



LevyinAction 2015

Management of Dairy Cows from Calving until Mating Start date

Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre
Teagasc,
Moorepark,
Fermoy,
Co Cork.

Phone: 025 42 222

web: <http://www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/moorepark/>

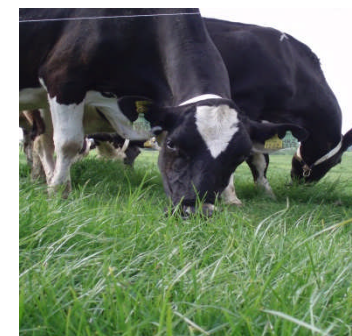
Email: moorepark_dairy@teagasc.ie



Dairy Research Ireland

funded by Irish Dairy Farmers

Follow us:



Moorepark2015



The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Why is 6 week calving rate important?

Motivation

=



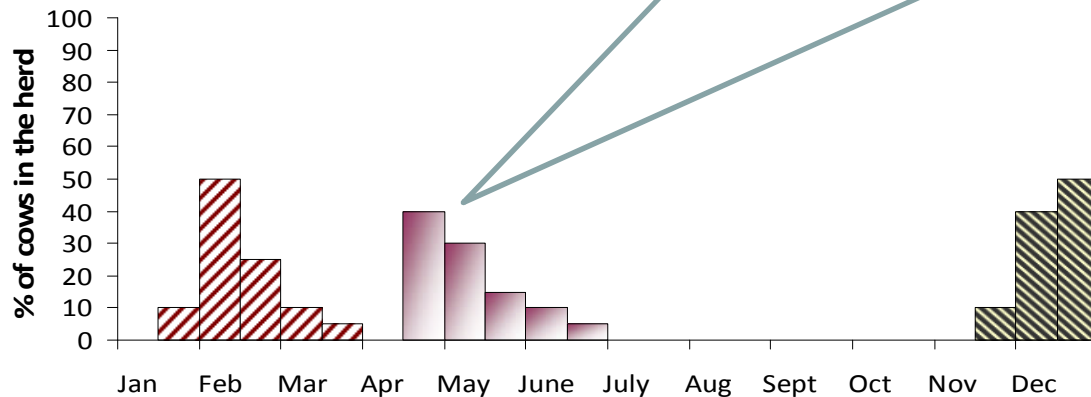
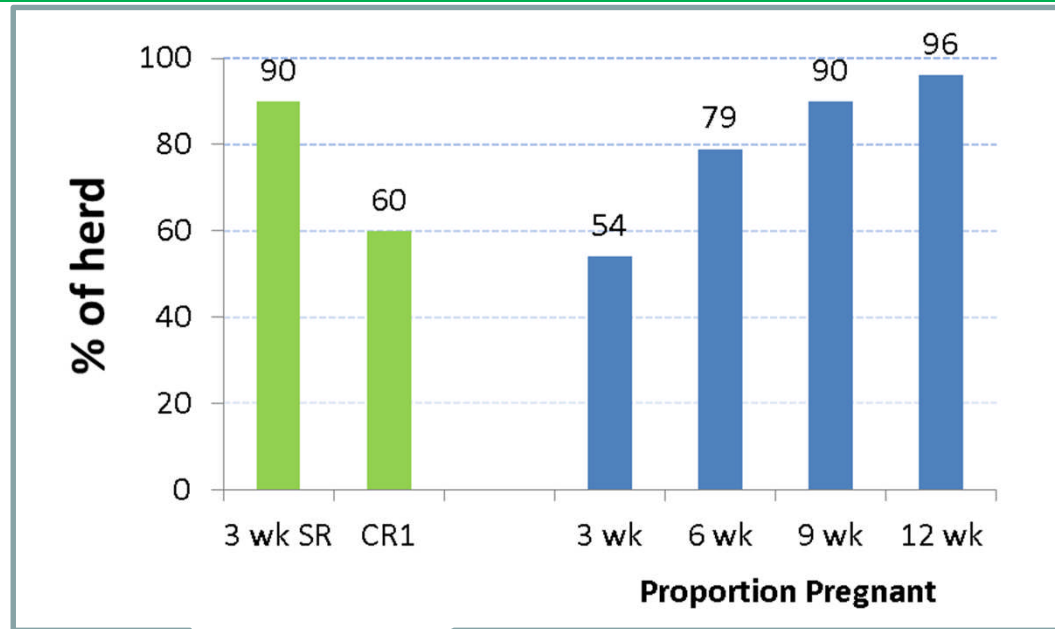
80 cow herd

Increase 6 week calving rate from 58% to 90%

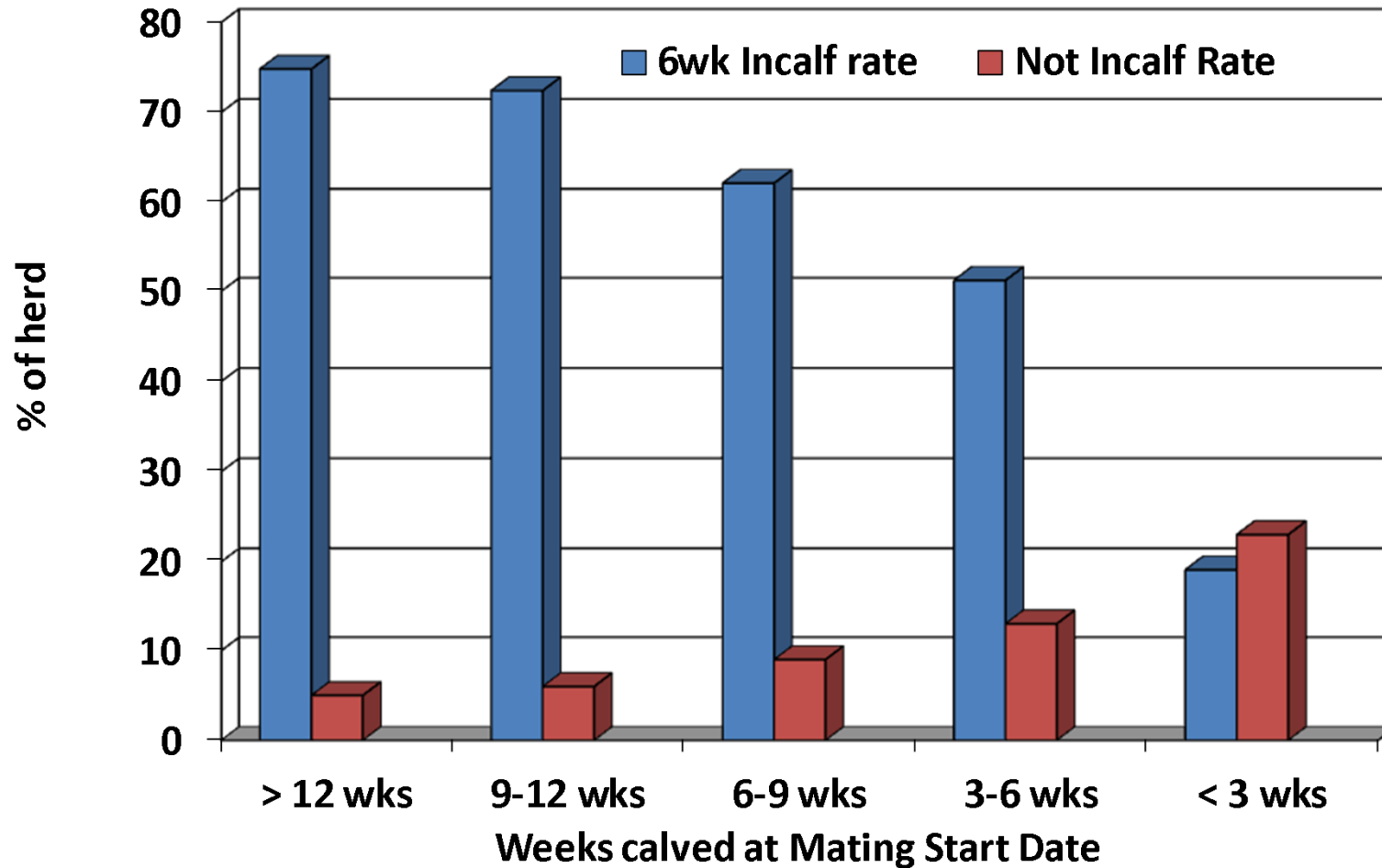
+€21,120 per year

Shalloo et al. (2014)

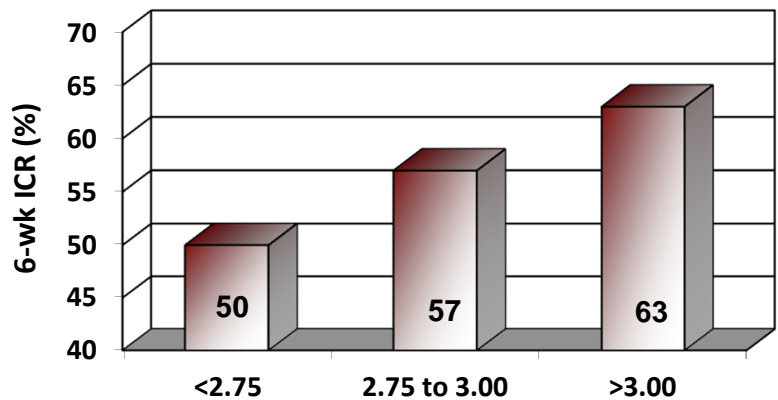
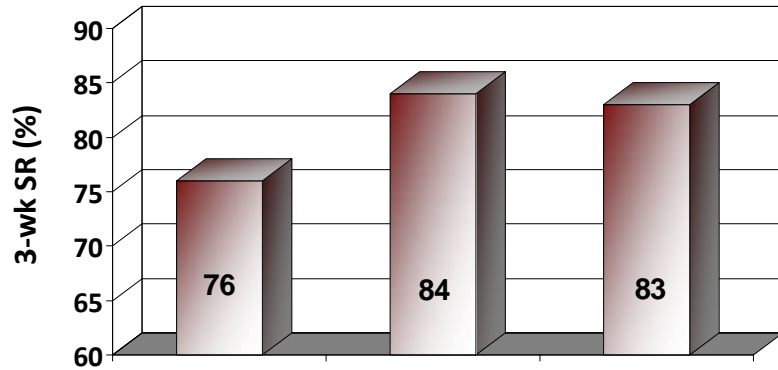
Seasonal, pasture-based milk production



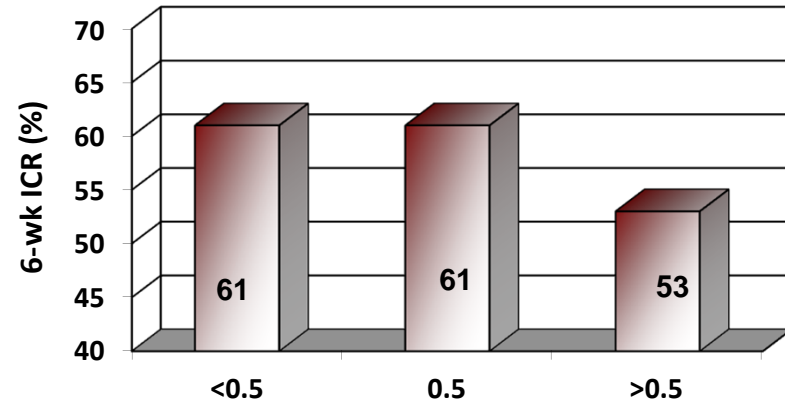
Earliest calving cows most fertile



BCS and fertility



Body Condition Score at Mating Start Date



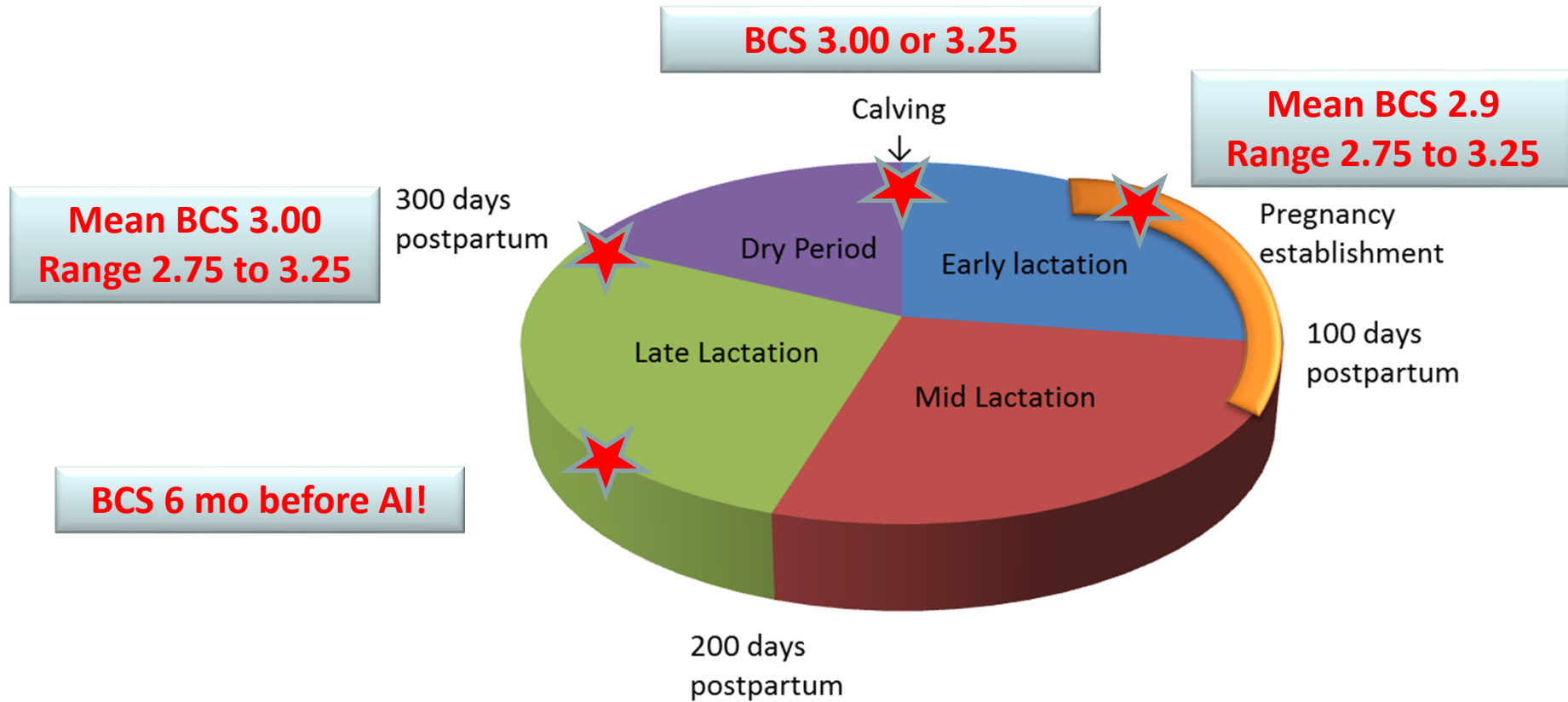
Body Condition Score Loss after Calving

What's important?

- 1. BCS at MSD**
- 2. BCS loss after calving**

Buckley et al. (2003)

BCS recommendations (1 to 5 scale)



BCS options for thin cows

Extra conc. feed?

- Most → Milk output
- Little change in BCS
- Superlevy implications

Once a day?

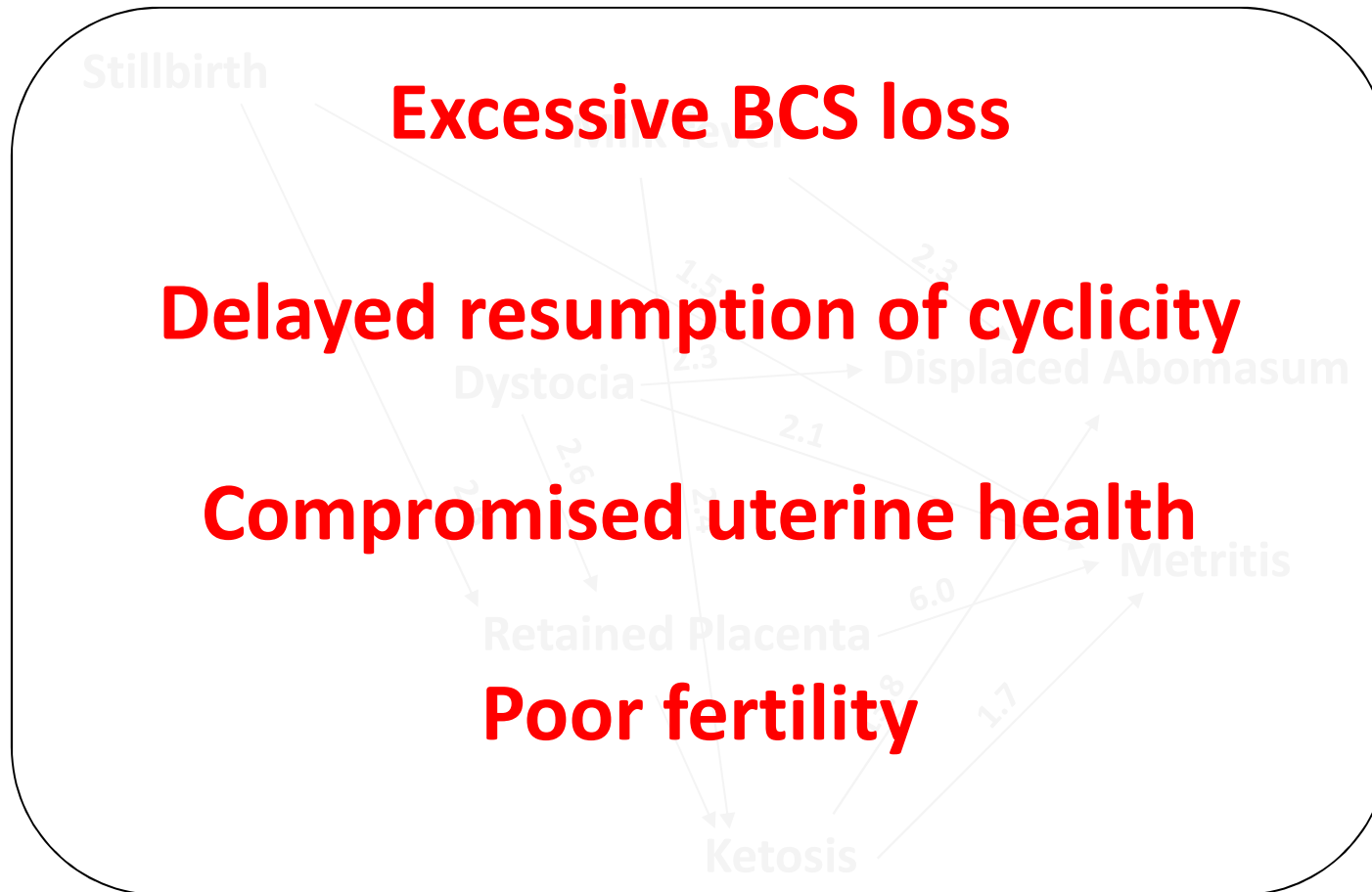
- Reduce milk output
- Improve energy balance/BCS
- Shorten anoestrus period

Feed low protein diet

- Impractical for grazing

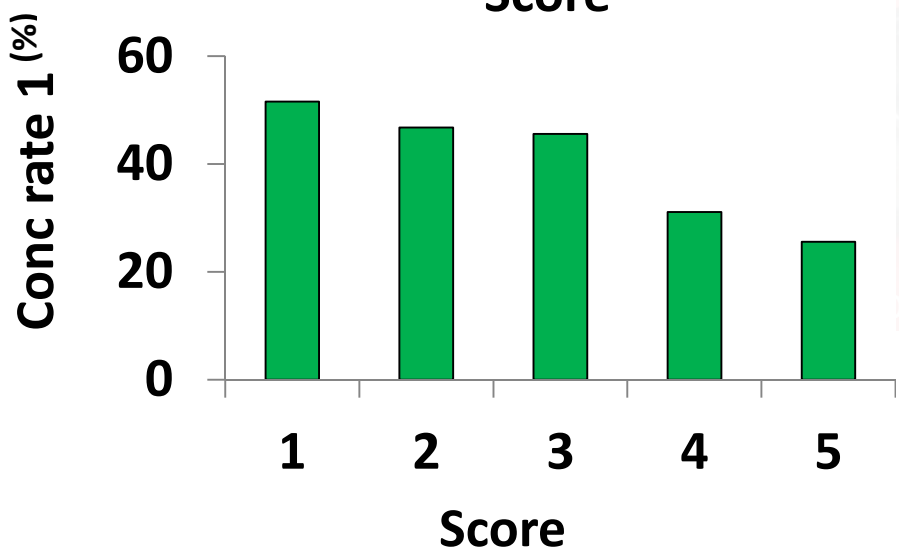
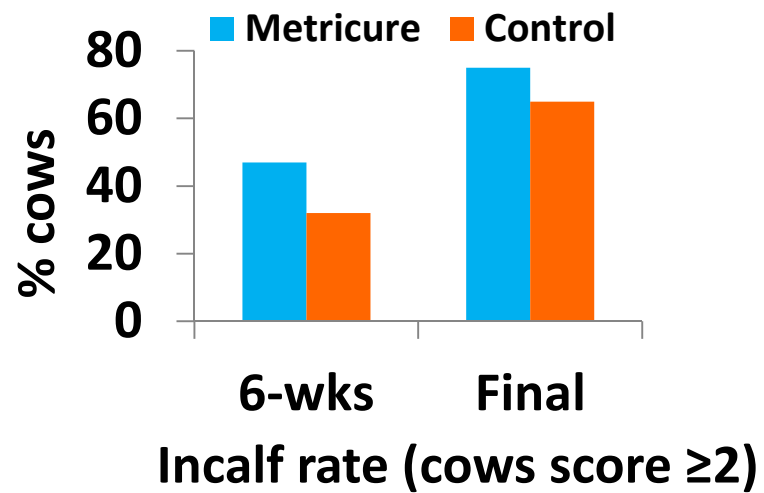
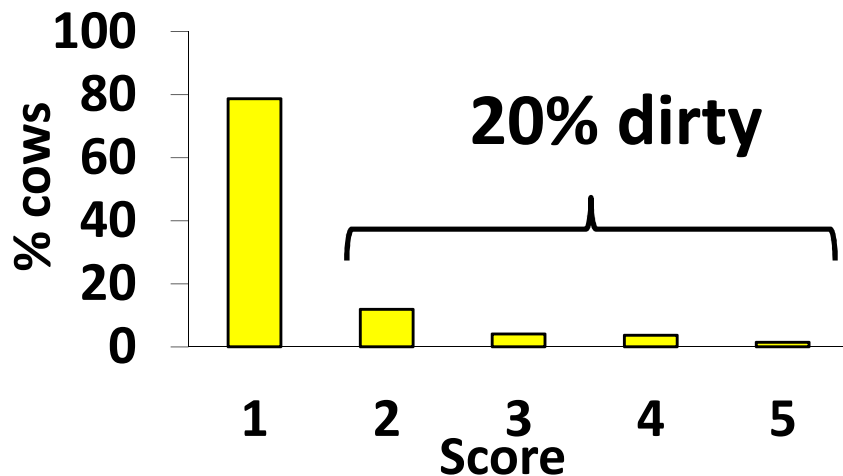
Duration	Immediate reduction in MS	Total lactation reduction in MS
1 st 3 weeks	15 to 20%	7%
1 st 6 weeks	20 to 30%	13%
Full lactation		30%

Links between periparturum problems



Adapted from Correa et al. (1993)

Uterine health



Treat cows calved >14 days with score ≥ 2 with intrauterine antibiotic (Metricure)

Data from McDougall et al (2007); Runciman et al. (2009)

Cow Management for compact calving

