characteristics, environmental factors |
| 46 | Model-driven | Evaluating pasture intake and yield | Nutrition, Pasture Management, Milk Production, Quality | GrazeIn model | (Roca-Fernandez and Gonzales-Rodrigues 2017) | Pasture intake, milk prediction | Pasture availability, cow characteristics (calving date, stocking rate) |
| 47 | Knowledge-based | Classifying reproduction and milk yield | Reproduction, Genetics, Milk Production, Quality | Fuzzy logic | (Akilli et al. 2016) | Dairy cattle management DSS | Farm management data, animal health records |
| 48 | Model-driven | Simulating herd properties and diets | Farm Business, Management, Nutrition, Pasture Management | Dairy.js (JavaScript library) | (Vaillant and Baldinger 2016) | Dairy herd simulation library | Animal characteristics, feed composition, growth models |
| 49 | Model-driven | Selecting whey processing equipment | Environmental Impact, Resource Management, Farm Business, Management | Facility location problem extension | (Garcia-Flores et al. 2015) | Whey utilisation optimisation | Whey production volume, processing costs, market demand |
| 50 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Promoting 24-month calving | Other Livestock Management (Beef) | Empirical model | (Titterton et al. 2015) | Beef heifer growth management | Heifer growth data, feeding strategies, target weights |
| 51 | Model-driven, Spatial | Optimising milk collection routes | Supply Chain, Logistics | Heuristic algorithm, GIS | (Amiana et al. 2015) | Milk collection route management | Farm locations, road network data, milk volume |
| 52 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Prioritising contamination mitigations | Environmental Impact, Resource Management | Farm-scale risk-index | (Muirhead 2015) | Reduce water faecal contamination | Farm characteristics, weather data, water quality measurements |
| 53 | Knowledge-based, Model-driven | Assessing farm environmental impact | Environmental Impact, Resource Management, Farm Business, Management | Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) | (Meul et al. 2014) | Environmental decision support | Farm input/output data (feed, manure, energy), environmental parameters |

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| Order | DSS type | Problem solved | Dairy cow sector | Model used | Author | Purpose | Input data |
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| 54 | Model-driven, Spatial, Web-based | Assessing farm sustainability | Environmental Impact, Resource Management | GIS, ELECTRE TRI (MCDA) | (Silva et al. 2014) | Environmental sustainability assessment | GIS data, environmental indicators, farm attributes |
| 55 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Improving reproduction decisions | Reproduction, Genetics | ML algorithms | (Shahinfar et al. 2014) | Predict insemination outcomes | Insemination records, cow reproductive history, physiological data |
| 56 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Reducing business risk | Farm Business, Management | Stochastic budgeting | (Farina et al. 2013) | Assess farm business risk | Financial data, pasture production data, market prices |
| 57 | Data-driven, Knowledge-based | Enhancing raw milk safety | Supply Chain, Logistics, Milk Production, Quality | Not specified (DSS elements) | (van der Spiegel et al. 2013) | Raw milk safety control | Raw milk testing results, processing data, hazard identification |
| 58 | Model-driven | Optimising cow replacement | Reproduction, Genetics, Farm Business, Management | Markov chain algorithm | (Cabrera 2012) | Cow replacement economics | Cow age, milk yield, reproduction status, economic parameters |
| 59 | Integrated assessment tool | Reducing the environmental impact | Farm Business, Management, Environmental Impact, Resource Management | Biophysical model, N budgets | (Moreau et al. 2012) | Farming system sustainability | Farm system data, environmental indicators, economic performance |
| 60 | Model-driven | Estimating feed intake and milk yield | Nutrition, Pasture Management, Milk Production, Quality | INRA fill unit system | (Faverdin et al. 2011) | Predict intake, milk production | Pasture characteristics, cow body weight, milk yield |
| 61 | Model-driven, Spatial | Promoting safe manure reuse | Environmental Impact, Resource Management | Environmental Risk Assessment Model | (Rio et al. 2011) | Organic waste management | Waste characteristics, soil data, environmental regulations |
| 62 | Model-driven | Predicting intake, milk yield | Nutrition, Pasture Management, Milk Production, Quality | GrazeIn model | (Delagarde et al. 2011b) | Herbage intake, milk production | Pasture data, cow characteristics, grazing management |
| 63 | Model-driven | Predicting herbage intake | Nutrition, Pasture Management | GrazeIn model | (Delagarde et al. 2011a) | Grazing intake prediction | Grazing management type, pasture availability, cow data |
| 64 | Model-driven | Optimising reproductive programs | Reproduction, Genetics, Farm Business, Management | Markov chain simulation, budgeting | (Giordano et al. 2011) | Reproductive management economics | Reproductive program costs, success rates, cow data |

∞ Table S1 to be continued

| Order | DSS type | Problem solved | Dairy cow sector | Model used | Author | Purpose | Input data |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| 65 | Model-driven | Predicting herbage mass | Nutrition, Pasture Management | Climate-driven pasture model (PGSUS) | (Romera et al. 2010) | Pasture mass estimation | Climate data, soil data, pasture measurements |
| 66 | Model-driven | Evaluating finishing strategies | Farm Business, Management | Stochastic budgeting model | (Minchin et al. 2010) | Cull cow finishing economics | Cull cow characteristics, feed costs, market prices |
| 67 | Knowledge-based, Model-driven | Anticipating food security future | Supply Chain, Logistics | Modelling, simulation | (Omran et al. 2010) | National food security | Food production data, consumption data, market prices |
| 68 | Model-driven | Assessing mastitis cost | Animal Health, Welfare, Farm Business, Management | SimHerd (simulation model) | (Hagnestam-Nielsen and Ostergaard 2009) | Mastitis economic impact | Mastitis incidence, treatment costs, milk yield losses |
| 69 | Model-driven | Classifying dairy farms | Farm Business, Management | Discriminant analysis | (Riveiro-Valino et al. 2009) | Farm classification validation | Farm structural data, production data, financial data |
| 70 | Data-driven, Knowledge-based | Automating records, breeding values | Other Livestock Management (Small Ruminants) | Software (SURPRO V1.0) | (Onder et al. 2009) | Flock management automation | Animal records, breeding values, performance data |
| 71 | Model-driven (dynamic simulation) | Evaluating farm sustainability | Farm Business, Management, Environmental Impact, Resource Management | GAMEDE (stock-flow model) | (Vayssières et al. 2009) | Dairy farm sustainability | Farm activity data, environmental parameters, economic data |
| 72 | Model-driven | Decreasing nitrogen leaching | Environmental Impact, Resource Management | DyNoFlo (whole-farm model) | (Cabrera et al. 2007) | Environmental sustainability modelling | Farm data, climate forecasts (seasonal) |
| 73 | Knowledge-based, Model-driven | Managing water resources | Environmental Impact, Resource Management | Hydraulic, chemical, agricultural models | (Dentinho et al. 2008) | Groundwater quality preservation | Geological data, hydrological data, agricultural practices |
| 74 | Model-driven | Early detection of mastitis | Animal Health, Welfare | Mixture of four time-series models based on Kalman filter | (Norberg et al. 2008) | In-line detection of mastitis | Somatic cell count (SCC) time-series data |
| 75 | Model-driven | Optimising silage production, cultivar selection, and sowing date | Nutrition, Pasture Management | CERES-Maize crop model | (Braga et al. 2008) | Maize silage production optimisation | Climate data, soil data, maize cultivar characteristics |

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| 76 | Model-driven | Supporting decisions on treating chronic subclinical mastitis | Animal Health, Welfare, Farm Business, Management | Stochastic Monte Carlo simulation model | (Steenneveld et al. 2007) | Economic assessment of chronic subclinical mastitis treatment | Mastitis treatment protocols, economic costs, milk prices |
| 77 | Model-driven | Reducing N leaching and devising forage and manure application strategies | Environmental Impact, Resource Management, Farm Business, Management | Decision Support System for Agro-technology Transfer (DSSAT) | (Cabrera et al. 2007) | Limiting nitrogen leaching | Climate forecasts, farm management data, soil data |
| 78 | Web-based | Providing information and technology for dairy business planning | Farm Business, Management | Not specified (information and technology platform) | (Savilionis et al. 2007) | General dairy farm information and planning | Farm records, financial data, production goals |
| 79 | Model-driven, Multi-criteria | Assessing the impact of land management on water quality and quantifying and evaluate alternatives | Environmental Impact, Resource Management | Semidistributed hydrological model (SWAT), multicriteria decision support system | (Cau and Paniconi 2007) | Impact of land use on water supply and quality | Land use data, hydrological data, water quality parameters |
| 80 | Knowledge-based (protocol for decision support) | Supporting on-farm welfare assessment | Animal Health, Welfare | Welfare indicator protocol (38 measures from 4 sources) | (Rousing et al. 2007) | Animal welfare assessment in Automatic Milking System (AMS) herds | Welfare indicator observations, AMS data |
| 81 | Knowledge-based | Promoting sustainable Integrated Parasite Management (sIPM) and reducing anthelmintic resistance | Other Livestock Management (Small Ruminants) | FAMACHA® system, milk yields as indicators | (van Wyk et al. 2006) | Targeted selective treatment for worm management | Animal health indicators (e.g., FAMACHA® scores, milk yields) |
| 82 | Model-driven | Determining the costs of lameness and defining economically feasible strategies | Animal Health, Welfare, Farm Business, Management | SimHerd (dynamic, stochastic, mechanistic Monte Carlo model) | (Ettema and Ostergaard 2006) | Economic decision-making for lameness prevention and control | Lameness incidence data, treatment costs, prevention costs |

Table S1 to be continued

| Order | DSS type | Problem solved | Dairy cow sector | Model used | Author | Purpose | Input data |
|-------|------------------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------|---|--|
| 83 | Data-driven, Model-driven | Assessing N leaching and economic impacts of reduction and evaluating economic/ecologic sustainability | Environmental Impact, Resource Management, Farm Business, Management | DyNoFlo Dairy model (integrates nutrient budgeting, crop, and optimisation models; Markov-chain simulation) | (Cabrera et al. 2005) | Increasing profits and minimising nitrogen leaching | Climate data, farm management practices, soil data, nutrient budgets |
| 84 | Model-driven | Predicting pasture production to aid on-farm decision-making | Nutrition, Pasture Management | GrazeGro model (based on LINGRA) | (Barrett et al. 2005) | Herbage growth prediction for pasture production | Weather data, soil data, pasture measurements |

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