

## **Welcome to DairyCare**

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It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this First DairyCare Conference, and to the beautiful Frederiksberg Campus of the University of Copenhagen. The idea for DairyCare was conceived more than three years ago in another lovely location, Udine in Northern Italy which, very appropriately, can claim to be at the geographical centre of the European mainland. Now we meet as 26 nations and almost as many disciplines united in the pursuit of better wellbeing for dairy animals. We have more than 200 people registered on our DairyCare database, more than 80 scientific Abstracts have been submitted to this Conference and our website has attracted many thousands of visits. We have laid a solid foundation for a successful COST Action, and I am confident that, over the next four years, we can translate this excellent start into concrete outcomes that will benefit EU farmers, consumers, industry and, of course, animals. I hope that everyone in the room is aware of DairyCare's aims and objectives. My personal criterion of success will be maintenance of the value and importance of the individual dairy animal whatever may happen to herd size (for it will surely increase), combined with a general acceptance that technology can not only contribute to excellent husbandry, but actually will be essential to ensuring the highest standards of health and welfare. We have a number of aspirational headlines on our website:

*Bringing welfare into focus....Technology improving the lives of animals....Assessing and assisting good health and welfare....Promoting inclusiveness....*

Now is the time to start putting them into practice. Enjoy the Conference!

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