



IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

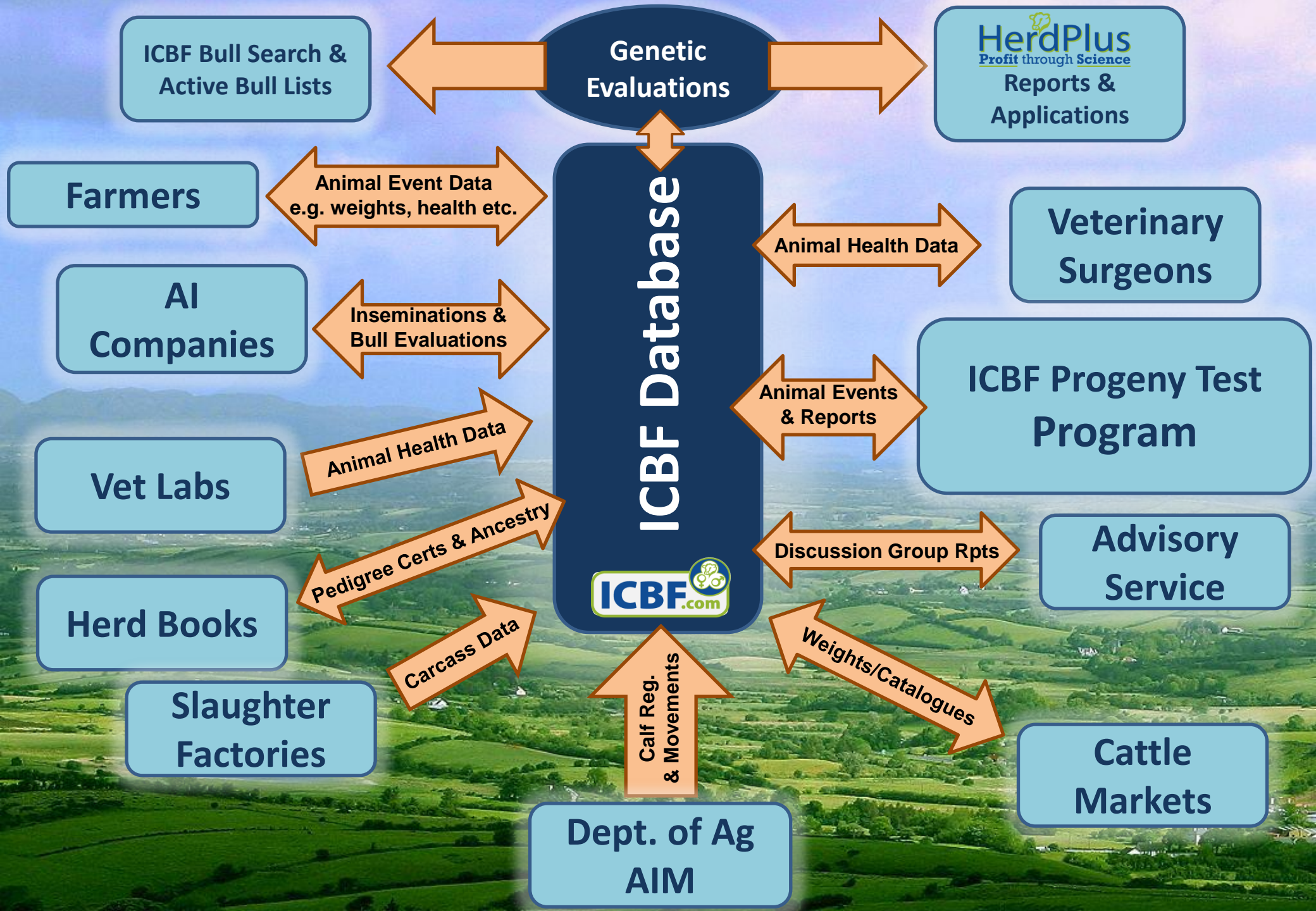
Beef Data Recording In Ireland

Current Experience & Future Potential of an Industry Integrated National Database



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ICBF





Most Significant Data Flow



- Births & Deaths
- Animal Movements
- Animal Events

Irish Beef Cow Herd

The Numbers



- Approx. 1 million beef cows in 60,000 herds (17 cows/herd)
- Ranging in herd size from 1 – 250.

What's Recorded at Birth

Calf Tag No.

DOB & Sex

Dam Tag No.

Sire Breed

Step 1 of 2

Species: BOVINE ☐ Main Details:

Animal Details

Tag Number: IE1414610 ▼ 60249 (herd designator & animal number)

Date of Birth of Animal: 02/06/15 Gender: FEMALE ▼

Still Born: ☐

Parental Details

Dam Tag Number: IE141461080124 [Clear if incorrect](#) Dam Breed: LMX
Breed set to that currently recorded on AIM

Genetic Dam Indicator: ☐

Sire Breed: CH

All Compulsory Data

What's Recorded at Birth

Additional Data

Sire Tag or AI Code

Additional Genetic Details

Sire Tag Number:	<input type="text"/>	AI Code:	<input type="text" value="LGL"/>	Retain Sire Details:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pedigree Name of Calf:	<input type="text" value="IRISH ROVER"/>				
Dead Calf:	<input type="text"/>	Calving Survey:	<input type="text" value="SOME ASSISTANCE"/>		

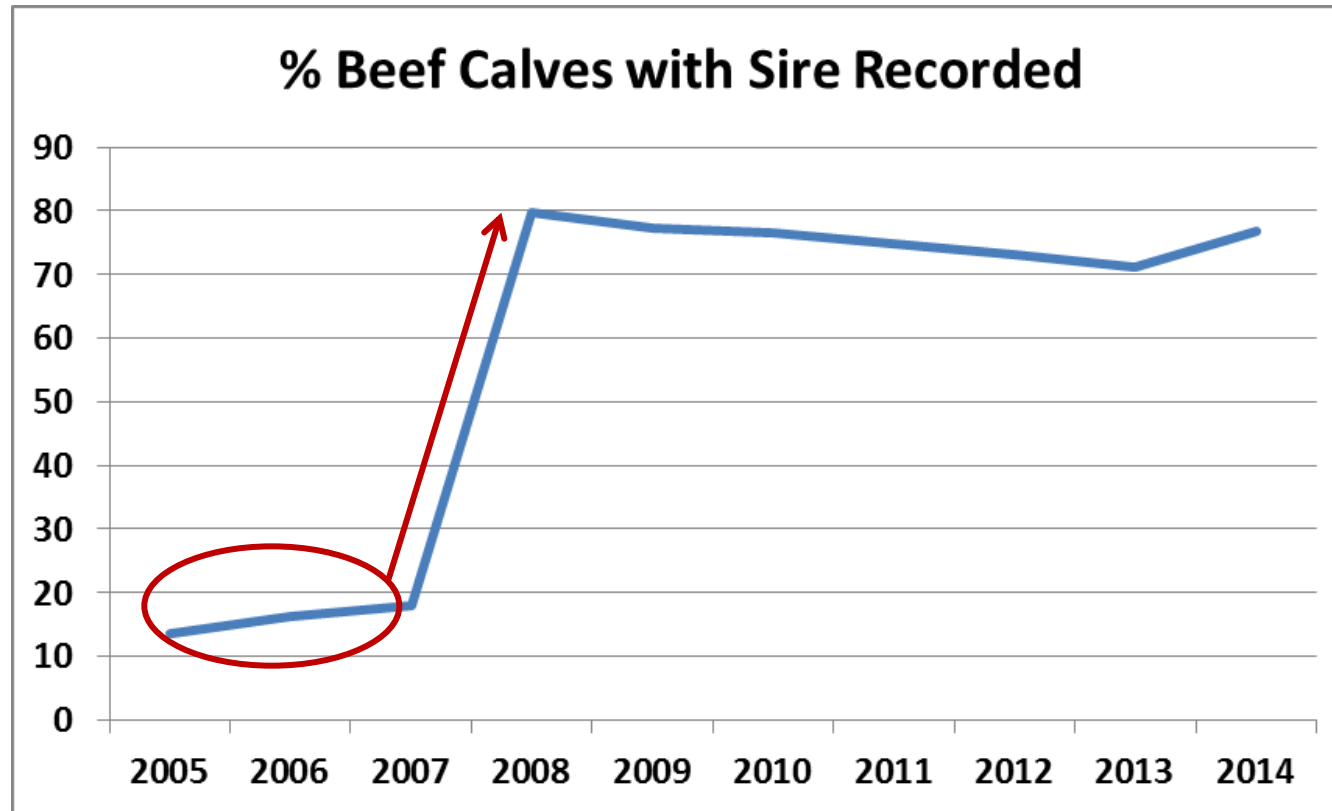
Name
Pedigree Calves Only

Calving Survey

All Optional Data!!

Beef Sire Recording in Ireland

All beef calves born 2005-2014

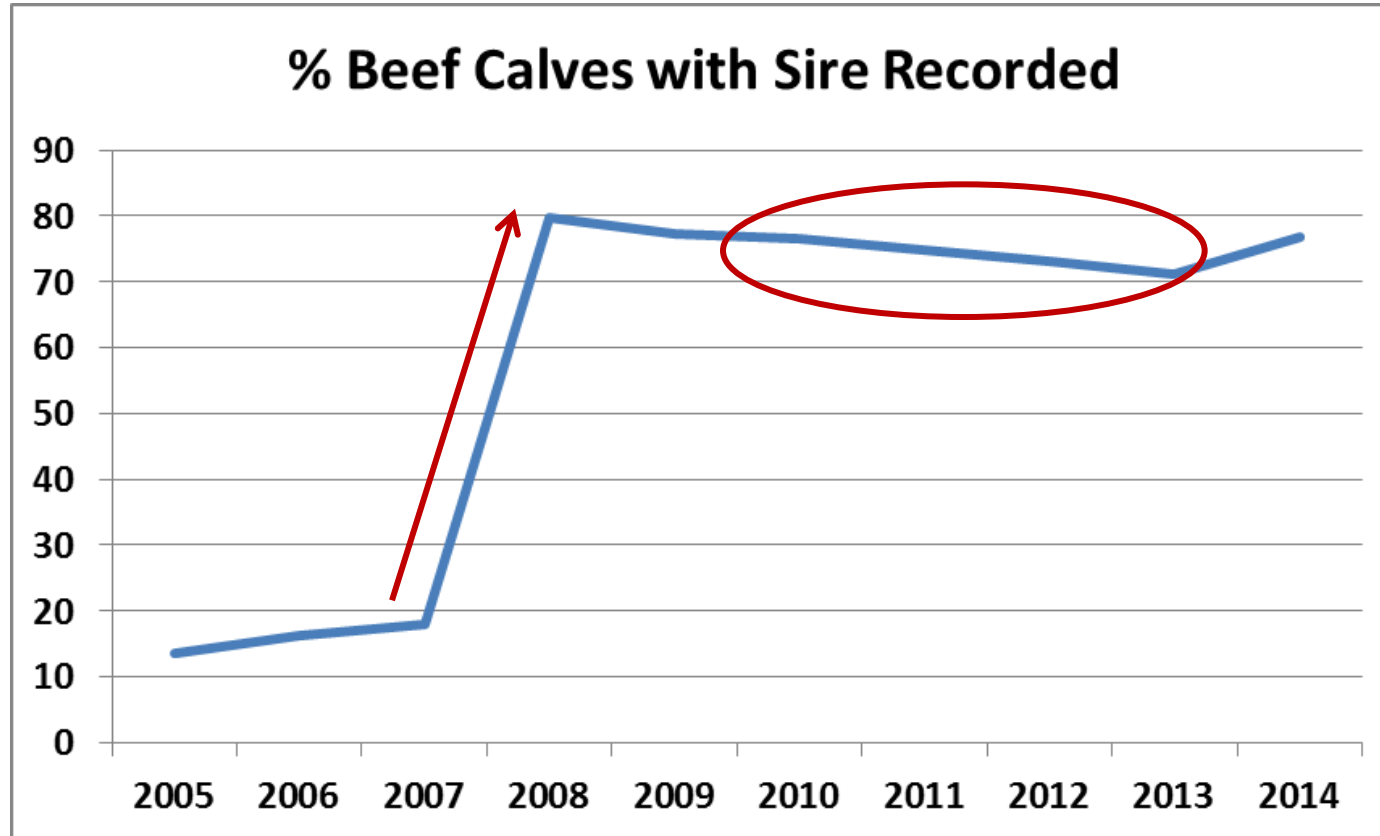


- Pre 2008 less than 20% calves.
- 2008 increased to 80% calves.
- What caused sudden increase?!!

Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme

2008-2012

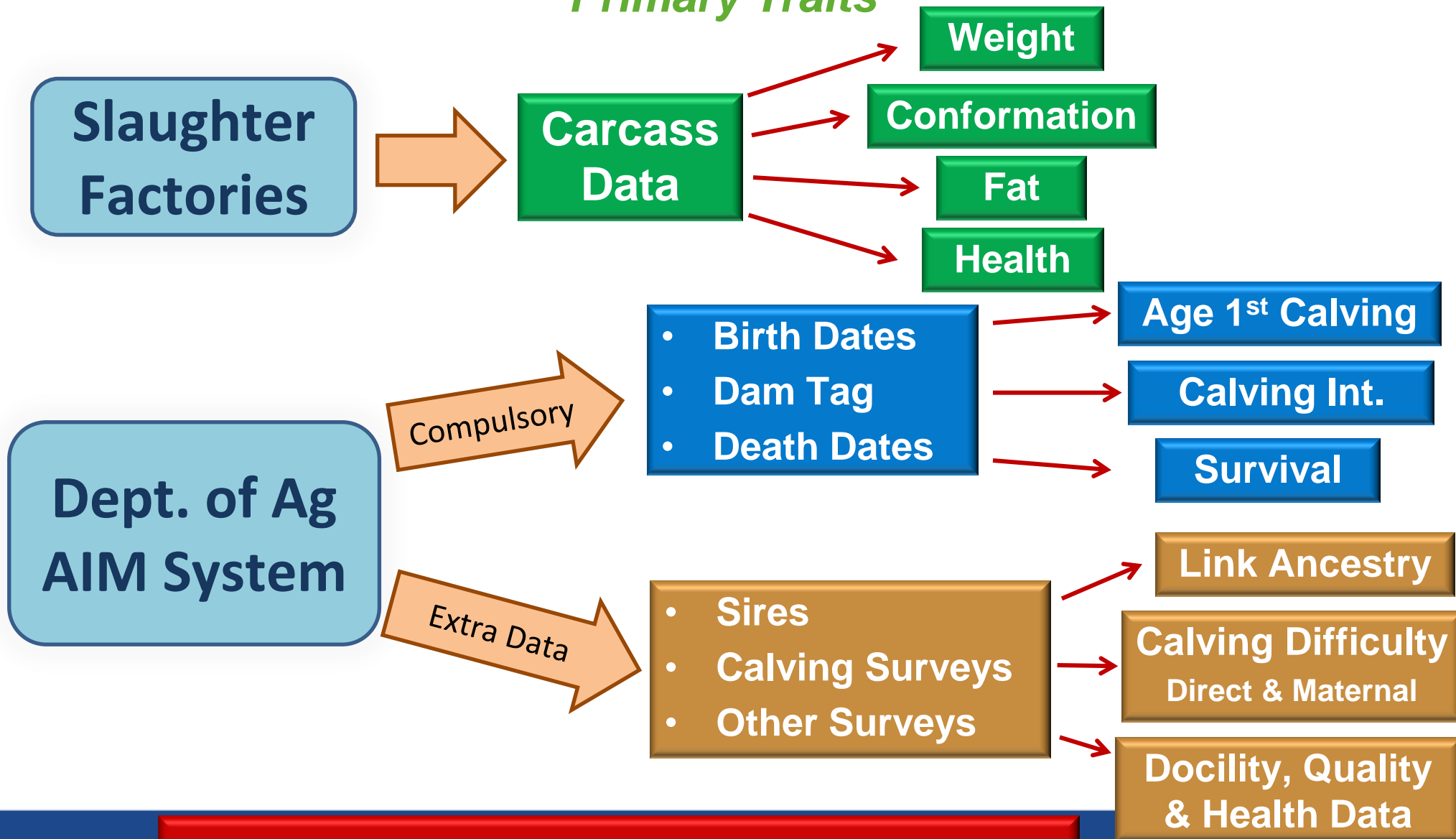
- Cow & calf welfare and data recording - €80 per cow.
- Sire recording key component.



- Effect of reduction of payment to €40 mid scheme.

Data Availability

Primary Traits



What about Milk?!?

Irish Beef Index

Euro-Stars

Calving & Carcass Traits

- Good data submission.
- Reliabilities increase quickly.

Euro value per progeny	Index reliability	Star Rating (across all beef breeds)
€163	68% (High)	★★★★★
€39	48%	★★★★★
€203	86%	★★★★★

Trait reliability

★★★★★	Calving difficulty (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 4.95%, All breeds ave: 4.98%	5.80%	98% (V High)	
★★★★★	Docility (1-5 scale) Breed ave: -0.06, All breeds ave: 0.00	0.02 scale	79% (High)	★★★★★
★★★★★	Carcass weight (kg)	32kg	82% (V High)	★★★★★
★★★★★		2.24 scale	77% (High)	★★★★★

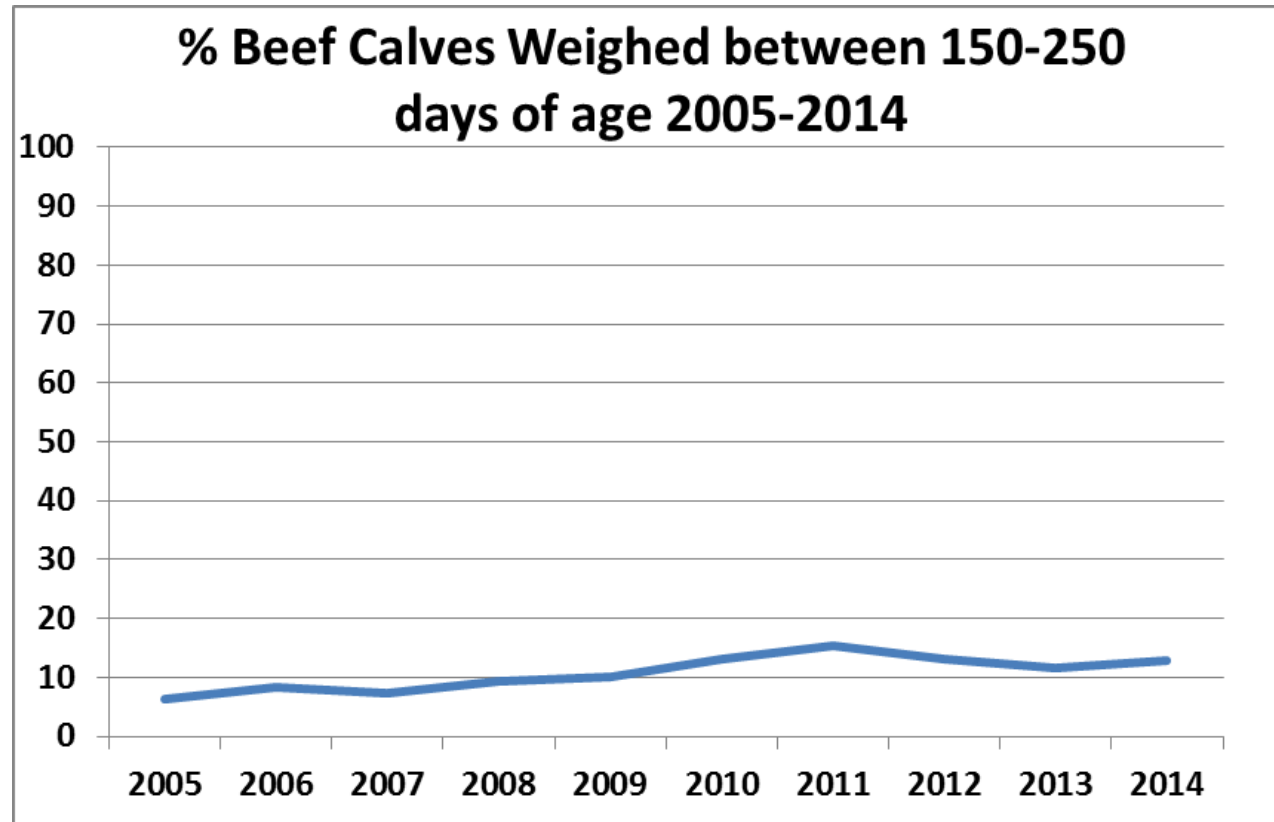
Maternal Traits

- Less data (particularly milk).
- Slower increase in reliability.

★★★★★	Daughter calving difficulty (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 5.45%, All breeds ave: 6.15%	6.7%	31% (Low)	
★★★★★	Daughter milk (kg) Breed ave: -0.84kg, All breeds ave: 0.31kg	2.77kg	34% (Low)	★★★★★
★★★★★	Daughter calving interval (days) Breed ave: 1.09 days, All breeds ave: -0.32 days	1.93days	53% (Average)	★★★★★
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Challenge

Milk: The Problem Trait



- Low levels of weighing of suckler beef calves (<20% in 2014).
- Weighing equipment expensive.
- Laborious. Poor facilities & land fragmentation.

Solution

Milk

- No major increase in on-farm weighing likely.
- Free weight recording not sustainable.
- Farmer cow milk scores (1-5) now being submitted.



- High correlation between scores and weaning weights ~ 0.9

Solution

Milk: Profile of an Irish AI Bull



- Limousin bull – Ardlea Dan.
- Born 2008.
- Entered stud 2010.
- 20,958 progeny.

- 734 daughters calved.
- Only 30 maternal weaning weights.
- 117 daughter milk scores!!
- Much faster increase in trait reliability.

Challenge

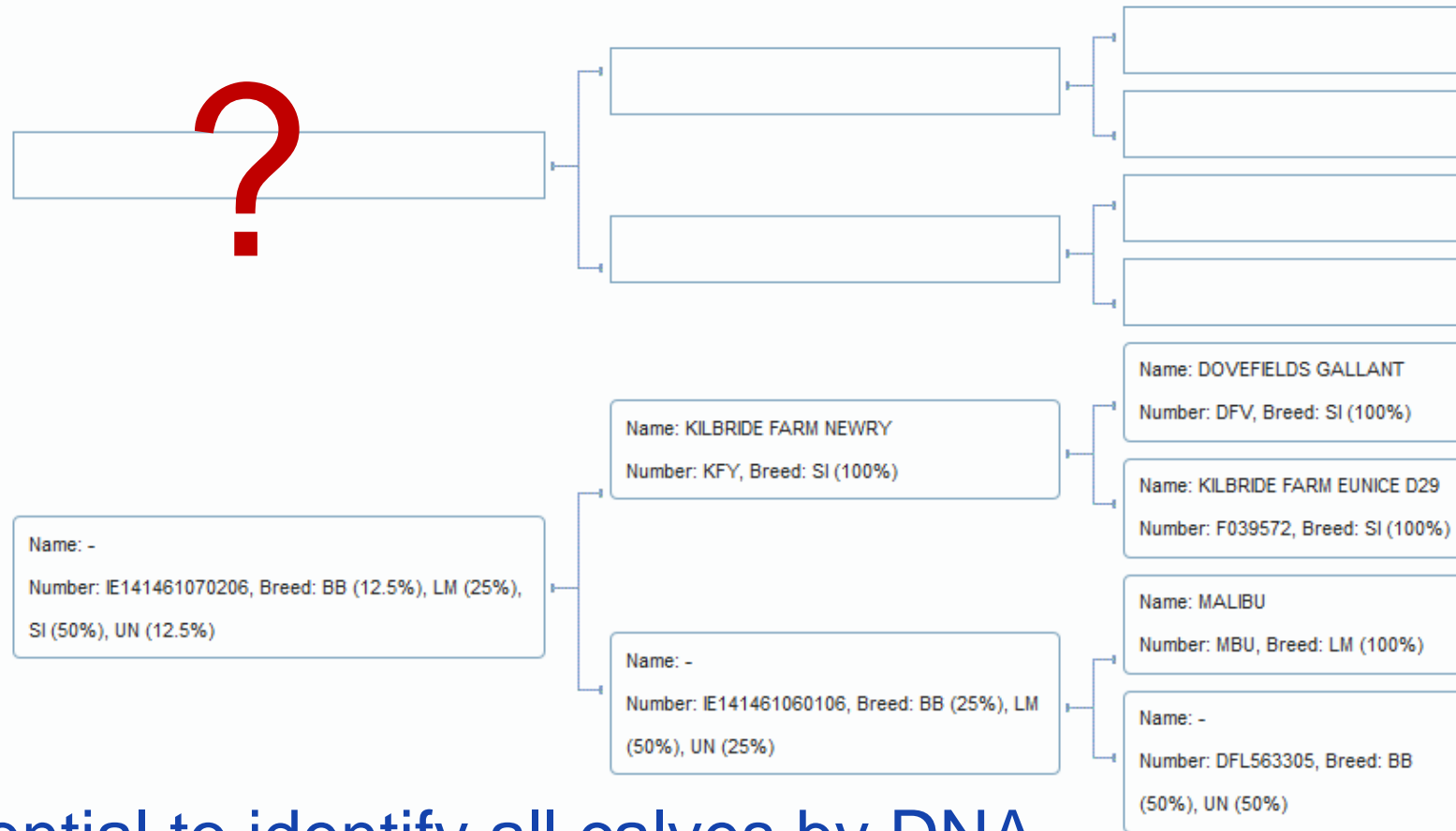
Farmer Data Recording



- Still ¼ of calves born in 2014 with no sire.
- What will happen in the absence of financial incentives?!?
- Education & awareness.

Genotyping

Solution to a Problem



- Potential to identify all calves by DNA.
- Will only require date of birth at registration.

Future

Beef Data & Genomics Program (BDGP) 2015-2020

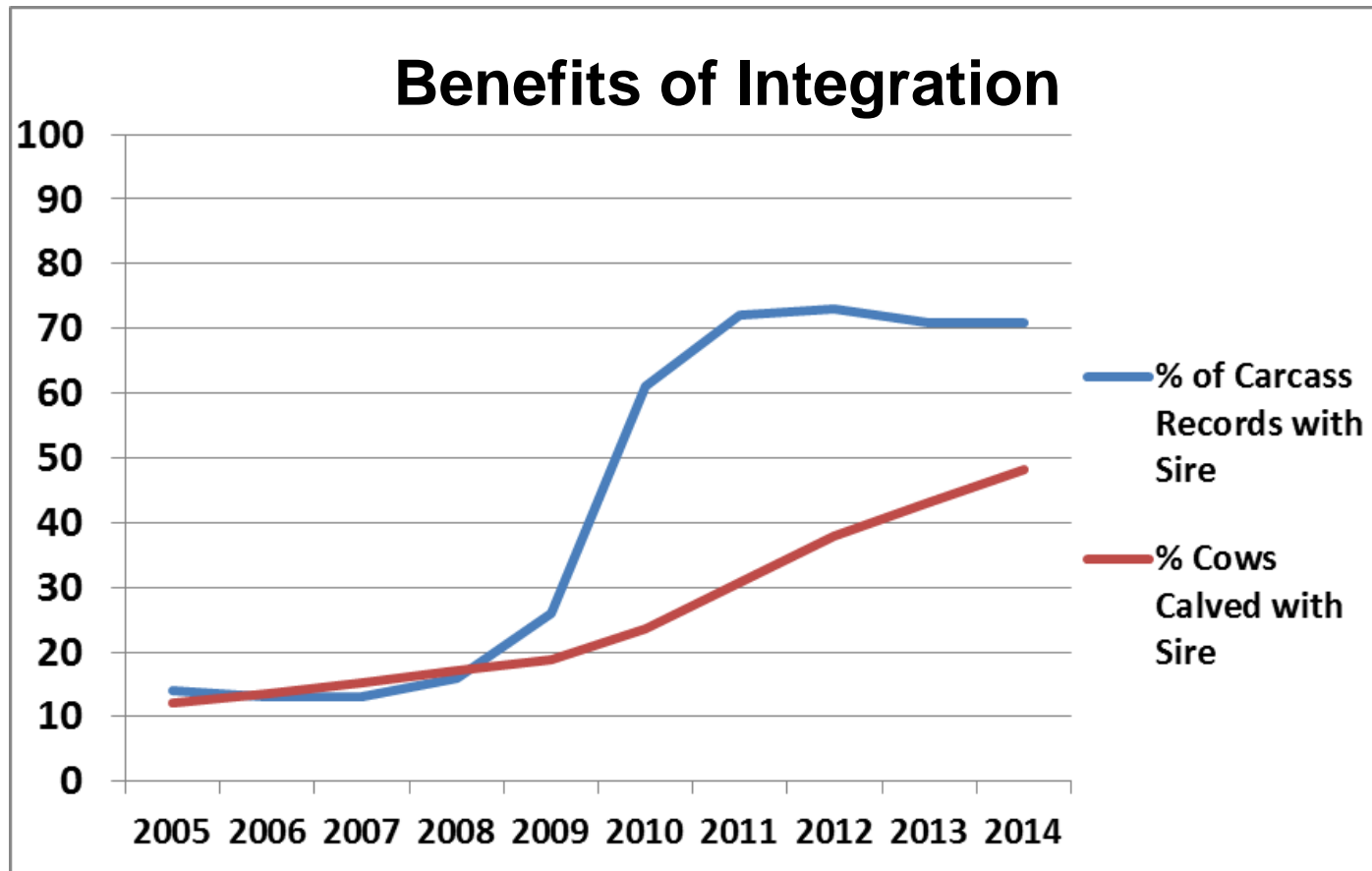
- Most comprehensive yet.
- Payment per hectare (~€80-€90 per cow).
- Requirements
 - Record Data e.g. sires, calving surveys etc.
 - Genotype 60% of herd each year.
 - Introduce high index breeding stock into herd.
- Has secured vital data flows.



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Summary



- Huge benefits to ICBF database from industry integration.
- Education – Increase awareness & engagement with farmers.

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Thank You