

# Perception of Brazilian livestock advisors toward cow–calf contact on dairy farms: a preliminary study

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## INTRODUCTION & AIM

Exploring the perceptions of dairy industry advisors towards new practices, such as the cow–calf system, helps expand the understanding of how these practices might be received in the industry.

This preliminary study aimed to explore Brazilian livestock advisors' perceptions of systems that allow cow–calf contact after milking.

## METHODS



Online questionnaire that included sociodemographic questions and a 3-point Likert scale.

Southeast region, Brazil.



57 responses from Brazilian livestock advisors.

- Participants were randomly assigned to one of two cow–calf contact (CCC) systems: Full-contact (Full-CCC, n=26), where calves could suckle, and cows could nurse or Partial-contact (Part-CCC, n=31), limited to smelling and licking.

### Conflicting situations

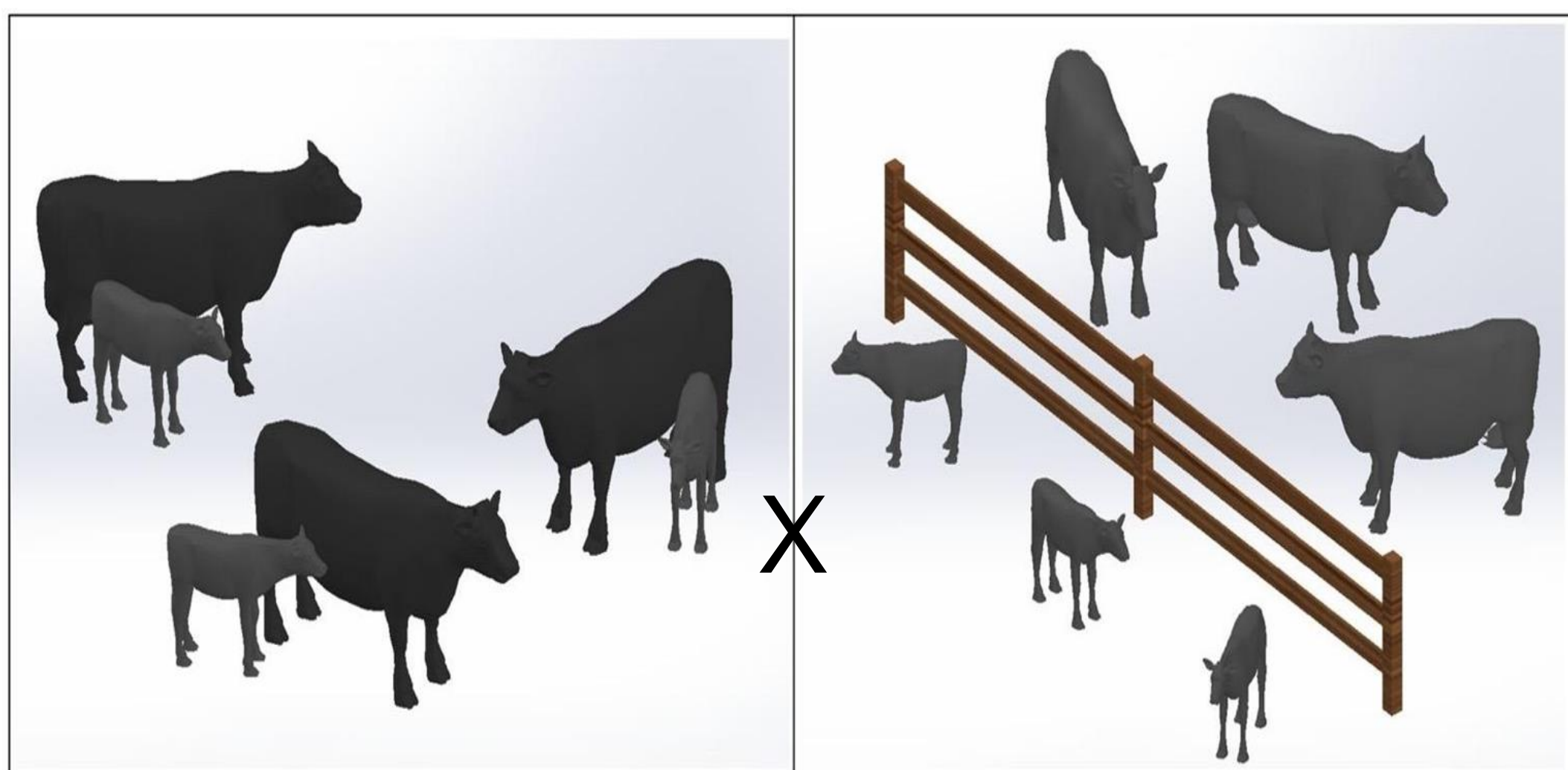


Figure 1. Full-CCC.

Figure 2. Part-CCC.

Data were analyzed descriptively, and the results are presented as percentages.

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Fifty-one percent of participants were men, and 56% were aged 18–35. Participants were more negative toward Full-CCC (Figure 3), with 73% stating that they would not recommend this system. While participants had a negative attitude toward managing animals in Partial-CCC (Figure 3), 52% of them would recommend this system to dairy farmers.

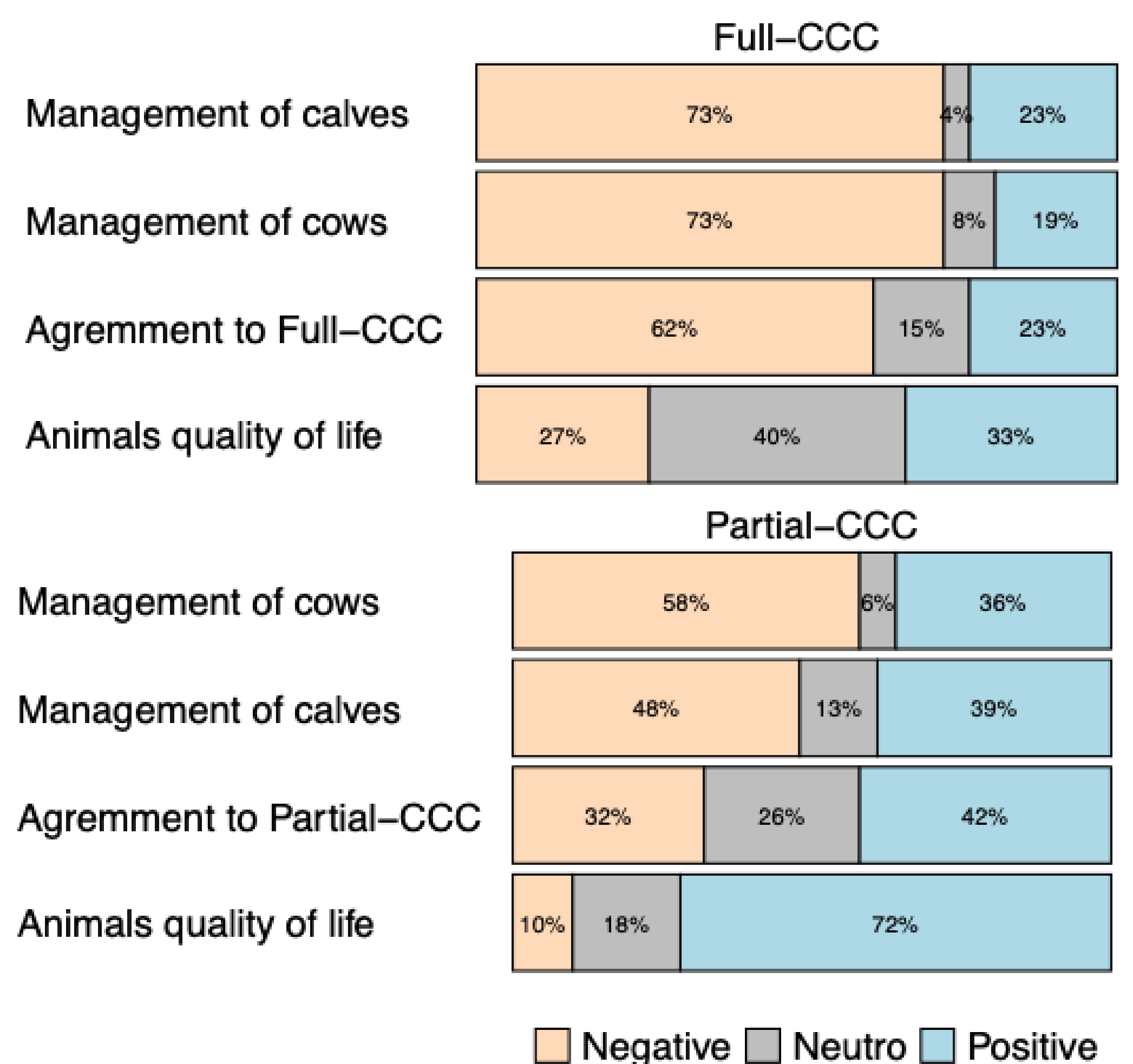


Figure 3. Attitude (negative, neutral and positive) of participants (n=57) towards the conflicting situations.

## CONCLUSION

Our findings suggest advisors' perceptions of CCC systems vary, with more positive views toward systems that do not allow calves to suckle. This insight highlights the importance of exploring the knowledge and viewpoints of professionals in the dairy chain to expand the debate on cow–calf systems in the industry.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT



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