

Cow's face indicates disease

Researcher Ronald Petie of Wageningen Bioveterinary Research (WBR) and students at the HAS and Avans universities of applied science in Den Bosch have developed an early warning system for foot and mouth disease. They trained a computer to recognize symptoms such as tears in the eyes from a photo of a cow's face. The computer was eventually able to pick out 94 per cent of the sick cows. Petie says that is enough for an early warning system in the trials WBR is conducting on the effectiveness of vaccines for the disease. The method is not yet at a stage where it can be used on farms. Info: ronald.petie@wur.nl

