



A World  
Leading SFI  
Research  
Centre



*“To address the unprecedented challenges that lie ahead, the food system needs to change more radically in the coming decades than ever before, including during the Industrial and Green revolutions”.*

**(UK Food and Farming Foresight, 2011)**

**Donagh Berry**

[donagh.berry@teagasc.ie](mailto:donagh.berry@teagasc.ie)

HOST INSTITUTION



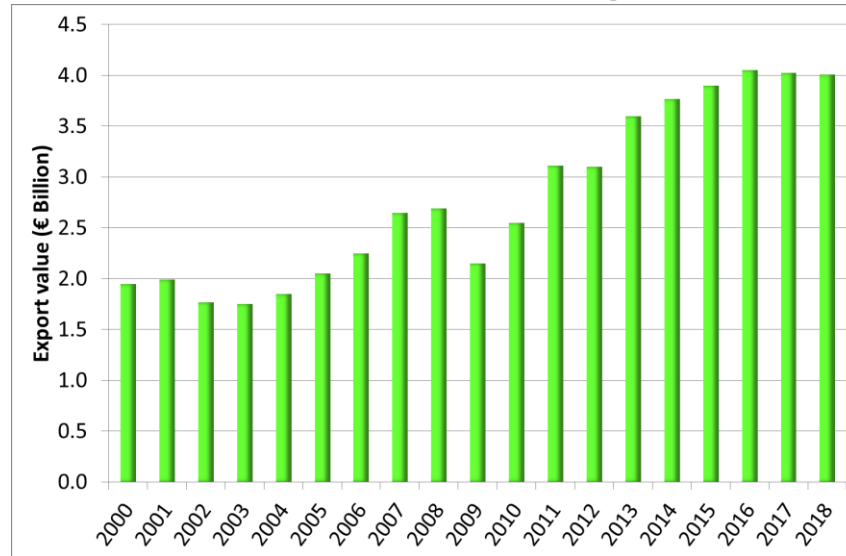
PARTNER INSTITUTIONS



FUNDED BY:



# Business Case for agriculture



Employment:

**Agri-Food:** 173,000

**ICT:** 105,000

Exports:

**Agri-Food:** €13.6b

**ICT:** €72b

**10<sup>th</sup>**

largest dairy exporter

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

largest ICT exporter



Top ten  
indigenous Irish  
companies



VistaMilk



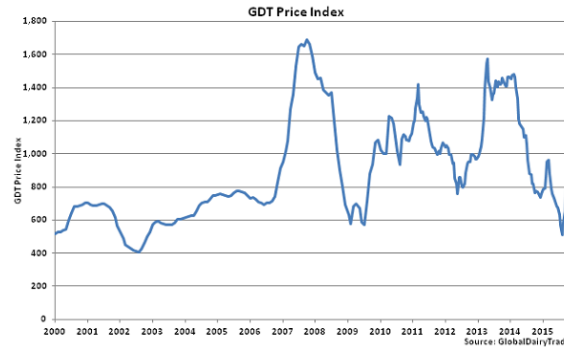
*Milk by Design*

# The Big Challenges



Food & Drink Exports

Reduce emissions  
by  
**30%** by 2030



VistaMilk



Milk by Design

# Vision

*Agent of sustainable growth for the Irish dairy and Agri-Tech industry by being a world leader in fundamental and translational research for precision pasture-based dairying.*



Surge in sustainable competitiveness



Cement and build academic-industry relationships



Address societal challenges



Create a new Agri-Tech industry populated with highly trained staff

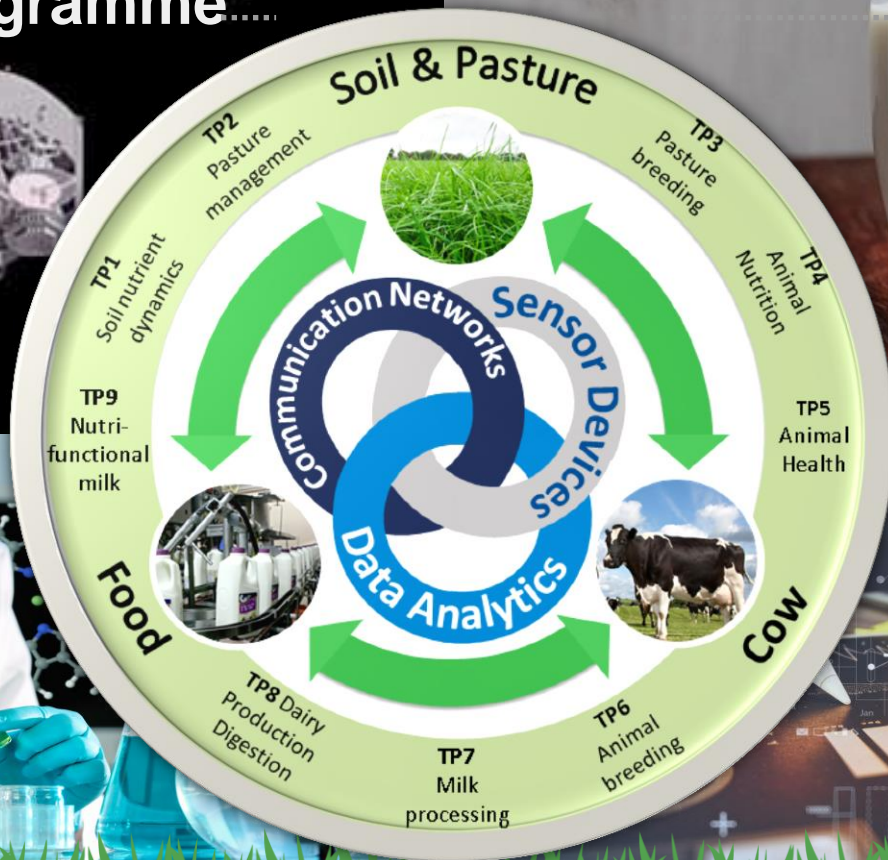


VistaMilk



Milk by Design

# Research Programme.....



VistaMilk



Milk by Design



Soil

Nutrition &  
management

(Plant)  
Genetics

Nutrition &  
management

(Animal)  
Genetics

Milk processor

Product portfolio





(Animal)  
Genetics

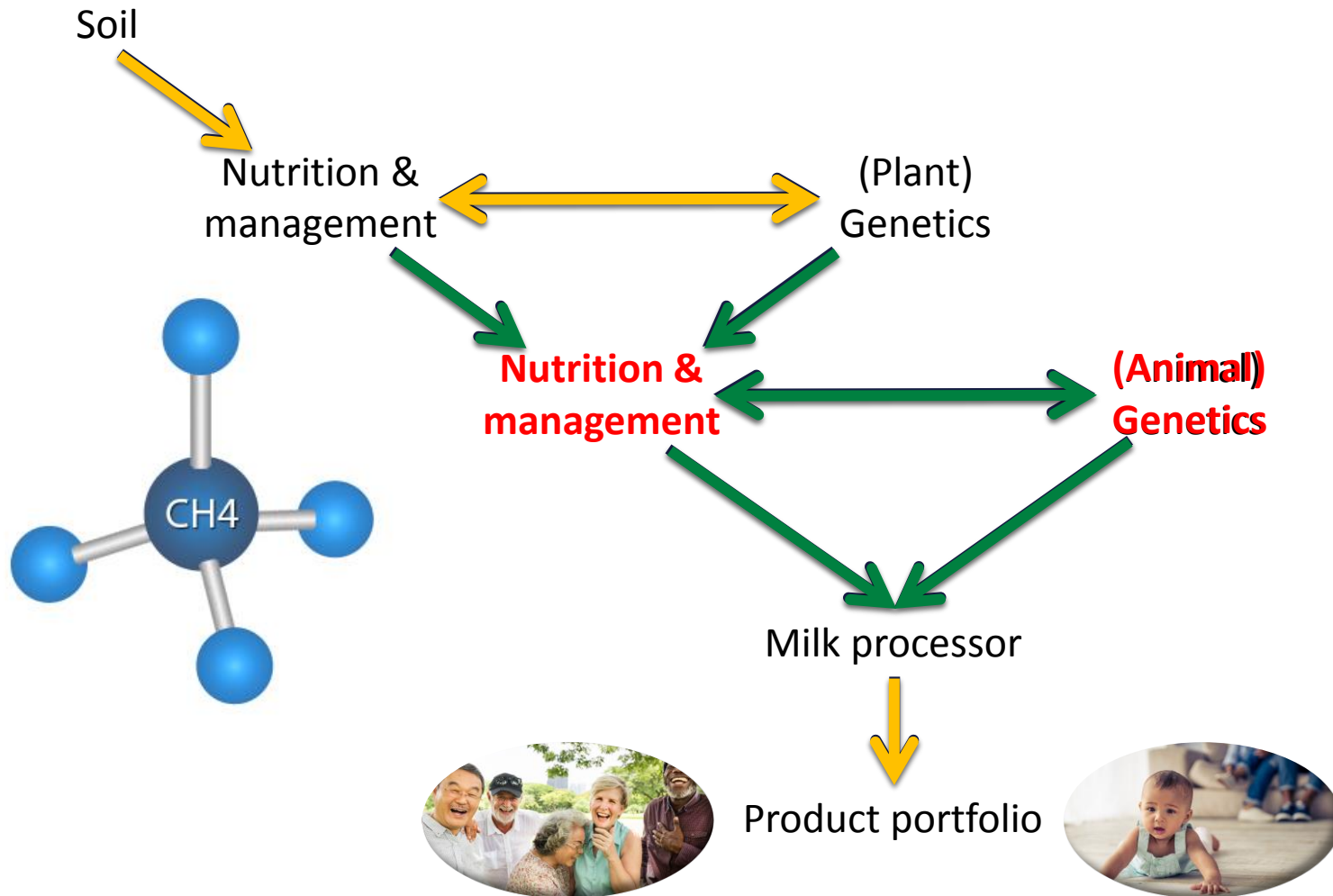


Milk processor



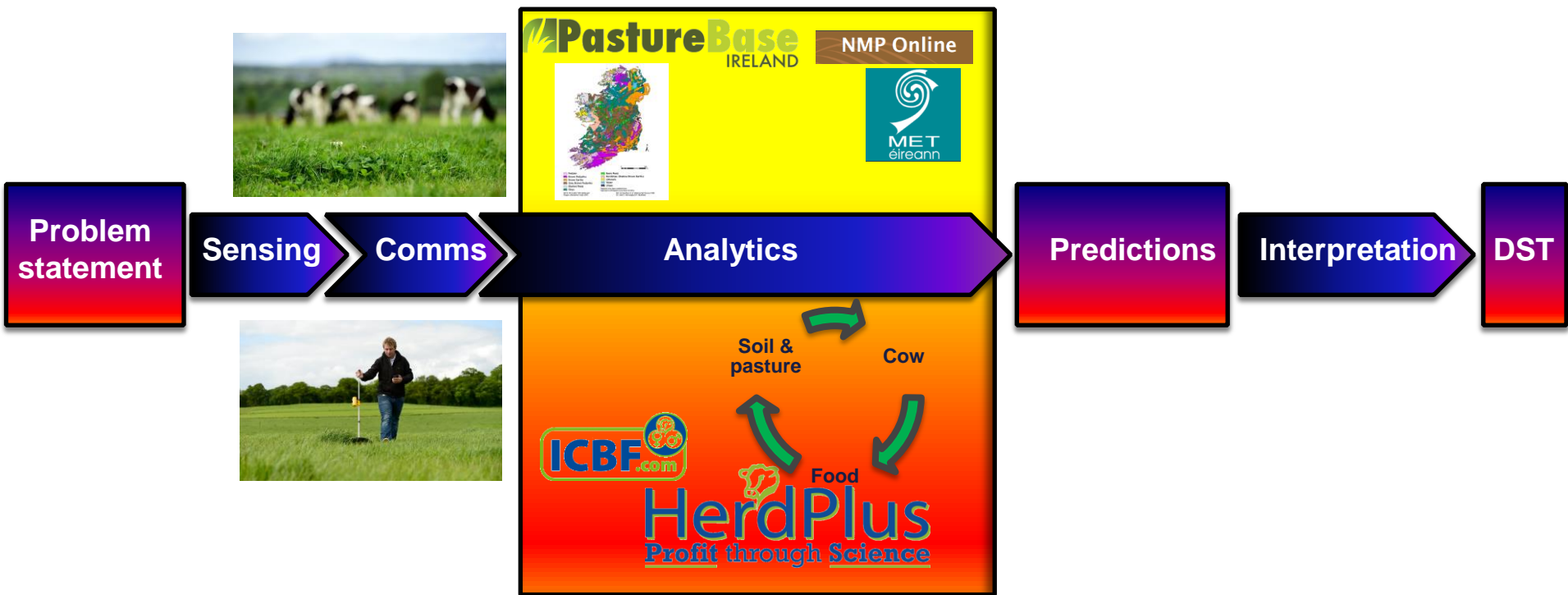
Product portfolio







# Where pasture meets animal



FutureMilk

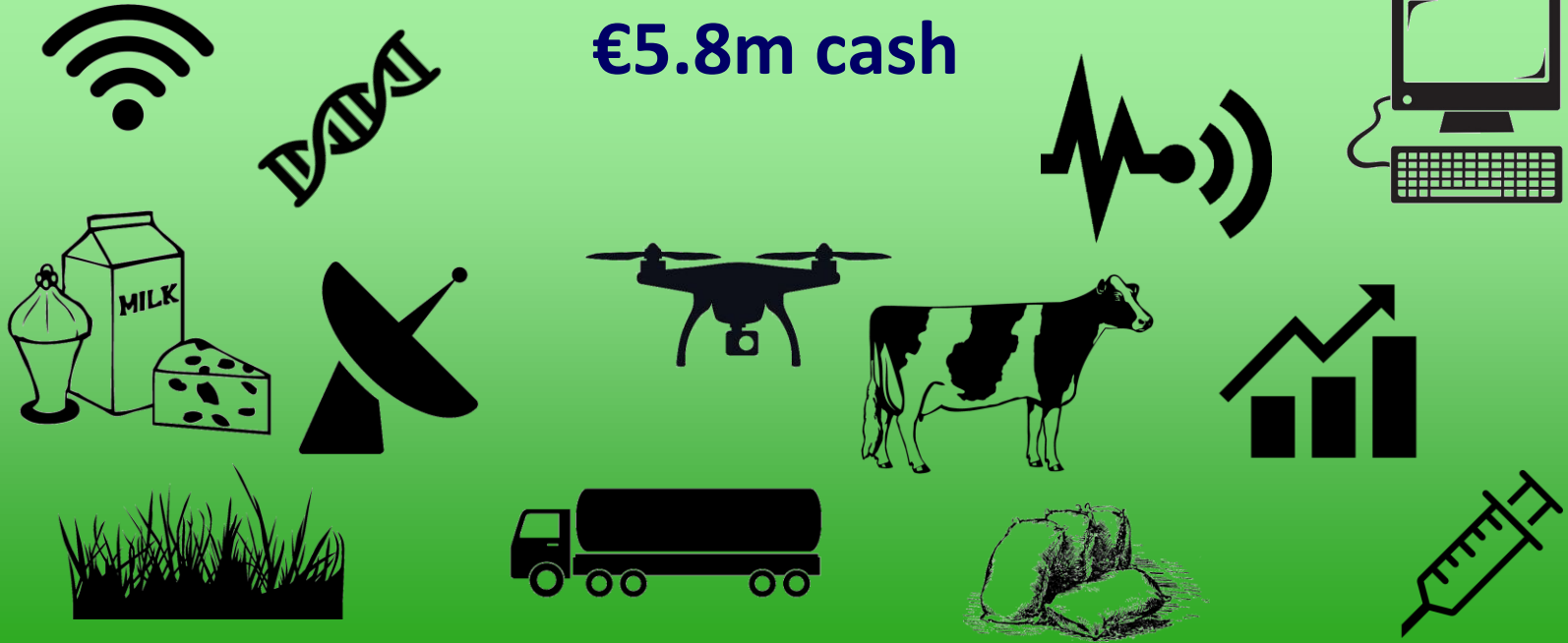


Milk by Design

# Industry involvement

**43 industry partners**

**€5.8m cash**



VistaMilk



*Milk by Design*

# Business model(s)



## Users

- Farmers
- Milk processors
- Service providers
- Regulators
- Others?
- **Deployment strategies**



## Justifications

- Better decision making
- Increased efficiency and profitability
- License to sell
- Unique selling point



## Models of use

- Disposable / permanent / modular
- Farmer owned
- Leasing
- **Warranty based**
- Service providers
- "Enforced"



## Beneficiaries

- Rural communities
- Consumers
- Society as a whole
- Upstream and downstream industries
- New markets



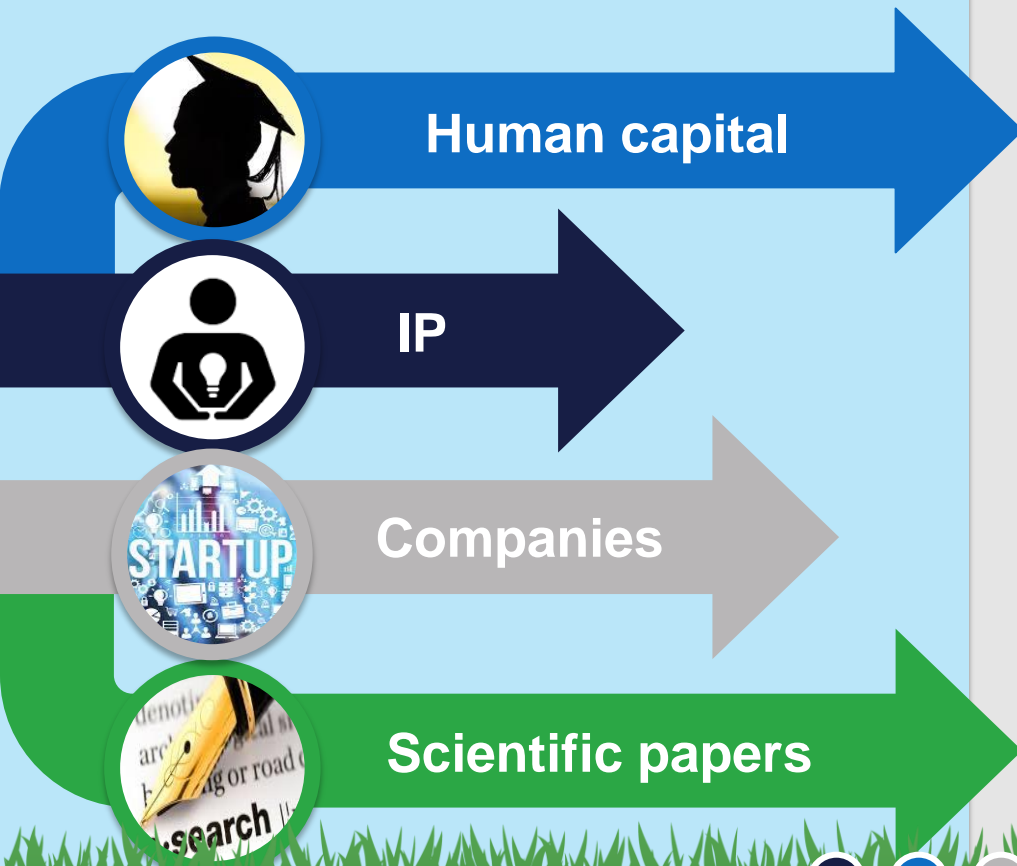
VistaMilk



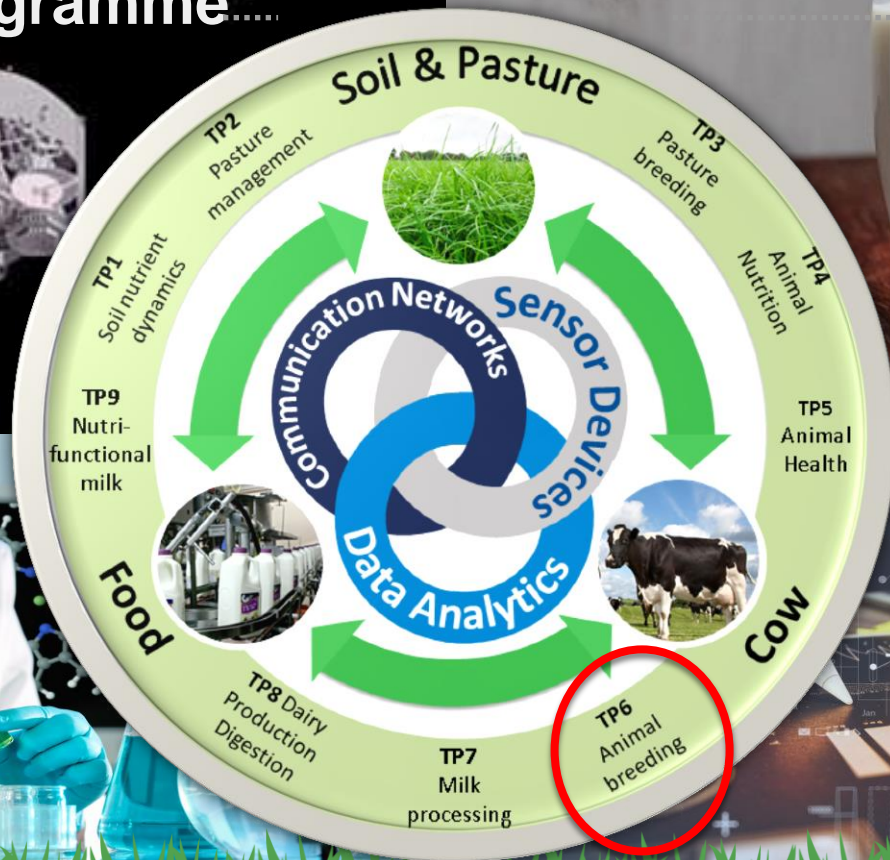
*Milk by Design*

# OUTPUT

# IMPACT



# Research Programme.....



VistaMilk

Milk by Design





FutureMilk



*Milk by Design*



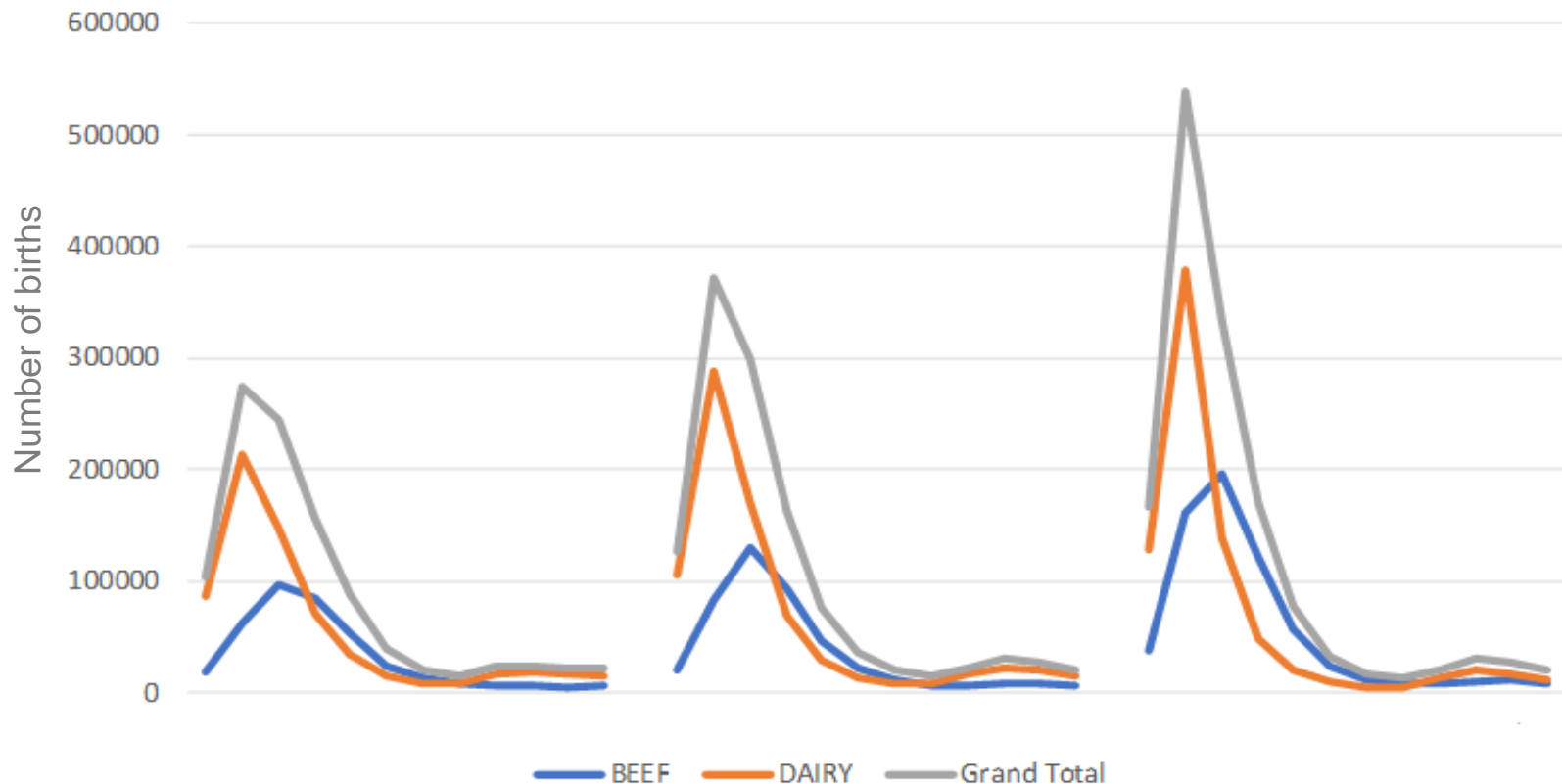
# ..... Circular (bio)economy .....

*Creates a closed-loop pattern in the economy, which effectively reduces the release of waste material into the environment*

*A key component is thinking about 'waste' in a different way, not as something to be discarded but as something to be re-purposed.*



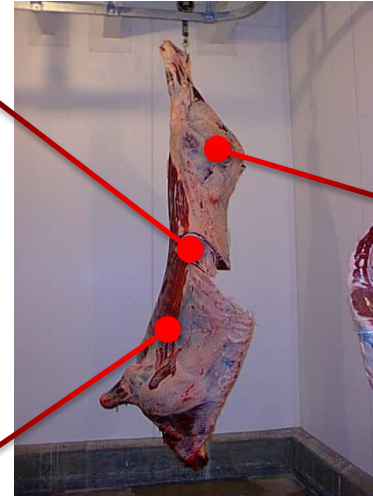
# What's the problem?



# The “Goldilocks” problem

Carcass weight	
Too light	Too heavy
Steak too small	Excessive trimming
Poor dilution	
Poor return	Economic/environmental cost

Carcass fat	
Too lean	Too fat
Not appealing	Excessive trimming (labour)
Poor return	Economic/environmental cost



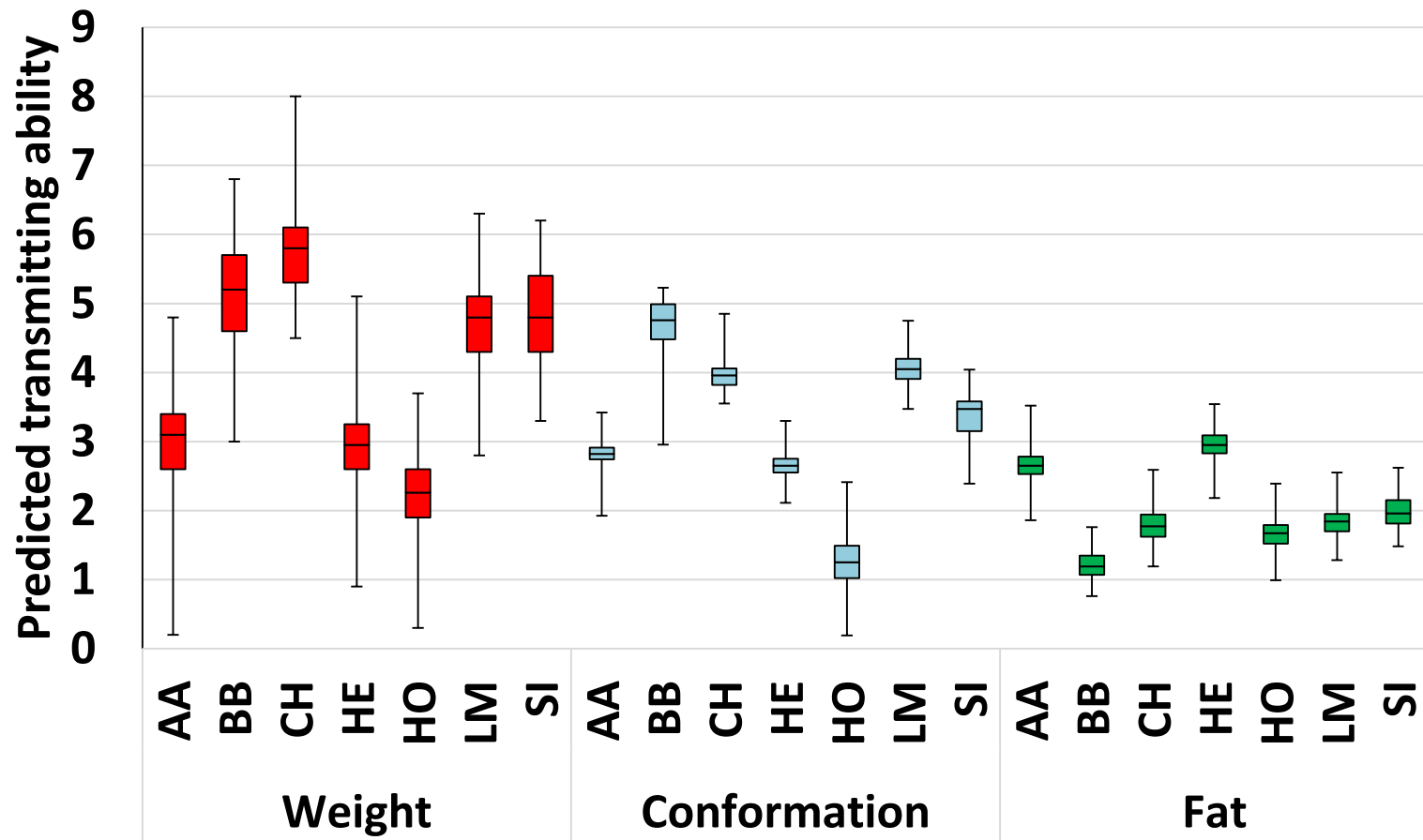
Poor carcass conformation
Poor yield of high value cuts
Poor return

# Carcass metrics (dairy dams)

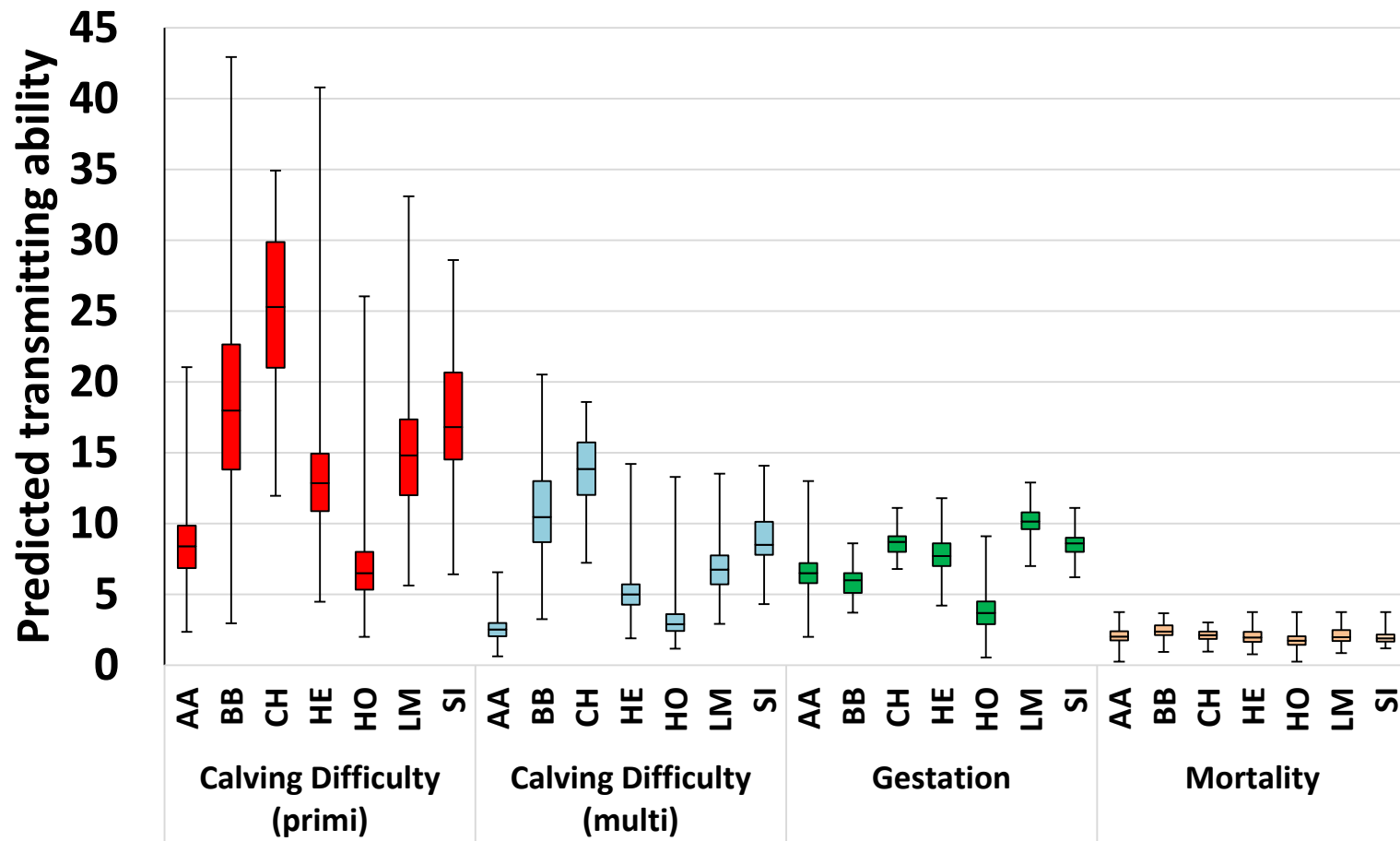
Breed	N bulls	Carcass wt	% <280 kg	Carcass conf	% <O=
LM	25	334	10%	7.0	1%
BB	29	351	8%	7.8	2%
AA	35	295	32%	5.6	12%
HE	31	316	27%	5.5	17%
NR	10	307	29%	4.2	62%
FR	117	309	26%	4.5	51%
HO	509	303	31%	3.6	74%
JE	50	255	66%	3.3	84%



## Within-breed variability (carcass)



## Within-breed variability (calving)





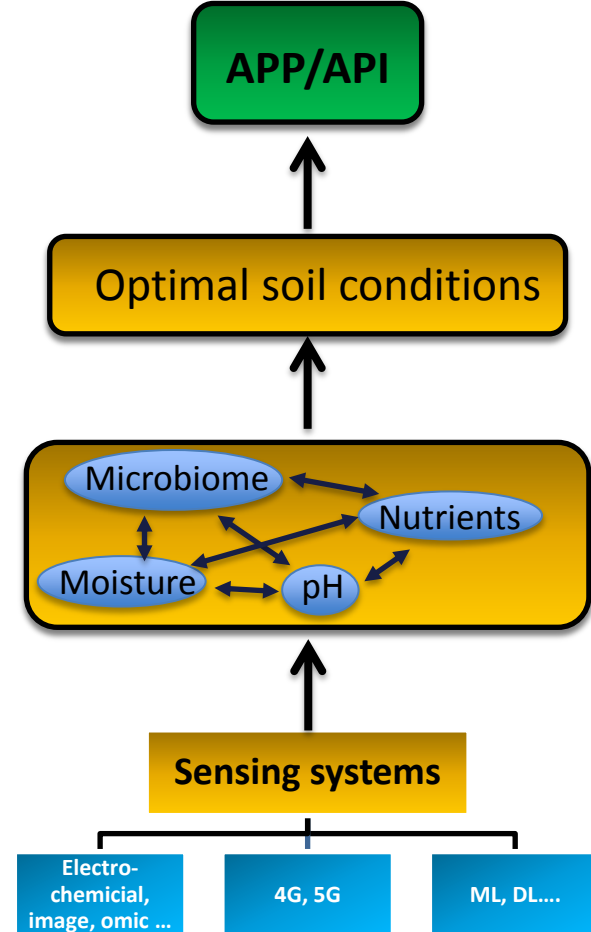
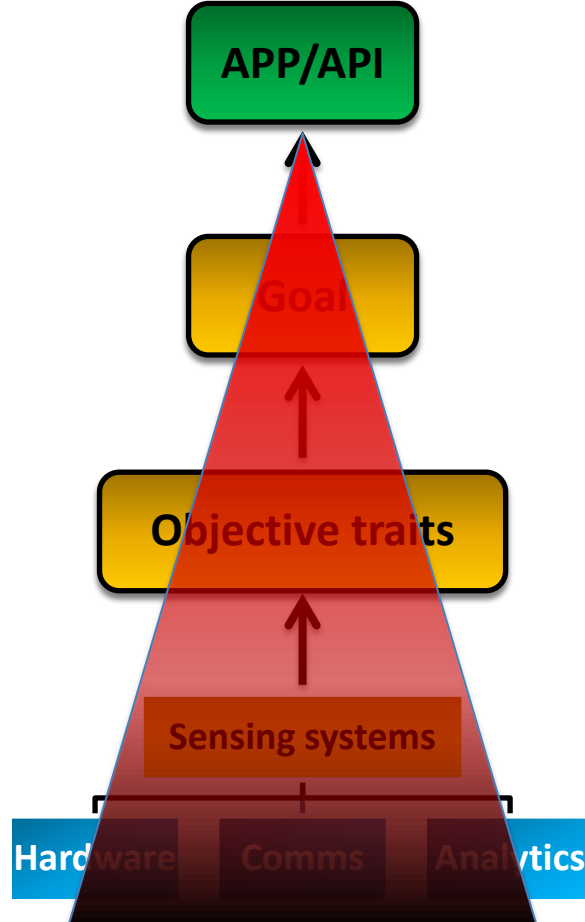
# Indexes

Optimal deployment strategy  
and business model

What is the purpose?

What traits constitute this and  
what is their relative importance?

How can these measures be  
generated?



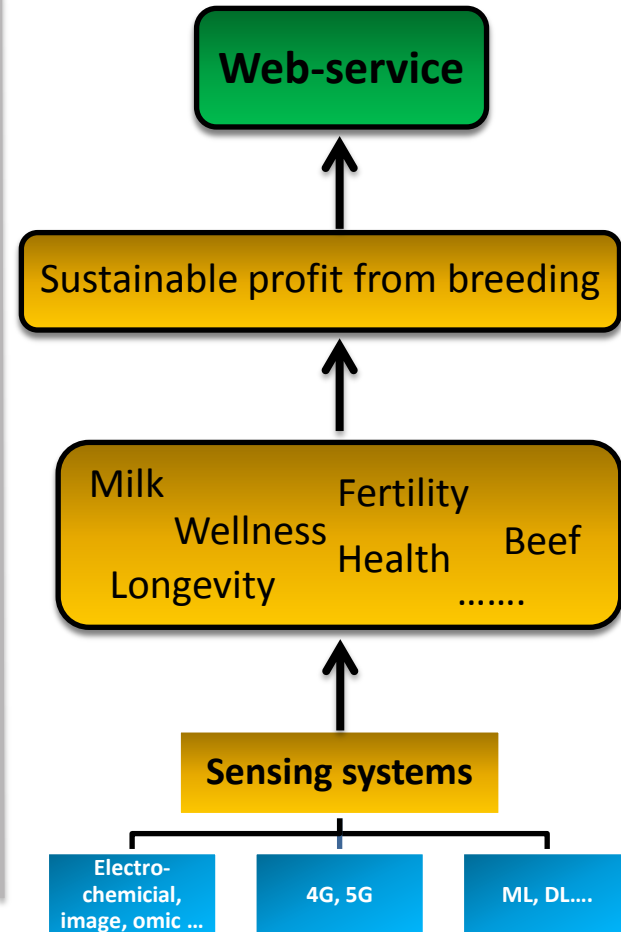
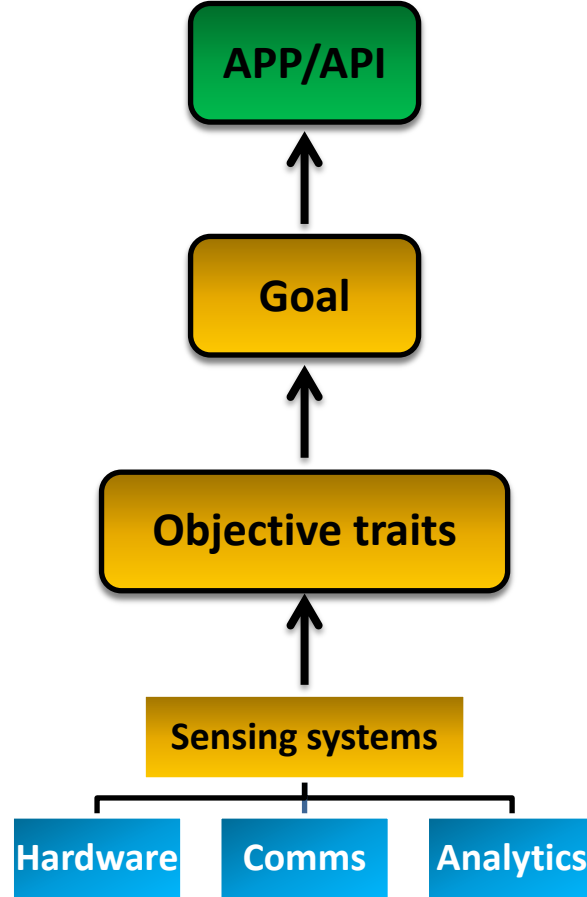
# Indexes

Optimal deployment strategy  
and business model

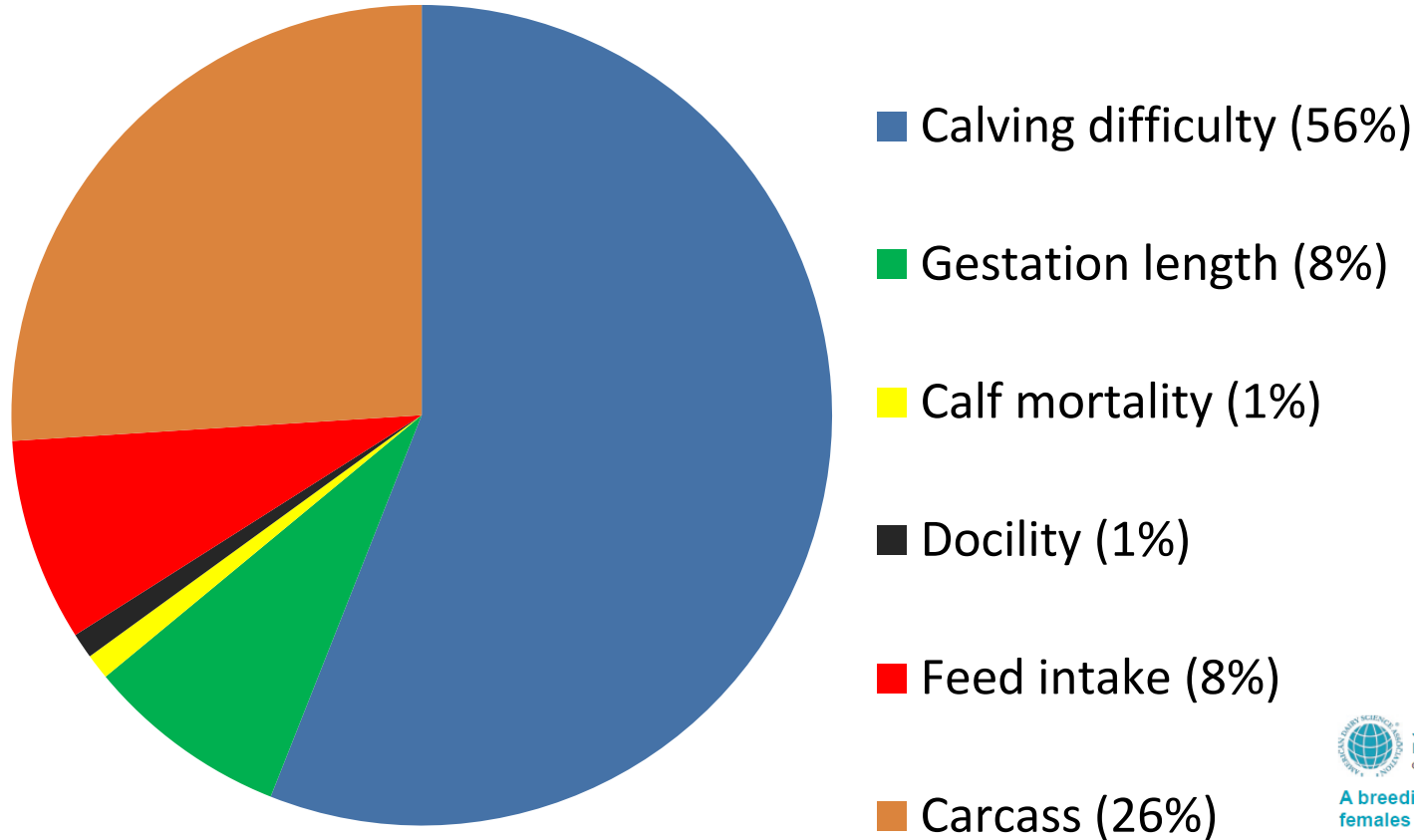
What is the purpose?

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# Dairy-Beef index

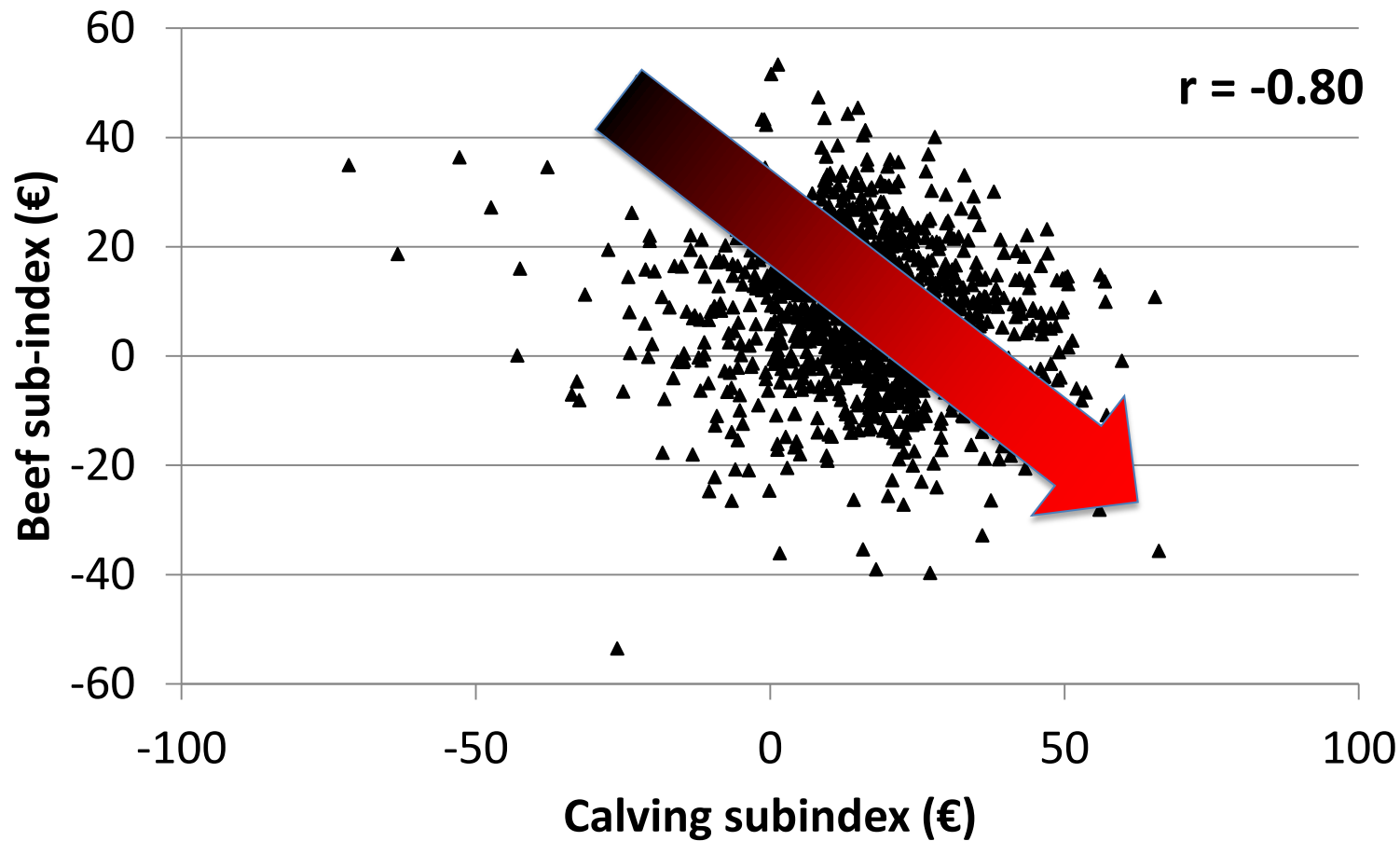


J. Dairy Sci. 102:10056–10072  
<https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2019-16912>  
© American Dairy Science Association®, 2019.

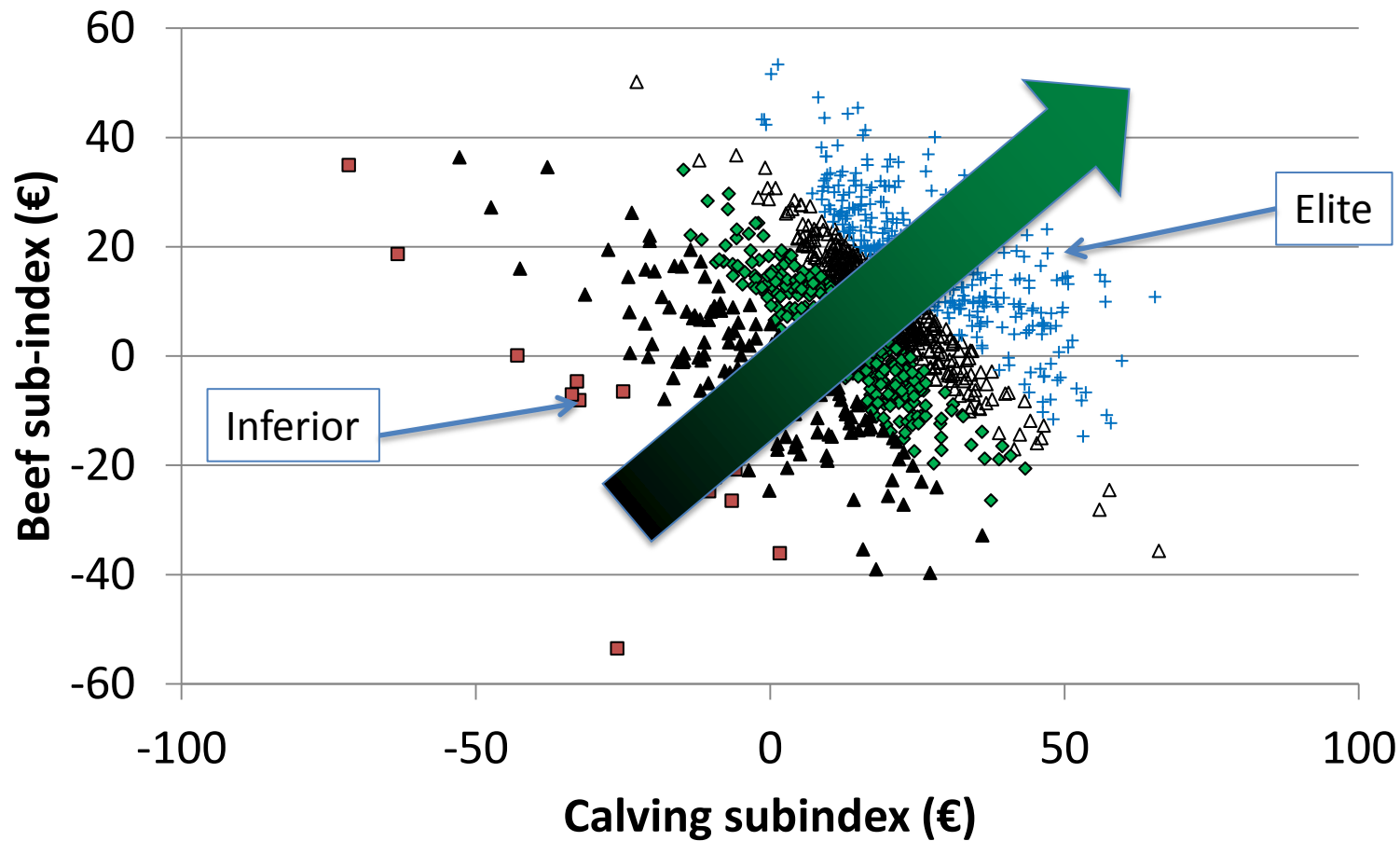
**A breeding index to rank beef bulls for use on dairy females to maximize profit**

D. P. Berry,<sup>1\*</sup> P. R. Amer,<sup>2</sup> R. D. Evans,<sup>3</sup> T. Byrne,<sup>2</sup> A. R. Cromie,<sup>3</sup> and F. Hely<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Teagasc, Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy P61 P302, Co. Cork, Ireland  
<sup>2</sup>AbacusBio Ltd., Dunedin 9010, New Zealand  
<sup>3</sup>Irish Cattle Breeding Federation, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon P72 X050, Co. Cork, Ireland

## What the index is trying to do



## What the index is trying to do



# Dairy-beef index v status quo

Index	Calv diff (%)	Gest (d)	Calf mort (%)	Carc weight (kg)	Carc conf (1-15)	Carcass fat (1-15)	DMI (kg)	% not reaching conf thres	% not reaching weight thres
Status quo	<b>0.01</b> (0.27)	<b>-2.5</b> (0.53)	<b>-0.26</b> (0.55)	<b>-3.4</b> (8.57)	<b>0.62</b> (0.21)	<b>-0.18</b> (0.18)	<b>0.03</b> (0.09)	<b>21</b> (6)	<b>10</b> (5)
Dairy-Beef index	<b>3.4</b> (1.42)	<b>-0.02</b> (1.63)	<b>-0.15</b> (0.56)	<b>24.1</b> (6.45)	<b>2.14</b> (0.56)	<b>-0.33</b> (0.36)	<b>-0.39</b> (0.33)	<b>9</b> (4)	<b>2</b> (1)





# Dairy-beef index – Launched 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2019



The Dairy Beef Index (DBI) is a breeding goal for Irish dairy and beef farmers to promote high quality beef cattle bred for at slaughter yet, they have minimal consequences on the calving difficulty or gestation length of the dairy cow.

Dairy Beef Bull Lists (September 2019)

- Dairy Beef Index Active AI Bull List (>100 calvings in dairy herds) – Sept 2019
- Dairy Beef Index ALL AI Bulls (>30 Calvings in dairy herds) – Sept 2019

## Sire advice



Irish Cattle Breeding Federation

### Animal Details

AI Code:	LRH	Breed:	AA (100%)	Pedigree Status:	PED
Animal Name:	LAHEENS RICHARD	Owner:	NATIONAL CATTLE BREEDING CNTR	Sire:	HILLSGROVE CHAMPION / HGC
Sex:	MALE	Date of Birth:	05-MAR-1999	Dam:	LAHEENS BEDDY / IWDB4
National ID:	IE231362560085	Date of Evaluation:	Sep 2019 (VALID UNTIL 21-NOV-19)	MGS:	CREGGA VINCENT / CRV
International ID:	AANGBRM000019991770				

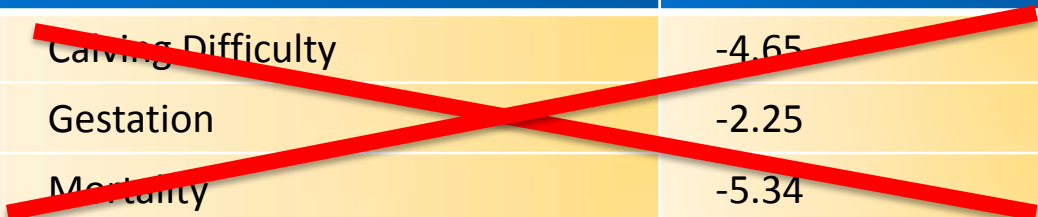

Genotype included in evaluation

Euro-star Index Replacement Graphics Terminal Graphics Linear Type TB And Liver Fluke Pedigree Evaluation History Index Comparison

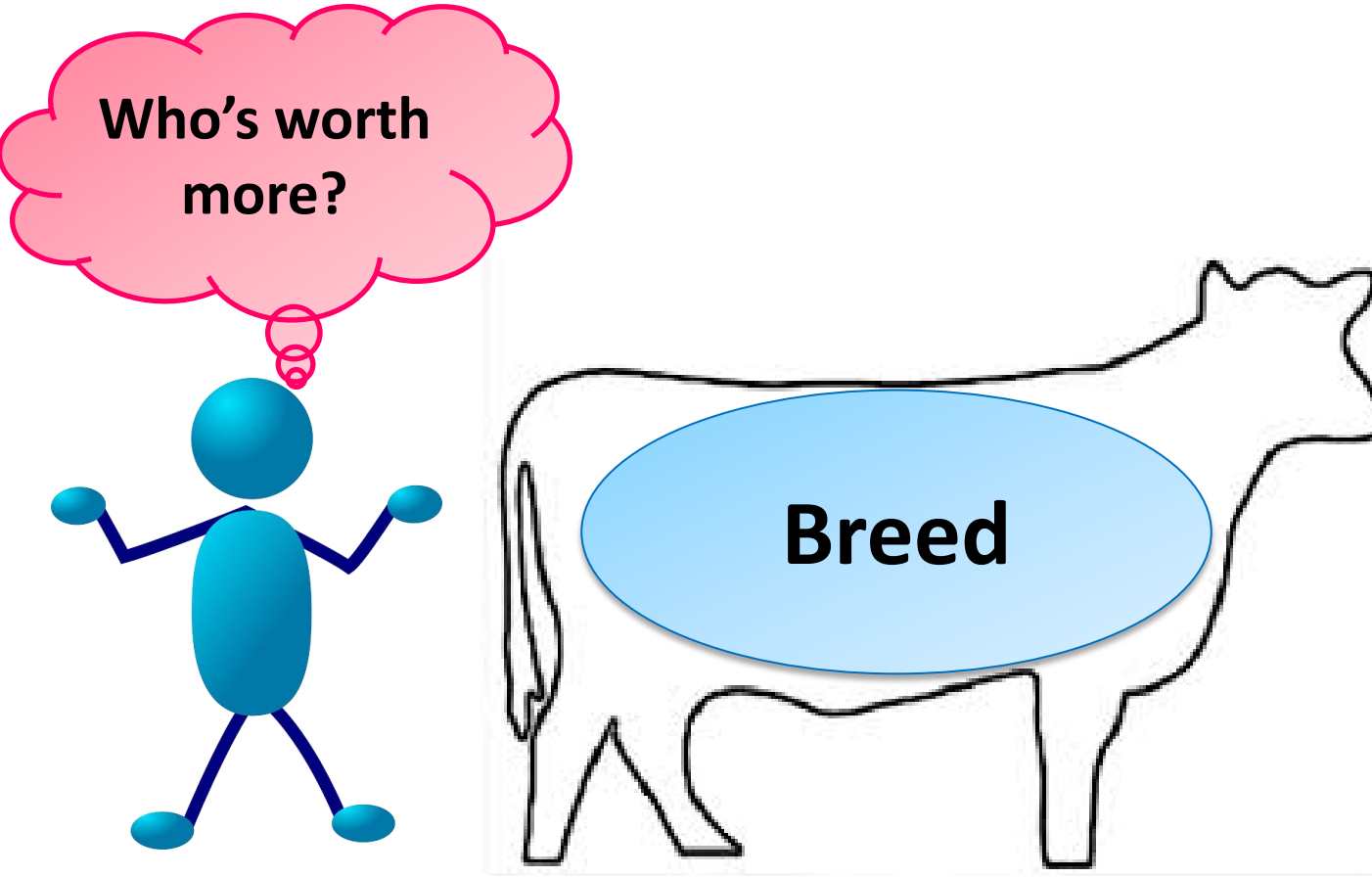
Star Rating (within Angus breed)	Economic Indexes	Euro value	Index reliability	Star Rating (across all beef breeds)
★★★★★	Replacement (per daughter lactation)	€131	97% (V High)	★★★★★
★★★★☆	Terminal	€42	92% (V High)	★★★★☆
★★★★☆	Dairy Beef	€45	95% (V High)	★★★★★



# Breeding index → sale index

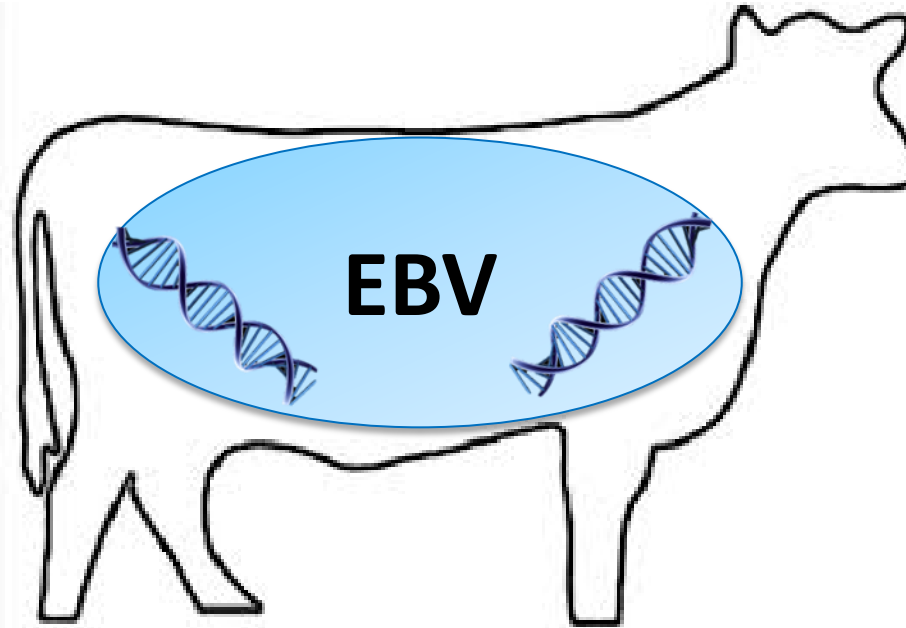
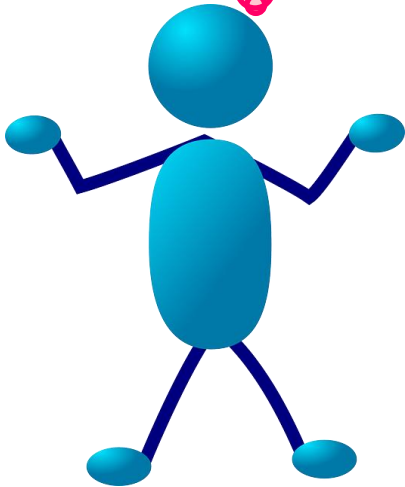
		Trait	Economic Wt. €
Calf index		Carving Difficulty	-4.65
		Gestation	-2.25
		Mortality	-5.34
		Docility	17.03
		Feed Intake	-38.63
		Carcass weight	3.14
		Carcass Conformation	14.77
		Carcass Fat	-7.86
		Harvest index	

# Index components



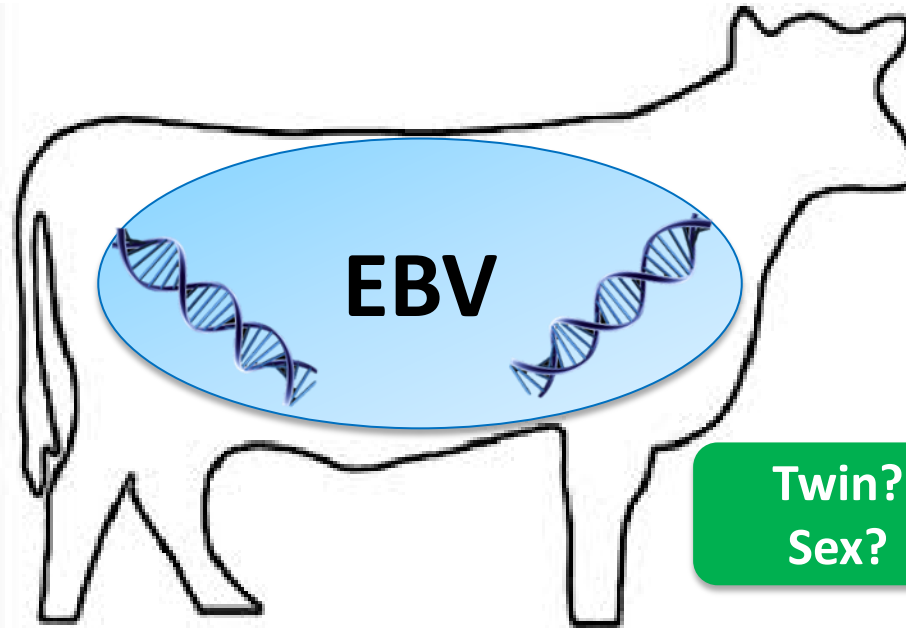
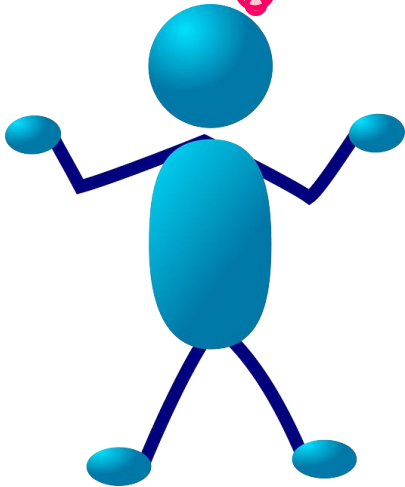
# Index components

Who's worth  
more?



# Index components

Who's worth  
more?



Twin?  
Sex?

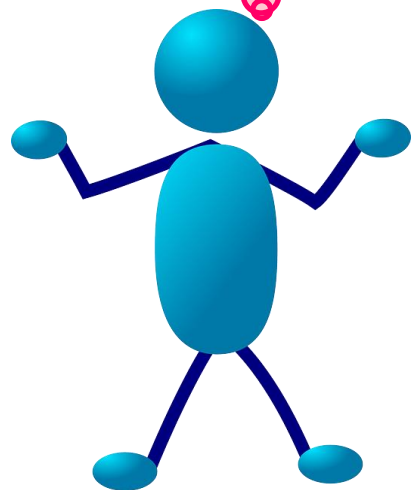


Age  
Parity  
Breed



# Index components

Who's worth  
more?



Heterosis

X



33%-66% more  
accurate

E V

Twin?  
Sex?

Age  
Parity  
Breed

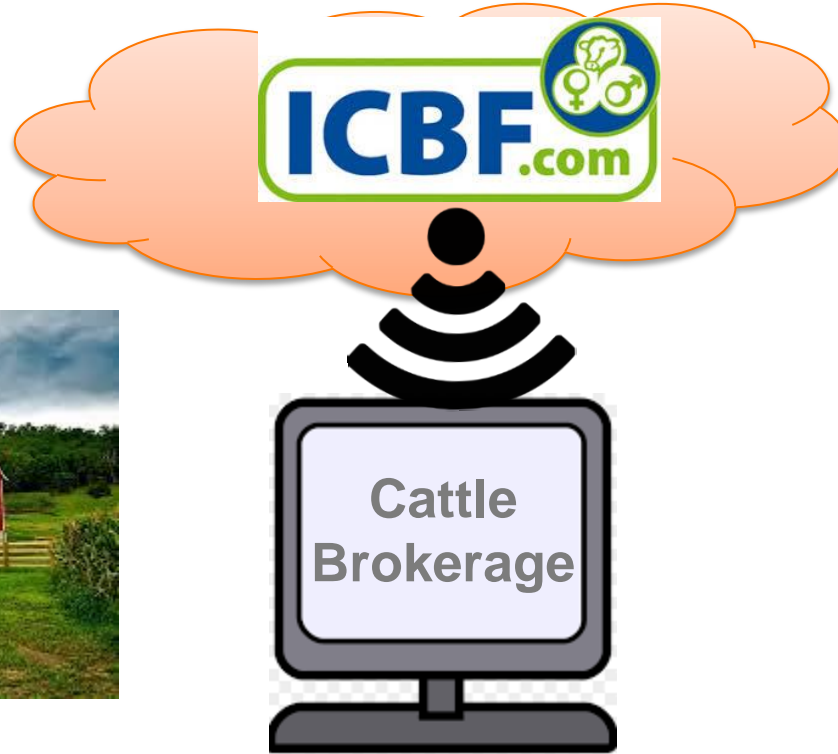
# Application of Indexes



Lot No 224		Qty 1	COW	705 KGs
QA Days Breed		LM	DOB	Moves
Y				3
Remarks				
TB Test		GNC		
16/03/2018	BVD Test	ICBF Evals	Blackwater	
	No	1		
Seller				
ICBF.com	Tag No 0192	Calf index €1,300	Breed	Across Breed Genomic Eval
			***	***** Yes
17:41:32		Newline ASP		



# Application of Indexes



## Circular take home message

