Methods used to collect farmers’ attitudes towards cattle production: A rapid review

Heather O’Connor1, Marnie Brennan1, Wendela Wapenaar1, Pru Hobson-West1, Nick Wright2 and Imogen Richens1*

1School of Veterinary Medicine and Science and 2 School of Geography, The University of Nottingham, UK

Introduction

- On-farm disease control is extremely important as the consequences of a breakdown can have wide reaching effects
- Current work at the University of Nottingham is investigating the motivators and barriers to implementing biosecurity measures and vaccination on UK dairy farms
- Farmers’ attitudes are important to understand as part of the decision making behaviour in all aspects of farming (Defra, 2008)
- There have been a number of methods used to collect and analyse farmers’ attitudes and little published research has reviewed studies and their methods in this area

Aims

- To review and appraise previous research investigating attitudes, motivators and barriers of farmers relating to cattle farming
- To identify and appraise the methods used in previous research in this area

Methods

- A rapid review methodology was used (Ganann et al., 2010)
- A keyword search was performed in CAB Abstracts in July 2012

Inclusion Criteria

| Study investigates cattle farmers, including those in a wider farming population |
| Study measures or elicits farmer attitudes, motivators, barriers or opinions |
| Published as a paper in a research journal |
| Available in English |
| Readily accessible electronically, in paper copy, or by inter-library loans from the University of Nottingham library |

Search Terms

[farms OR farmers OR producer OR producers] AND [opinions OR beliefs] AND [cattle OR sheep OR pigs OR poultry]

Keyword search results

CAB Abstracts keyword search July 2012
528 records

Inclusion criteria applied

471 excluded

Total included
57 records

Main topic of the papers included

| Disease - Prevention and control |
| Disease - Treatment |
| Ethics and welfare |
| Management |
| Technology adoption |
| Other |

Type of analysis performed

- Qualitative only
- Quantitative only
- Mixed

Method of data collection

- Group Discussion
- Interview
- Questionnaire
- Telephone
- Additional Measurements e.g. on farm observation, looking at farm records, using iPad

Conclusions

- Research investigating farmer attitudes has increased over the past 20 years, covering a wide variety of topics worldwide
- Multiple methods have been used for data collection and analysis
- Although interviews and group discussions were used almost as often as more quantitative data collection methods, there was a large quantitative analysis bias

A more in depth analysis and critical appraisal will be presented in the final manuscript.

References


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*Contact email: svxir@nottingham.ac.uk

www.nottingham.ac.uk