



Innovation in action

Developing next generation mastitis testing

Research capability:

> Large Animal Research and Imaging Facility (LARIF)

Offers a wide range of expertise in farm animal production, health and welfare - including infectious diseases and zoonoses, vaccines, genetics and genome editing, imaging, radiology, medicine, surgery and critical care.

Challenge

Mastitis is an inflammation of the mammary gland that is predominantly caused by a bacterial infection and is the most common and costly disease affecting the dairy industry. Because it can cause significant financial losses and adversely impact animal welfare, farmers and herd managers need quick diagnostic results so they can take fast and appropriate action.



Action

Researchers from the University of Edinburgh Roslin Institute are producing gene expression data for mastitis-causing pathogens and identifying the most prevalent causes of mastitis in the UK and worldwide. This data will be used by veterinary diagnostics company Biotangents to develop a new diagnostic test for mastitis on the global market.

The project is one of a wave of industry match-funded projects supported by CIEL to drive innovation within the livestock supply chain and address identified sector challenges.

Impact

New diagnostic solutions are answering the need for reliable and affordable tools to monitor animal health and rapidly diagnose diseases to advance the life quality and productivity of livestock. Prompt results allow vets and farmers to quickly implement the management decisions necessary to limit disease spread. Early intervention facilitates less antibiotic use and improves overall health & welfare, resulting in an increase in milk yield & quality and a reduction in production costs and environmental impact per animal. This approach leads the way to sustainable milk production.

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