



Need for temperament registrations from a farmers' and a breeding advisor's perspective

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Temprament – a working enviroment and economic trait

- Nervous and scared calves, heifers and cows
- Animals kicking during milking and AI
- Also cows who is just stupid and stubborn during milking

- Flight behaviour when exposed to new enviroments or when handled
 - When let out on pasture
 - Veterinary, AI-technician
 - Clean stable



Experience from farmers

- Cows with bad temperament is often more narrow and lean
 - No time to eat? Low in rank? Another connection to temperament?
- Cows with bad temperament in the robot often have short and/ or thin teats
- Some farmers can see connection to low milkability
- On some farms it may follow a certain bull, on other farms the mother.
- On some other farms you cannot see any connection to either the father or mother.
- If scared as a calf, they do not get better
- Problems with their eyes
- If it's a mixed herd with Holsteins and VR animals, its mostly the VR the farmers have problems with.

Desirable Temperament

The farmers want animals that are

- Calm in the robot/milking system
- Not to close-up
- Not to nervous in unexpected situations
- Just working
- Having a drive to move in the system



Registration of temperament

- Today – During the assessment of conformation or when culled as a cause
 - If the assessor grade the cow its often based on temperament in the stall
 - Farmers often base temperament on experience when handled or in the robot/parlor
- Different types of temperament
 - in the loose house system
 - in the robot/ while milking
 - after the 1st week of milking
 - as a calf
 - reserved, scared or malicious



How to register temperament

The most important behaviour for the farmer is

How the cow behave during milking

Request from farmers:

- Ability to register temperament in connection with the first milk recording, Min Gård
- Possibility to register different types of temperament
 - During milking
 - Other handling
- Registration needs to be easy



Kristina Pershagen Samuelsson Botans Lantbruk



- We want cows that are easy to handle



- ..and easy to milk
- They can be both but more common is that they are just one of them

