

meatup

FORUM

For the latest in red meat R&D

Focusing on The Bulls



The Silver Bullet Solution

Mick Clews

Herd Health Services

Why Focus on Fertility at all and why bulls?

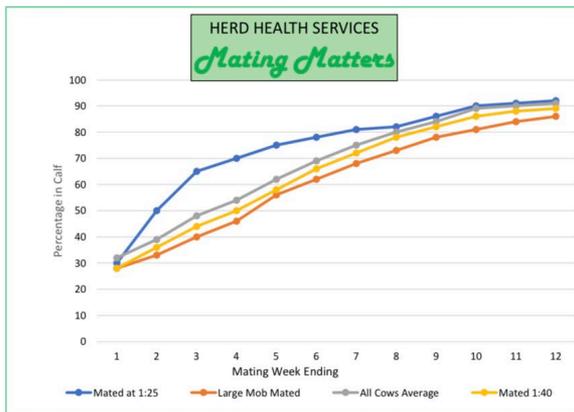
- Modelling done in the East and presented at an MLA webinar shows the following relative economic importance of different performance areas.
 - Combined Carcase Traits (CCT) is given the value 1
 - Growth Traits is 2 (2 times CCT)
 - Herd Fertility is 4 (4 times CCT)
 - Optimizing Stocking rate 8 (8 times CCT)
- Bull issues are responsible for most female fertility breakdowns

Mating Matters 2022

Mated at 1:25, 1:40 and Large Mob	
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Mob Name	Combined 1:25
Age	
Region	Other

Report date	23/03/2023
Number of animals	
Preg Test Date	
Mating Start	
Mating end	
Mating Duration	



6-week in-calf rate

Percentage of cows pregnant in the first 6 weeks of mating

This Mob This Year	78%
This Age Average all Regions	62%
All Herds Average	69%
Your Region All Herds Average	66%

10-week NOT in-calf rate

Percentage of cows not pregnant after 10 weeks of mating

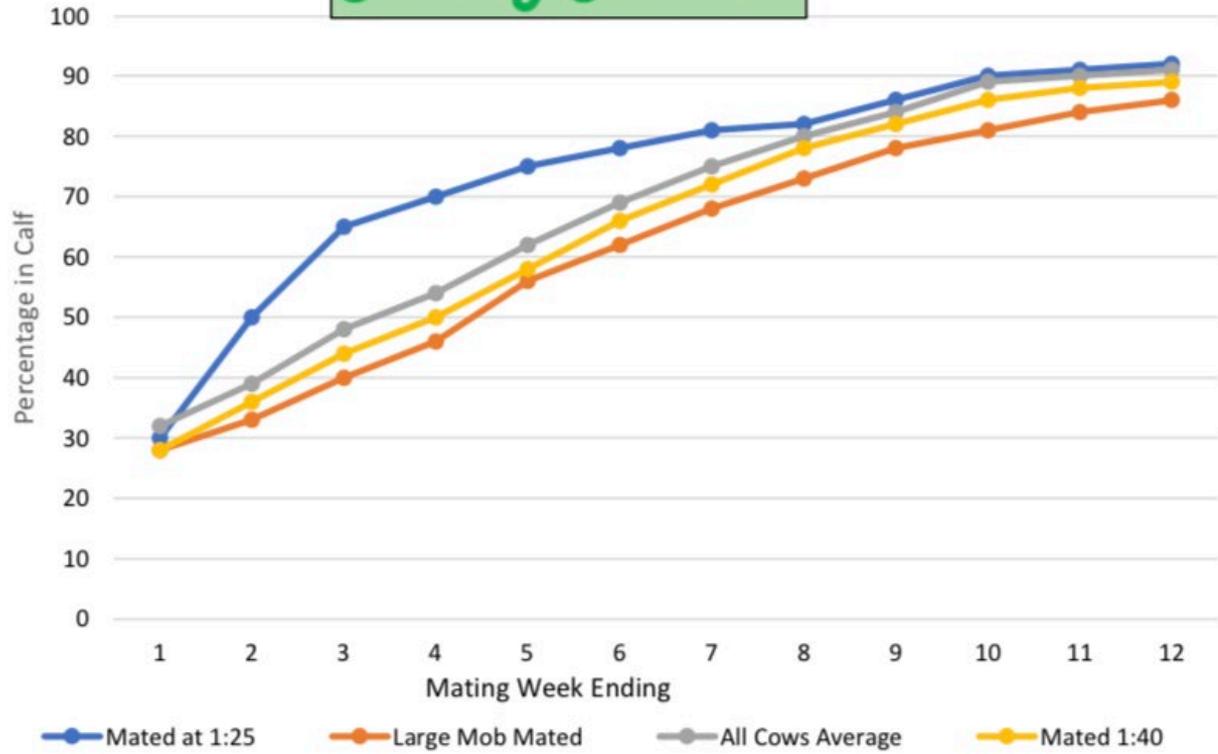
This Mob This Year	10%
This Age Average all Regions	19%
All Herds Average	11%
Your Region All Herds Average	14%

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Total Herd Included	38
Herds this Age	130
Herds This Region	28

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Mating Matters



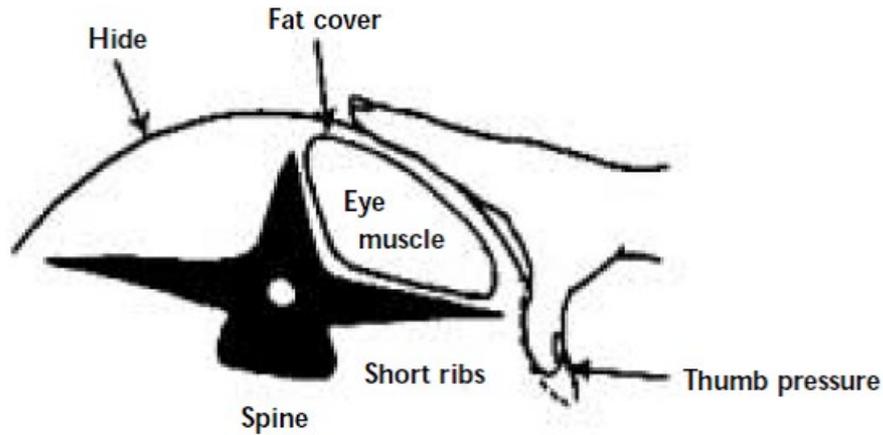


Take home messages

1. Have Plenty of Bulls
2. Body Condition
3. Monitor Bulls
4. Complete Sexual Rest

Body Condition Score

- Bulls are working animals not show animals
- Should be fed to maintenance
- BCS 3-3.5 NO MORE! 600-650kg
- BCS 4.5-5.0 is 800-850kg
- 200kg extra



The degree of fat cover around the tail head and short ribs is assessed using the fingers and thumb

1. Emaciated.

2. The individual processes are sharp to the touch, no tail head fat. .

3. The individual processes can easily be felt, but feel rounded rather than sharp.

4. The short ribs can only be felt with firm thumb pressure.

5. The processes cannot be felt and fat cover around the tail head is easily seen as slight mounds, soft to touch.

6. The bone structure of the animal is no longer noticeable and the tail head is almost completely buried in fatty tissue.

Monitor Bulls

- Starts with a pre mating check
 - 13.8% Locomotion Issues
 - 6.3% Penile Issues
 - 3.2% Libido Issues
 - 1.9% Testicular and Semen Issues

Monitor Bulls

- Starts with a pre mating check
- Twice weekly as an ABSOLUTE minimum in the first 3 weeks
- Weekly after that
- Lameness
- Penis/prepuce especially first year
- Watch him serve
- An experienced persons job

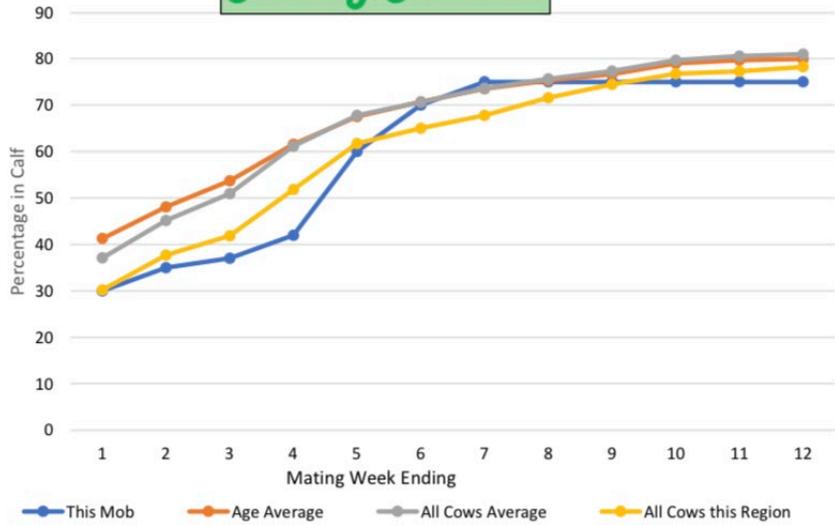
Complete Sexual Rest

- If you see a problem act immediately
- Take to yards and evaluate
- Get a vet or treat
- As a minimum – complete sexual rest

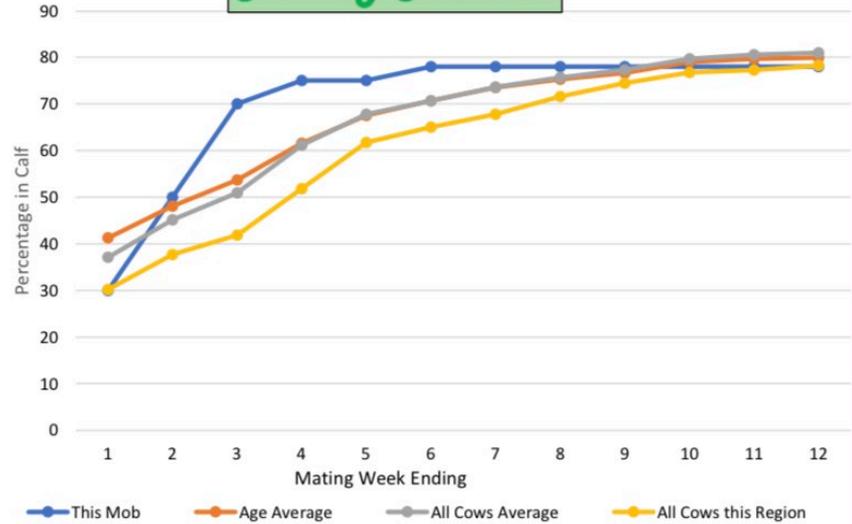
Other Considerations

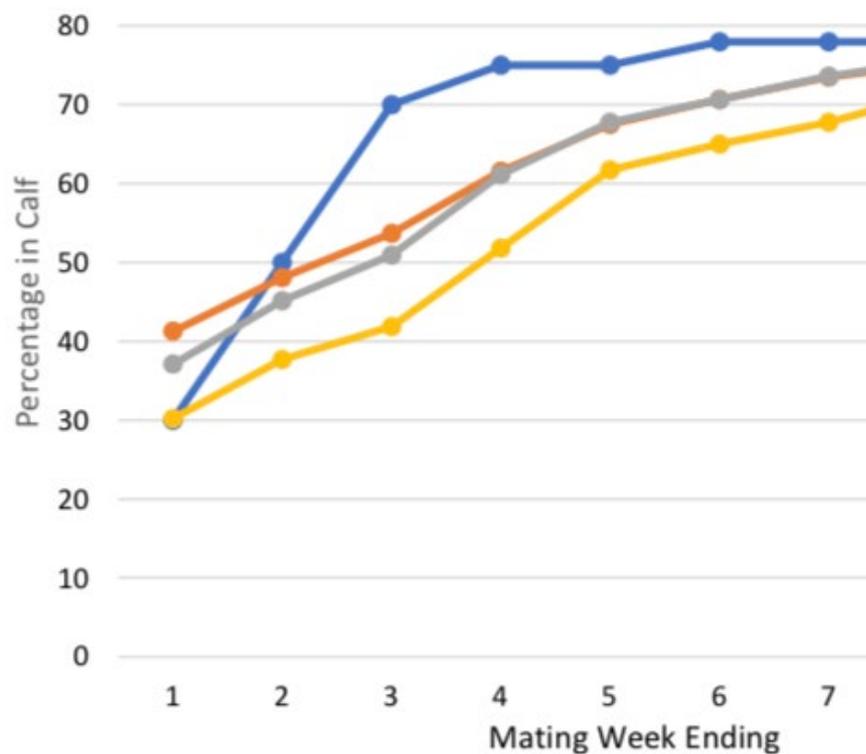
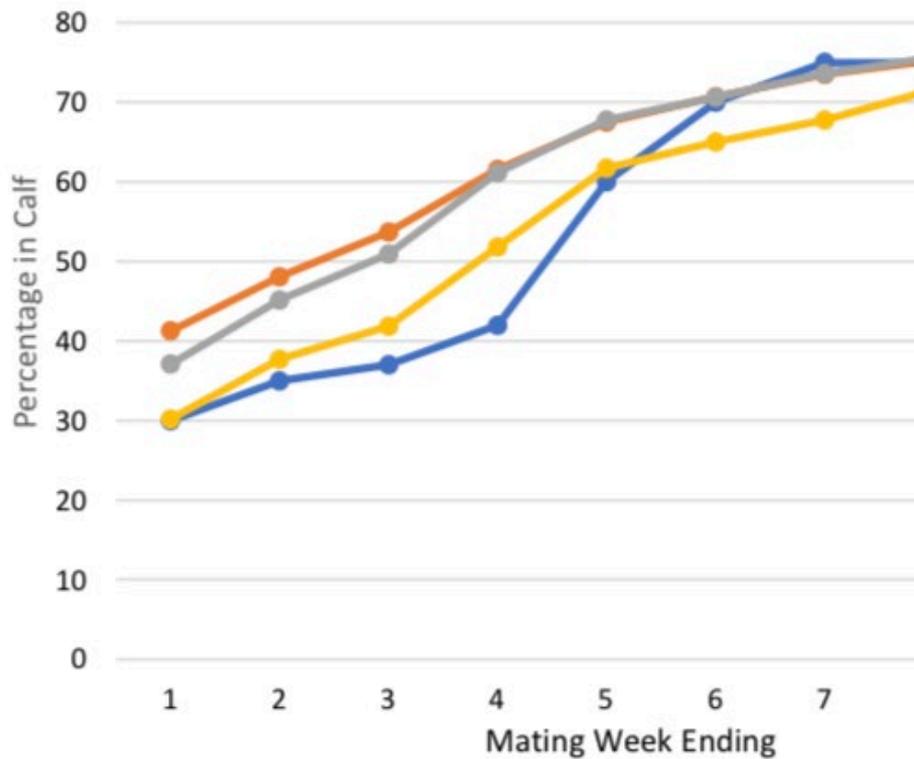
- Buy from reputable source
- Vaccines
- Insurance
- Age
- Mixing bulls
- Single/multi sire
- Mating length
- Aged pregnancy scanning
- Investigate breakdowns

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Tools and resources

- More Beef From Pasture webinar
 - Preparing to join beef cattle
- More Beef from Pasture
 - 5.02 Condition Scoring Beef Cattle