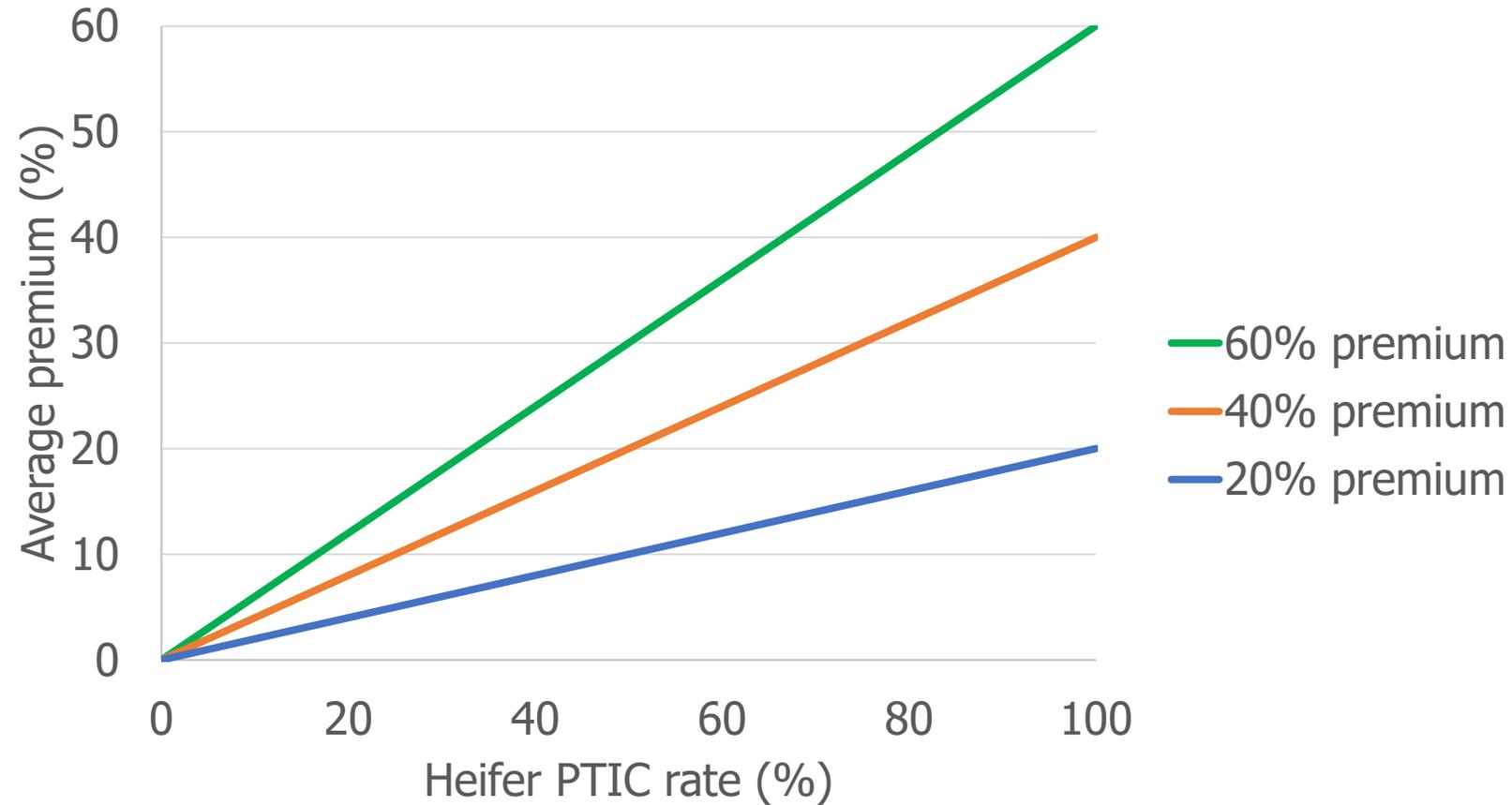**For the latest in red meat R&D**

Meat Mum
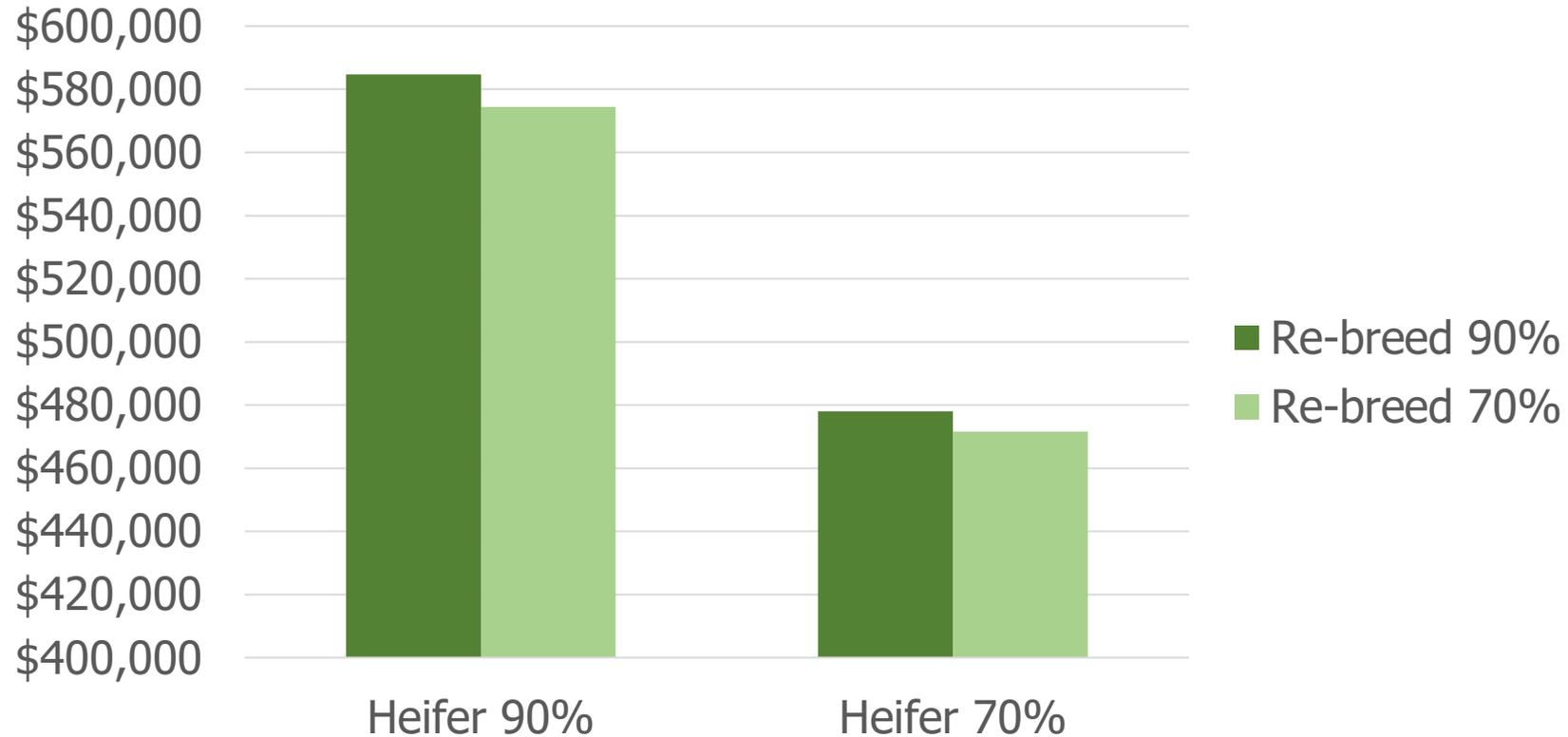## *heifer management to second calving*

Wayne Pitchford

Davies Centre, Adelaide Uni

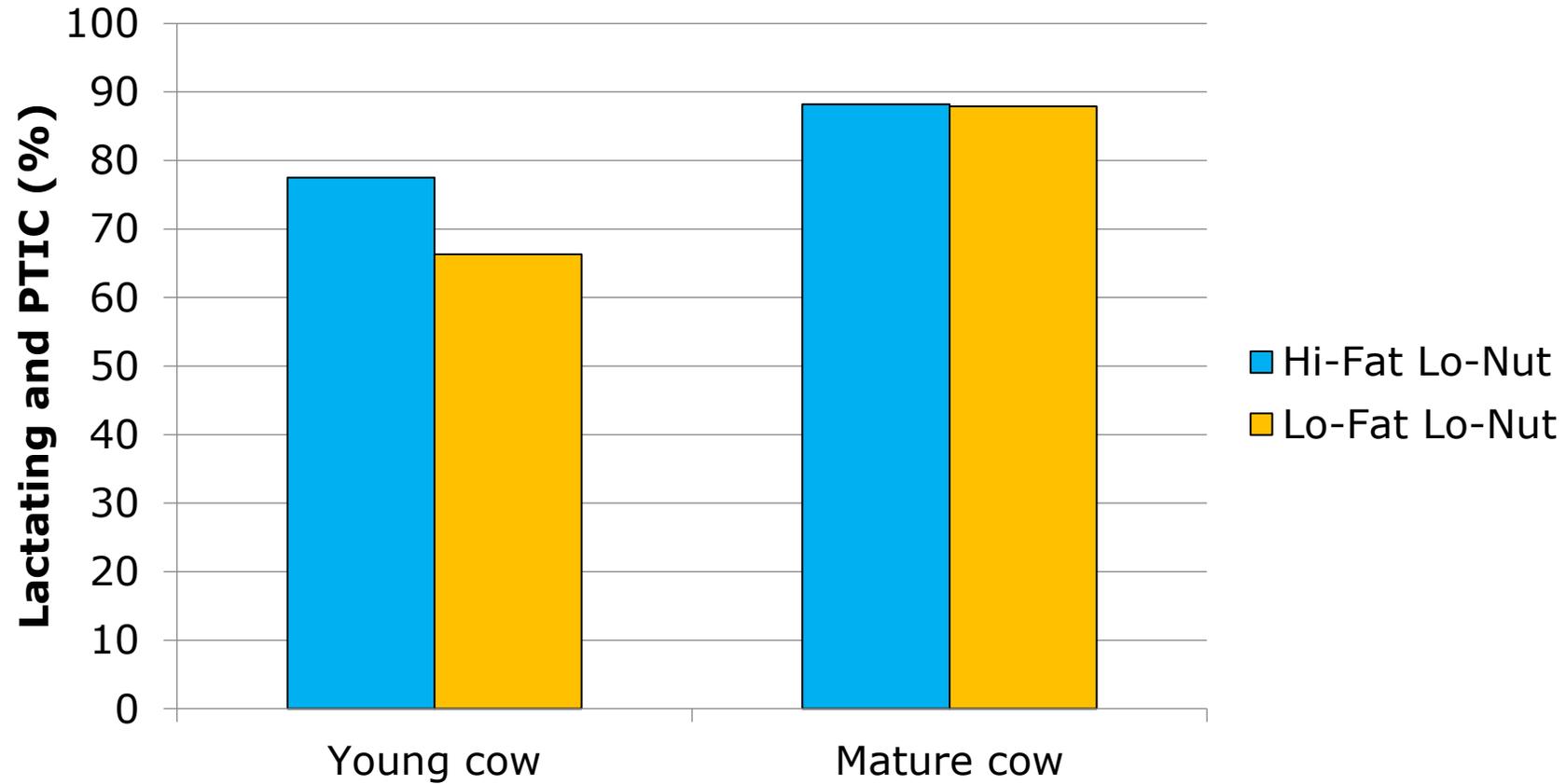# Getting heifers pregnant makes more money

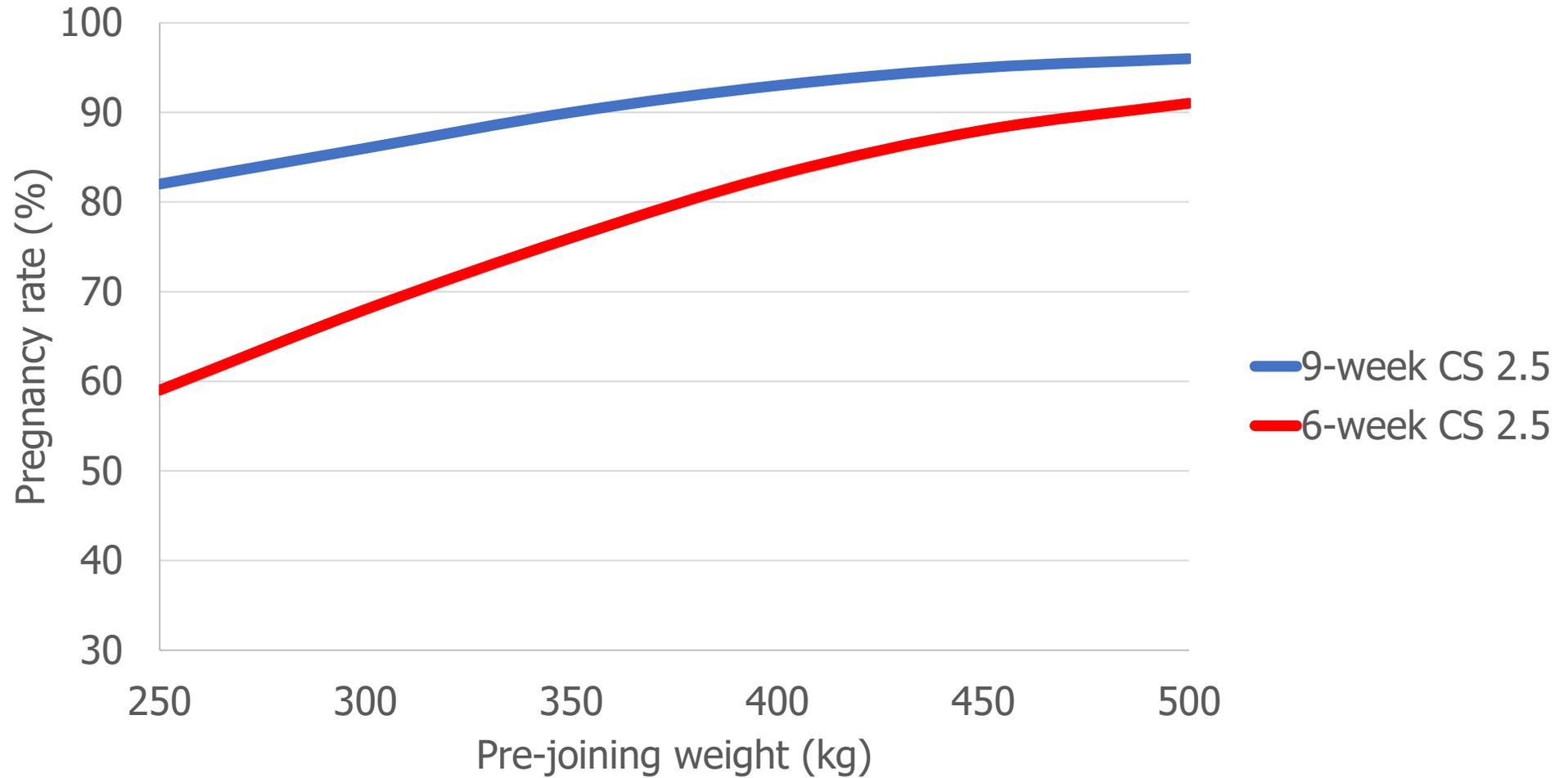# Heifer pregnancy rate affects EBIT

Example: 1000 cow herd, current prices

Re-breed 90%
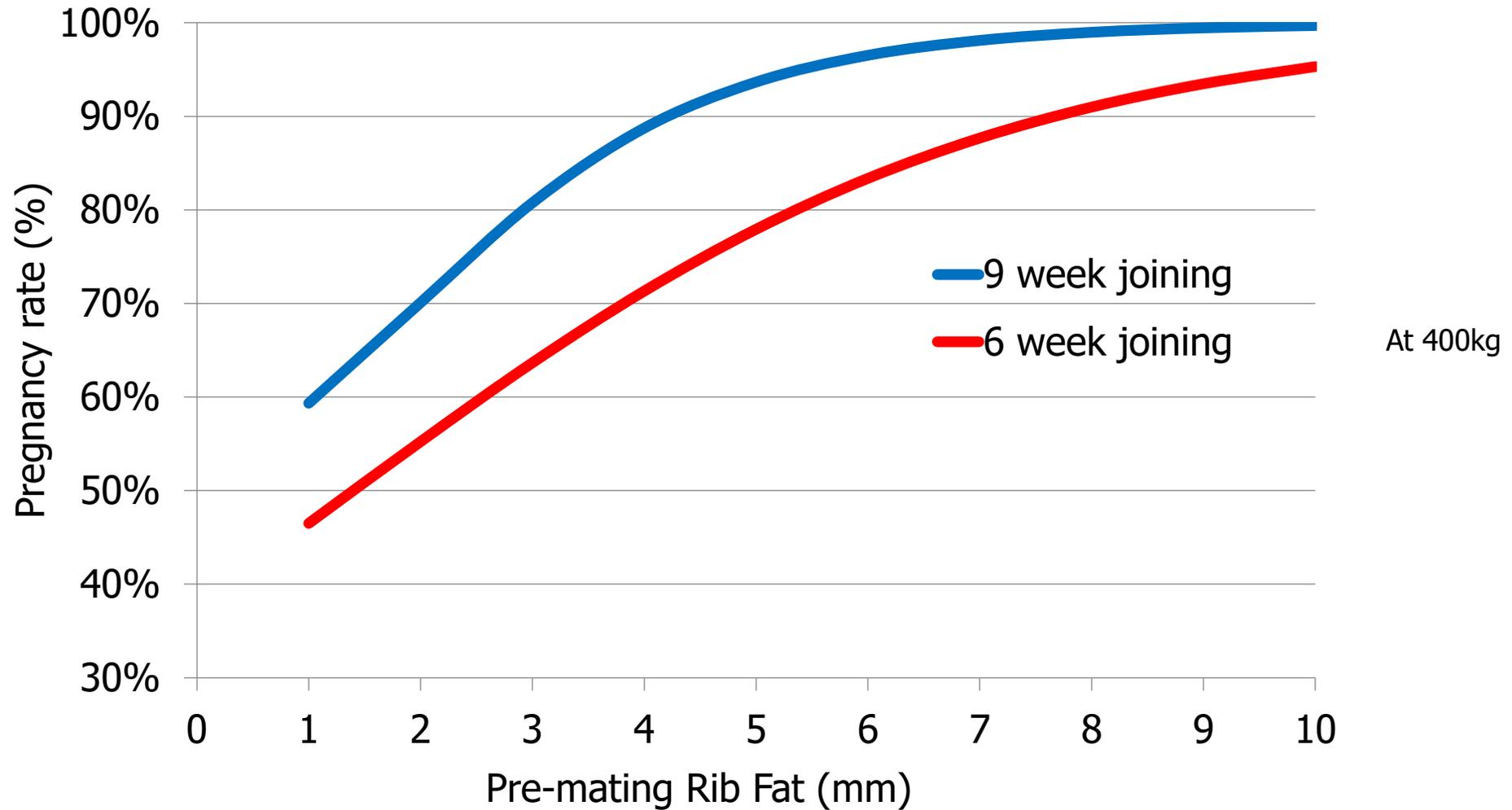Re-breed 70%

Heifer 90%   Heifer 70%

Beef CRC results – genetic lines

Beef CRC – pregnancy and weight

Beef CRC – pregnancy and Rib fat depth

Chart: Pregnancy rate (%) vs Pre-mating Rib Fat (mm). The y-axis ranges from 30% to 100%, and the x-axis ranges from 0 to 10.
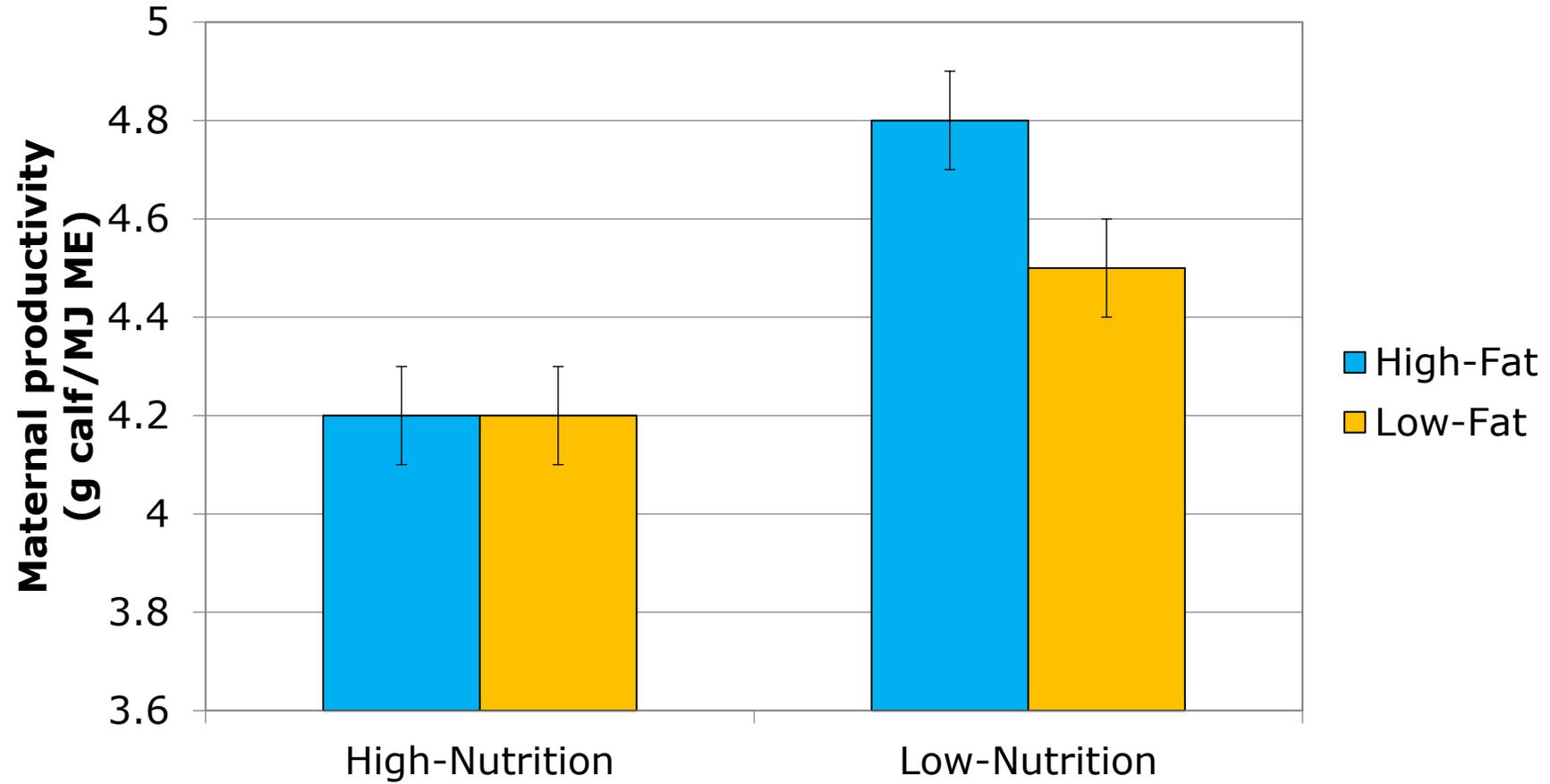- 9 week joining (blue line)
- 6 week joining (red line)
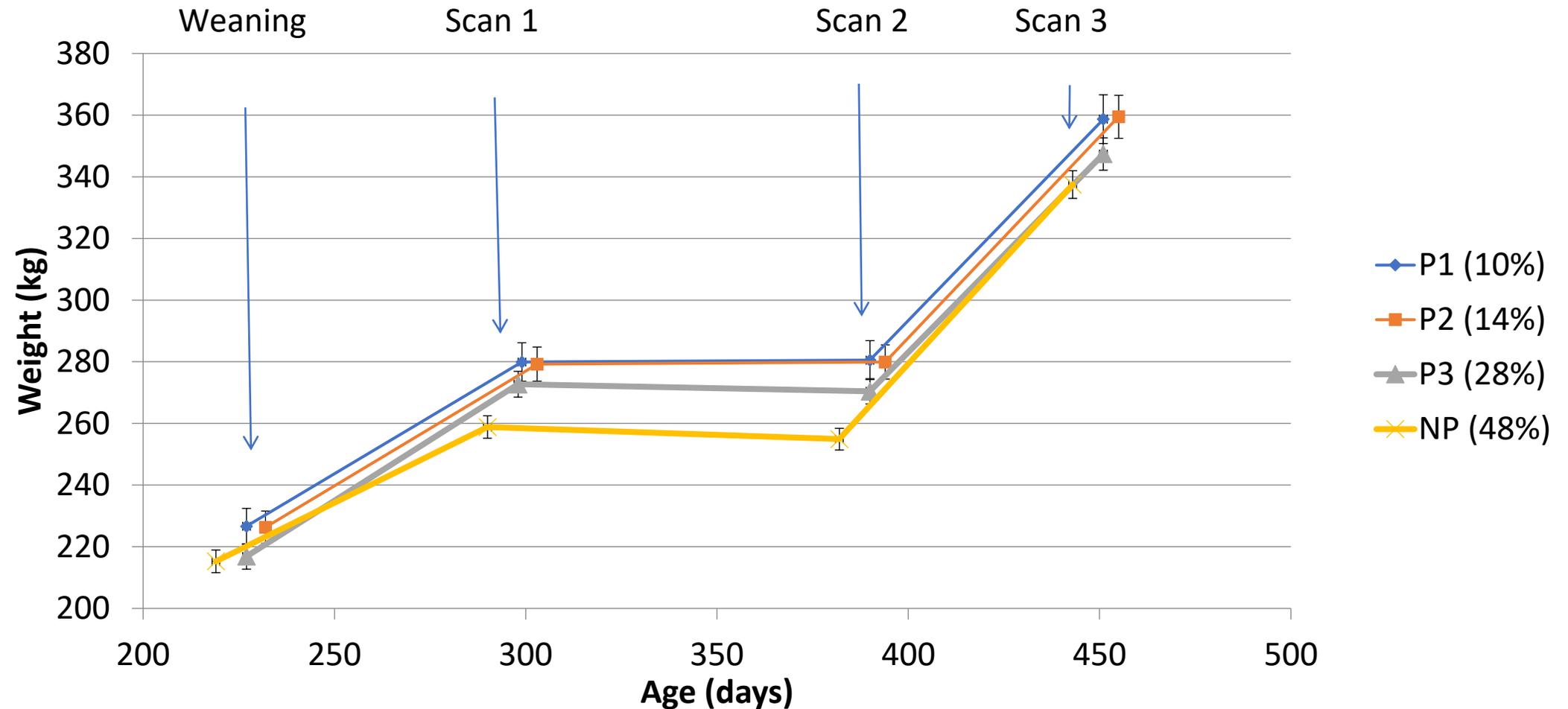- At 400kg

Effect of weight x fat under 6 week joining
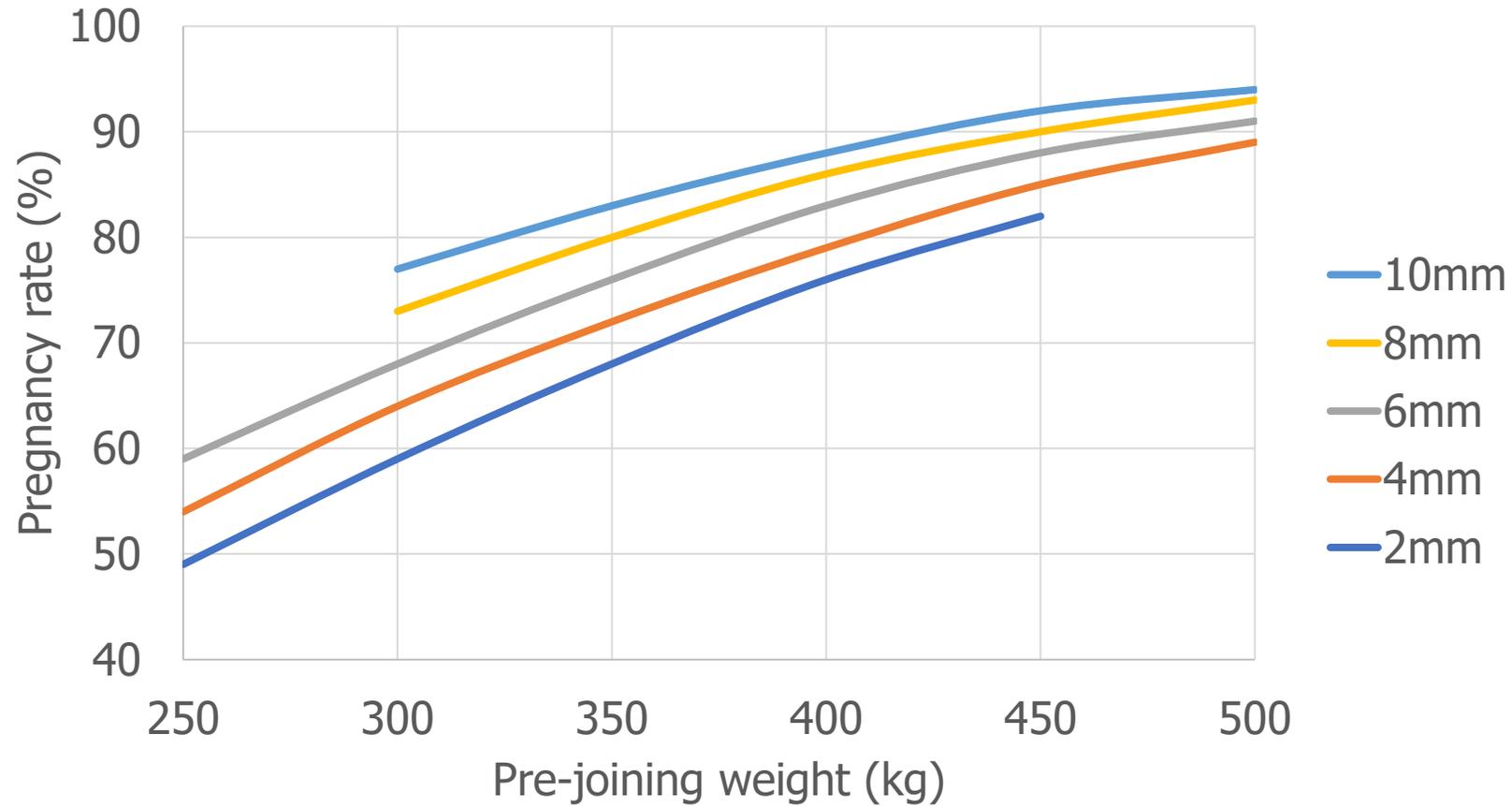
Relationship with Days to Calving EBV
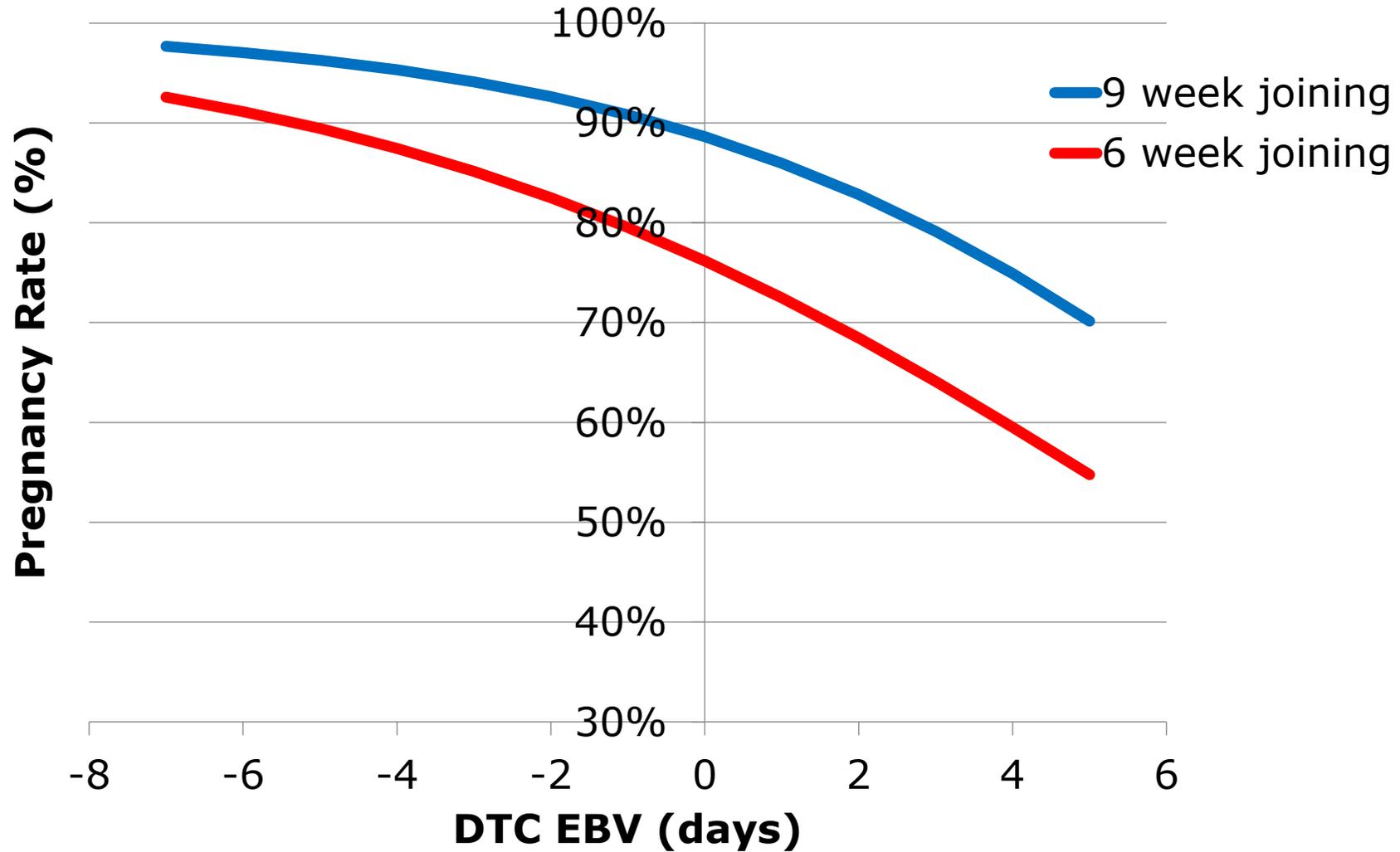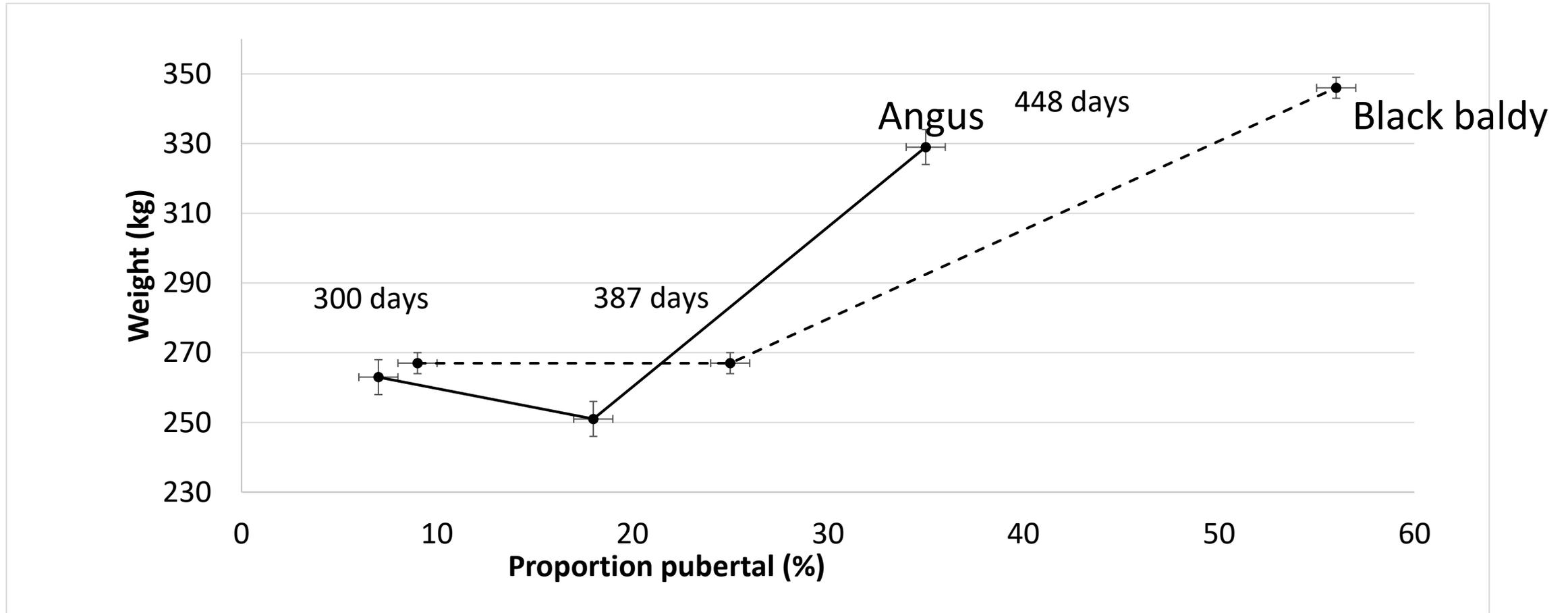
Beef CRC results – GxE

Age and weight effects on puberty

Breed comparison in puberty

Pregnancy rates – spring joining

- P1 10% pubertal, 90%
- P2 14% pubertal, 89% } 92% PTIC
- P3 28% pubertal, 95%
- NP 48% pubertal, 85% PTIC, only 9 days later

Conclusion: Either scanning inaccurate or many reaching puberty during joining and getting pregnant on first opportunity
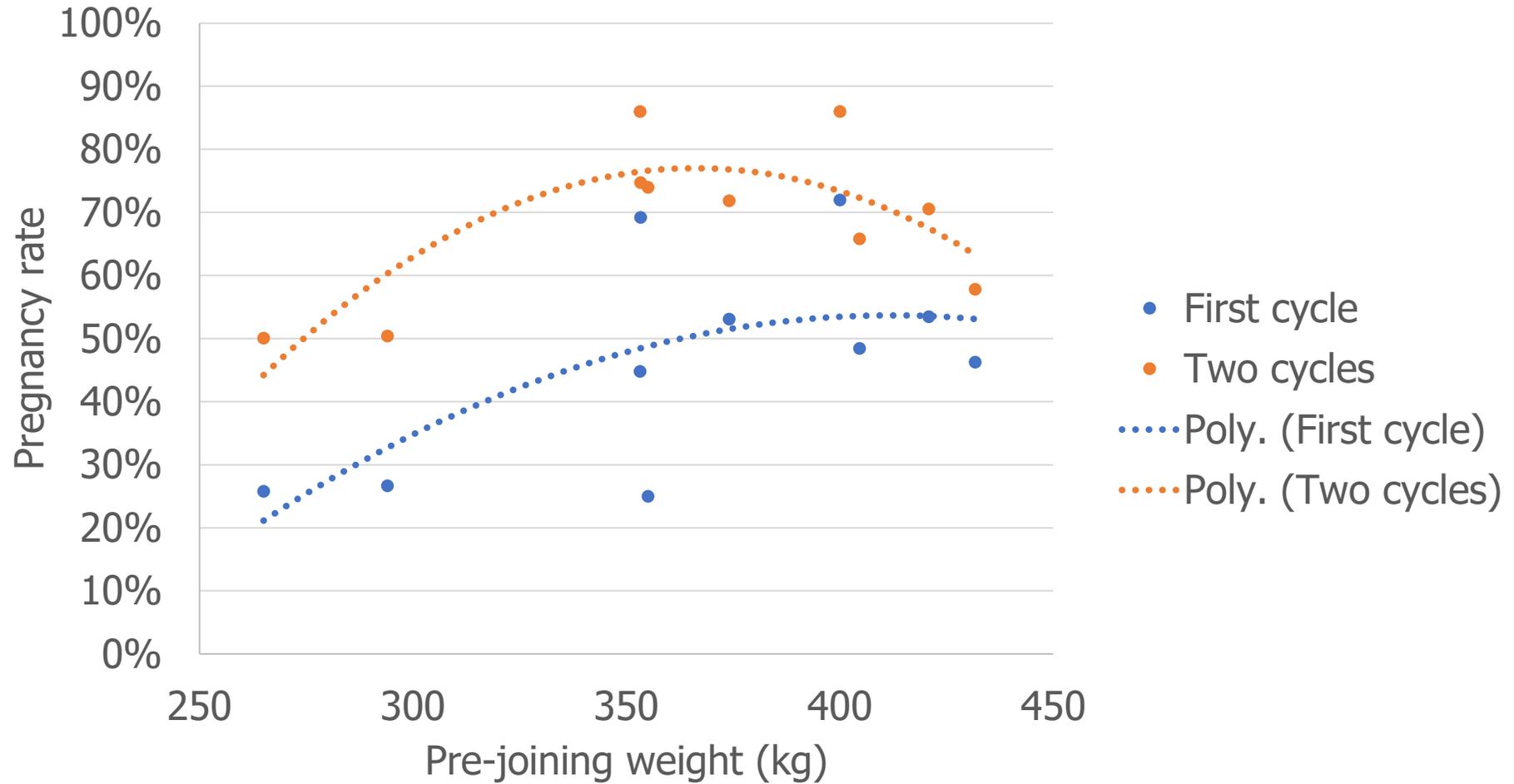
Does being pubertal at joining matter?

Of those that were pubertal, 64% raised two calves

Of those that were not, 40% raised two calves
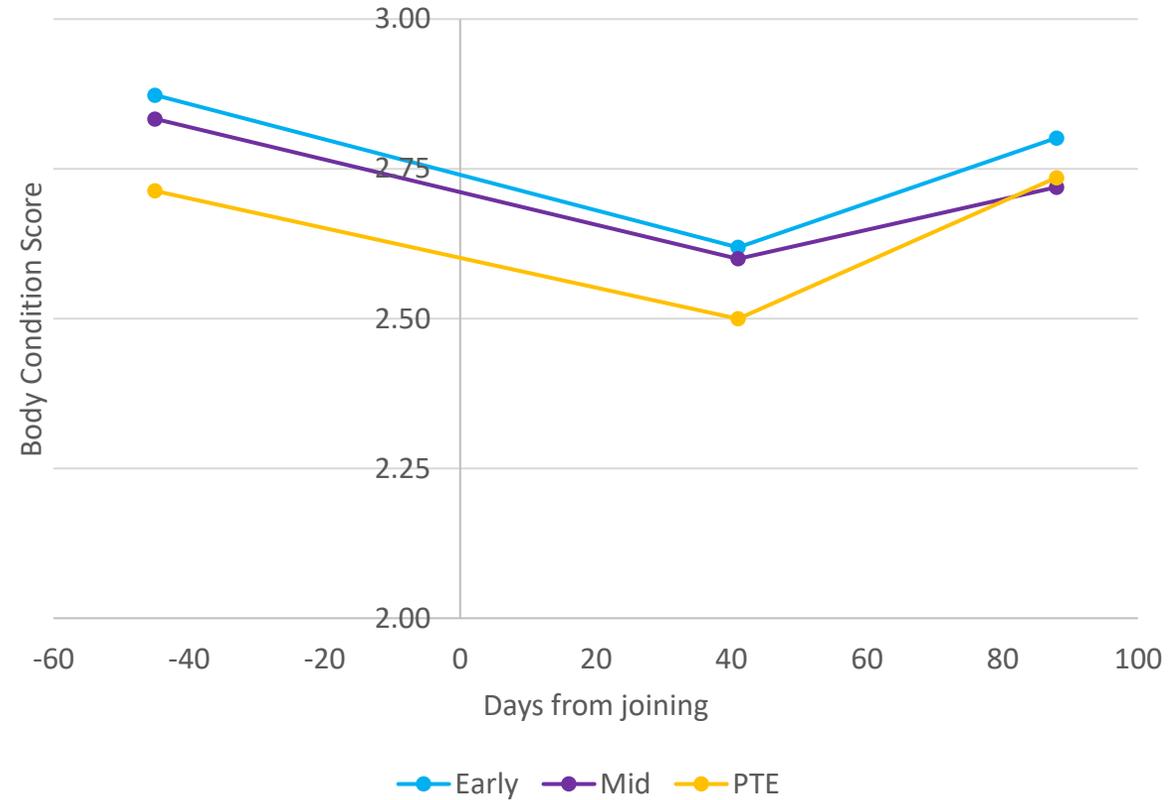
Female loss

Heifer development project

Heifer development project – example herd

	Number of Heifers
1st Cycle	64
2nd Cycle	57
PTE	119
PR	50.4%
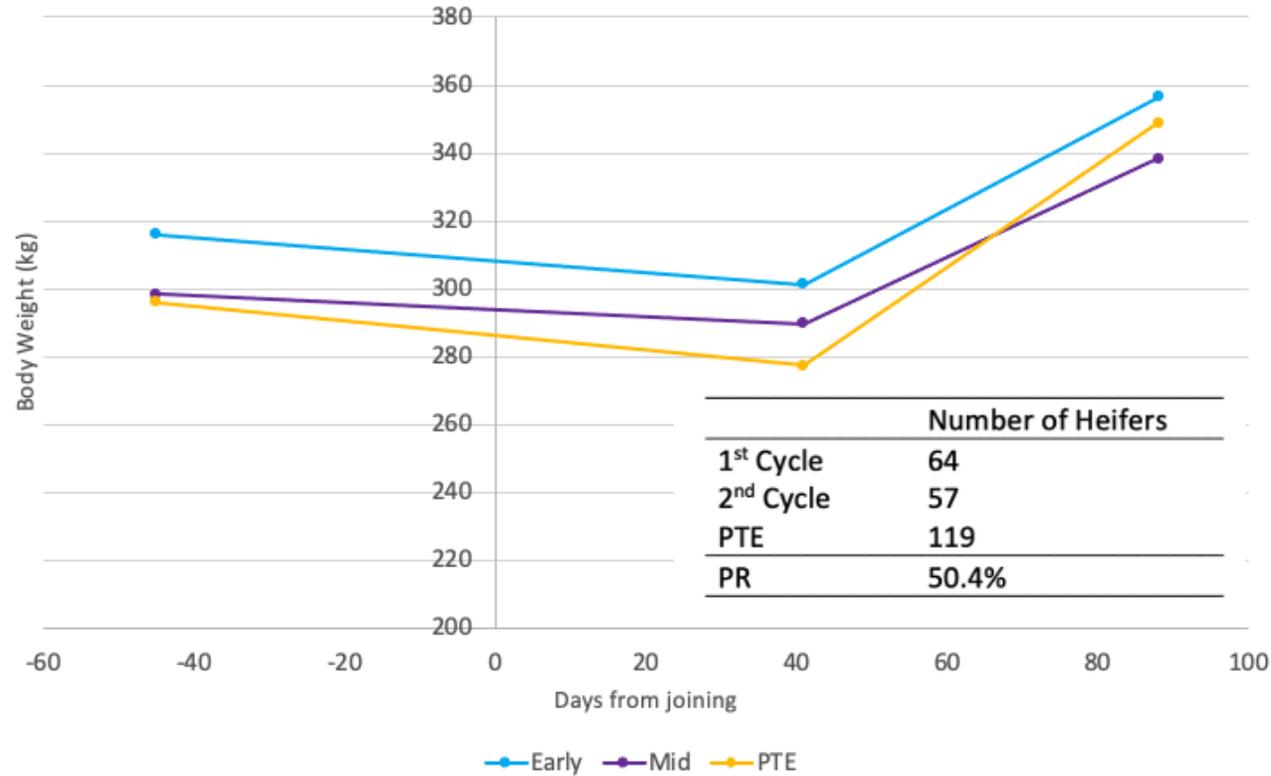
Effect of RFI on seasonal intake?
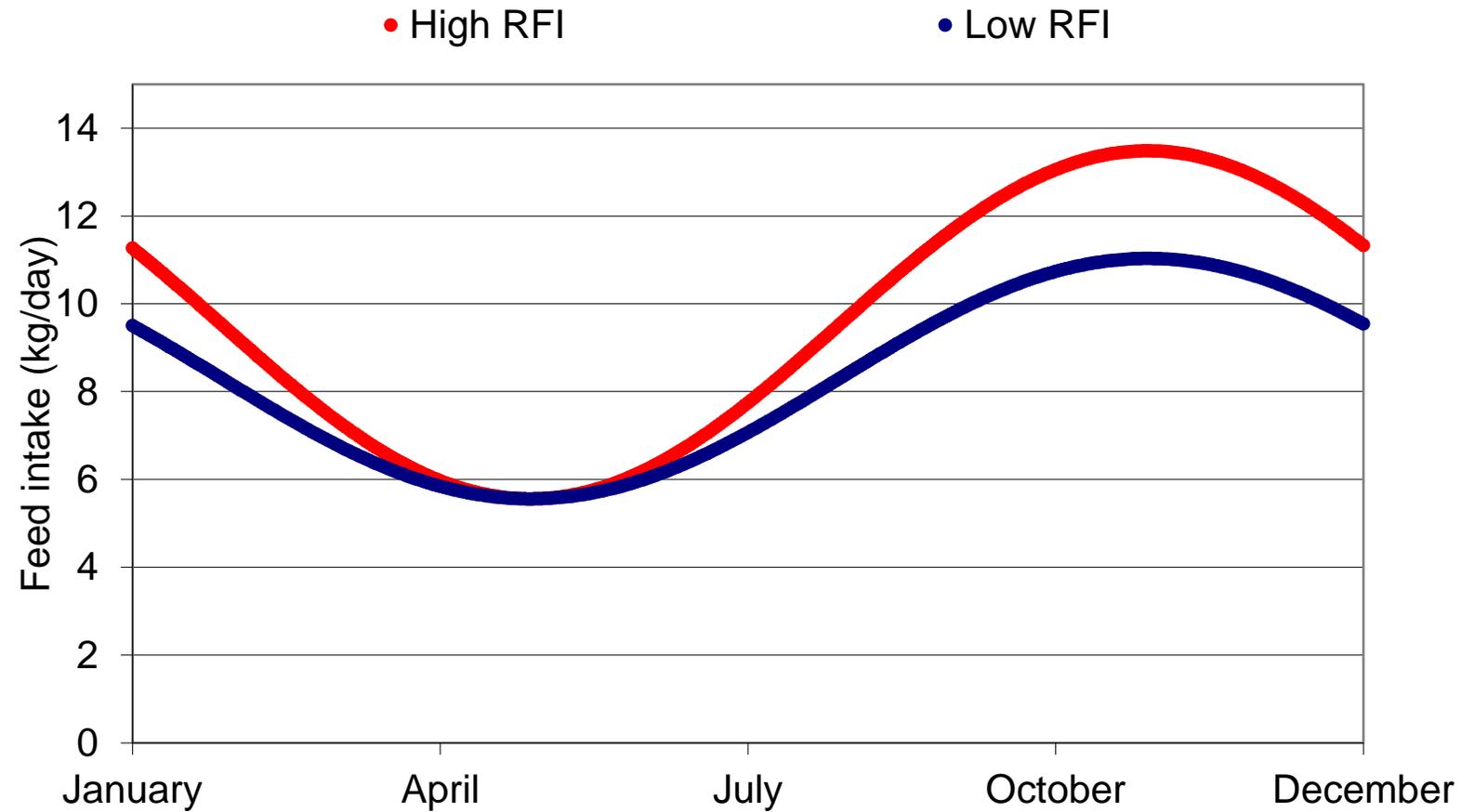
Take home messages – cows

- Nurture the teenagers and push the old gal's

- If you're getting 95% in calf, then run more cows!

- If you're getting 70% in calf, then "Houston, …"

- Need 60% of heifers in calf to provide replacements

Phil Holmes' messages Beef Central 14/8/18

Phil Holmes' messages Beef Central 14/8/18

1. Must pass the "Used car test"

2. Don't trim feet, over feed or show cattle

3. Fully embrace science and objective measurement

4. Run their seedstock herd at or above industry average stocking rates and cull ruthlessly for non-performance

5. Have a clear vision they can articulate

6. Be industry leaders on genetic and technical developments

7. Happy to supply bulls on contract basis

8. Provide an "Industry best" guarantee

9. Have a large commercial herd underpinning seedstock operation

10. Benchmark performance of their commercial herd and "Top 25%"

Take home messages – bulls

- Bull selection drives genetic gain

- Choose the right driveway

- Select on a balanced breeding objective

- Check for extreme EBVs that may be a problem

- Check for visual structural soundness

- Focus on getting the best truck load possible

Tools and resources

- More Beef from Pastures
- Bred Well Fed Well
- Profitable Grazing Systems
- AI's Building Better Breeders
- BREEDPLAN Selecting Indexes
- AI Technicians for latest synchronization protocols
- Watch for info from current project