

Calves and Respiratory Disease

Alex Bach

Introduction

- 📌 UK (Cooke and Wathes, 2014; Sherwing et al., 2016):

 - 📌 36% of heifers calve > 30 months

 - 📌 16% of heifers did not complete 1st lactation (65% relative to adult cows -25% CR)

- 📌 Canada (Wittrock et al., 2011):

 - 📌 15% of heifers did not complete 1st lactation (50% relative to adult cows - 30% CR)

- 📌 Hungary Horváth et al. (2017):

 - 📌 19% of heifers did not complete 1st lactation (66% relative to adult cows - CR 27%)

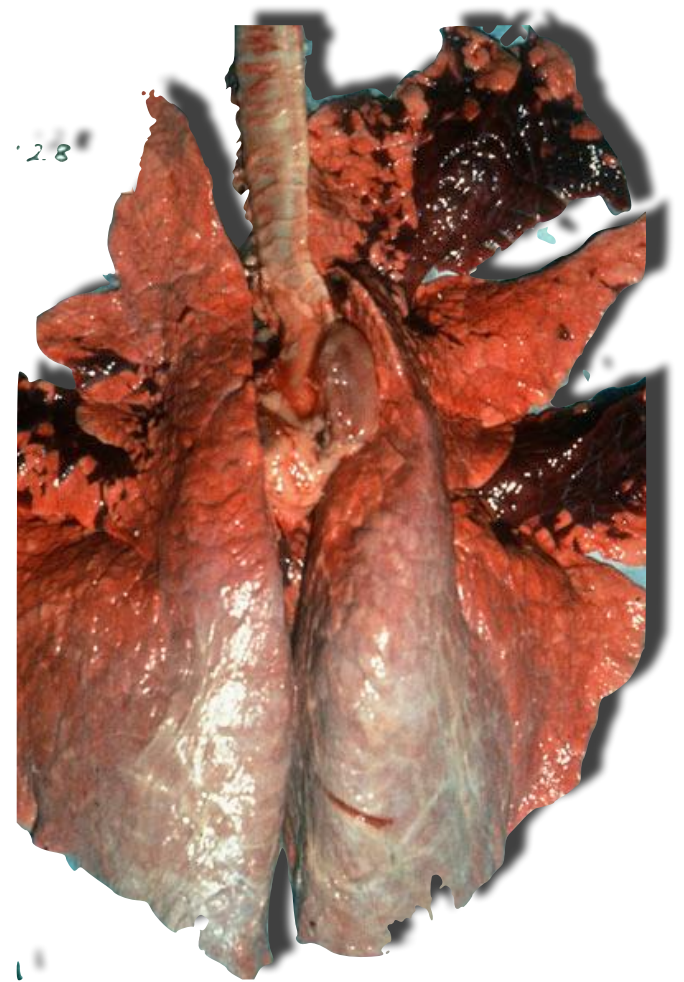
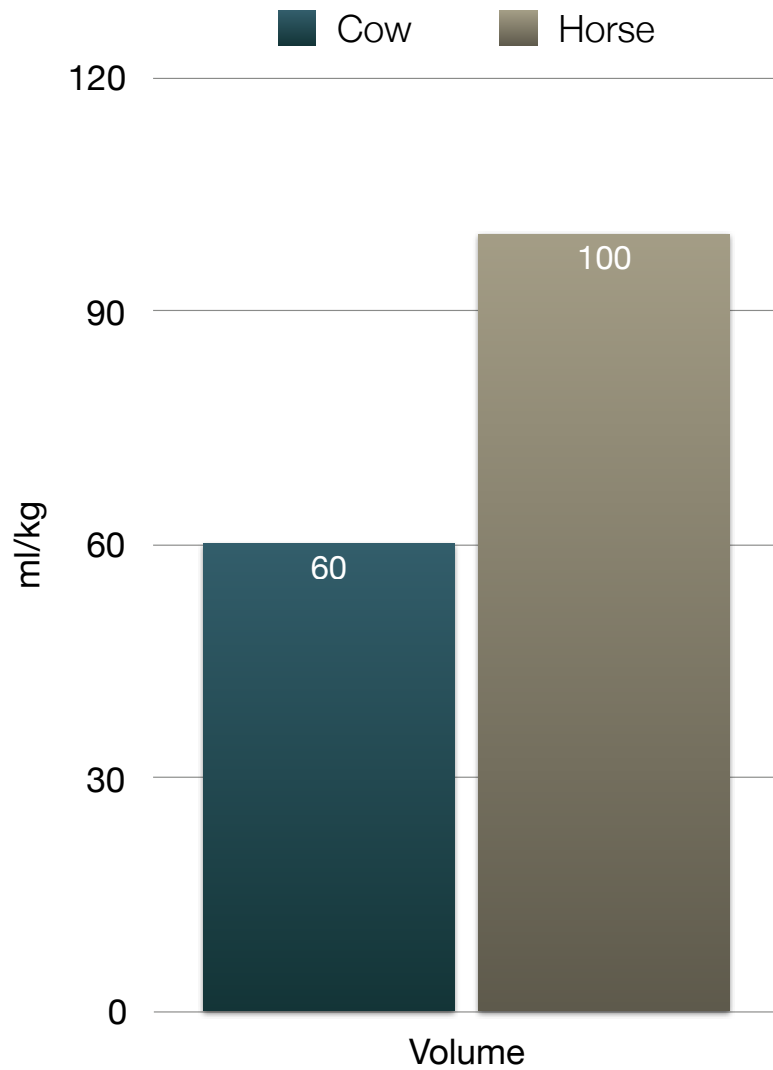
Samsung Note 7



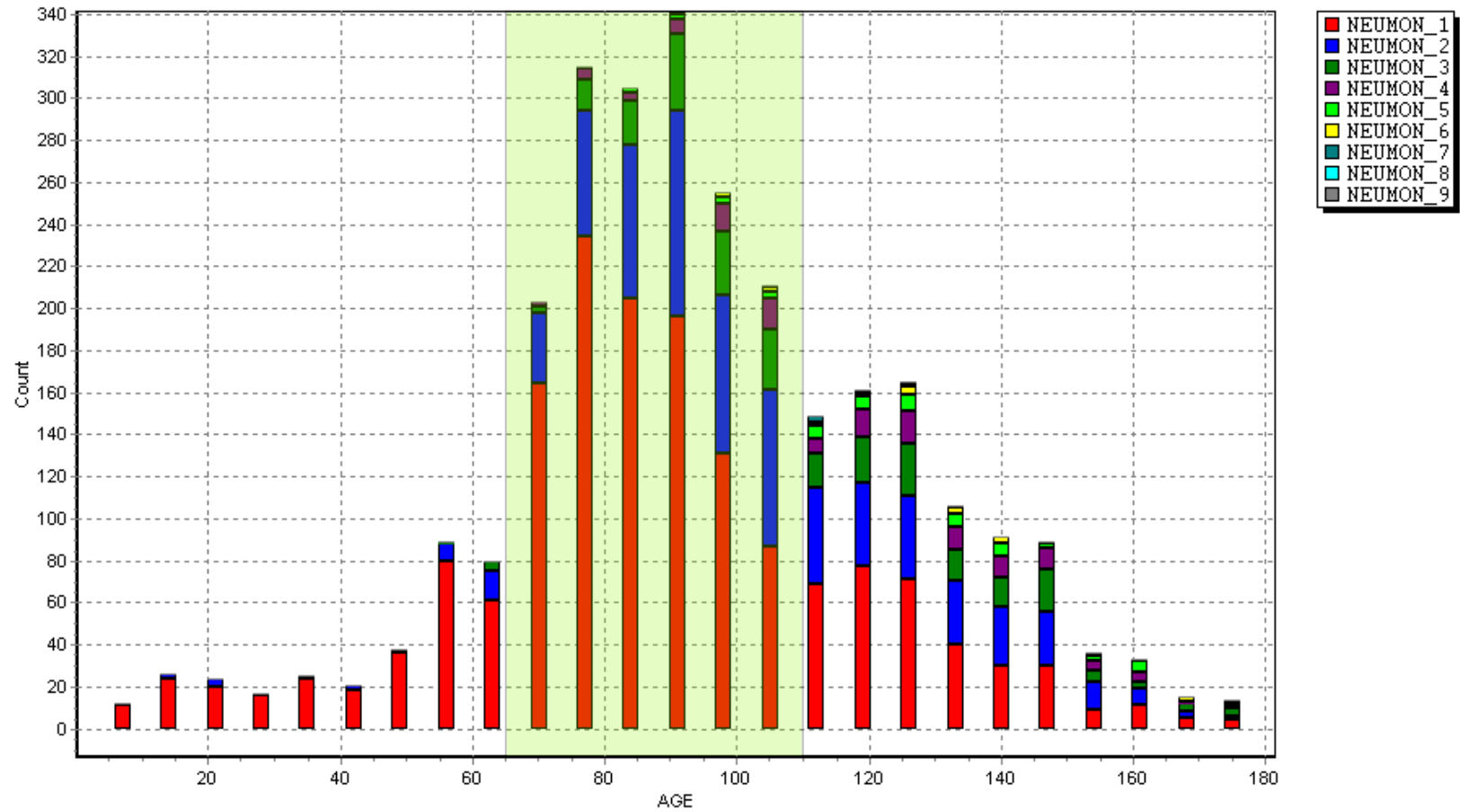
Introduction

- Reasons for this high failure rate are many, but probably the most important ones are:
 - Insufficient of proper attention to calf and heifer rearing
 - Lack of effective objectives
 - Lack of quality control programs

The weak point of calf



The weak point of calf



The weak point of calf

What is the real incidence of BRD?

The weak point of calf

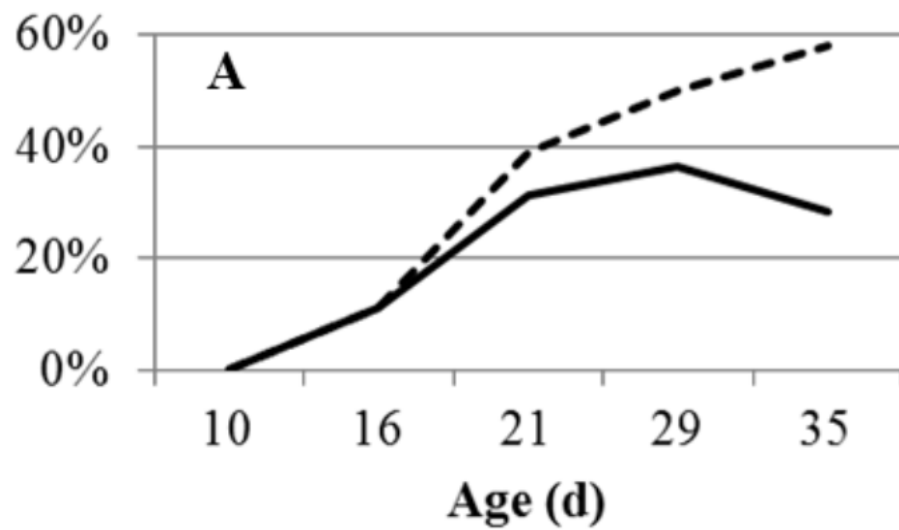
What is the real incidence of BRD?

In beef calves: 52% (Thompson et al., 2006)

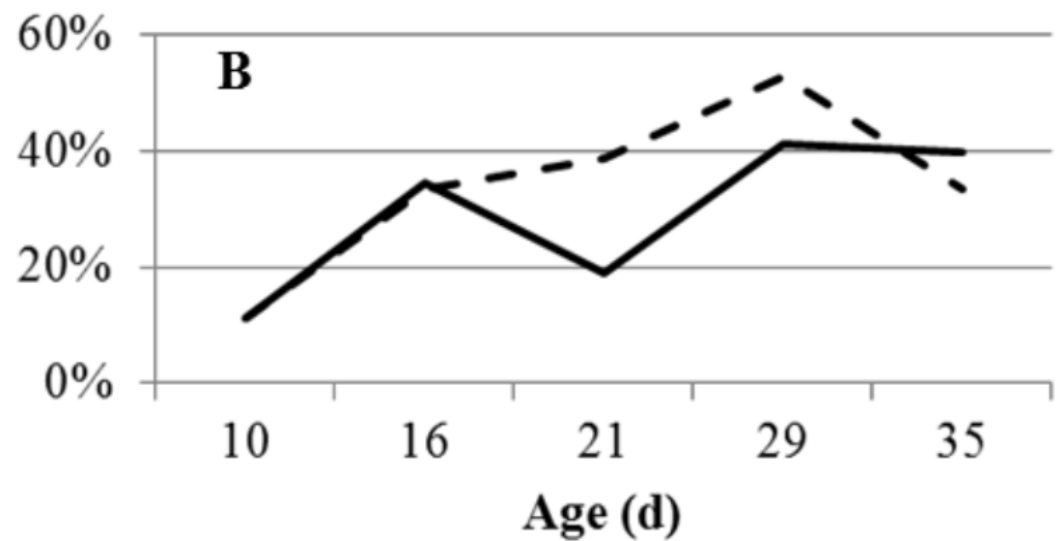
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What is the real incidence of BRD?

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Ultrasound



Fever

The weak point of calf



Fotos cedidas por C. Tejero

The Causes

5 calves per hutch: 3 m² and 7 m³ per calf

6 calves per hutch: 2.5 m² and 6 m³ per calf - 15%

7 calves per hutch: 2 m² and 5 m³ per calf - 29%

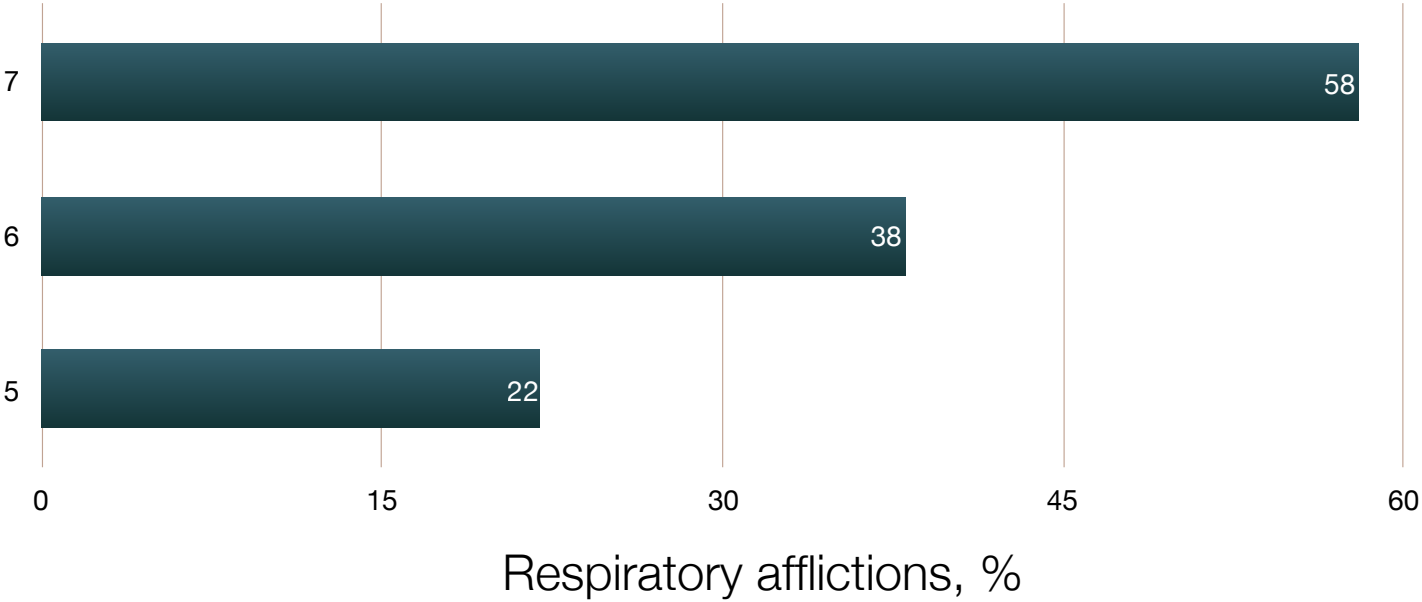


The Causes

Item	5	6	7
n	50	60	70
BW entrance, kg	80	79	79
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ADG interval, g/d	830	899	867

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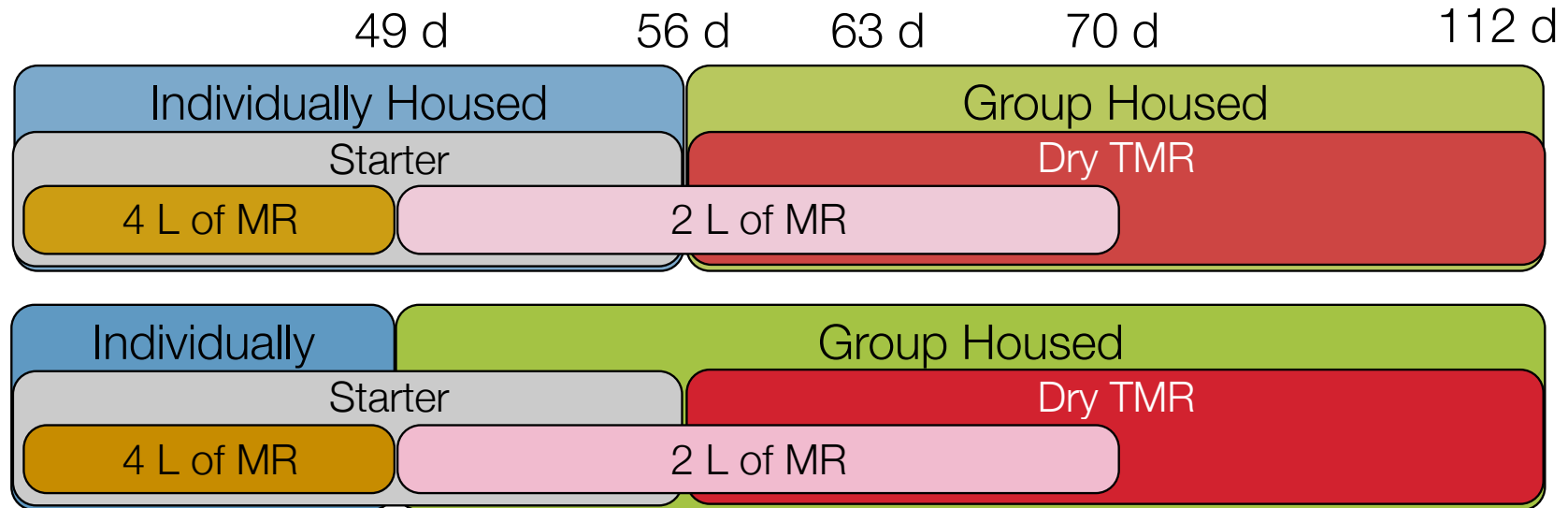


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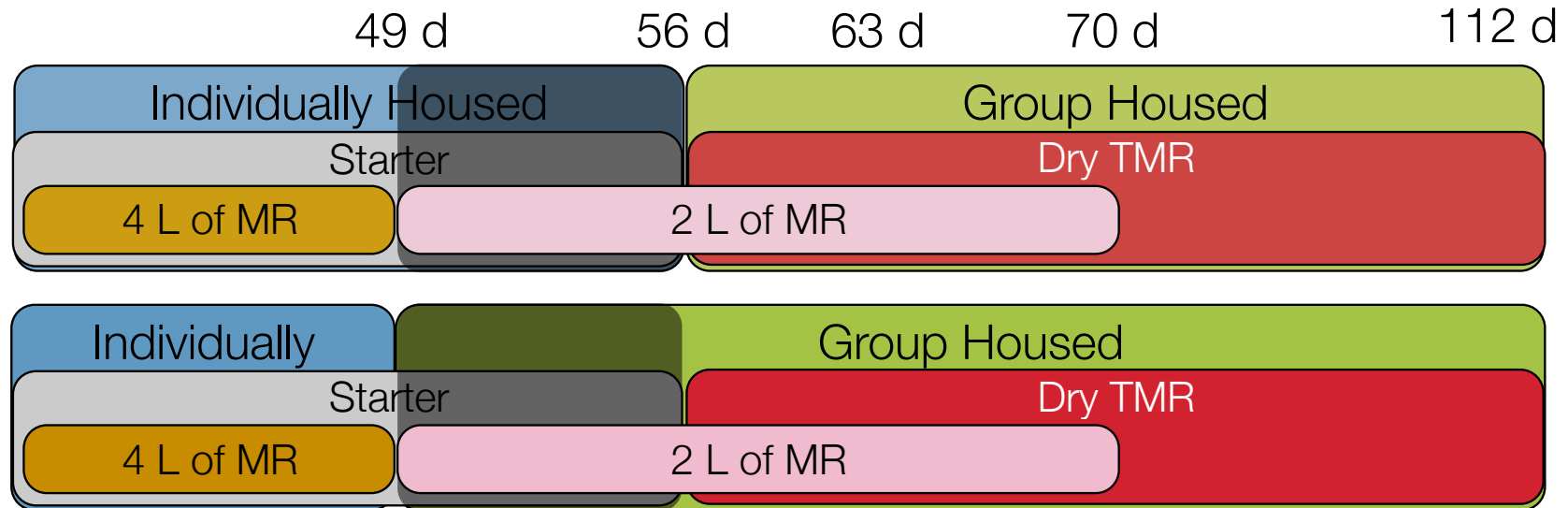
- General recommendations for calf rearing advocate for keeping the animals individually housed and feeding milk replacer (or waste milk) twice daily.
- The main purpose of keeping calves individually is to minimize the spread of infectious diseases (mainly diarrhea and pneumonia).



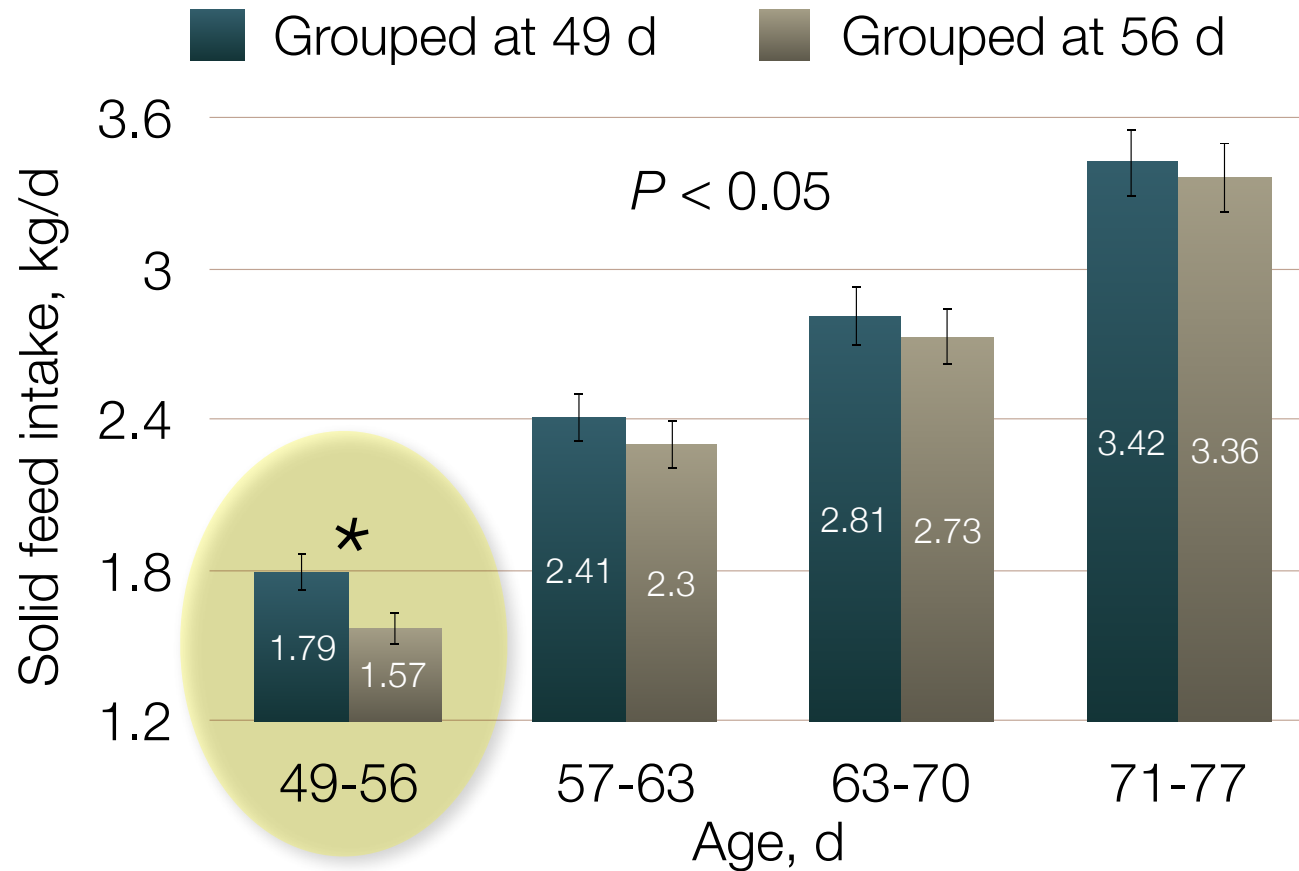
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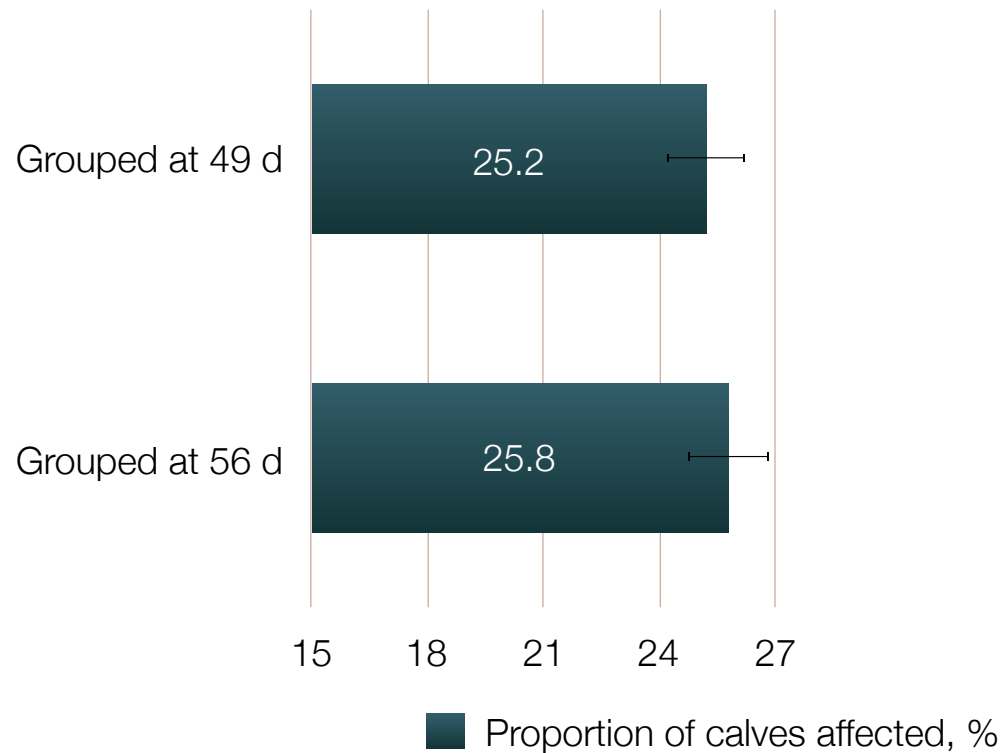
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Grouped calves consumed more solid feed than those individually housed

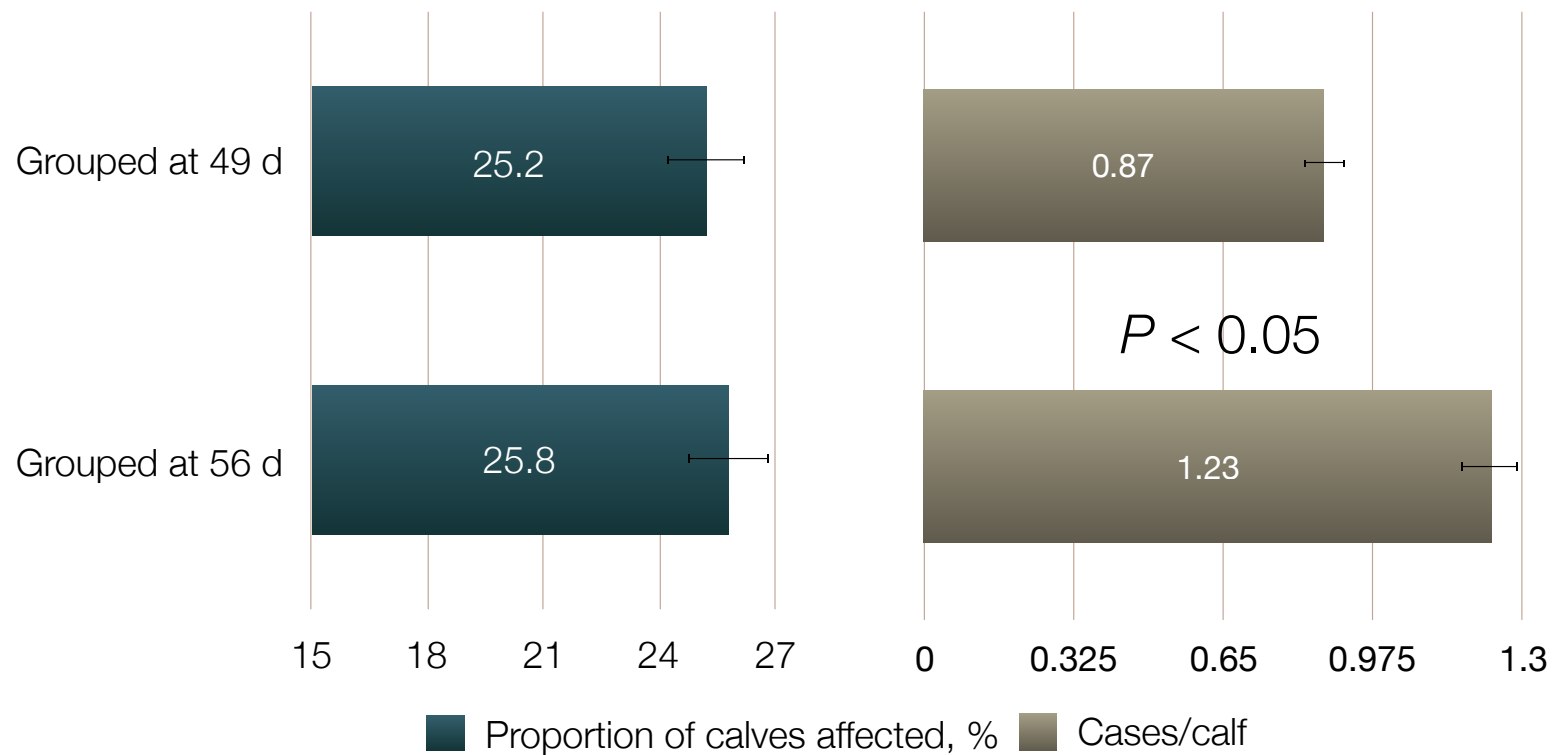
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Incidence of Respiratory Problems

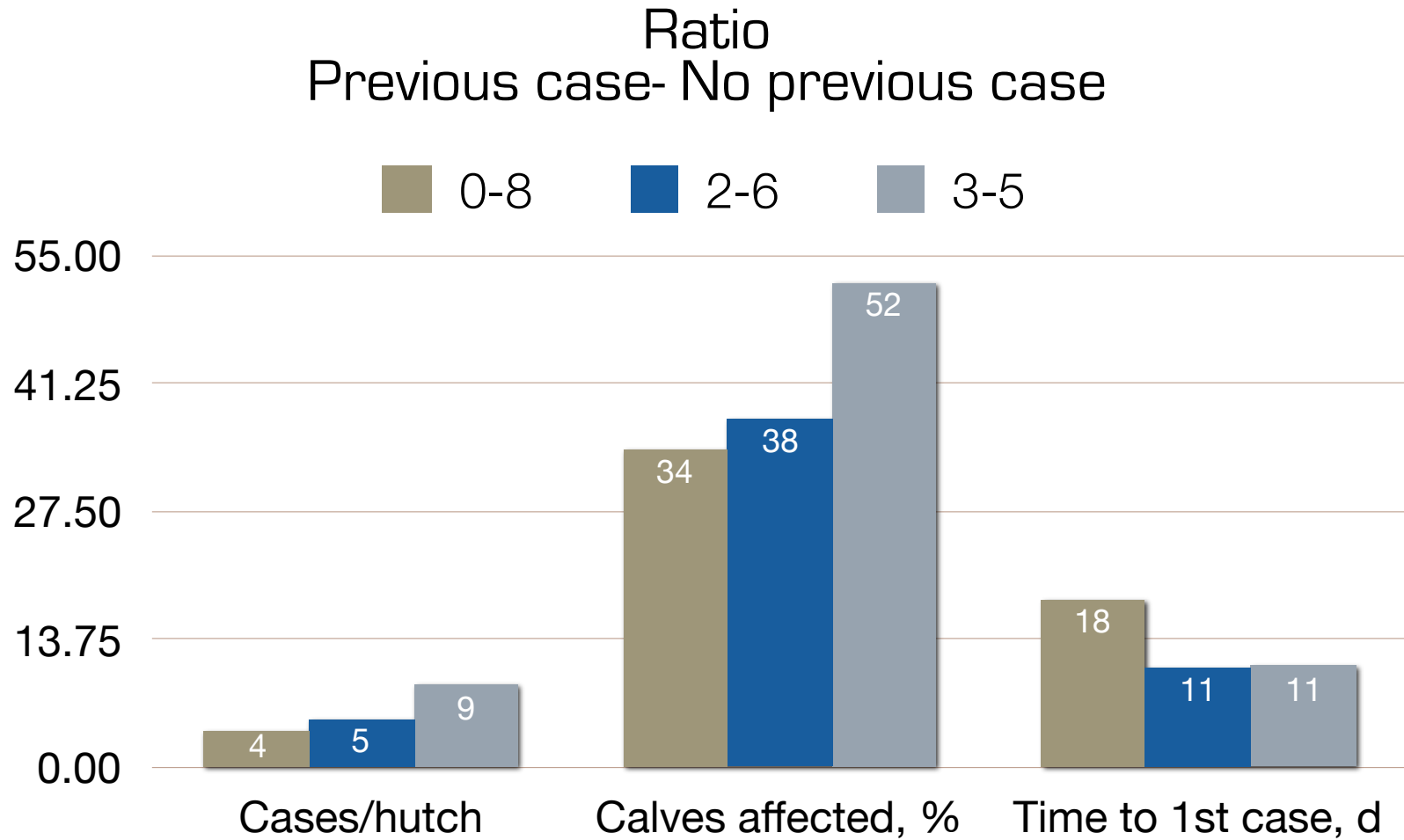


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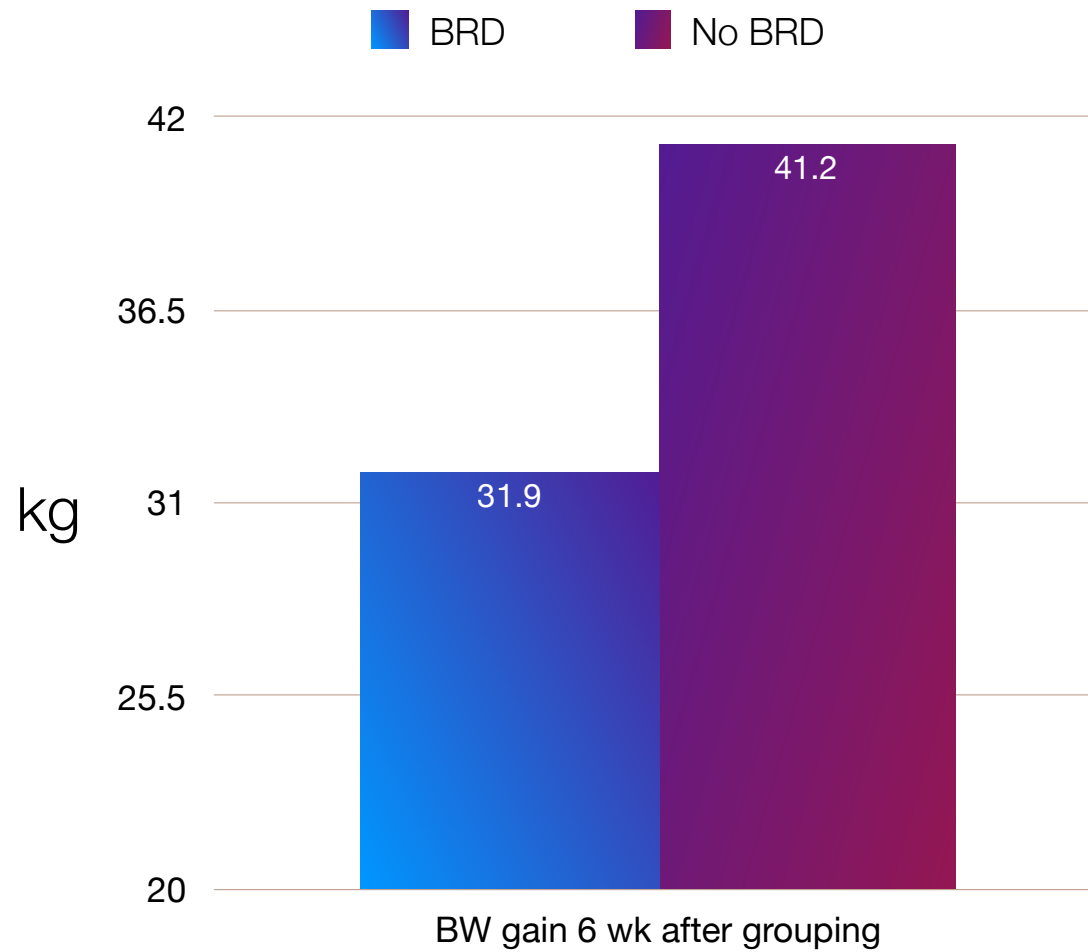
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The Causes



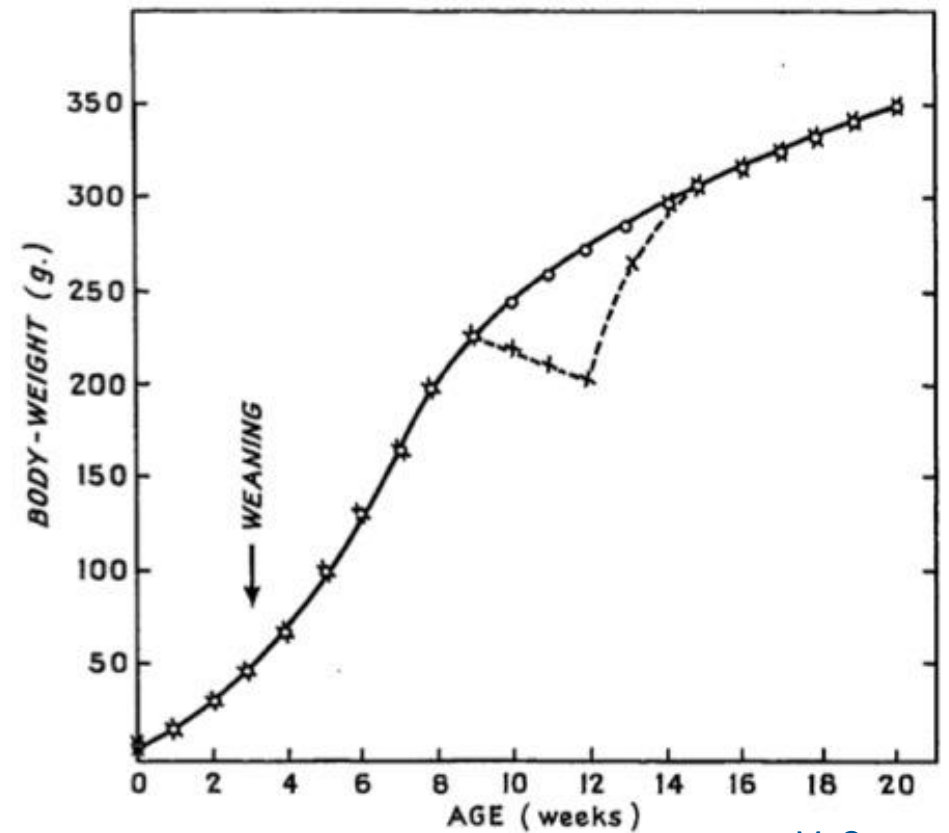
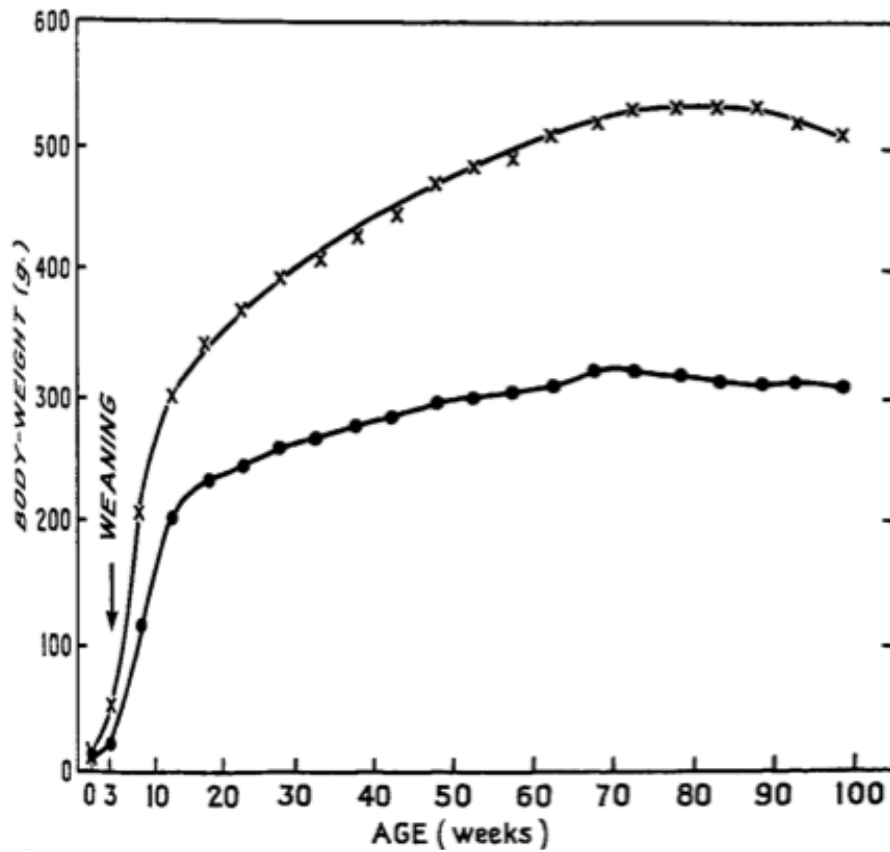
The Consequences



Stanton et al., 2010

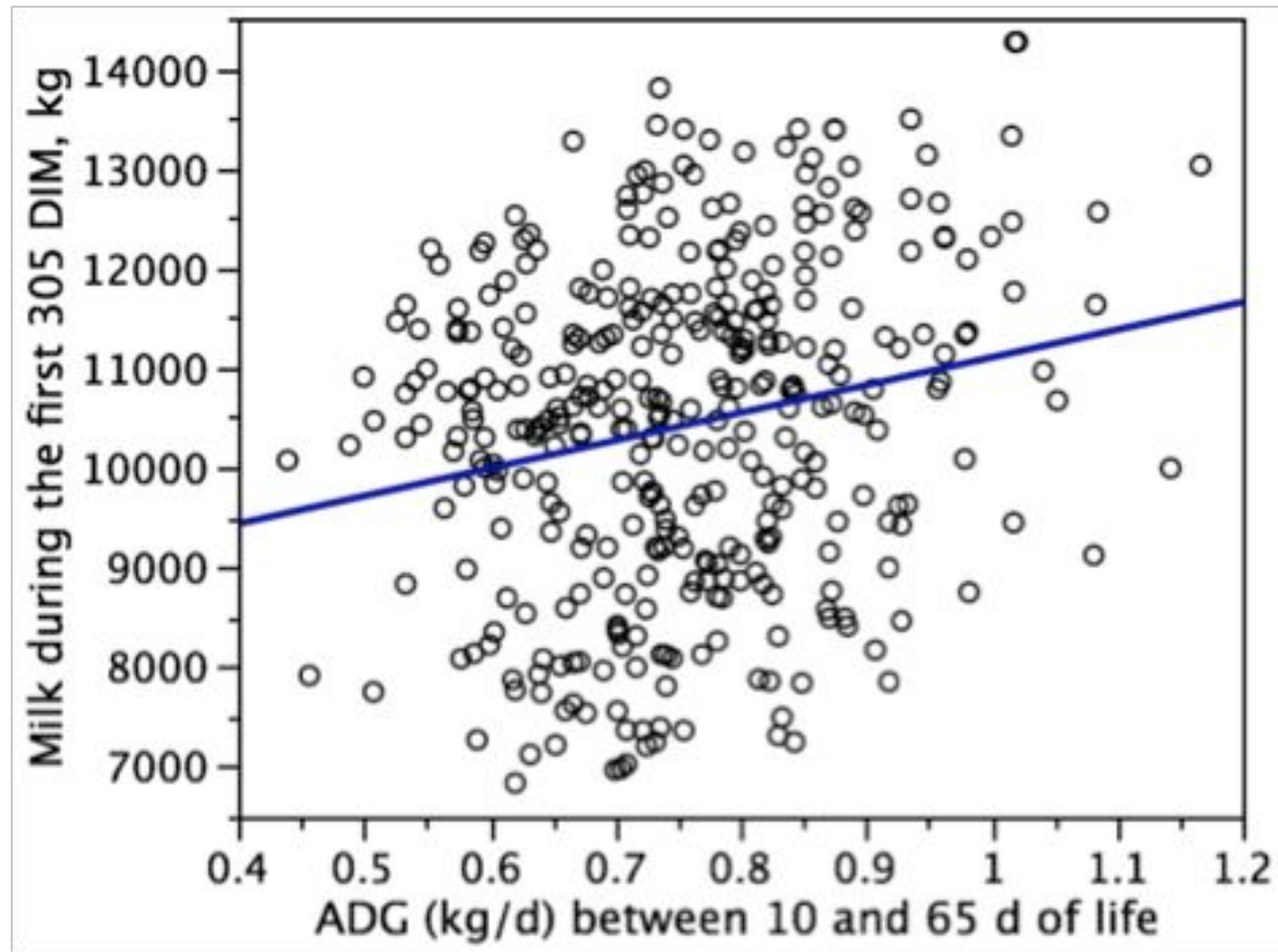
The Consequences

- The metabolic status of mammals during the first weeks of life seems to have long-lasting consequences



The Consequences

- Rate of growth of young calves is correlated with future milk production



Bach and Ahedo, 2008

The Consequences

Authors	X	ADG	Milk	Significance
Holloway and Totusek, 1973	Mom	N/A	+10%	$P < 0.10$
Bar-Peled et al., 1997	Mom 3X vs MR 2X	+100 g	+4%	$P < 0.10$
Shamay et al., 2005	WM 2X vs MR 1X	+300 g	+4%	$P < 0.05$
Moallem et al., 2010	WM 2X vs MR 2X	+100 g	+10%	$P < 0.05$
Davis Rincker et al., 2009	MR 2X	+200 g	+4%*	$P < 0.10$
Terré et al., 2009	MR 2X	+100 g	+6%	NS
Raeth-Knight et al., 2009	MR 2X	+150 g	+5%	NS
Morrison et al., 2009	MR 2X	+150 g	-1 %	NS

Several abstracts omitted

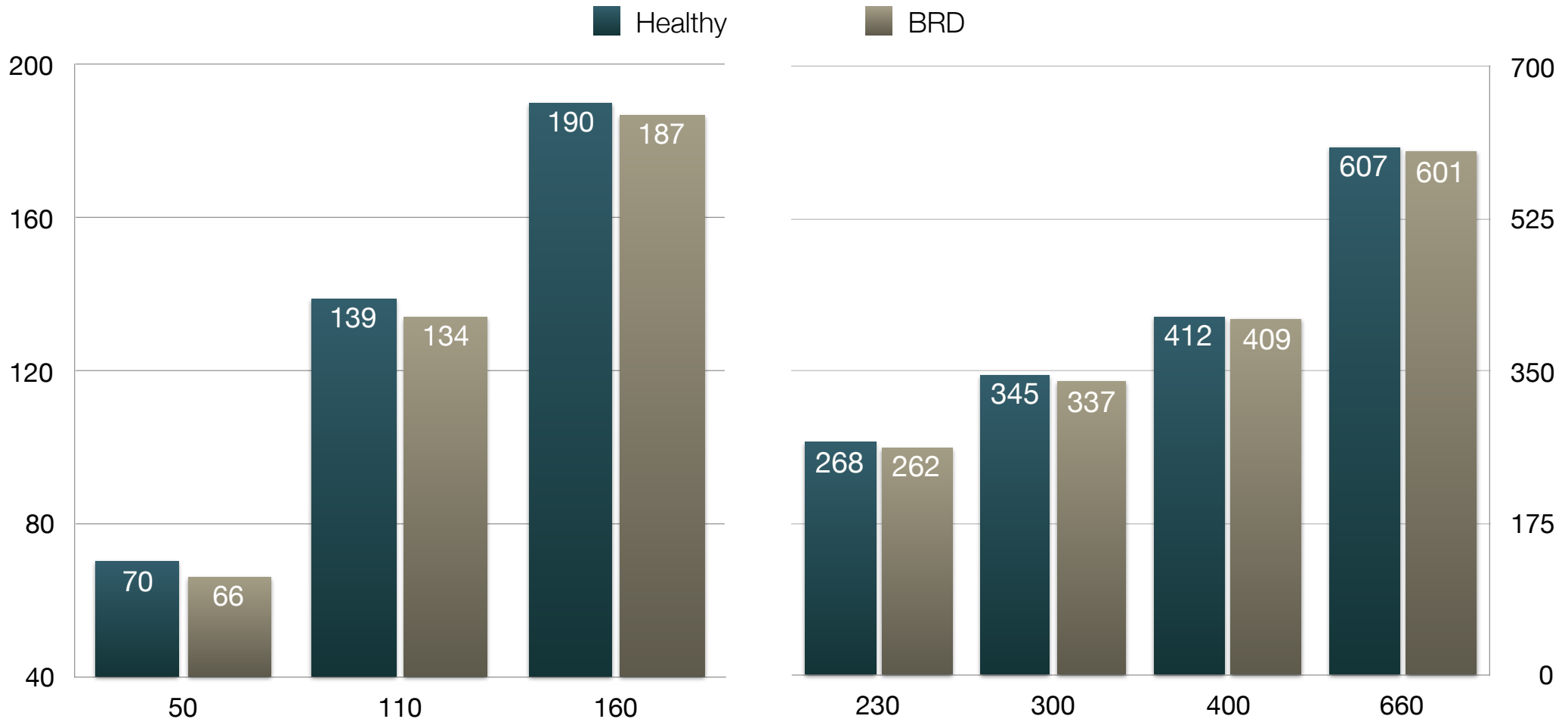
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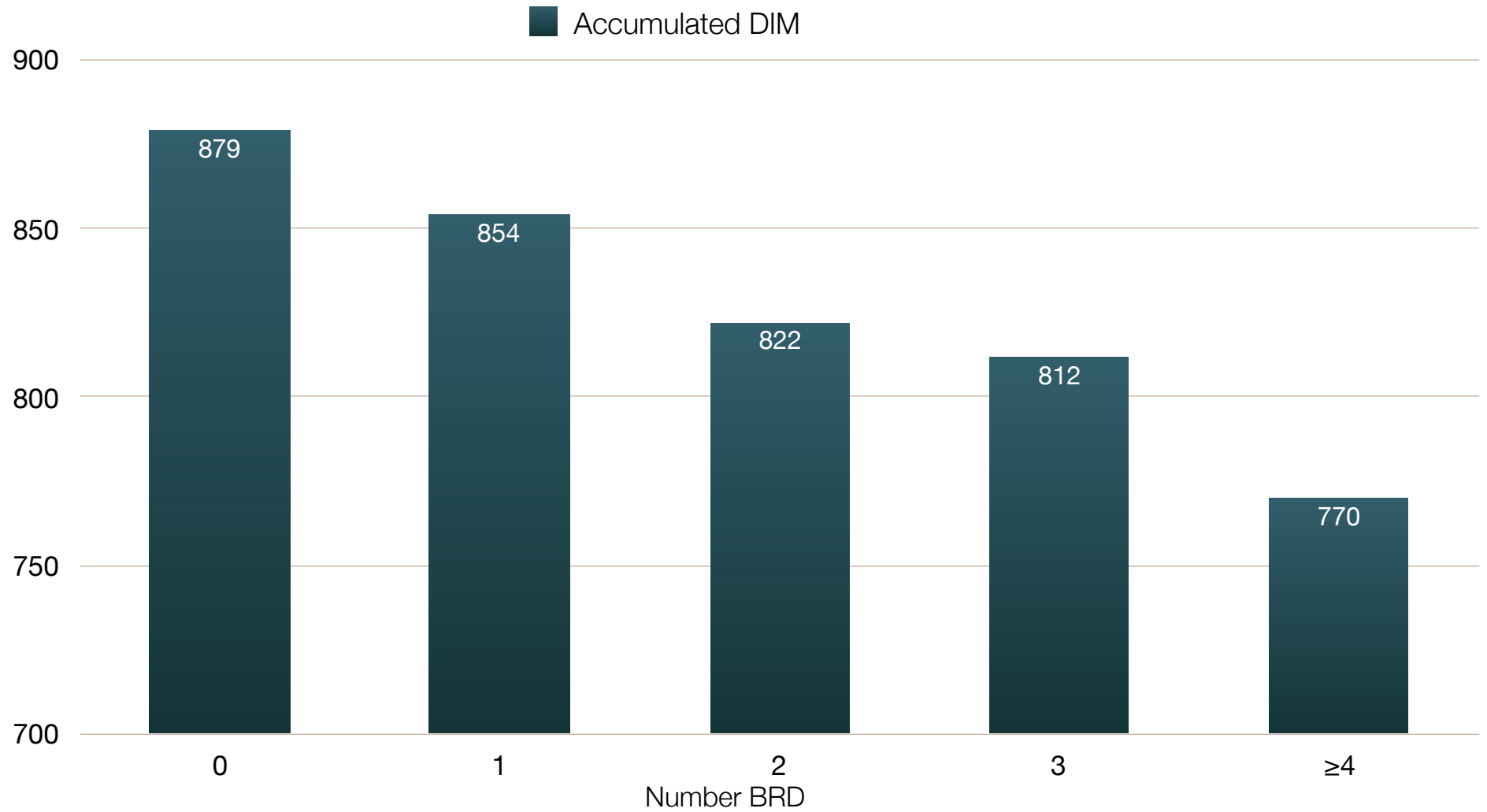
226 kg Milk/100 g
 $P < 0.05$

The Consequences



Healthy: 711 g/d, BRD: 630 g/d ~ 182 kg of milk

Quality Control



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Thank you