

## Press release

7 November 2012

### **FirstFarms hit by disease pressure**

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*The cattle at the company's Slovakian plant are under increased disease pressure – the net profit is downgraded by DKK 15 million*

FirstFarms A/S has today announced the market, that the company downgrades the expectations to the net profit by DKK 15 million. The downgrading is primarily due to the company's dairy cattle in Slovakia by a larger extent has been hit by Mycoplasma Bovis (see next page).

- Approx. 1/4 of the dairy cattle are hit. We have immediately initiated actions to prevent further spread in the herd. Partly by isolating infected animals and if necessary slaughter them and partly by ensuring that the calves only receives milk from cows tested free of disease, says FirstFarms' CEO Anders H. Nørgaard.

The disease may have entered the farm through purchased animals. FirstFarms is in the process of expanding the farm and has therefore bought young cattle. For the moment approx. 2,700 dairy cows and a similar number of young cattle are on the farms.

Mycoplasma Bovis can first with large certainty be registered in the milk. Thus it can have entered the farm from heifers bought in either Germany, Holland or Slovakia. The disease is not harmful to humans but is solely contagious from cattle to cattle.

Another reason for the downgrading of the expectations to the net profit is a bad yield of crops. The growth season 2012 in Slovakia and Romania has been influenced by bad growth conditions and lack of rain.

The growth conditions have meant a yield in maize of only two third of the normal. The maize has taken up approx. 30 percent of FirstFarms' total agricultural area of 12,000 hectares.

Billund, 7 November 2012

Best regards,

**FirstFarms A/S**

For further information:

Please visit our website [www.firstfarms.com](http://www.firstfarms.com) or contact CEO Anders H. Nørgaard telephone + 45 75 86 87 87.

**FirstFarms A/S**

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**Fact:**

Mycoplasma Bovis (MB) is a bacteria-like organism that is transmitted by direct contact from one animal to another. Infection occurs primarily through snot and saliva. This means through feed, water troughs, milking of the cow and through milk.

MB is in particular the cause of mastitis, but there can also be seen an increased incidence of pneumonia and especially arthritis in front leg of cows. In calves it causes pneumonia and an increased incidence of otitis media and arthritis. The treatment effect is poor, as MB is a bacterium without a cell wall and resistant to antibiotics.

MB is sensitive to drying and disinfection. Therefore, a good stable hygiene and good milking routines are the best recommendations to avoid infection within the herd.

In Denmark an investigation program concerning MB was started in autumn 2011. Conclusion of the study was among other things, that outbreaks of MB is probably due to a number of conditions that are not the same across herds and the bacterium occurs as part of a multifactorial disease in which the factor or factors that trigger the disease is different from herd to herd. The clearing work will continue in 2012 and 2013.

**FirstFarms A/S**

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