PRECISION LIVESTOCK FARMING



Introduction

Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) envolves all technologies that have the aim to improve the productivity of the farm. Veterinarians must be its assessors and will find in it plenty of tools to improve on their work. This is a collaborative field of veterinarians, engineers and data scientist.

Objectives

Artificial

Intelligence

- Introduce veterinarians to the growing technologies included in the PLF and its bases.
- Explain what PLF represents nowadays.
- Tell the possible future of this sector so to prepare the veterinarians to the new changes that may occur.

Bases of PLF

Data acquisition



- Thermal sensors
- Cameras
- Nosebands
- Loadcells
- Accelerometers
- Pedometers
- Microphones
- Intraruminal bolus

Data analysis



Data science

Machine Learning (ML), being the principal analysis technology used, is the combination of data science and artificial intelligence, here applied on animal health (AH).

Action

The actions are based in the insights of the analysis. Veterinarians are the ones that should assess the actions and decisions that the workers will come to term.

Practical use examples

USE-CASES OF PLF

Body weight, breed-agnostic predictions

Hyperketonemia detection and management

Mastitis detection

Assessing affective states

Management of grazing cows

Dairy farm management

Respiratory problems

Early detection of infections

Lameness detection

Oestrus detection

Heat strain detection

Enhancing the nutrition value of red meat

Tail bitting detection

Poultry farm management

Keel bone damage

Interview to a sales manager of robots



- Only simple technology is the one aplied.
- Only mastitis is directly diagnosed.
- The improvements are more of management.

Future predictions

- The market is expected to grow considerably from USD 3.1 billion in 2020 to USD 4.8 billion in 2025 (Neethirajan and Kemp 2021).
- The next pass forward should be an integration of all technologies that are useful for the farm.
- The latest pathway that is expected to be implemented is the digital twin technology.
 One way to describe it as there is two animals,
 the physical and the virtual, with the virtual one is possible to predict all future developments.



Conclusions

- The base of PLF is to gather all the possible data and make inferences of it to take the best actions possible.
- Nowadays not all the technologies have been integrated, there is still time for a holistic management.
- The growth projection of this sector is really positive and will create new jobs opportunities for the ones updated.