

Automatic weighing as an animal health monitoring tool on pasture

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The goal of this project is to develop a novel method for animal health monitoring for grazing cattle. It will be based on a system for unmanned automatic precision weighing when kept on pasture, where alarms are obtained for animals with abnormal weight gain curves. The project focuses primarily on the detection of pasture borne parasite infections in calves, but the method could be further developed to include other diseases that impair animal growth performance.

In 2014, two prototypes of weighing stations (Figure 1 and 2) were designed and placed on pasture. During the first year, testing of the technology for unmanned precision weight tracking on will be performed. A few technical problems arose led to the weighing stations could not be operational as planned until the end of the grazing period. The technology will therefore be test run another season.



Figure 1. Weighing station in which the animals get access to water.



Figure 2. Weighing station which the animals pass through.