CV - Vivi Mørkøre Thorup

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AFFILIATION
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RESEARCH PROFILE

My interests are health, welfare, and behavior in livestock through the application of precision technologies and modelling. I use methods like mechanical modelling, machine learning and simulations. In my work, I combine data streams from various sensors and other sources to enable early prediction of health status and describe phenotypic traits.

EMPLOYMENT

2025 - now	Associate Professor, Aarhus University, Dept. Animal and Veterinary Sciences
2021 - 2025	Assistant Professor, Aarhus University, Dept. Animal and Veterinary Sciences
2015 - 2021	Lead Animal Scientist, IceRobotics Ltd, Edinburgh, UK
2015 - 2017	Self-employed Analytics Consultant, Auning, Denmark
2013 - 2015	Post Doc., INRA, Systemic Modeling Applied to Ruminants, Paris, France
2007 - 2013	Researcher, Aarhus University, Dept. Animal Science
2006 - 2007	Research Assistant, Danish Institute of Agricultural Science
2002 - 2006	Ph.D. fellow, Danish Institute of Agricultural Science & Copenhagen University

EDUCATION

2023   University Pedagogical Program, Aarhus University, Centre for Educational Development
2007   Ph.D. in Biomechanical Gait Analysis of Pigs, Copenhagen University, Inst. Exercise and Sport Sciences, and Aarhus University, Dept. Animal Science, ISBN: 87-91771-13-7
2002   Programming & Data Engineering: 1-yr course, Aalborg University, Dept. Electronic Systems
1999   M.Sc. Biology, Copenhagen University, Dept. Biology

SUPERVISION (MSc and research level)

Co-supervisor – PhD: "Health and feeding management for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions in dairy herds" by O.U. Lønberg-Jensen, ANIVET, AU, 2024 – 2027.
Co-supervisor – PhD: "Modelling management for mitigating methane emission in dairy herds" by L. Chen, ANIVET, AU, 2022 – 2025.
Project supervisor – MSc (45 ECTS): "Use of outdoor exercise areas for Danish dairy cows" by N.C. Thomsen, ANIVET, AU, 2023.
External supervisor – MSc: "Exploring and exploiting behavioral patterns to detect lameness within dairy cattle" by C. Kappers, WUR, The Netherlands, 2023.

External supervisor – CASE PhD (industrial): "The use of advanced technology to enhance monitoring of dairy cow health" by R.A.C. Barraclough, University of Edinburgh, UK, 2020.
External supervisor – MSc: "Can cow behavior and milk data provide an early alert for clinical mastitis?" by R. Tavernor, Aberystwyth University, UK, 2017.
External supervisor - Veterinary MSc: "Lameness in French dairy cattle: a study of claw trimming and gait scoring, and the link with behavior, milking order and activity level" by H. Martens, Ecole Nationale Veterinaire & University de Toulouse, France, 2015.

EVALUATION
Expert assessor of Associate Professor application for Faculty of Landscape Architecture, Horticulture and Crop Production Sciences, SLU, Sweden, Dec. 4, 2025.

Member of PhD assessment committee: "Extended lactations in multiparous dairy cows" by Annica Hansson, SLU, Sweden, Oct. 24, 2025.

Member of PhD follow committee: "Feeding and reproduction strategies evaluated by modelling to optimize the production and reproduction performance of dairy cows as well as their welfare" by Margot Danglot, INRAE, France, 2024-27.

Member of PhD follow committee: "DigitWelfare. A hybrid modelling approach to characterize dairy goats' activity profiles associated with welfare" by Sarah Mauny, AgroParisTech / INRAE, France, 2022-25.

Member of PhD assessment committee: "Computer vision algorithms as a tool for behavioural analysis in dairy cattle" by Oleksiy Guzhva, SLU, Sweden, 2018.

TEACHING
Co-responsible of MSc "Animal Production, Health and Welfare" and BSc "Animal Science in Society" in Animal Science program.

INNOVATION, INDUSTRY COLLABORATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
During my career in Denmark, France, and Scotland, I have participated in several collaborative projects, both as member, WP-lead and project lead. The projects always involve both academic and industrial partners. While employed in Scotland, I led the innovation of an automated lameness detecting system, now marketed in the UK and wider. From 2014 to 2018 chairman of working group 'Activity based welfare monitoring' in the EU COST Action DairyCare (FA-1308).