



Se EU-Kommissionen, Den Europæiske Landbrugsfond for Udvikling af Landdistrikterne

# SimHerds funktionaliteter i forbindelse med holdbarhed

**Vejen til 6. laktation**  
**16. juni 2017**  
**SEGES**

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First a few key observations about cows leaving

# When Cows Leave and Risk of Leaving the Herd

MN DHIA data (10/96 - 10/01)

624,614 Cows Leaving  
From ~2,800 Herds

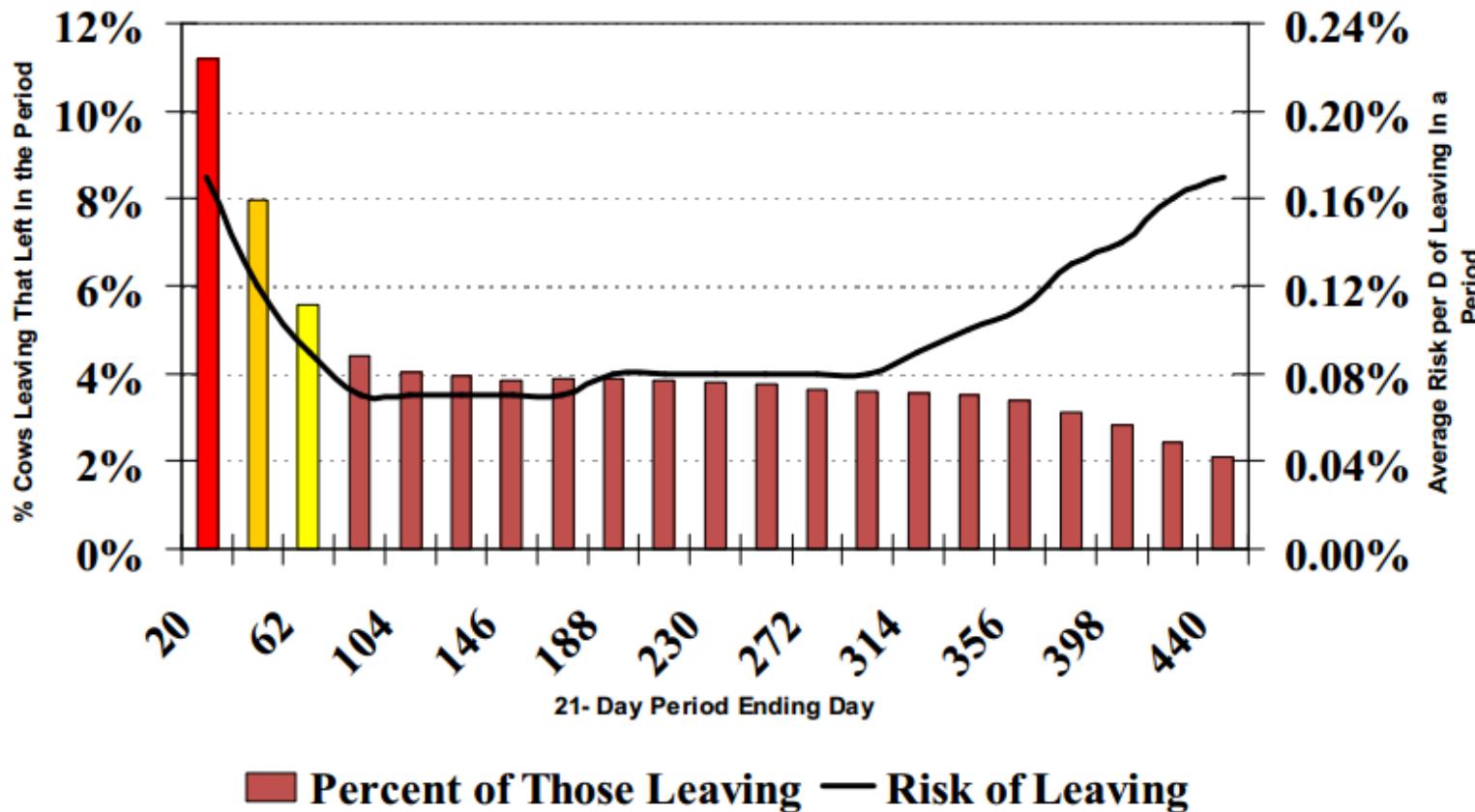


Figure 1. When cows leave the herd and risk of leaving the herd (MN DHIA data, October 1996–October 2001). © MWPS (Midwest Plan Service), Iowa State University, Ames, IA, [www.mwpshq.org](http://www.mwpshq.org). Used with permission: 4-State Applied Nutrition and Management Conference. MWPS-4SD16.

# Probability of cows dying or being sold

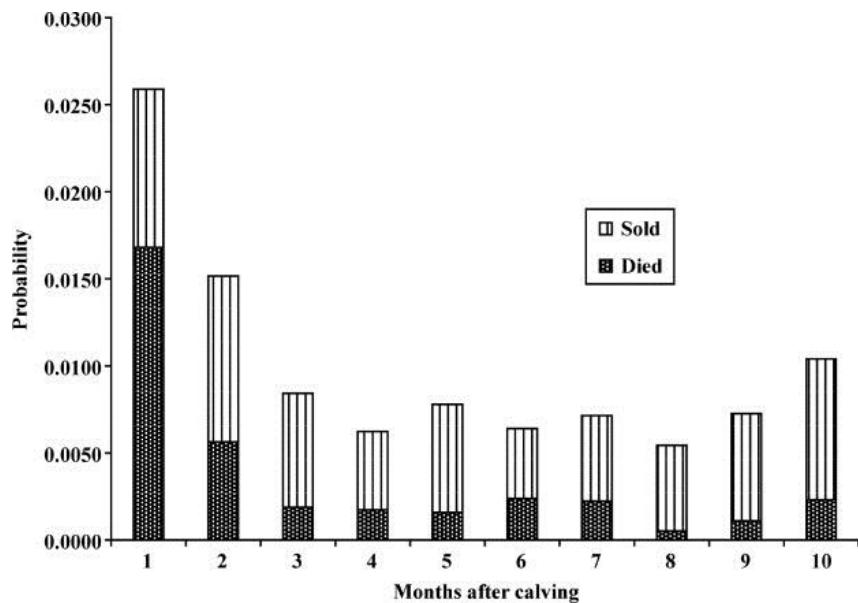


Figure 1. Probability of a cow dying (dotted pattern) or being culled (vertical lines) in 5,500 first lactations in 5 New York State dairy herds.

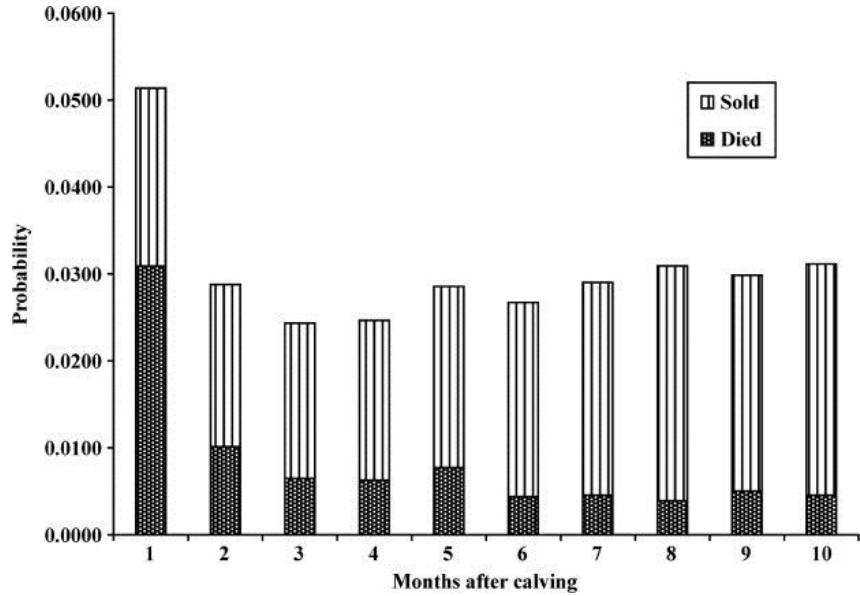
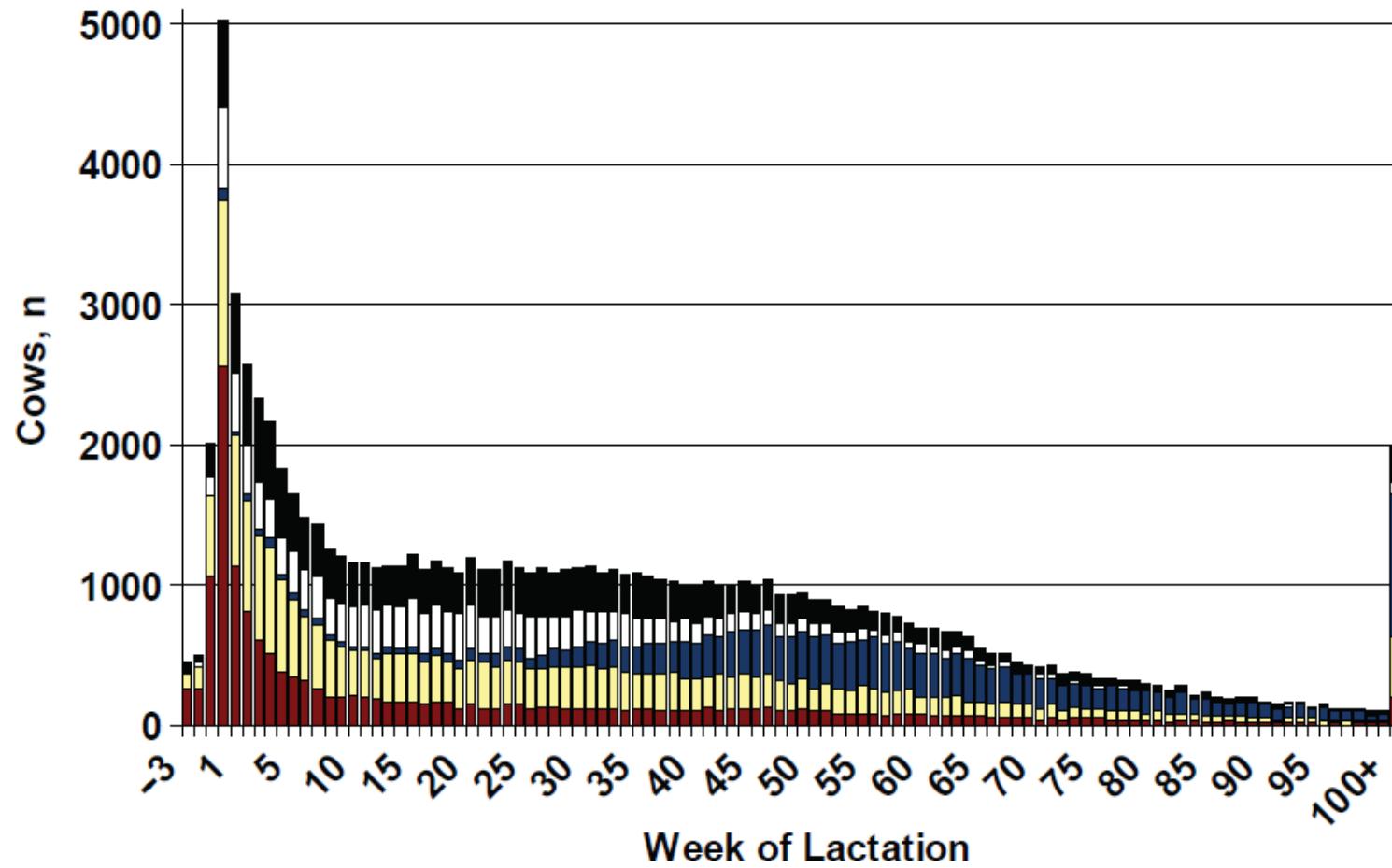
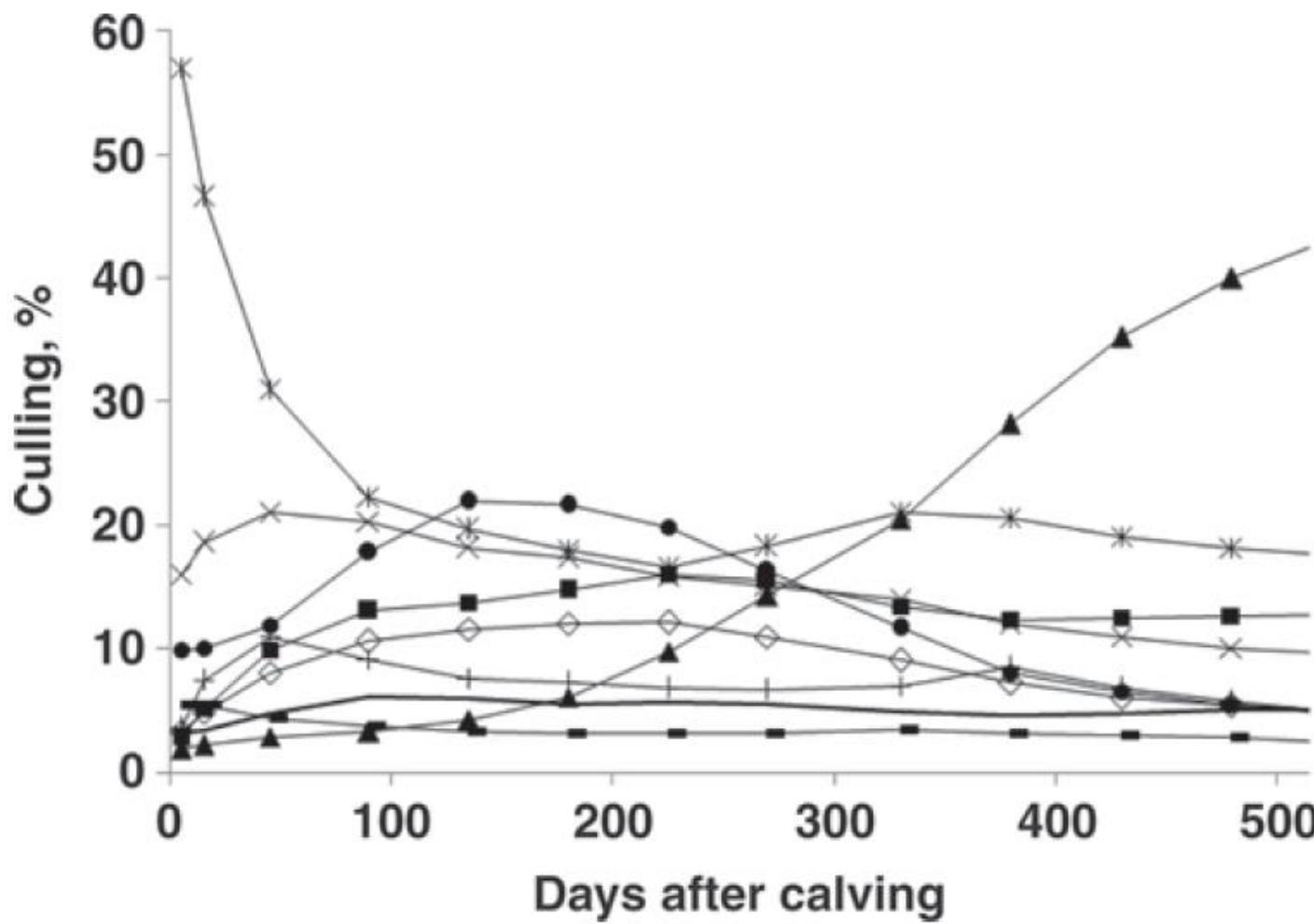


Figure 2. Probability of a cow dying (dotted pattern) or being culled (vertical lines) in 10,645 multiparous lactations in 5 New York State dairy herds.



**Figure 1.** Total number of cows (n) that died (red), or were culled with codes corresponding to reproduction (blue), injury/other (yellow), mastitis (white), and all other reasons (black) by week of lactation.



**Figure 2.** Distribution of culled cows (%) by disposal codes at different stages of lactation (each day is 100%). Disposal codes: feet and legs ( $\diamond$ ), low production ( $\blacksquare$ ), reproduction ( $\blacktriangle$ ), injury/other ( $\times$ ), died (\*), mastitis ( $\bullet$ ), disease (+), udder problems ( $\blacksquare$ ), and reason not reported (clean line).

SimHerd modeling of cows leaving the herd

# When a cow is leaving the herd in SimHerd

## Types of culling

- Death
- Involuntary culling
- Voluntary culling

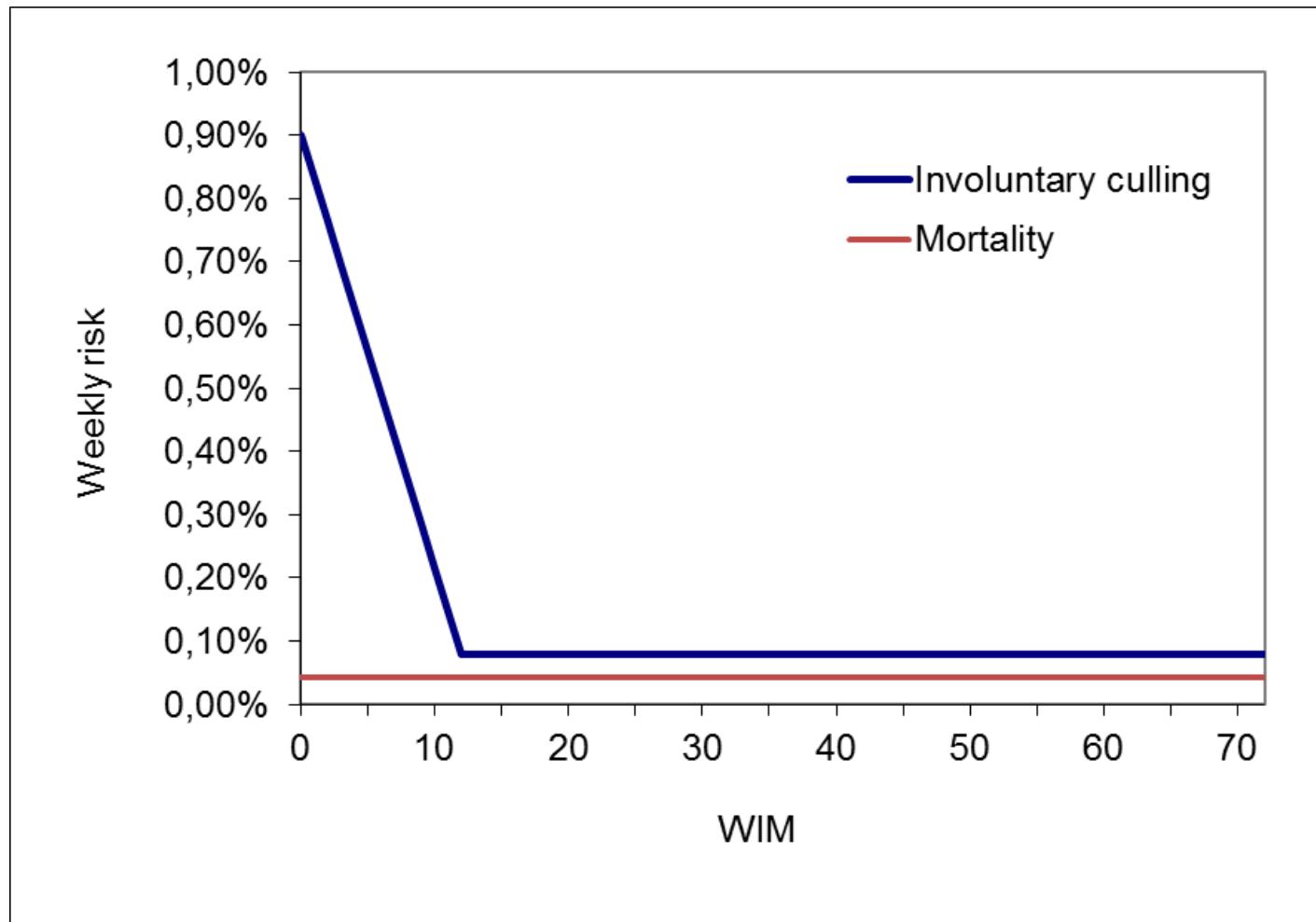
# Sub models for cows leaving the herd in SimHerd

- **Death** – leaving for processing
  - Breed, Diseases
  - Other reasons not modelled directly (health problems, accidents)
- **Involuntary culling** - leaving for slaughtering
  - Breed, Parity, DIM
  - Other reasons not modelled directly (health problems, ugly, stupid, do not fit in)
  - Time of leaving the herd
    - When event is triggered

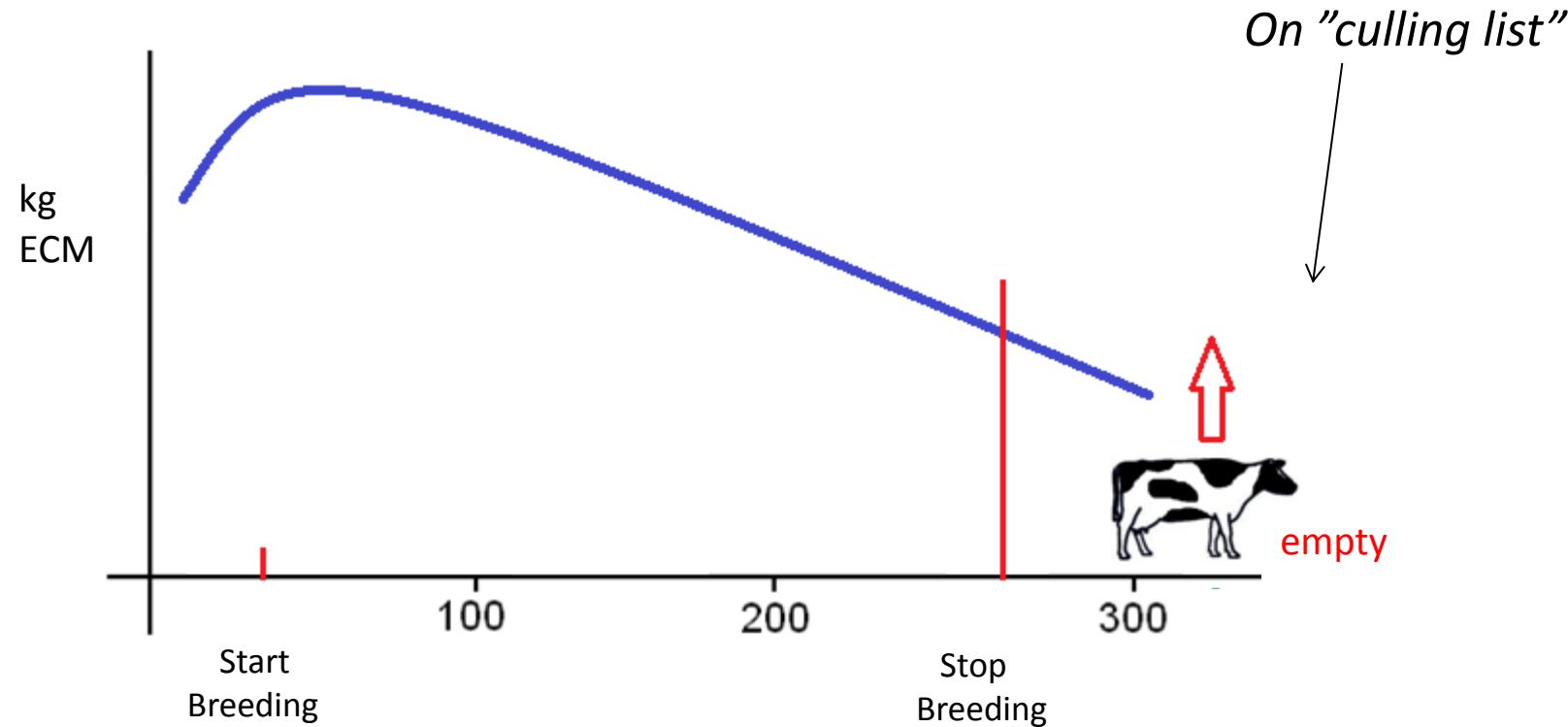
# Sub models for cows leaving the herd in SimHerd

- **Voluntary culling** - leaving for slaughtering
  - Put on culling list
    - No pregnancy
      - Insemination period
        - » Breed, parity, disease, milk yield
      - Failed to conceive
    - Time of leaving the herd
      - Milk yield in herd mates
      - Pregnant heifers
      - Absolute threshold for low milk yield (e.g. 10 kg) or advanced DIM

# Involuntary culling and mortality (residual) in SimHerd (Death due to modelled diseases not included)

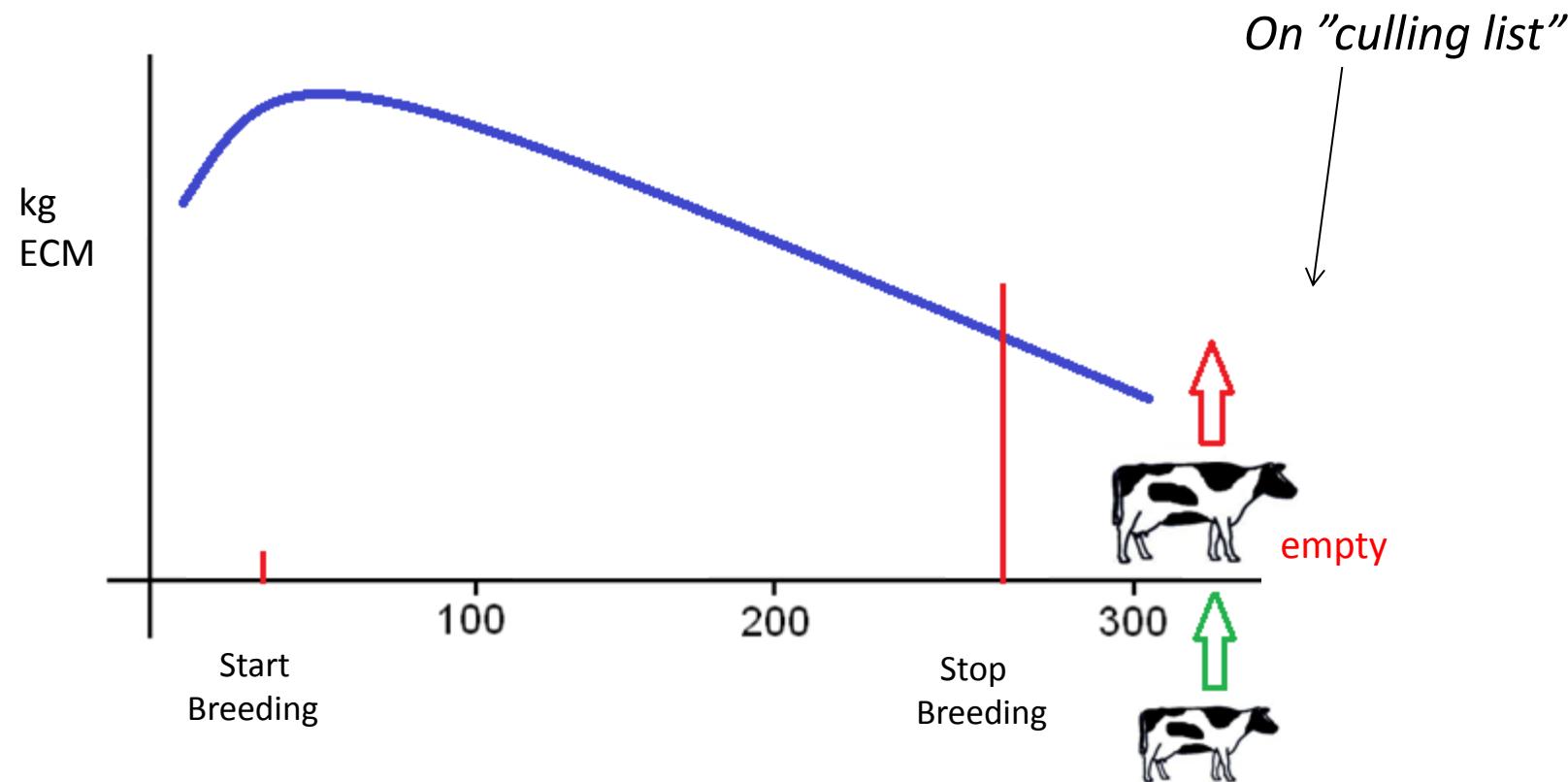


# Involuntary culling in SimHerd



- Cow has exceeded "max number of days open" → culling list
- Stop breeding depending on cow MY level, health and parity

# Involuntary culling in SimHerd



Cow has exceeded "max number of days open" → culling list

The lowest yielding cow on the list is culled when a new heifer is ready to come in

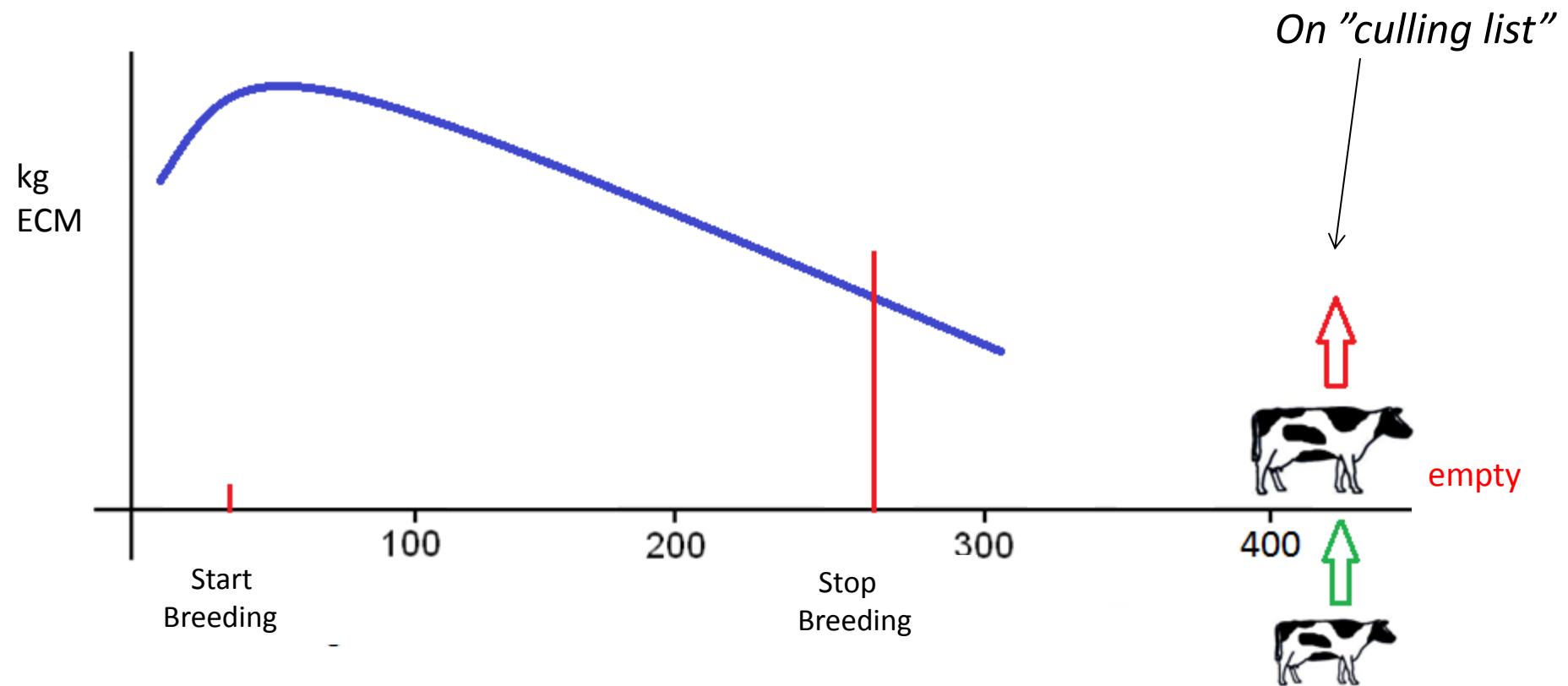
# Reproduction and Culling in SimHerd

Mechanistic

More heifers available

=

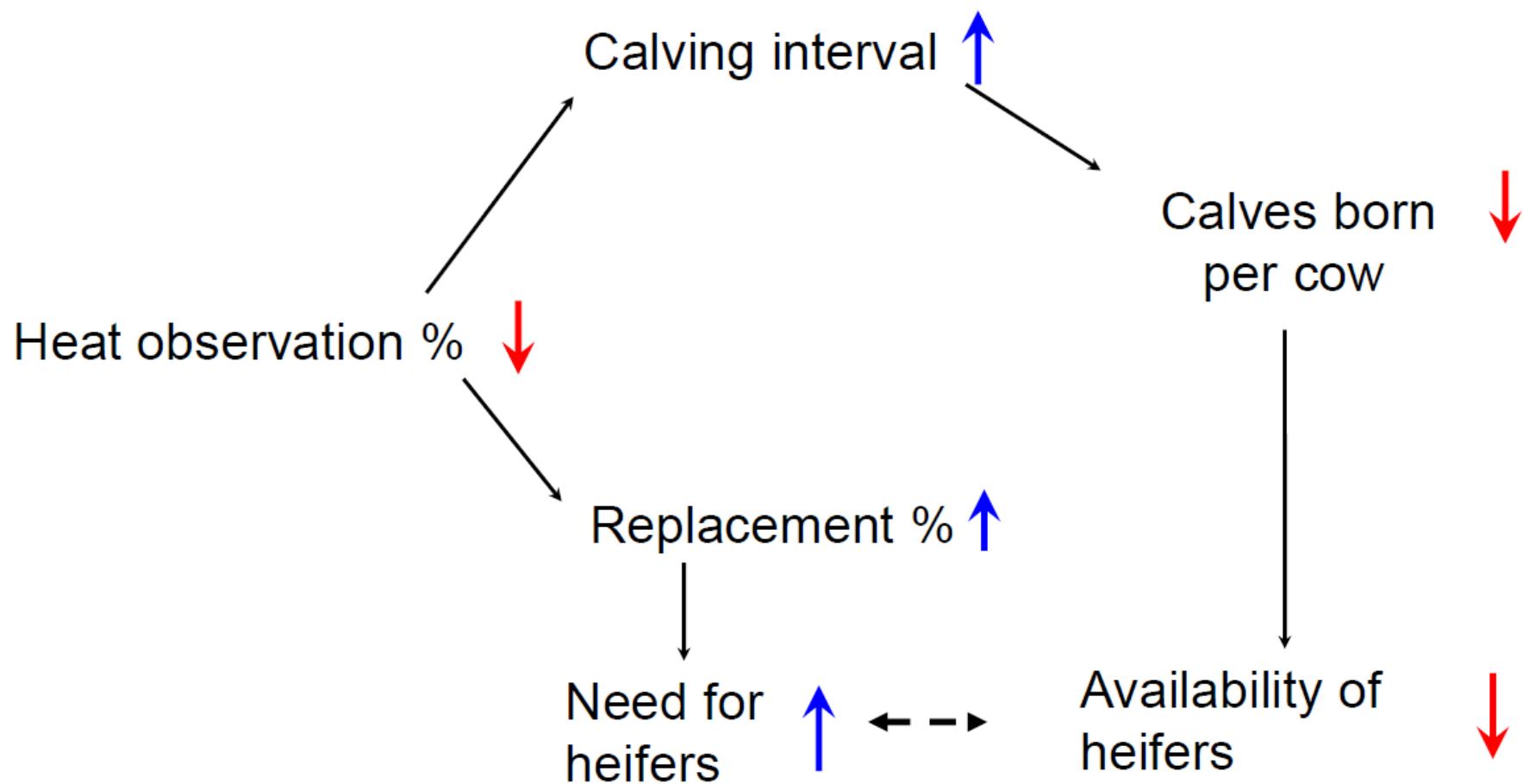
Faster replacement



Cow has exceeded "max number of days open" → culling list

The lowest yielding cow on the list is culled when a new heifer is ready to come in

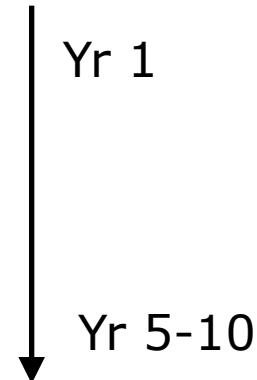
## Examples of mechanisms and dynamics in a herd



**Need** for heifers **rises** immediately, difficulty with replacement increase **additionally after 3 years** when **availability** of heifers **falls**

# The complex and lengthy effect on culling after a change in reproduction efficiency

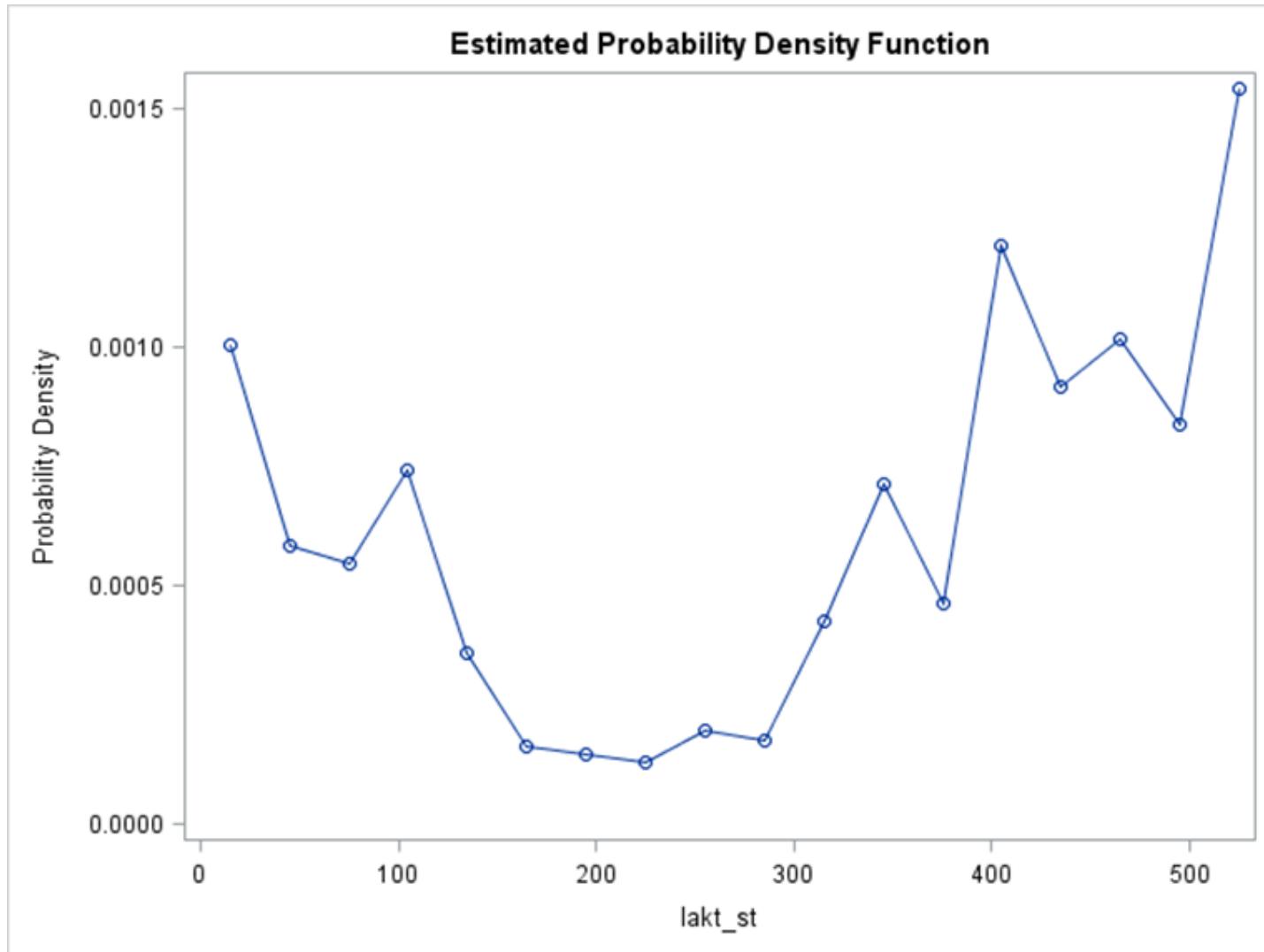
- Improved repro affect the herd slowly:
  - More cows get pregnant
  - **Less cows are culled due to lack of pregnancy**
  - Shorter calving interval
  - More calves and heifers
  - **Earlier culling of cows**
  - New distribution of parities and DIM



Examples of culling/longevity simulated with the  
SimHerd model

# Culling profile: (not standard output from SimHerd)

Scenario with replacement rate of 0.38 and mean DIM of 209  
(Profile adjustment mainly through involuntary culling profile)



# SimHerd simulation: Good health herd

Scenario: Reduced involuntary culling rate: 30 tkr/yr

## Besætningsdynamik og ungdyr (gns. af år 6 til 10)

	Nudrift	Scenarie	Forskel
Antal årskøer	200	200	0
Antal kælvninger	212	214	1
Udskiftningsprocent	39,2	38,3	-0,9
- Antal ufrivillige udsætninger og dødelighed	35	30	-5
- Antal frivillige udsætninger	44	47	3
Antal malkeår pr. ko	2,5	2,6	0,1
Livsydelse i alt pr. ko, kg EKM	25063	25785	722
Dødfødsel, pct.	6,5	6,3	-0,1
Kalvedødelighed efter fødsel, pct.	7,0	6,8	-0,2
Antal fødte tyrekalve (renracet)	103	104	1
Antal fødte krydsningskalve (kvier + tyre)	0	0	0
Antal købte kvier	0	0	0
Antal solgte kvier	2	5	2

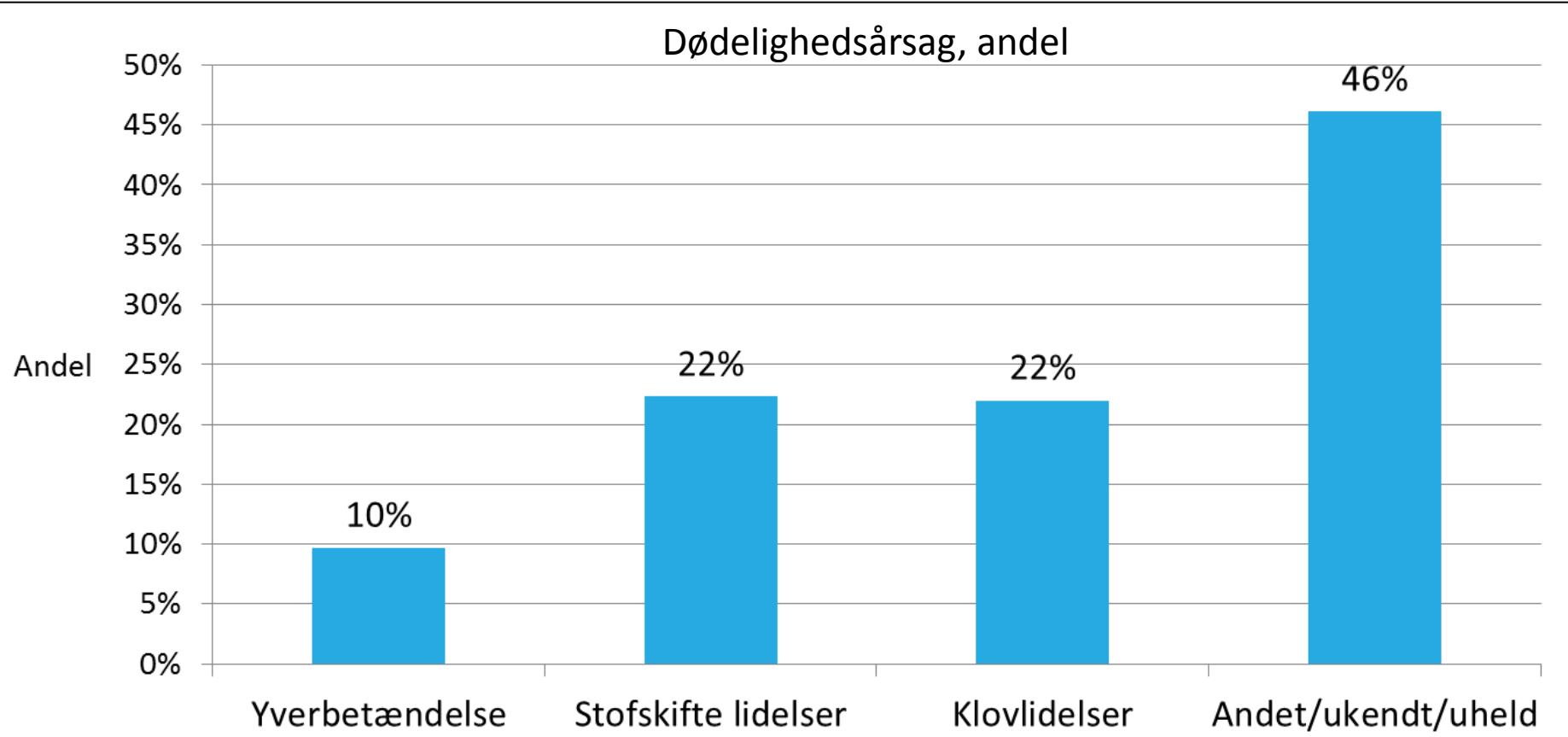
# SimHerd simulation: Average herd

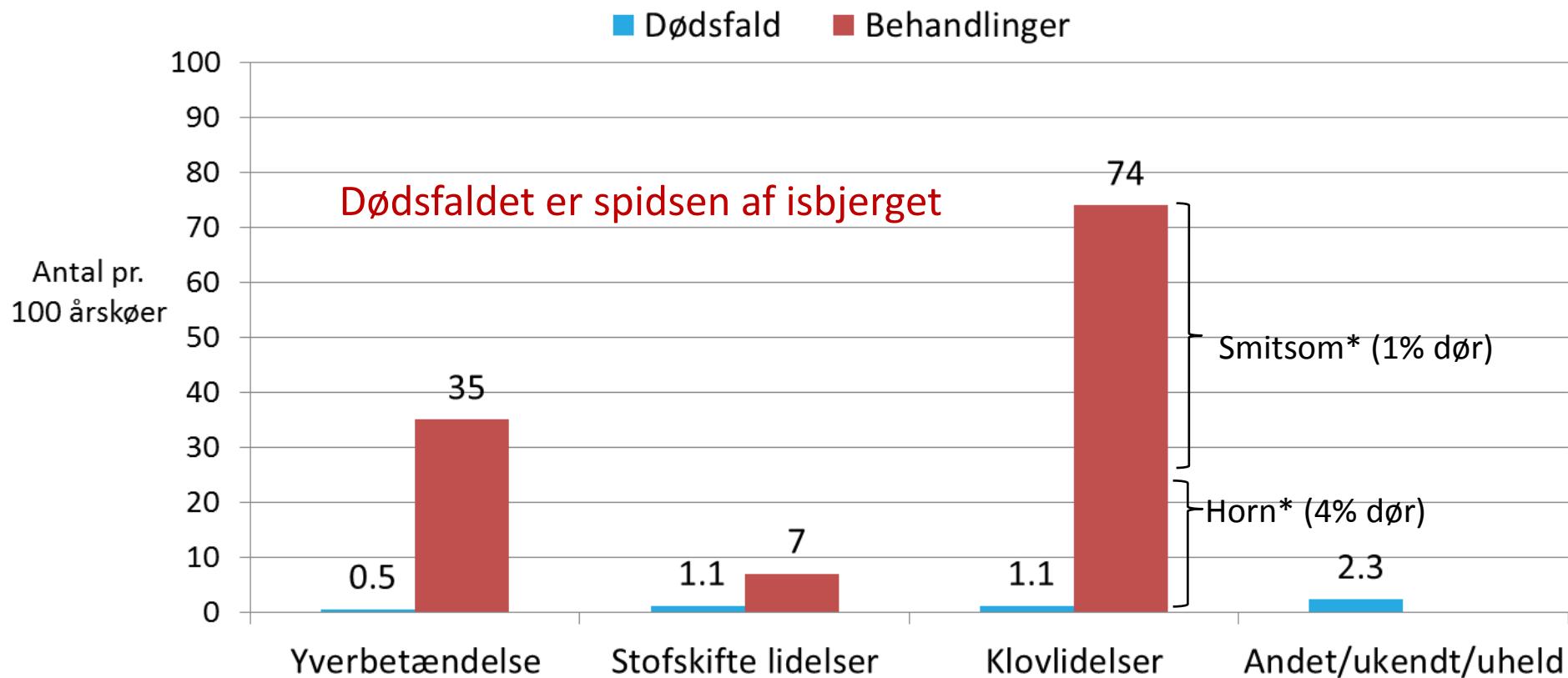
Scenario: Reduced cow mortality (other causes): 55 tkr/yr

## Besætningsdynamik og ungdyr (gns. af år 6 til 10)

	Nudrift	Scenarie	Forskel
Antal årskører	200	200	0
Antal kælvninger	212	215	2
Udskiftningsprocent	39,2	38,8	-0,5
- Antal ufrivillige udsætninger og dødelighed	35	30	-5
- Antal frivillige udsætninger	44	48	4
Antal malkeår pr. ko	2,5	2,6	0,0
Livsydelse i alt pr. ko, kg EKM	25063	25472	409
Dødfødsel, pct.	6,5	6,5	0,1
Kalvedødelighed efter fødsel, pct.	7,0	6,9	0,0
Antal fødte tyrekalve (renracet)	103	103	0
Antal fødte krydsningskalve (kvier + tyre)	0	0	0
Antal købte kvier	0	0	0
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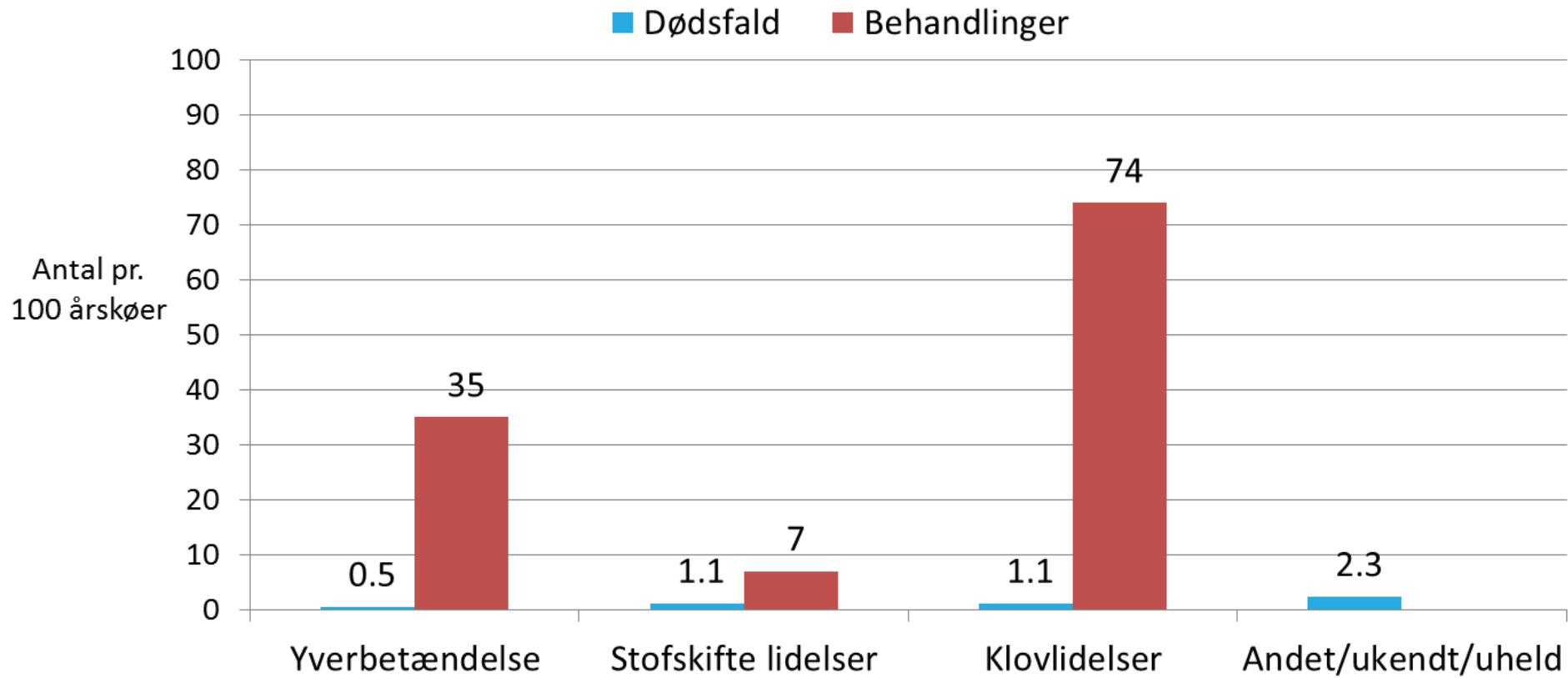
## 1) Hvad giver en halvering af ko dødelighed?





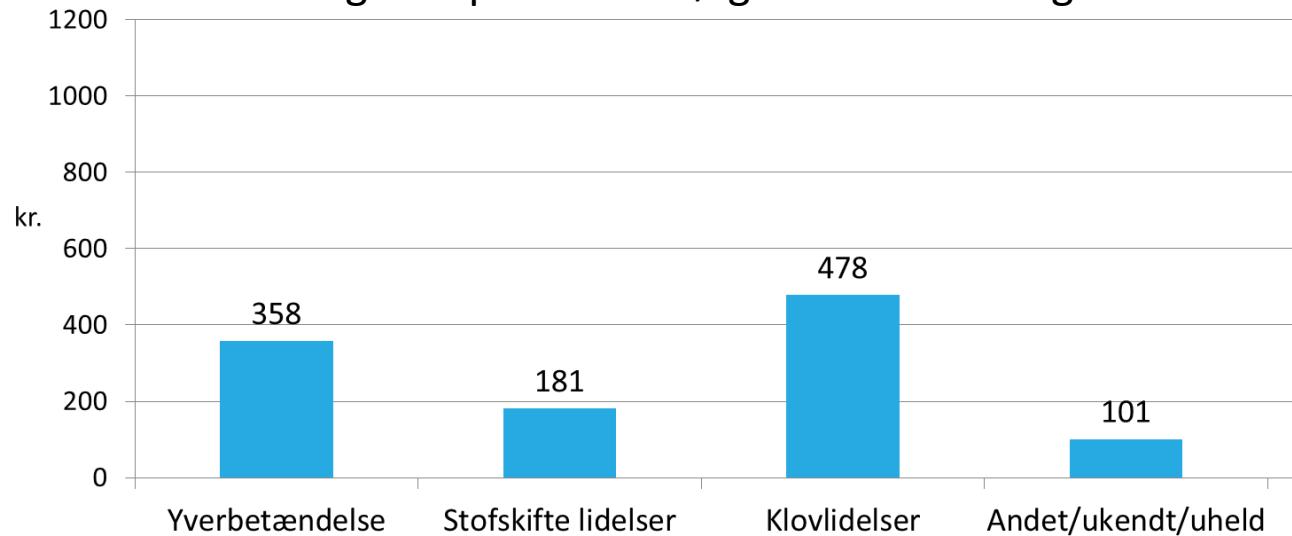
\* Hyppigheden pr. årsko af DD er 3 gange større end forekomst ved klovbeskæring, som blot er et øjebliksbillede (Ettema 2009, PhD afhandling)

For hver halt ko der dør, er der 67 som halter rund, som falder i ydelsen, som skal behandles, som ikke bliver drægtige...

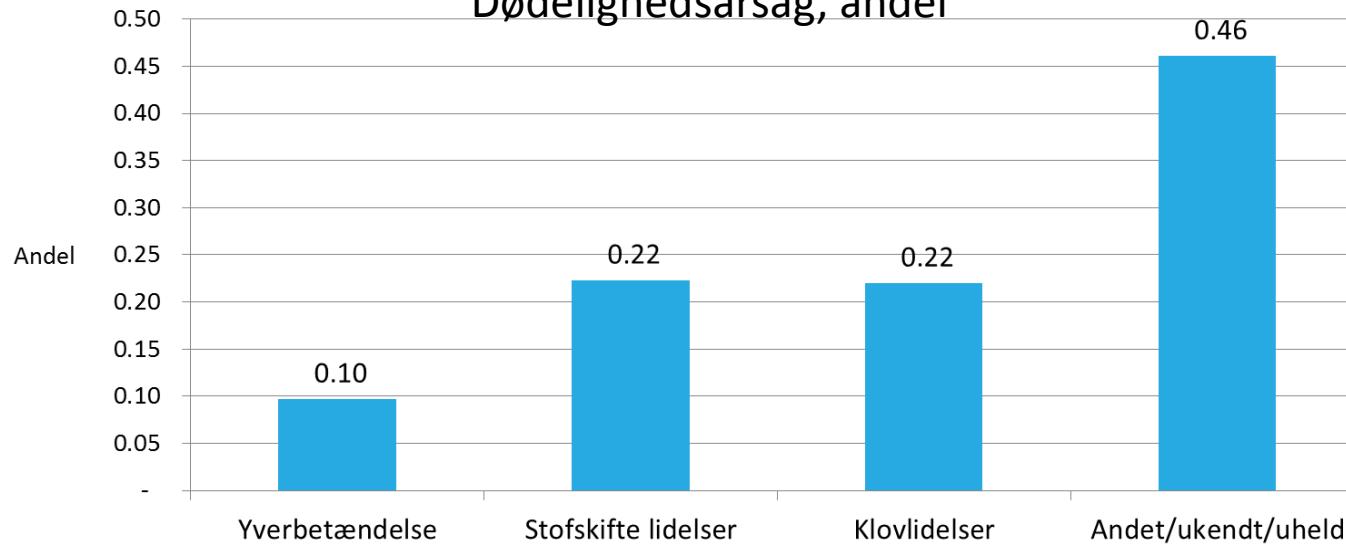


Hvad skal vi gøre, for at halvere dødeligheden?

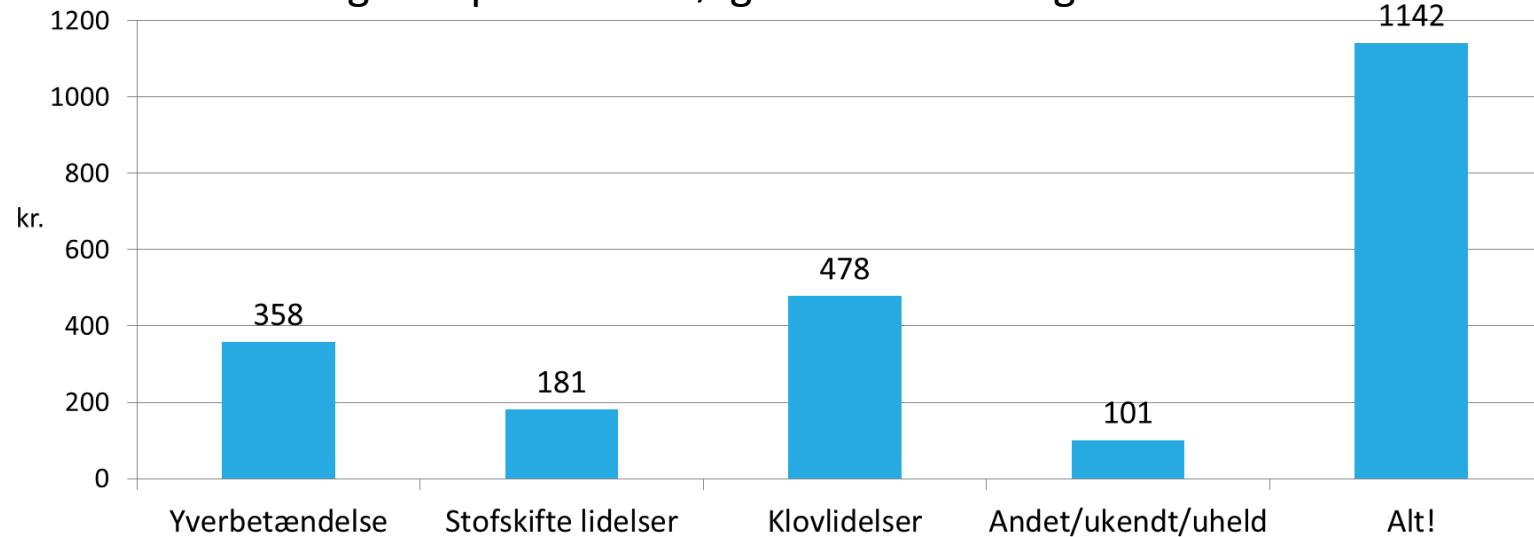
## Ændring i DB pr. ko som følge af en halvering af risikoen



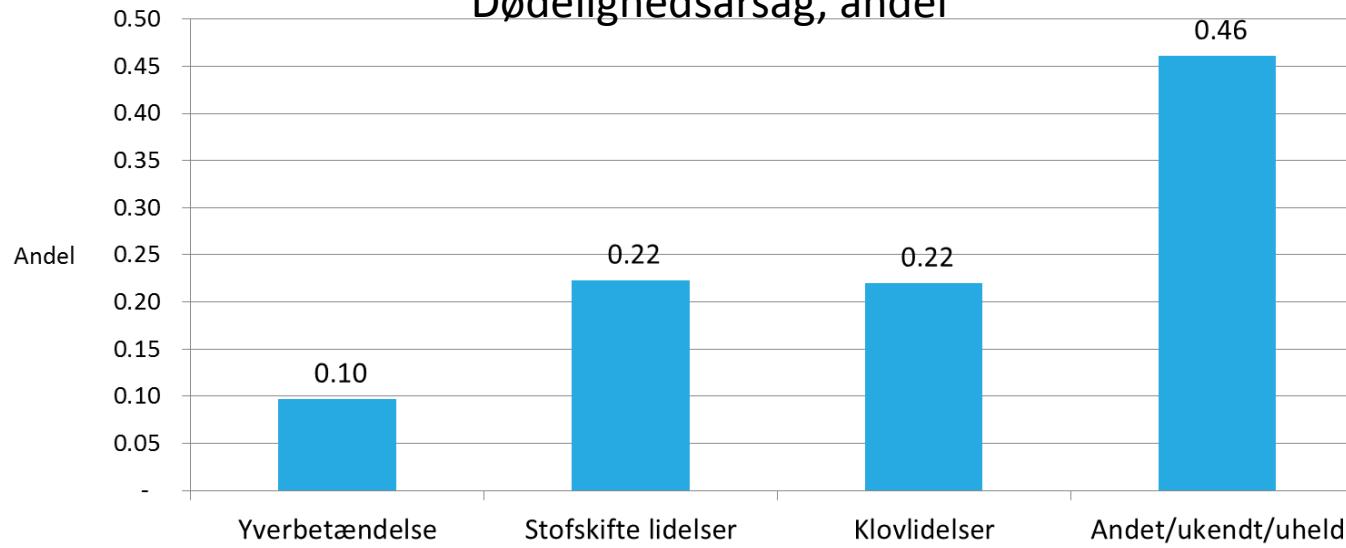
## Dødelighedsårsag, andel



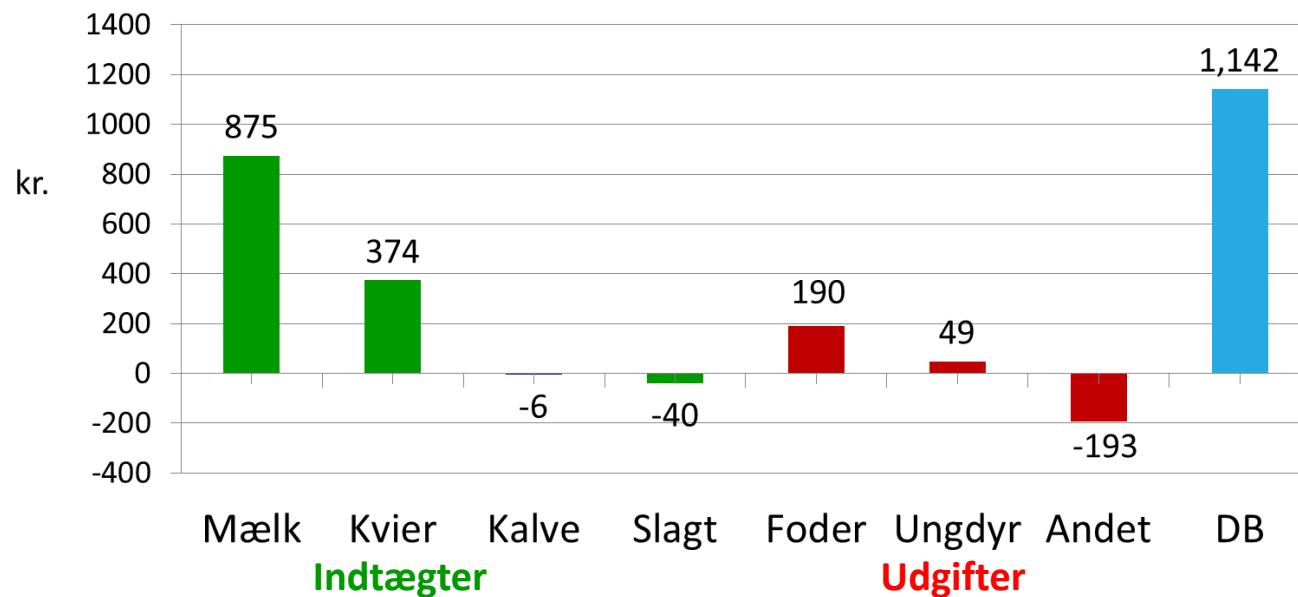
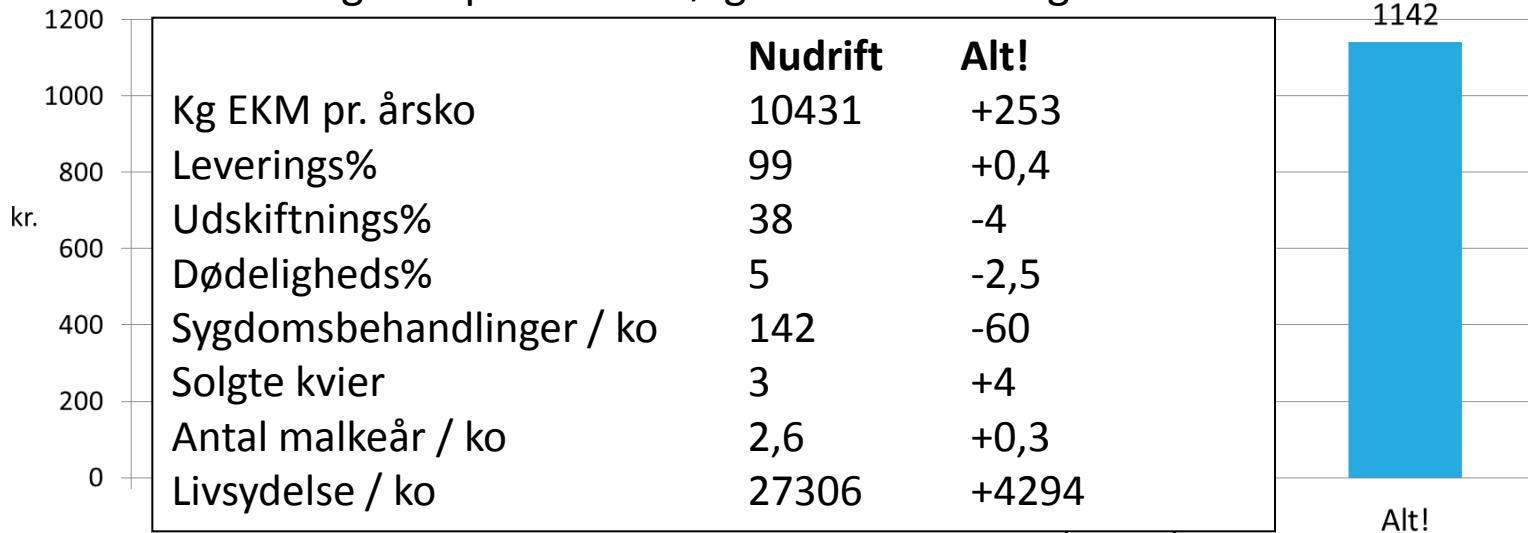
## Ændring i DB pr. ko som følge af en halvering af risikoen



## Dødelighedsårsag, andel



### Ændring i DB pr. ko som følge af en halvering af risikoen



Hvor kommer  
pengene fra?

# Case example

How does calf mortality affect culling  
in 2 herds

## Economic impact of reducing calf mortality in 2 herds:

Key figure	Herd 1		Herd 2	
	Current situation	Scenario Calf mortality x 0.5	Current situation	Scenario Calf mortality x 0.5
# cow-years	213		211	
Dead calves	20		20	
Replacement rate	34		33	
Heifers sold for export	13		0	
Kg ECM / cow-year	10.339		10.138	

## Economic impact of reducing calf mortality in 2 herds:

Key figure	Herd 1		Herd 2	
	Current situation	Scenario Calf mortality x 0.5	Current situation	Scenario Calf mortality x 0.5
# cow-years	213	0	211	
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Replacement rate	34	+0,2	33	
Heifers sold for export	13	+10	0	
Kg ECM / cow-year	10.339	-8	10.138	

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# cow-years	213	0	211	+0
Dead calves	20	-10	20	-10
Replacement rate	34	+0,2	33	+4
Heifers sold for export	13	+10	0	+3
Kg ECM / cow-year	10.339	-8	10.138	+108

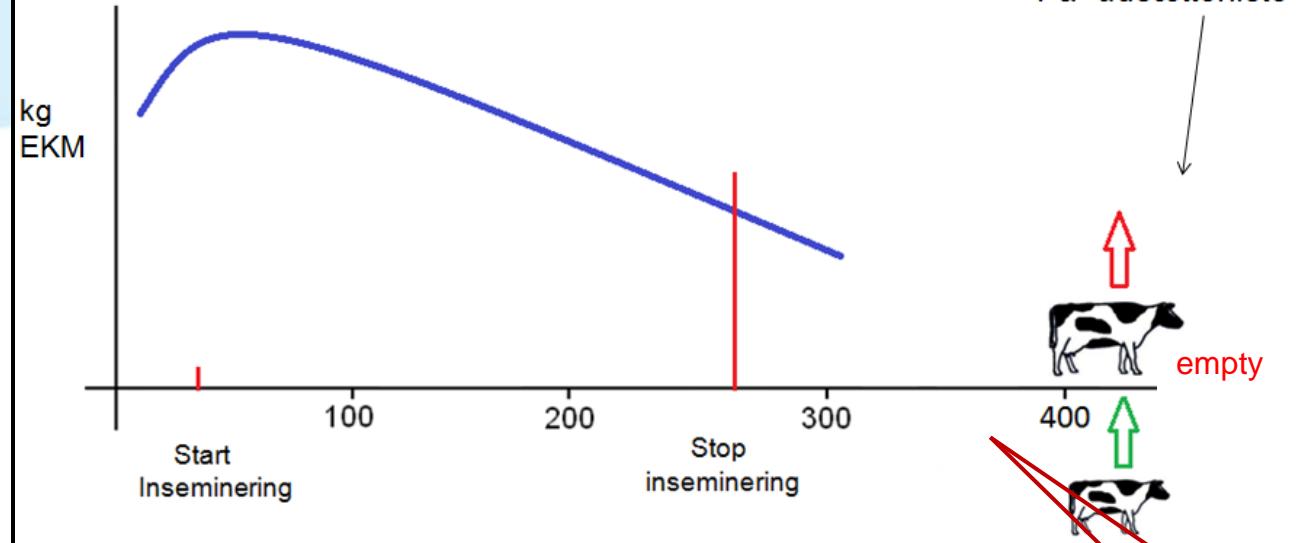
På "udsætterliste"



SimHerd  
Improves Your Decisions ■

lity in 2 herds:

Herd 2



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På "udsætterliste"



SimHerd  
Improves Your Decisions ■

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