

Large Scale Calving management

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Introduction

- Where I am
- Disease issues
- How we deal with these issues
- Rearing of the young stock
- Labour management

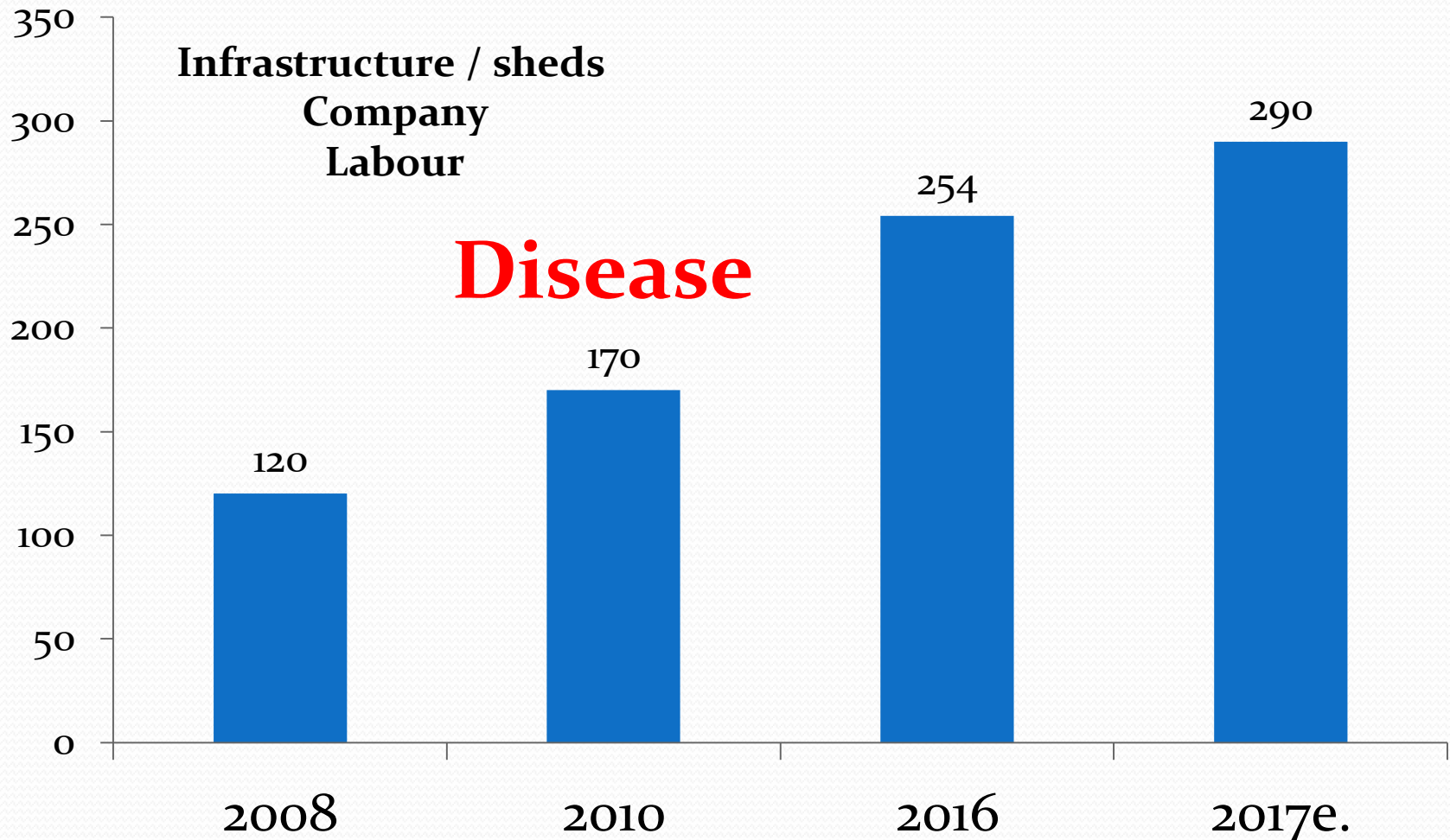


2016 Herd Performance

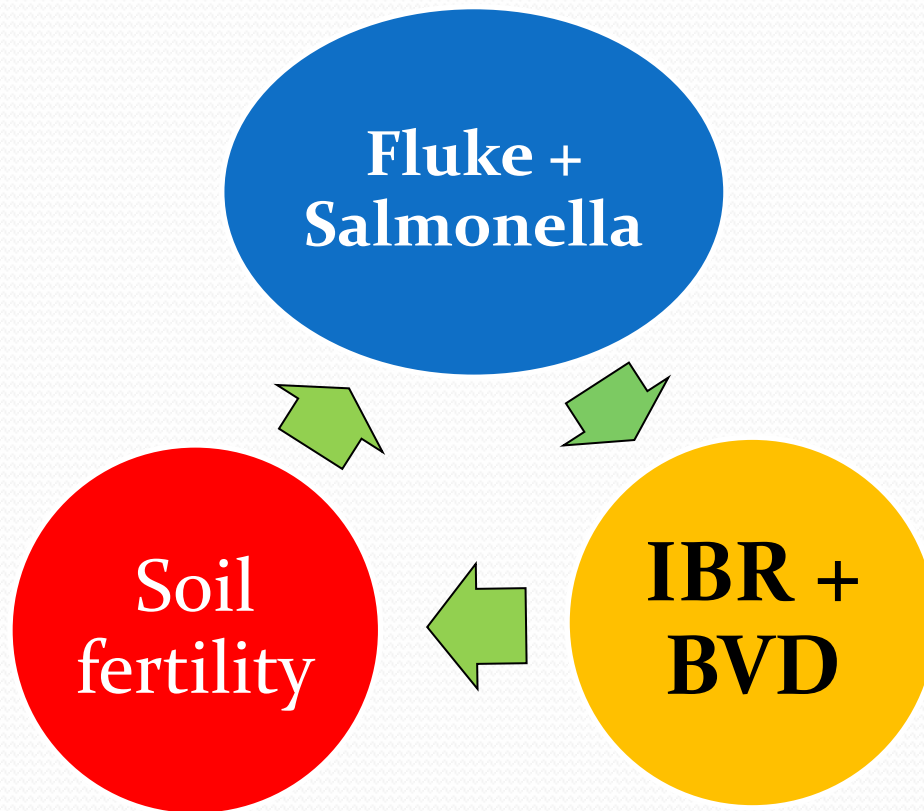
- Farm Size – 76 ha (MP) 250 cows: Overall 2.5 LU/ha
- 1.48 million litres: 5900 litres protein 3.75% fat 4.48%
- 500 Kg MS/cow: 1,650 kg MS/ MP ha
- 16.8 ton grass grown: 650 kg meal
- Average milk price 30.36 c/litre
- Herd EBI 120 Xbred herd
- 9% empty after 9.5 weeks



10 Years of Expansion

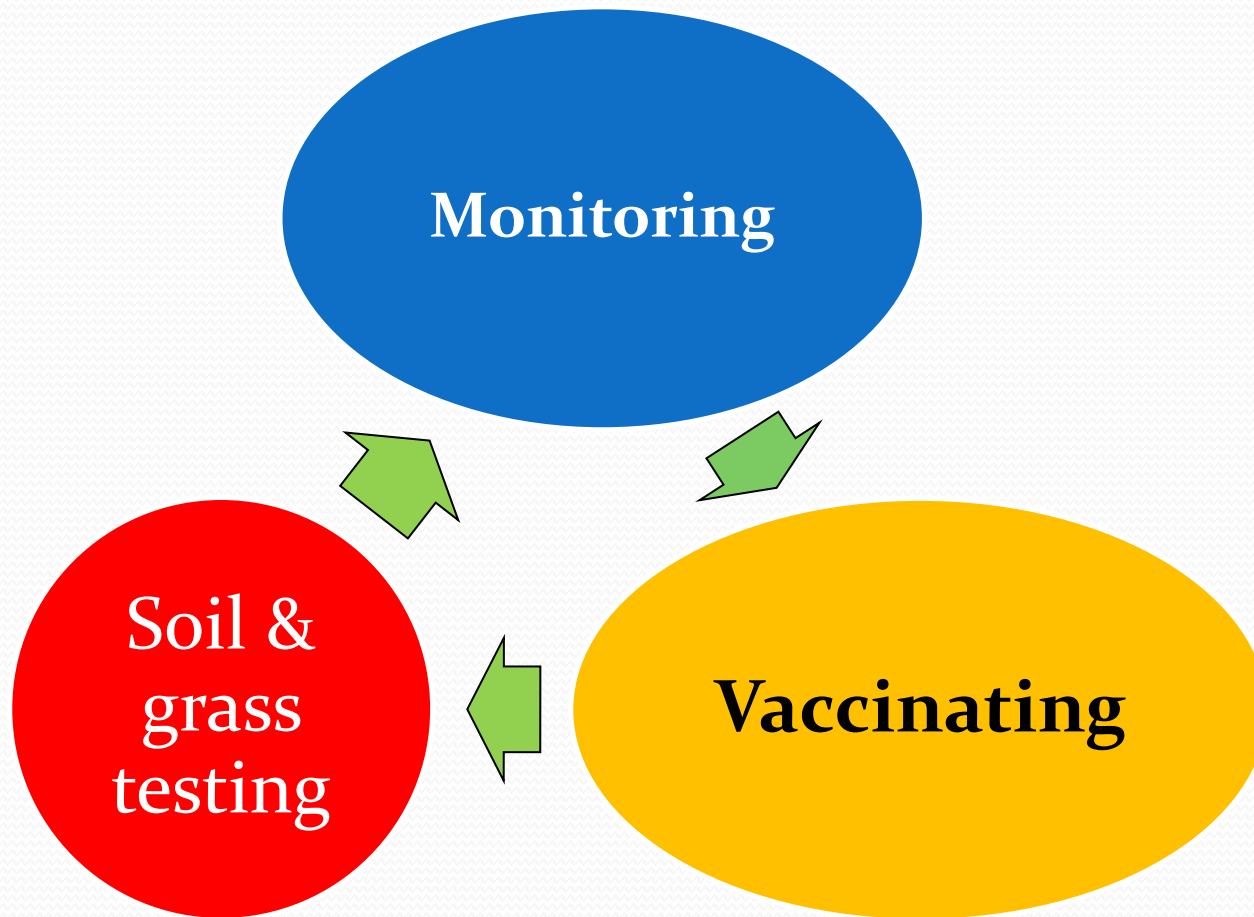


Spring 2010 – Health Issues



Total cost = €250/cow?

Herd Health Plan

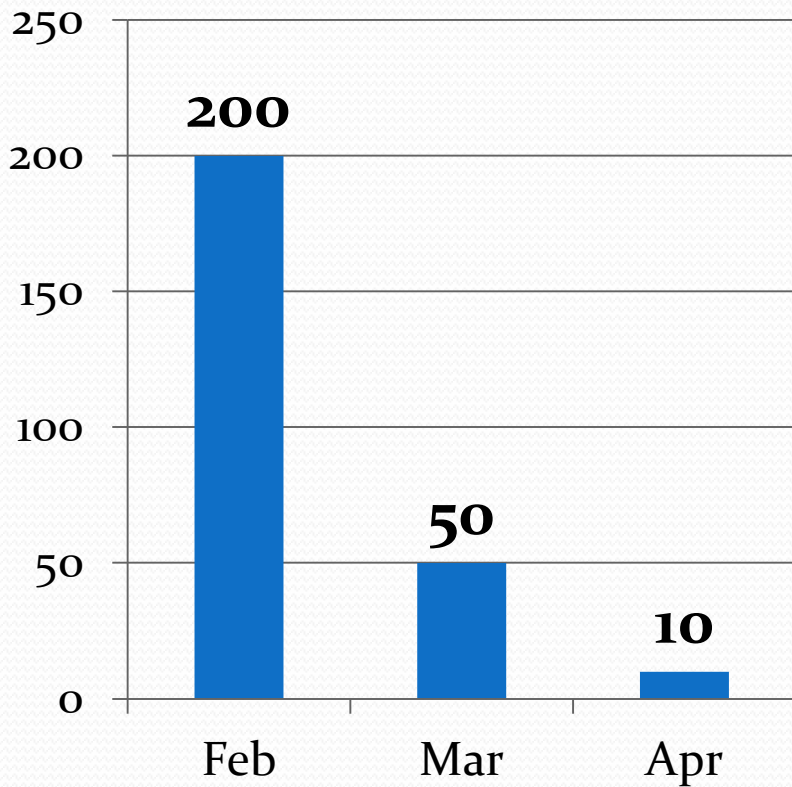


Autumn planning

- Herd health plan
- Yearly review
- Farm infrastructure
- Labour planning
- Make decisions for year ahead



Calving protocol



1. Pick out near calving
2. Night time calver
3. Pooled colostrum

Calf health management

- Dehorned and vaccinated for blackleg
- Intranasal (Rsvp Pi3) day 9
- Rotavirus , Coccidiosis, Cryptosporidiosis
- Cydectin 1a at turnout
- 140 days later zearl 8 weeks product
- Bovipast



Calve management is a challenge every year

Labour

- Be organised before calving starts
 - Evaluate what labour is on the farm and define roles
 - Calving – 3 full time + w/end student + 12 week student
 - Milked OAD for 3 weeks – no effect on solids
 - Rest of year – 3 full time
- Days off and enough sleep (7 hours/ night) vital even in peak calving



Conclusions

- Continuous planning
 - Soil fertility
 - Herd health
 - Financial
- Labour for peak calving
- Technology to save labour

