

Why six-week calving rate is important to me?

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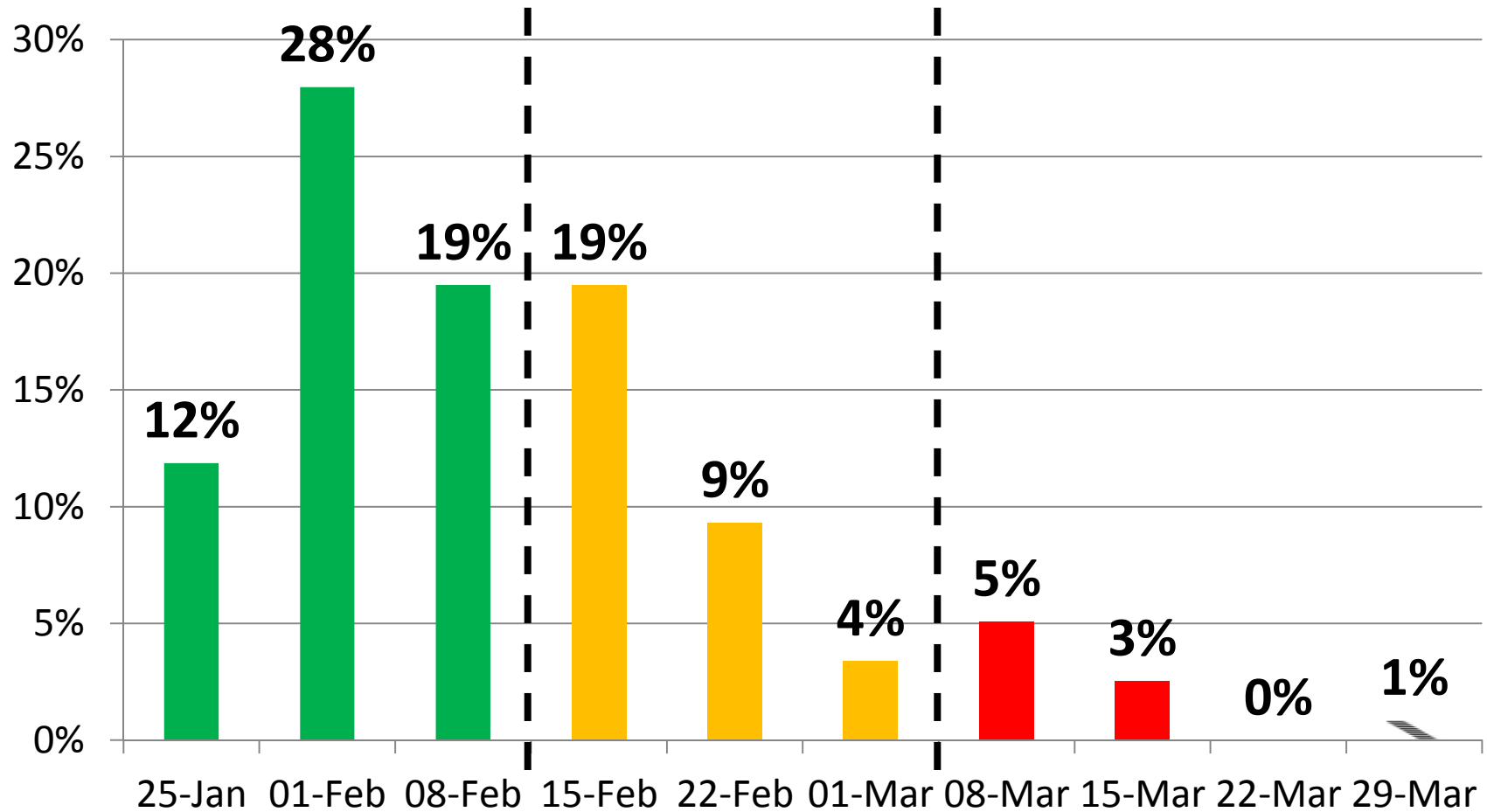
Introduction

- 62 ha farmed
- 40 ha milking platform
- 110 cows
- 45 0-1y.o. repl.
- 36 1-2 y.o. repl.
- 2.6 LU/ha
- 450 kg MS/cow
- 1,170 kg MS/ha
- 290 days in milk

Why is 6-week calving rate important to me?

- Get it over and done with
 - *‘So I can live again’*
- Simplifies calf rearing / breeding etc.
- Allows me a long lactation without milking late into December/ early in January
- Gives me a gap between calving and breeding
 - *‘Everything becomes easier’*
- Advice tells us it’s the way to go

91% 6-week calving rate / 369 day calving interval



How I achieve a high 6-week calving rate

- OAD helped –*while quotas were in place*
- Heifers calved at start – PG d7
- Heat detection aids – tail paint / teaser bulls
- Pre-breeding heat detection
 - Scan non-cyclers on d7
- Genetics – Fertility SubIndex €95
- Sell late calvers

Calculating the cost of low 6-week calving rate in your example farm

Target 6-week calving rate	90%	(A)
Your example farm 6-week calving rate		(B)
Difference between the target and your example farm (B-C)		(C)
Cost of 1% lower 6-week calving rate	€8.22 /cow	(D)
Calculate cost per cow for your example farm (C X D)		(E)
Number of cows on your example farm		(F)
Calculate cost of lower 6-week calving rate for your example farm (E X F)		

Calculating the cost of low 6-week calving rate in your example farm

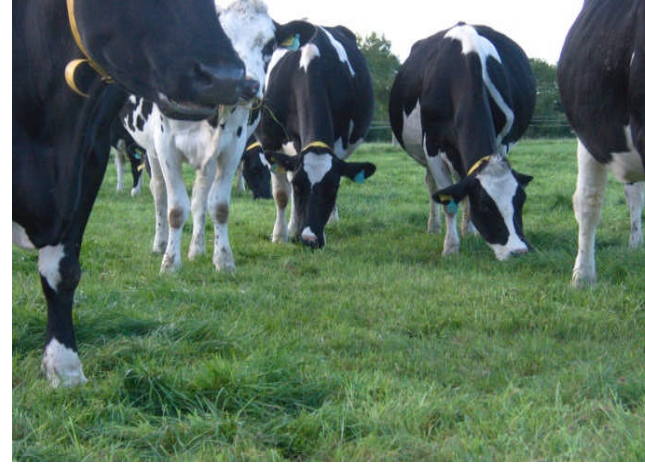
Target 6-week calving rate	90%	(A)
Your example farm 6-week calving rate	76%	(B)
Difference between the target and your example farm (B-C)	14%	(C)
Cost of 1% lower 6-week calving rate	€8.22 /cow	(D)
Calculate cost per cow for your example farm (C X D)	€115.08	(E)
Number of cows on your example farm	136 cows	(F)
Calculate cost of lower 6-week calving rate for your example farm (E X F)	€15,650	

Three targets to achieving a 90% 6-week calving rate

	Your herd	Target
21 day submission rate (%)		90%
42 day submission rate (%)		100%
Conception rate to first service (%)		60%

Three targets to achieving a 90% 6-week calving rate

	Your herd	Target
21 day submission rate (%)	90%	90%
42 day submission rate (%)	98%	100%
Conception rate to first service (%)	59%	60%



Achieving a high 6-week calving rate

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Teagasc National Dairy Conference 2015

Why is 6 week calving rate important?

Motivation =



€8.22 per cow per 1% ↑ in
6-week calving rate

100 cow herd

Increase 6-week calving rate from 58% to 90%

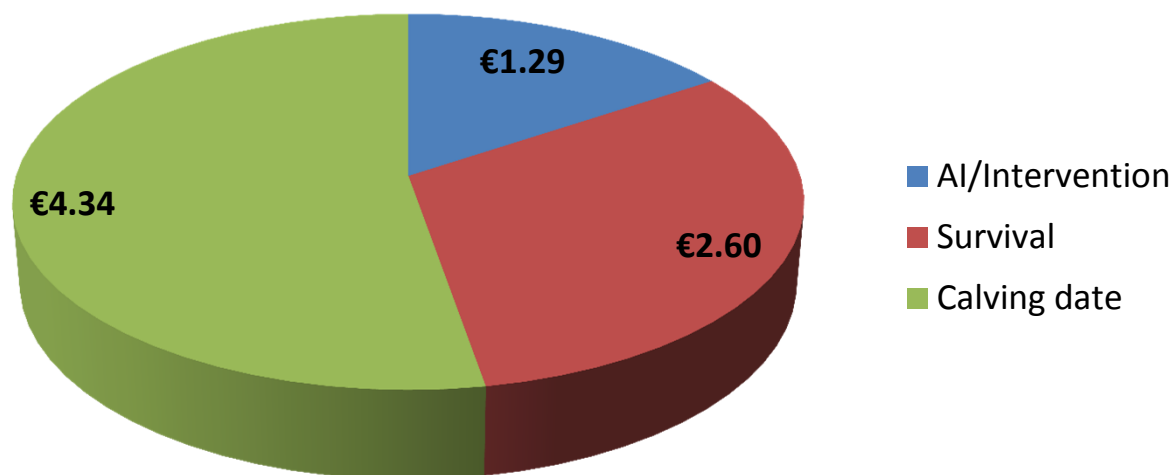
+€26,400 per year

Shalloo et al. (2014)

Costs associated with poor calving pattern

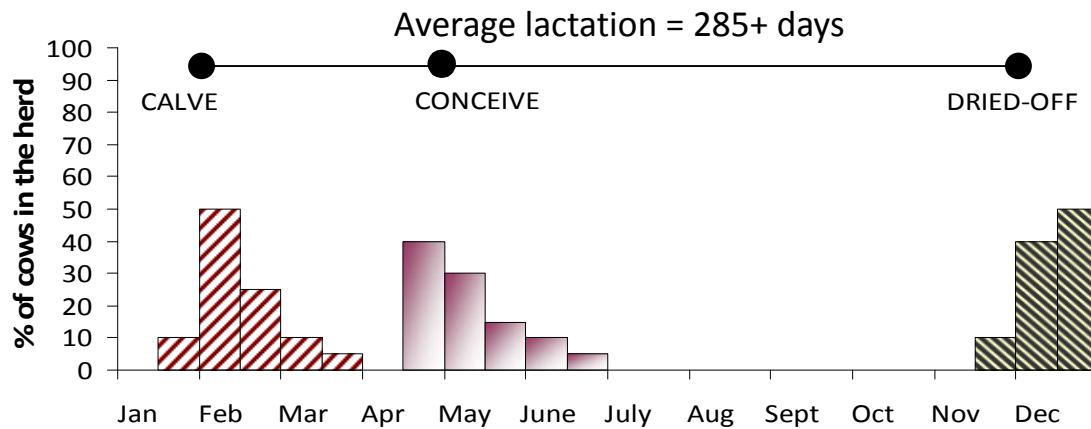
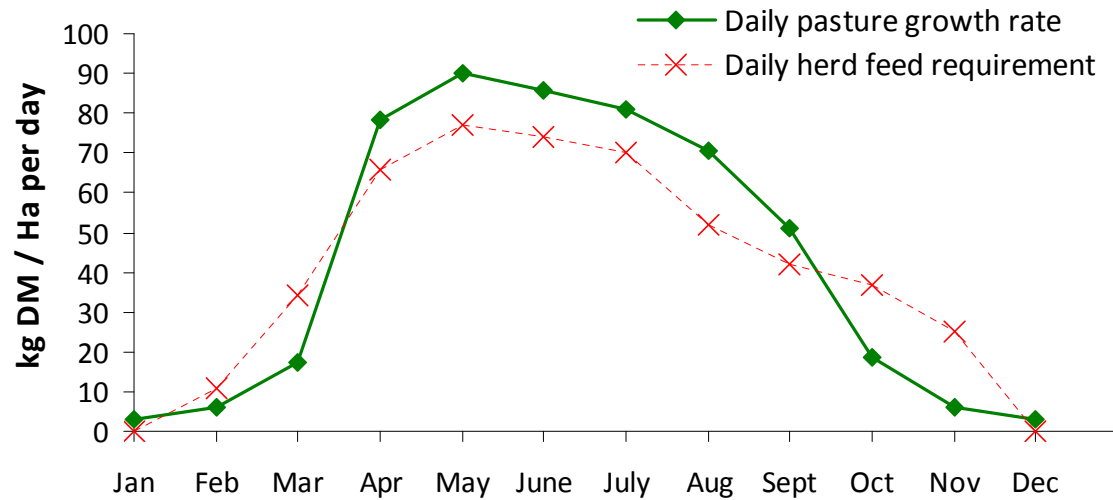
€8.22/cow per 1% ↑ in 6-week calving rate

Where does it come from?

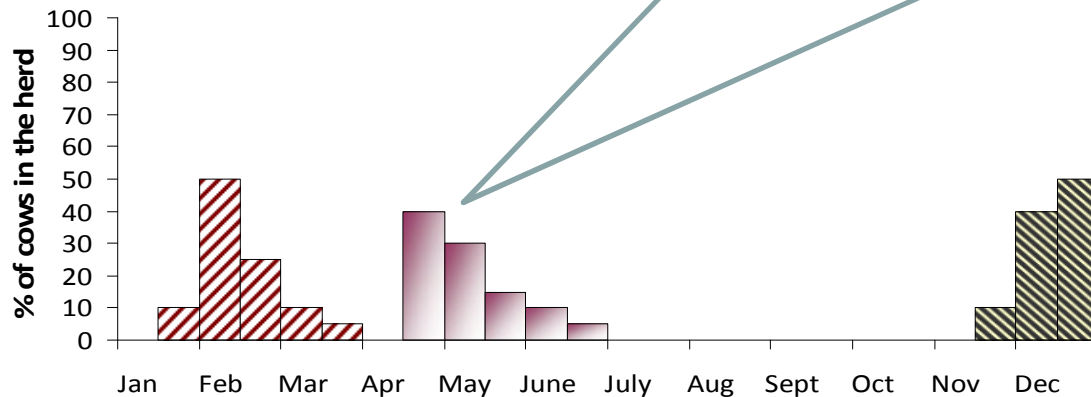
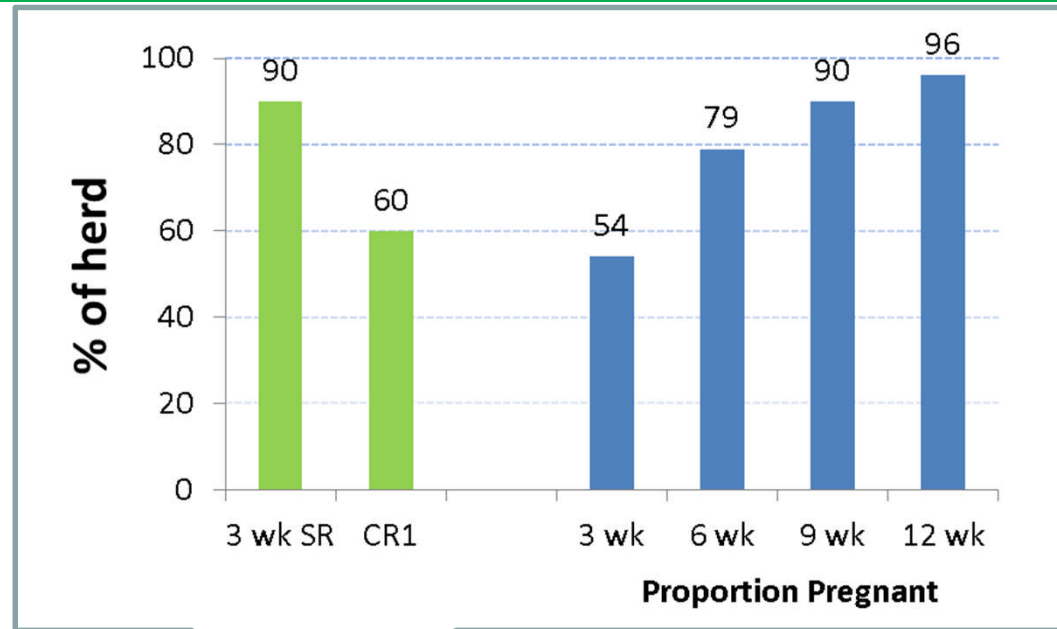


Shalloo et al. (2014)

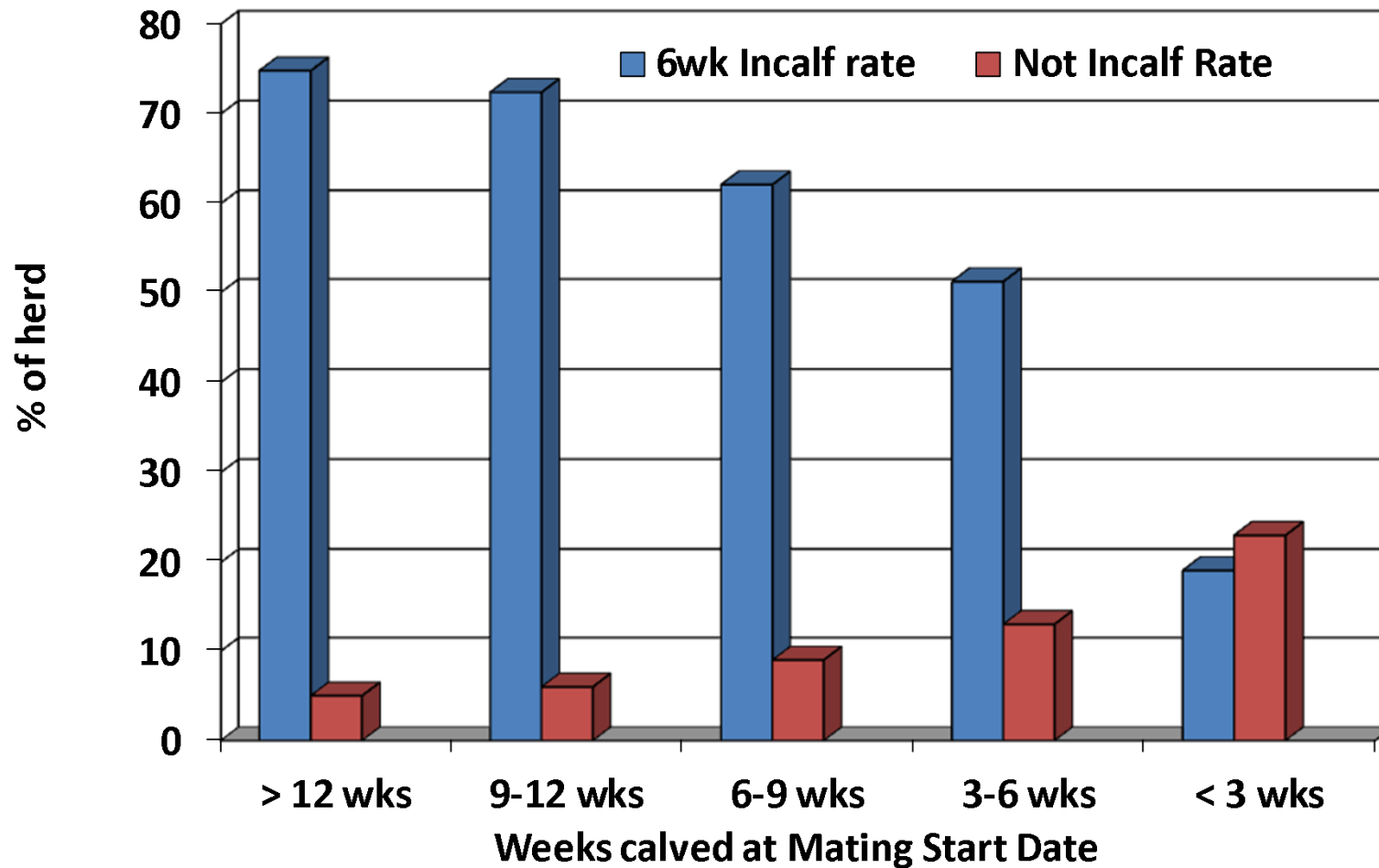
Seasonal, pasture-based milk production



Seasonal, pasture-based milk production



Earliest calving cows most fertile



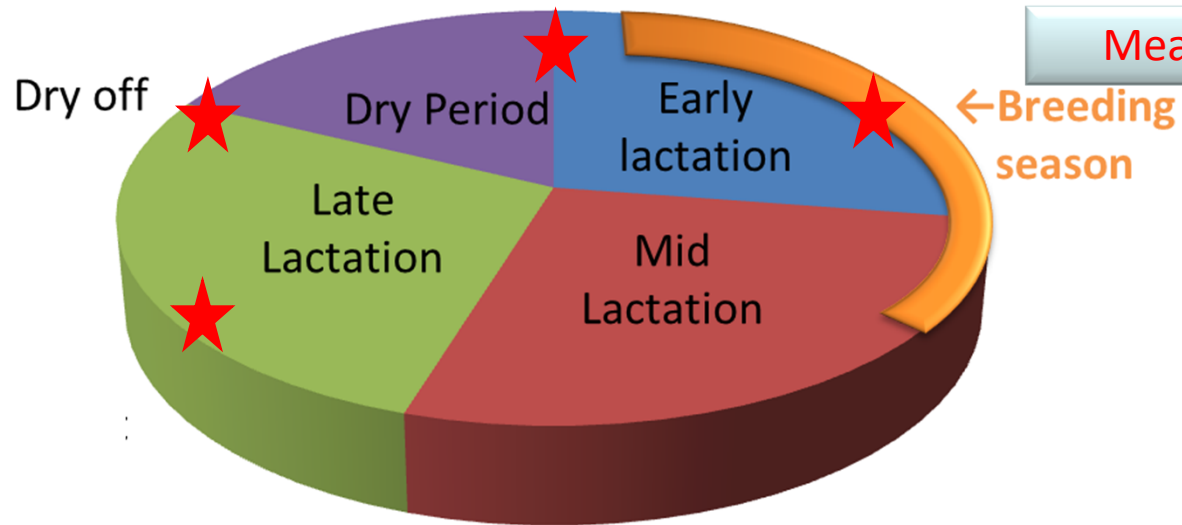
BCS

BCS 3.00 or 3.25

Calving



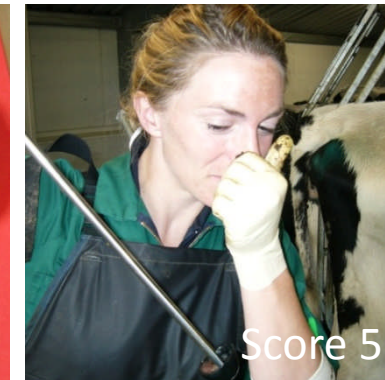
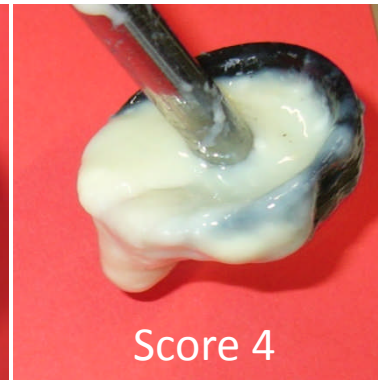
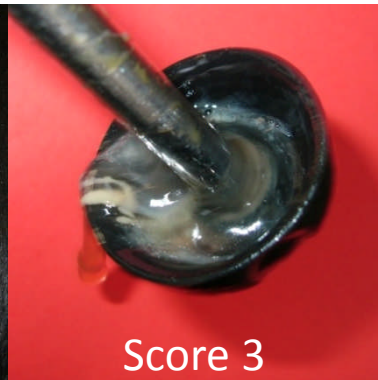
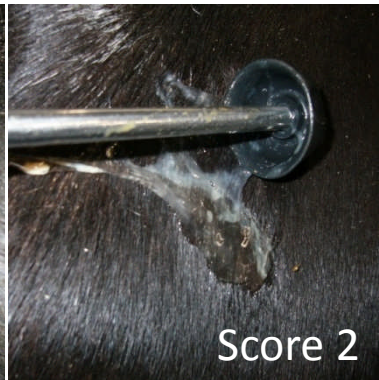
Mean BCS 3.00



Mean BCS 2.9

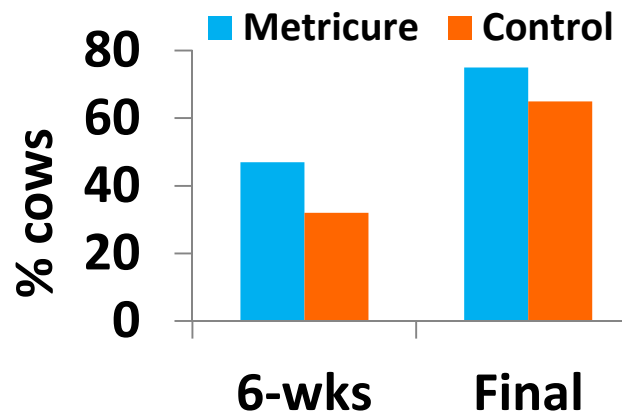
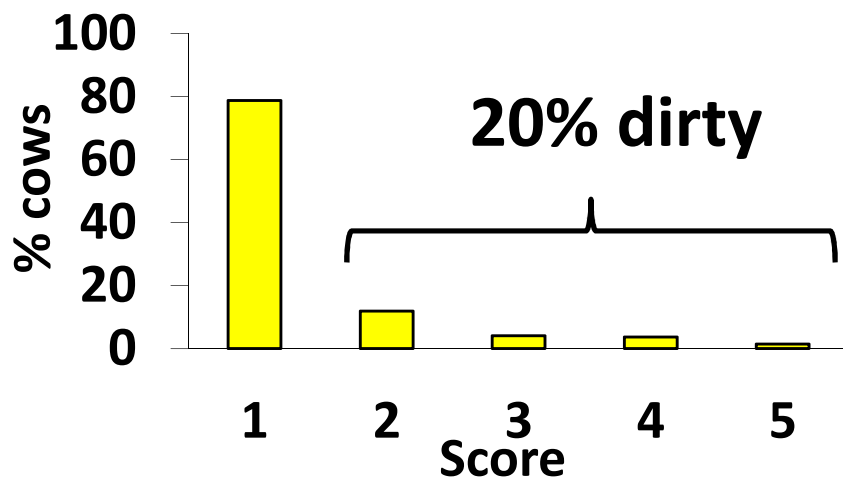
← Breeding season

Uterine health

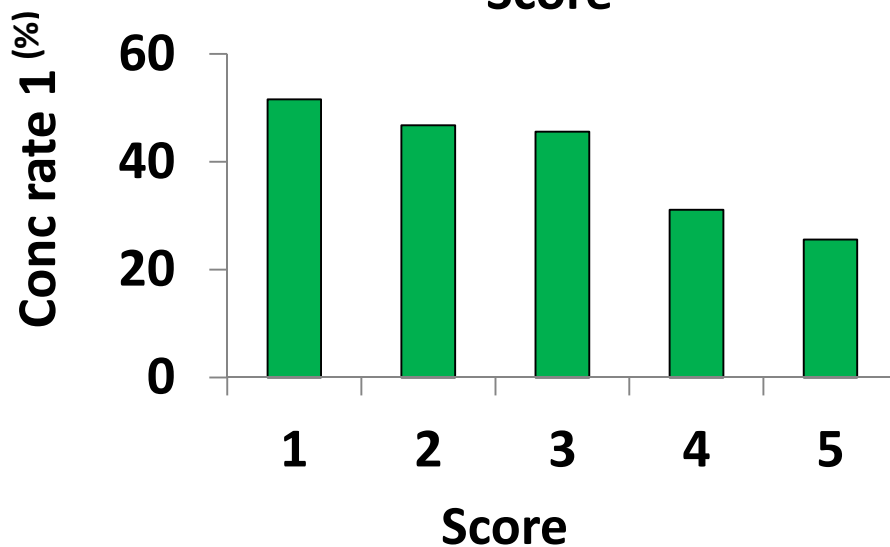


Data from McDougall et al (2007); Runciman et al. (2009)

Uterine health



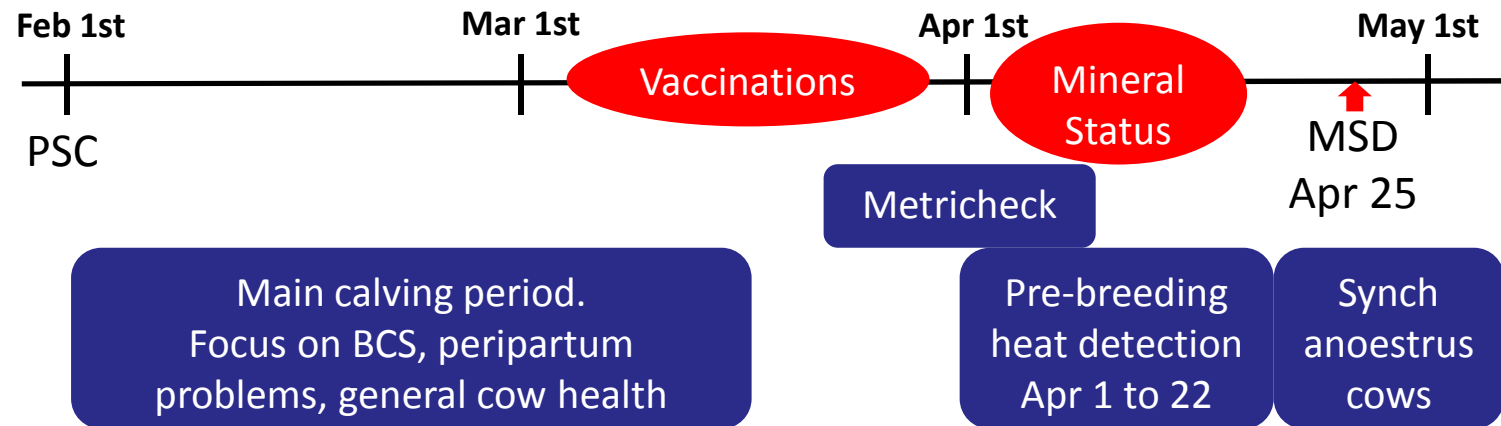
Incalf rate (cows score ≥ 2)



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



Calculating the cost of low 6-week calving rate in your example farm

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Identify the following three figures for your example herd

– key to achieving 90% 6-week calving rate

	Your herd	Target
21 day submission rate (%)		90%
42 day submission rate (%)		100%
Conception rate to first service (%)		60%