A practical interactive dairy management tool for cow replacement to assess herd profitability and herd life

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| Current challenges

Making timely and informed cow replacement decisions to increase herd longevity and profitability

Understanding the contribution of each cow to herd profitability (limited resources on farm)

Current events generally used for decision making (cumulative costs often underestimated)

| Approach

Lifetime costs and revenues from 114 dairy herds (22,747 cows with completed lactation) in Quebec, Canada (Delgado 2015)

Iterative development process with workshops over 1 yr. with 16 producers, their associated veterinarian and DHI advisers

Herd level approach → compare own herd to peers

Cow level approach → compare cows within own herd

| Objective

Cost-benefit analysis to help dairy farmers and advisors making informed decisions regarding cow replacement

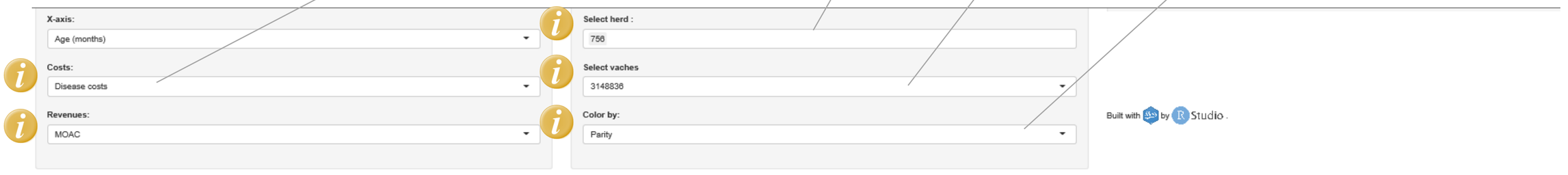
| Dashboard

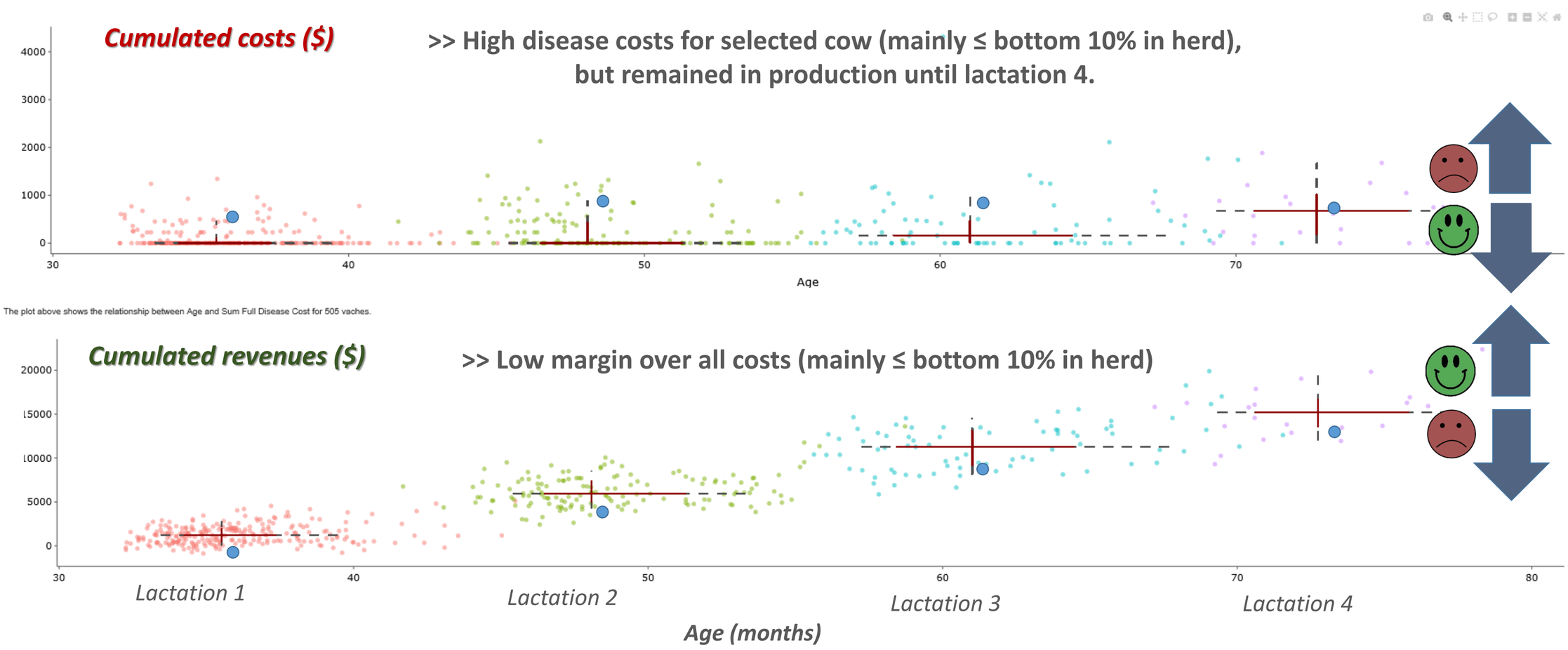
(1) Choose:
- ***Costs $** (e.g. disease costs)*
- ***Revenues $** (e.g. margin over all costs)*

*(2) Choose **herd***

*(3) Choose **cow** within herd (optional)*

*(4) Choose **benchmark** (e.g., region, year, milking type)*





| Implications

Possible to identify cows that contributed most to herd profitability and cows with high initial costs that may likely never be profitable

Consider cumulated costs and revenues in decision-making process

Consider simple and interactive decision support tools with useful benchmarks

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