



Introducing the B.O.W. (Beef's Own Worth)

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ICBF & Sheep Ireland Genetics Conference 2020

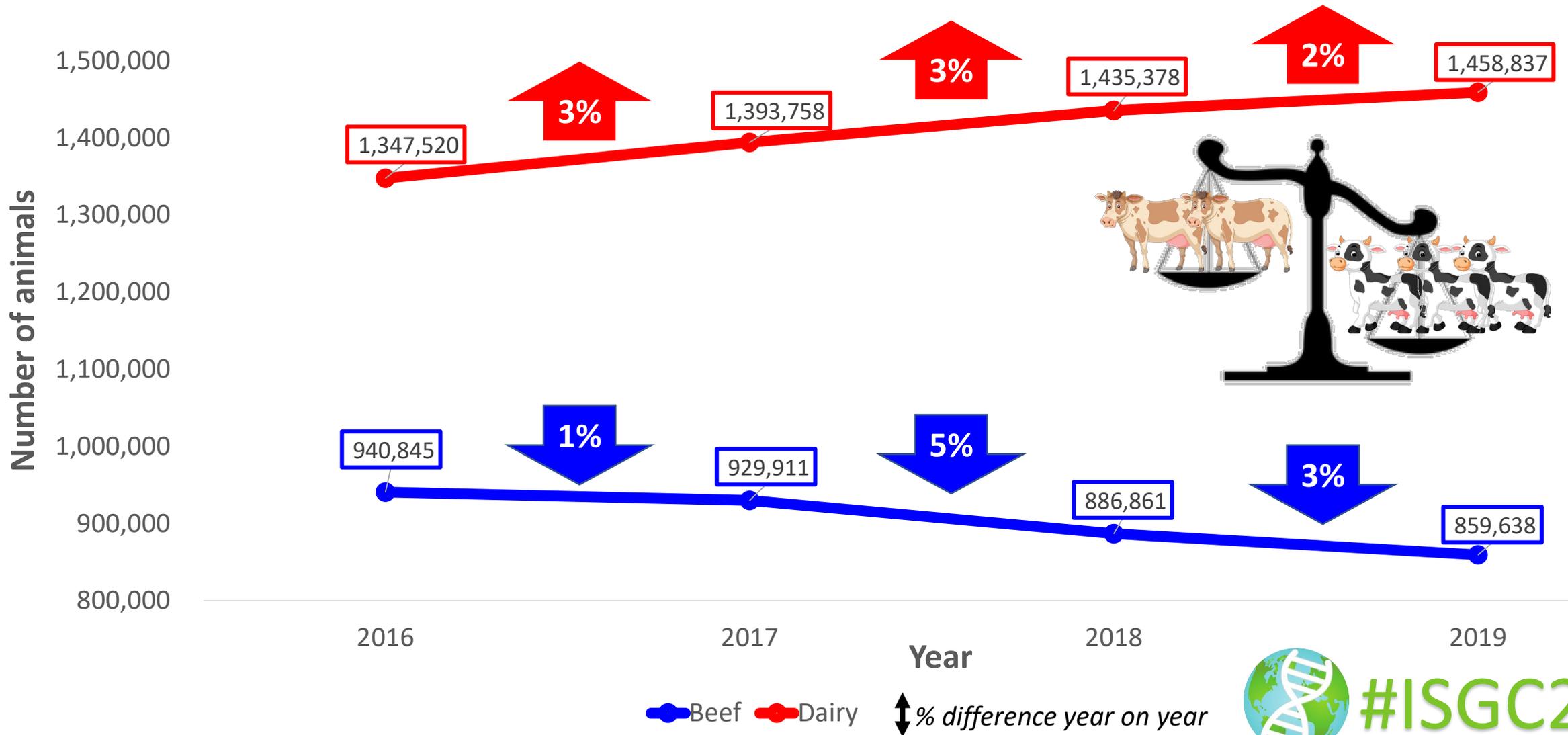
17th January 2020



#ISGC20

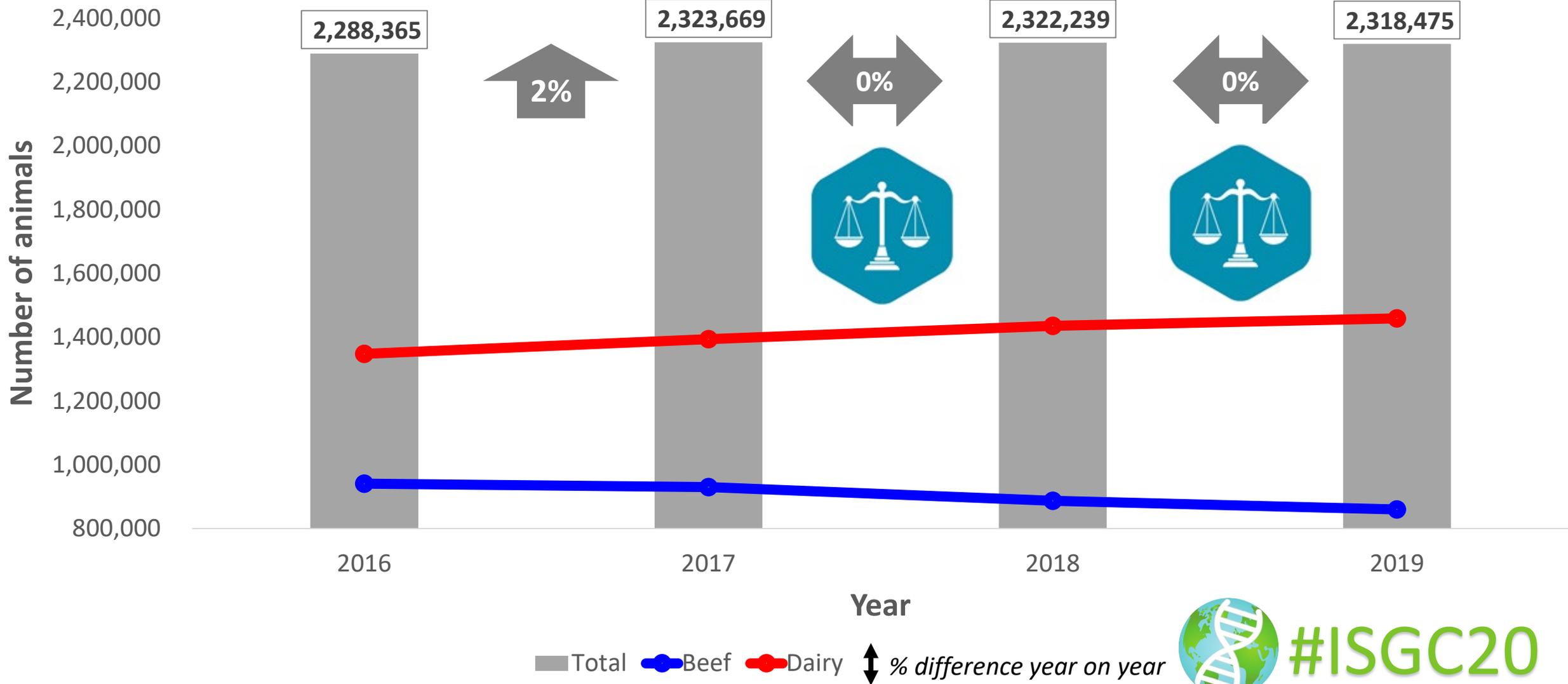
Introduction

ICBF database registrations 2016 to 2019



Introduction

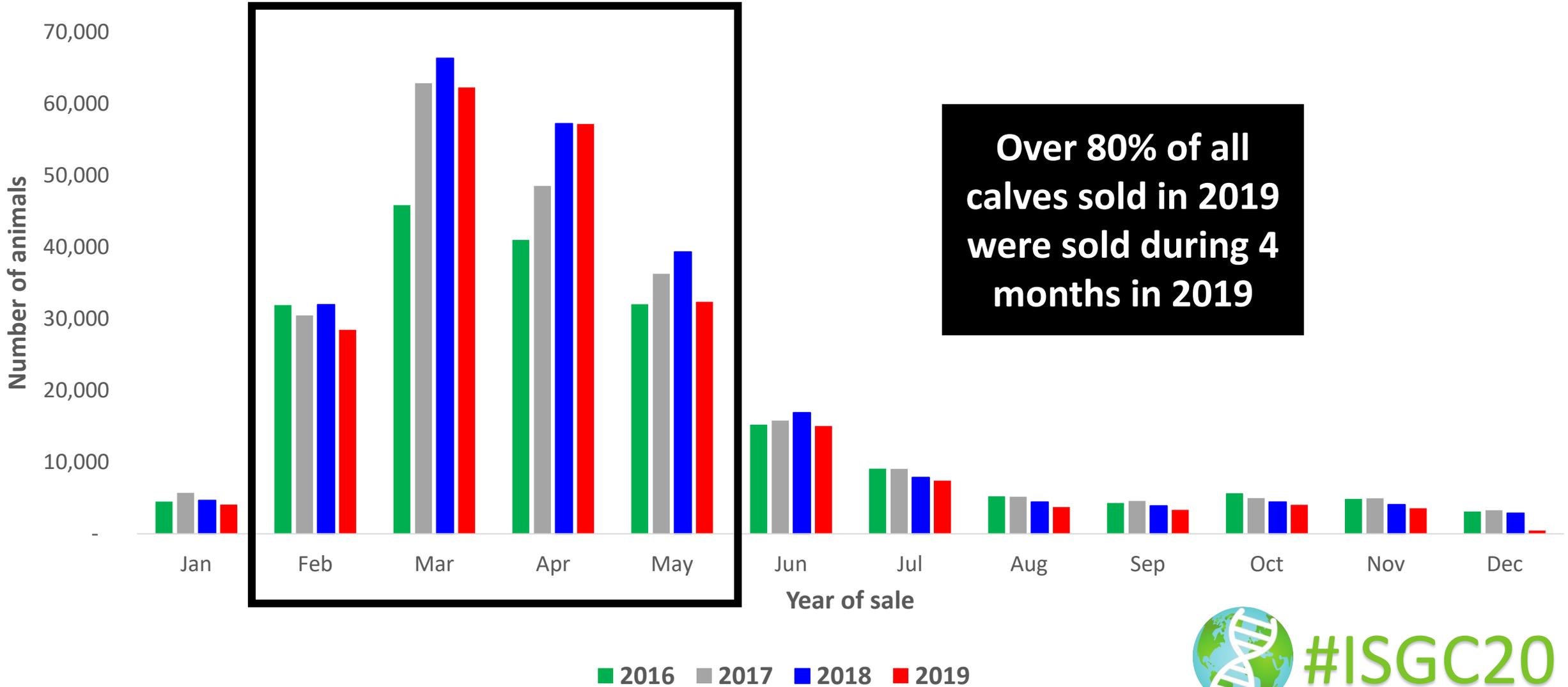
ICBF database registrations 2016 to 2019



#ISGC20

Introduction

Calf mart sales by month and year



The challenge

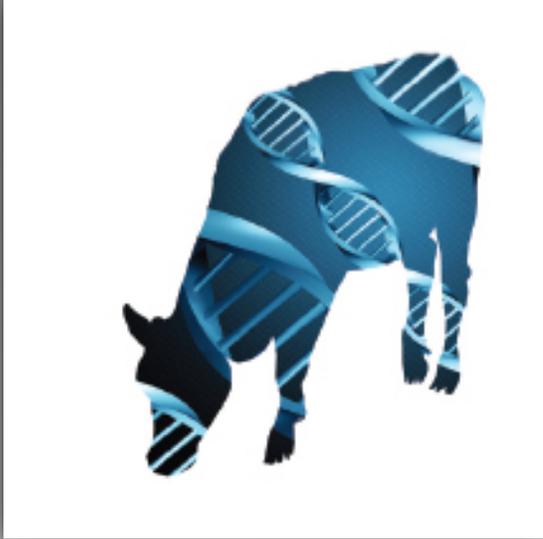
- Transition occurring between dairy and beef numbers
- Increase in beef coming from dairy herd
- Almost 1/4 million calves sold at less than 6 weeks old
- >1/4 million weanlings sold before 12 months old

Predicting future carcass value at the time of sale can be difficult



**Who is worth more?
How do you decide?**





Genetic merit indices for breeding



Decision support tools for management

Genetic merit indices



Breeding
indices



Purpose: To breed
dairy replacements

Using: Dairy sires

EBI



Purpose: To breed
suckler replacements

Using: Beef sires

Replacement



Purpose: To breed
beef finishers

Using: Beef sires

DBI



Purpose: To breed
beef finishers

Using: Beef sires

Terminal



Decision support tools

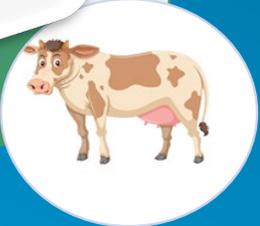
Management tools



Purpose:
To manage dairy cows on own performance

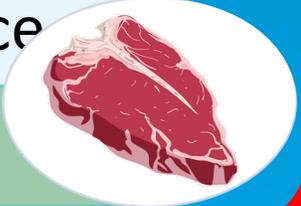



 Agriculture and Food Development Authority
Purpose:
 To manage beef finishers on own performance
 Success

New research released

 Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Purpose:
 To manage beef finishers on own performance
B.O.W.


Integration into ICBF database


B.O.W. = Beef's Own Worth

What traits are important for animals destined for beef?



Fíona Dunne, et al.
(submitted to *J. Dairy Sci.*)

Traits



Carcass weight



Carcass conformation



Carcass fat

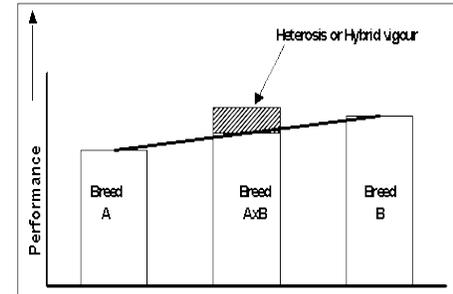
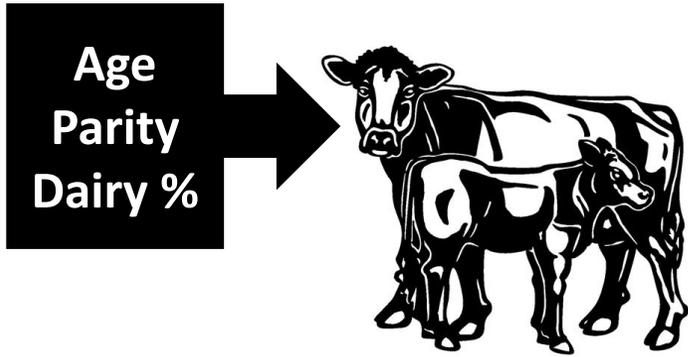
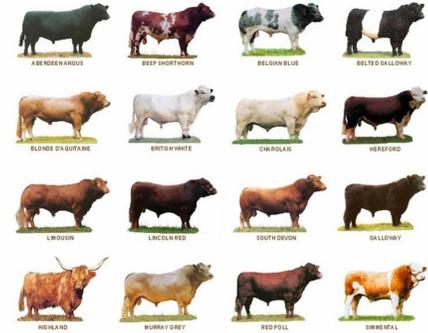


Docility



Feed intake

B.O.W. = Beef's Own Worth



B.O.W. Validation (Dunne et al.)

874 bulls and steers

Slaughtered 2016 – 2018



TULLY TEST
CENTRE

Data available:

Feed Intake records

Carcass information:

- Carcass Weight
- Carcass Conformation
- Carcass Fat
- € Price/kg

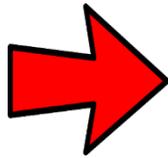


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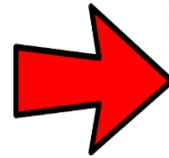
DAFM Integrated Dairy Beef 2020

- Pilot during Spring 2019
- Larger pilot to commence this Spring 2020
- Independent pricing structure to incorporate B.O.W. in the calculation of the calf price this year

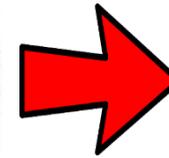
Collation of data



Dairy herd



Mart transports

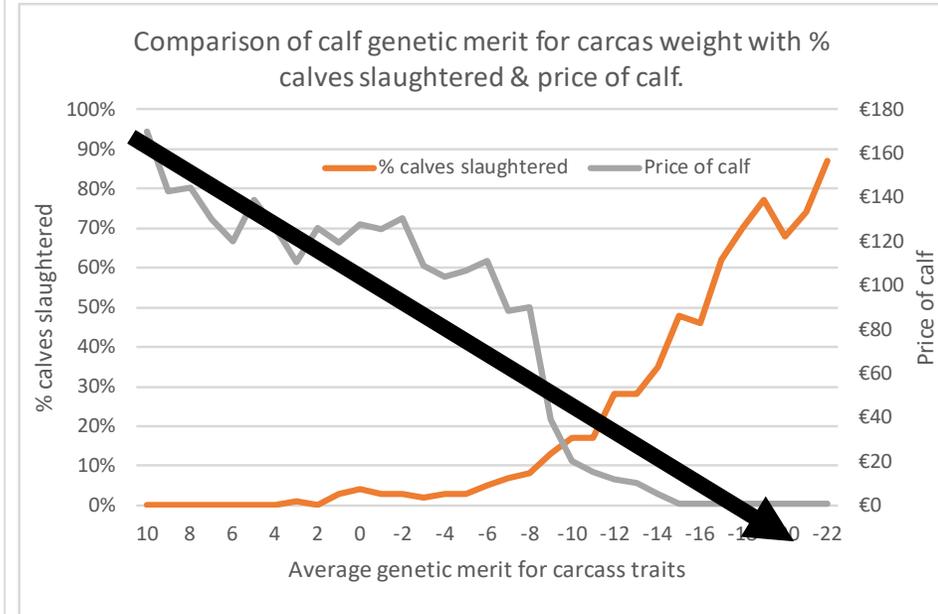
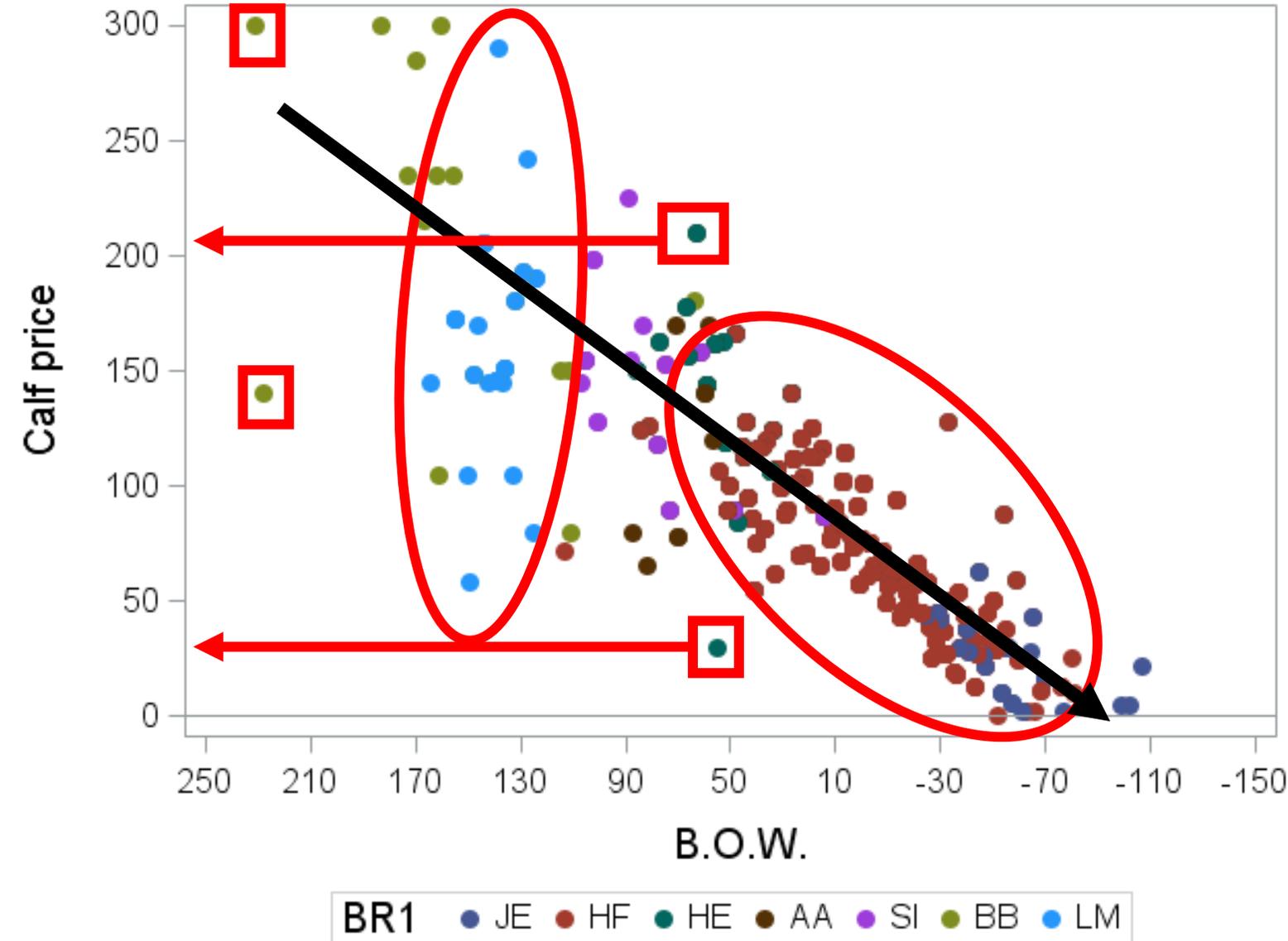


Rearer herd



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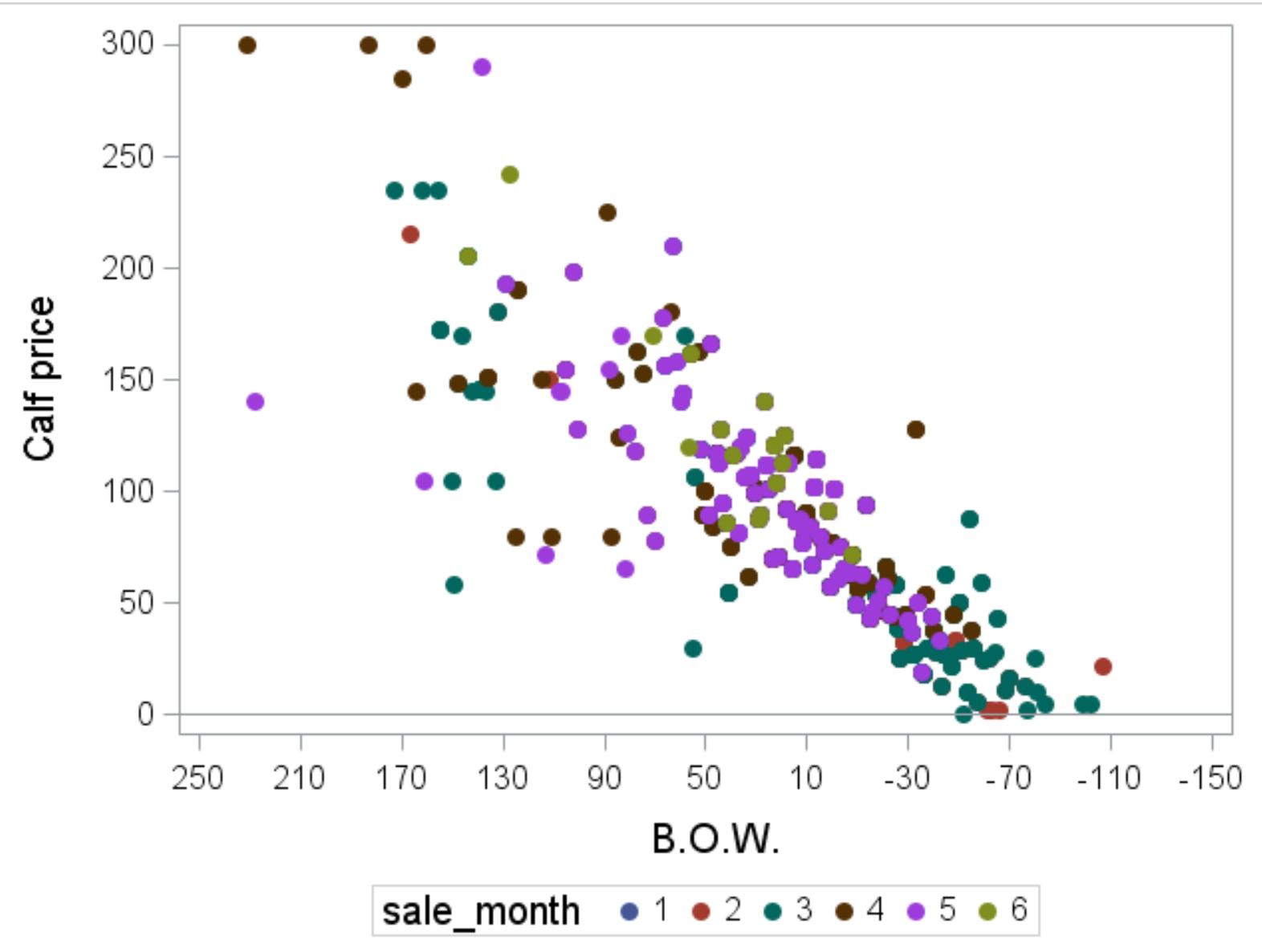
B.O.W. Validation (ICBF)



Data

- Mart sales 2019
- Calves 10 to 42 days old
- Sale dates between February to June
- Number of animals = 1,168

B.O.W. Validation (ICBF)



B.O.W. and calf price grouped by month of sale

Data

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Dairy-beef timeline of events

Breeding



Calving



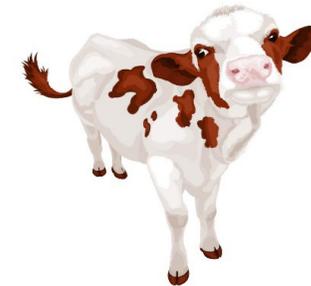
Sale



DBI



DNA calf reg



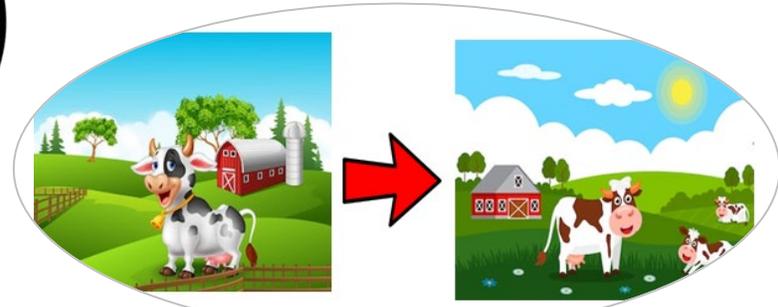
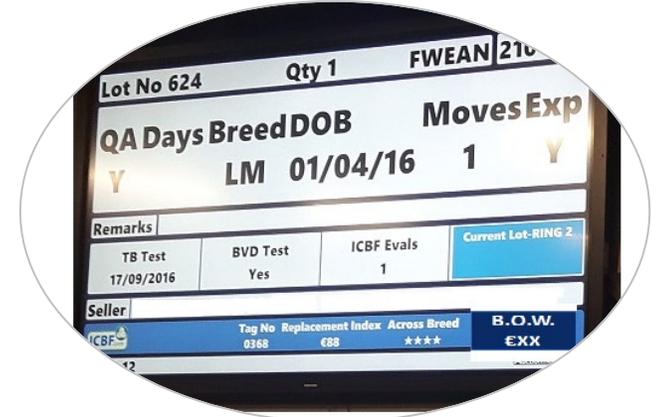
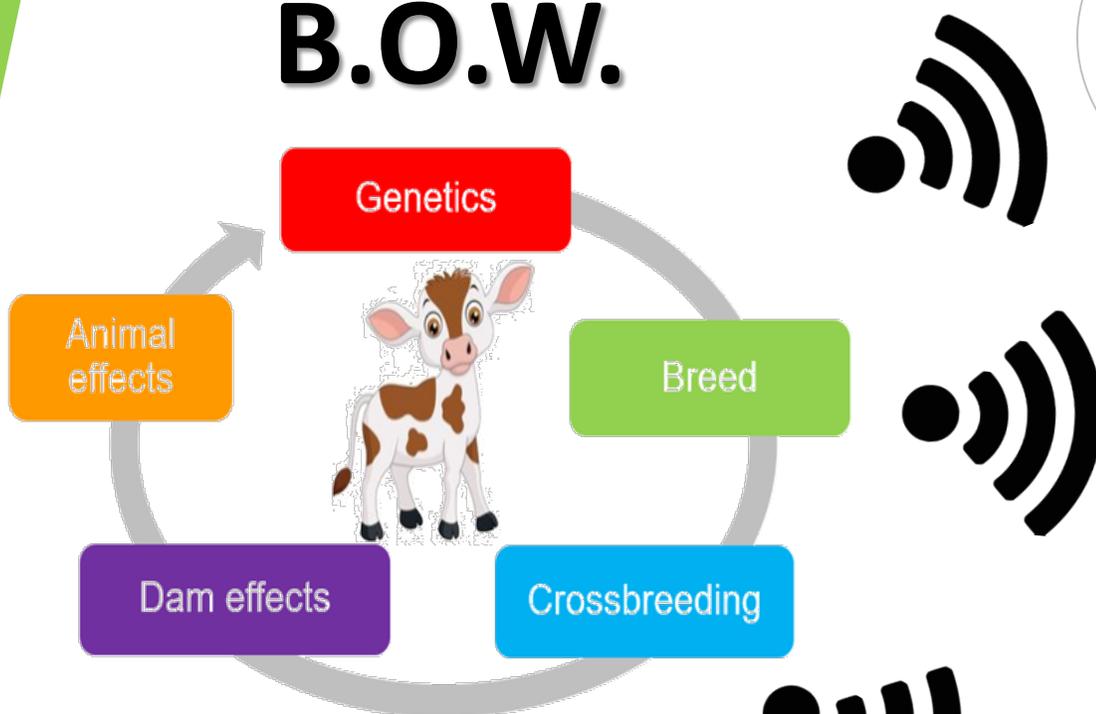
Beef's Own Worth

Future application

Selling stock for finishing



B.O.W.



Conclusions

- B.O.W. (**Beef's Own Worth**) values animals destined for slaughter on their own merit and can be used to aid **purchasing/selling** decisions
- Accounts for the **genetic** makeup of the animal as well as **non-genetic** factors such as breed, dam effects, gender, age
- Provides the buyer with more **confidence**
- Focuses the seller on breeding **better carcass** traits
- B.O.W. is currently being integrated into the ICBF database and will be trialed within the DAFM Integrated Dairy Beef **pilot** this spring
- **Future prospect** – B.O.W. to be available for all animals, of any age, destined for slaughter

