

# Perspective of organic livestock production of bovine veterinarians in the United States

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## Introduction

Over the past decade the organic agricultural industry has grown exponentially; dairy production represents its second largest sector. The National Organic Program of the United States limits the list of allowable therapies, therefore the objective of this study was to ask bovine veterinarians regarding their opinion, perception, and challenges while working with organic livestock herds.

## Materials and Methods

In the fall of 2014, all members of AABP-L who work as veterinarians in the United States, were invited to participate. The survey was administered online and included questions about the participants' demographics, knowledge, and perceptions of organic livestock production.

## Results

In the end, responses from 213 veterinarians from 38 states could be analyzed. Overall, few veterinarians were not

interested in (14%) or opposed to organic livestock production (30%). Most veterinarians did not find organic livestock healthier than conventionally raised livestock and were concerned about animal welfare on organic farms due to the lack of data regarding alternative therapies. The use of alternative therapies within the framework of AMDUCA/ELDU, PMO, and NOP was the biggest challenge area for veterinarians. Easier access to information regarding alternative therapies was identified as 1 of the main needs that have to be addressed.

## Significance

In conclusion, although organic livestock production has grown tremendously over the last few years, veterinarians need more information regarding the efficacy and withdrawal times of alternative therapies to feel fully comfortable in advising their organic clients.

# Culling perspectives from dairy producers, veterinarians, DHI and feed mill advisors: a Q-methodology study

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## Introduction

While minimizing total losses (sum of production loss and disease control expenditures) is recognized to be the most profitable approach, dairy producers still have flexibility regarding the timing of their decisions, the liberty to make

individual choices (e.g., genetic selection), or the handling of certain constraints (e.g., regulations, quotas, etc). Farmer's socio-psychological characteristics were demonstrated to be more important to farm performance than herd-level variables describing production, health, and fertility. Research on motivational and behavioural aspects of farmers' decision