

**Bargrove**

Veterinary Group



Livestock Production  
CONSULTANTS

# BODY CONDITION SCORING- significance?

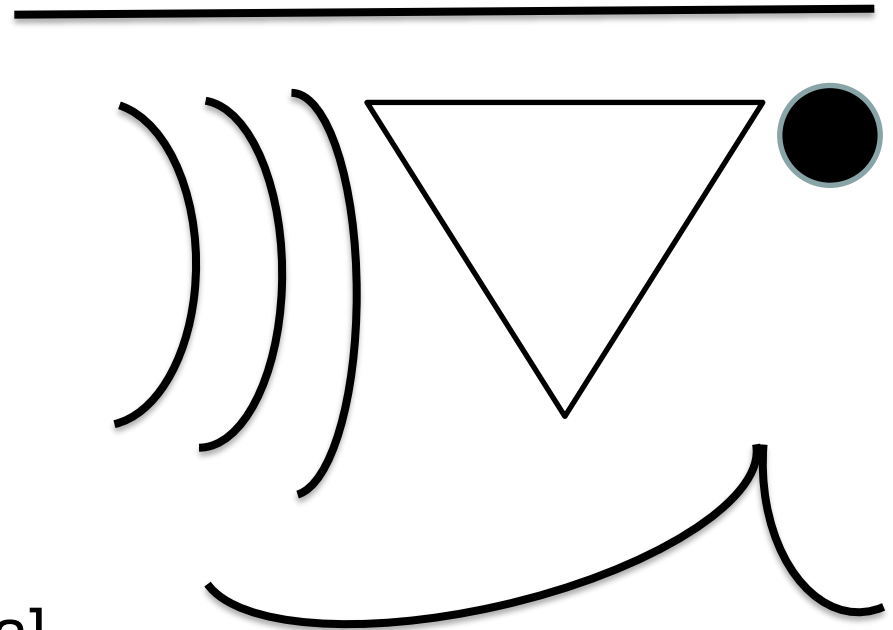
**Doug Bruce**  
**Beef School 2022**

# What is it?

- It's a scoring system indicating muscle and fat cover
- Multiple systems-we use a 1-5 system
- Fertility is driven by energy-fat &/or food
- We FLUSH cows and heifers with energy.

# How do you do it?

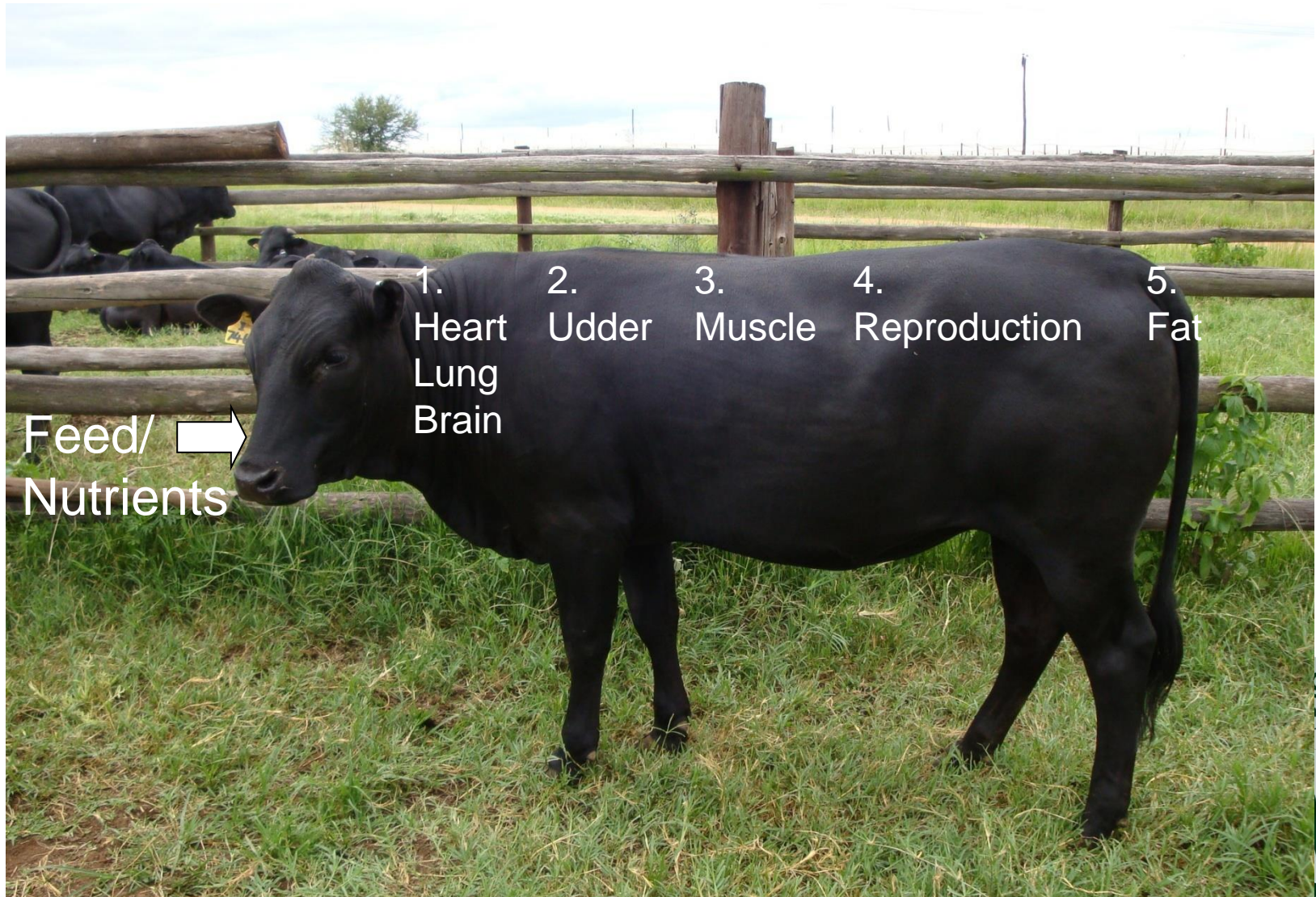
- Where to read
- “Read” your cattle.
- Triangles[para-lumbal fossa]
- Hips
- Ribs



# Why do you do it?

- It indicates what is happening inside on the ovaries-are cows cycling[active ovaries]
- Managers use BCS to manage fertility.
- Fertility is PROFIT

# How is food assimilated

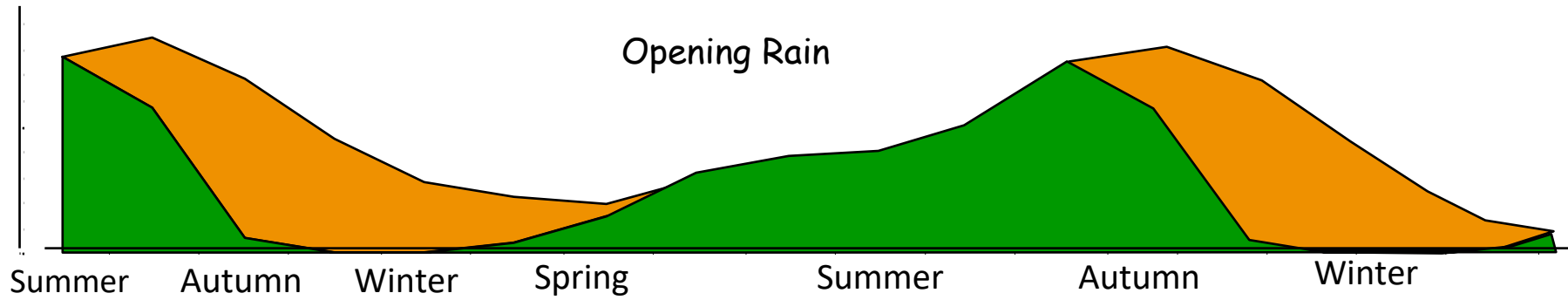


# BCS oscillation through the season

- Nutrient dependant-precision management
- Seasonal targets to be achieved
- Manage BCS with supplementation & pasture management
- 0.5 BCS points = approximately 25-40kg

# Farming with nature

↑ Pasture (quantity & quality)



Weak rains

Heavy rains

Weak rains

Calving season

Mating season

Weaning

BCS 3.5

BCS 2.5 PLUS

BCS 3.5

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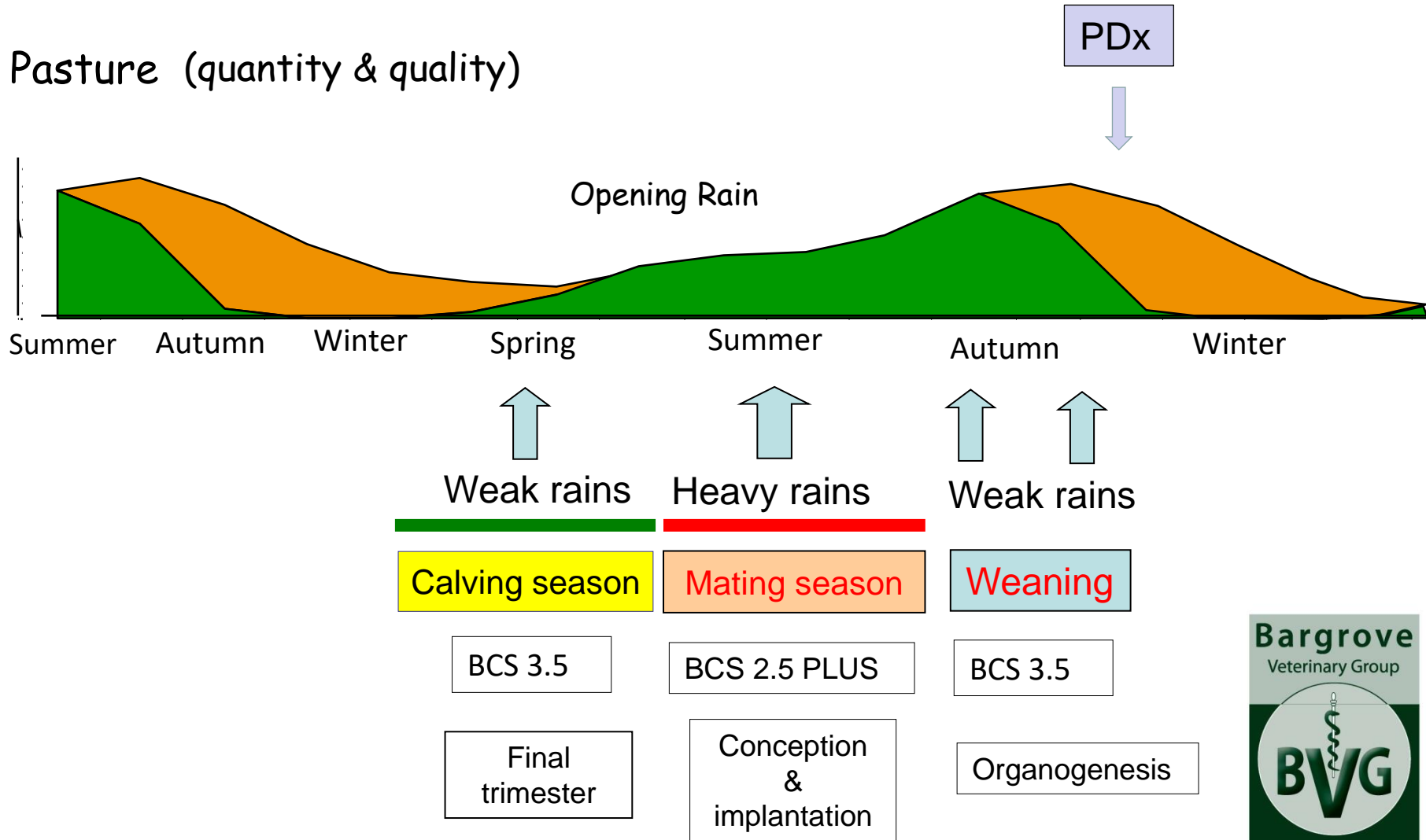


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# Farming with nature

Pasture (quantity & quality)





# So when is the most important time to manage beef cows and heifers?

- Heifers-a heifer rearing and flushing programme
- Cows-2 weeks before calving until successful breeding
- Cyclicity-track it with MOUNTING SCORING.
- Tools- flushing, teaser bulls, stickers, chin ball markers, PREGNANCY DIAGNOSIS[PDx]
- STOCKMANSHIP
- MANAGEMENT

# Analyse PDx-what can you learn?

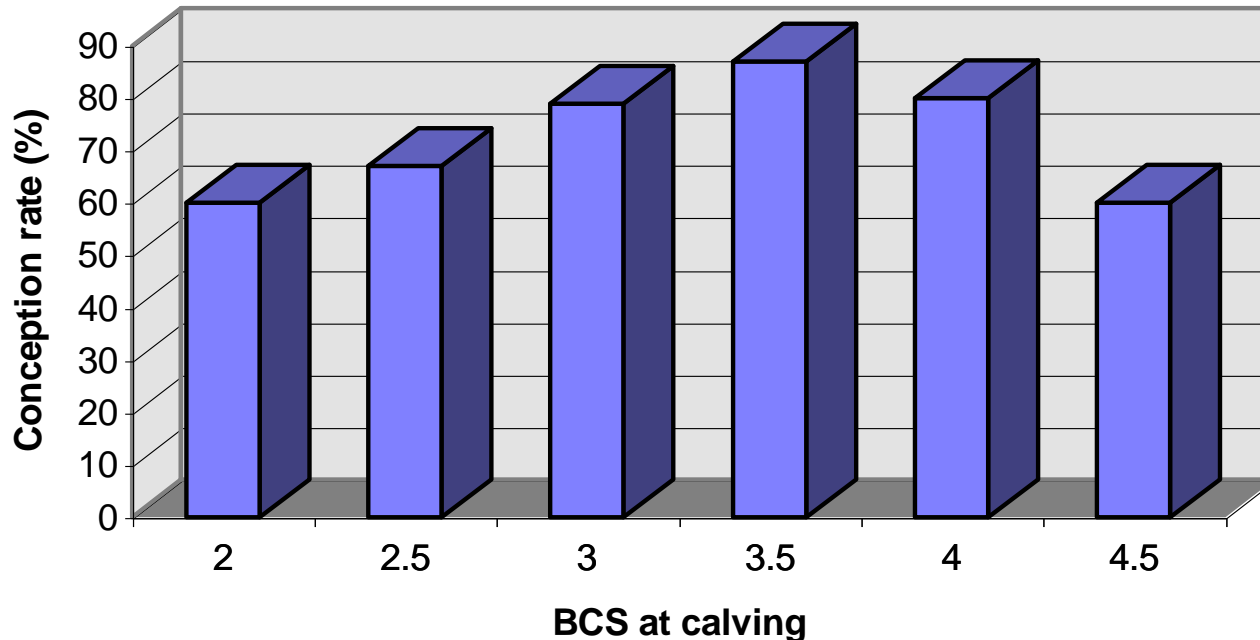
Read your PDs and analyse what happened and correct Management:

- By BULL
- By PARITY
- By BREED
- By AGE[heifers, second calvers, other age groups]
- By VELD TYPE or Paddock
- By BCS
- By Rainfall season

# Breeding cows

- The BCS at calving determines the reproductive performance in the following year

## a) Body Condition Score at calving and subsequent conception rate



# Something on the arithmetic of cattle breeding.

- Once you achieve carrying capacity of property [eg 100 cows] you replace with 20% heifers annually.
- Bull 25%-30% to keep 20% pregnant heifers
- Cull [includes mortalities] 20 poorest cows- remove the poorest performers
- Result-the cow herd quality improves
- We should all target getting better cow herds

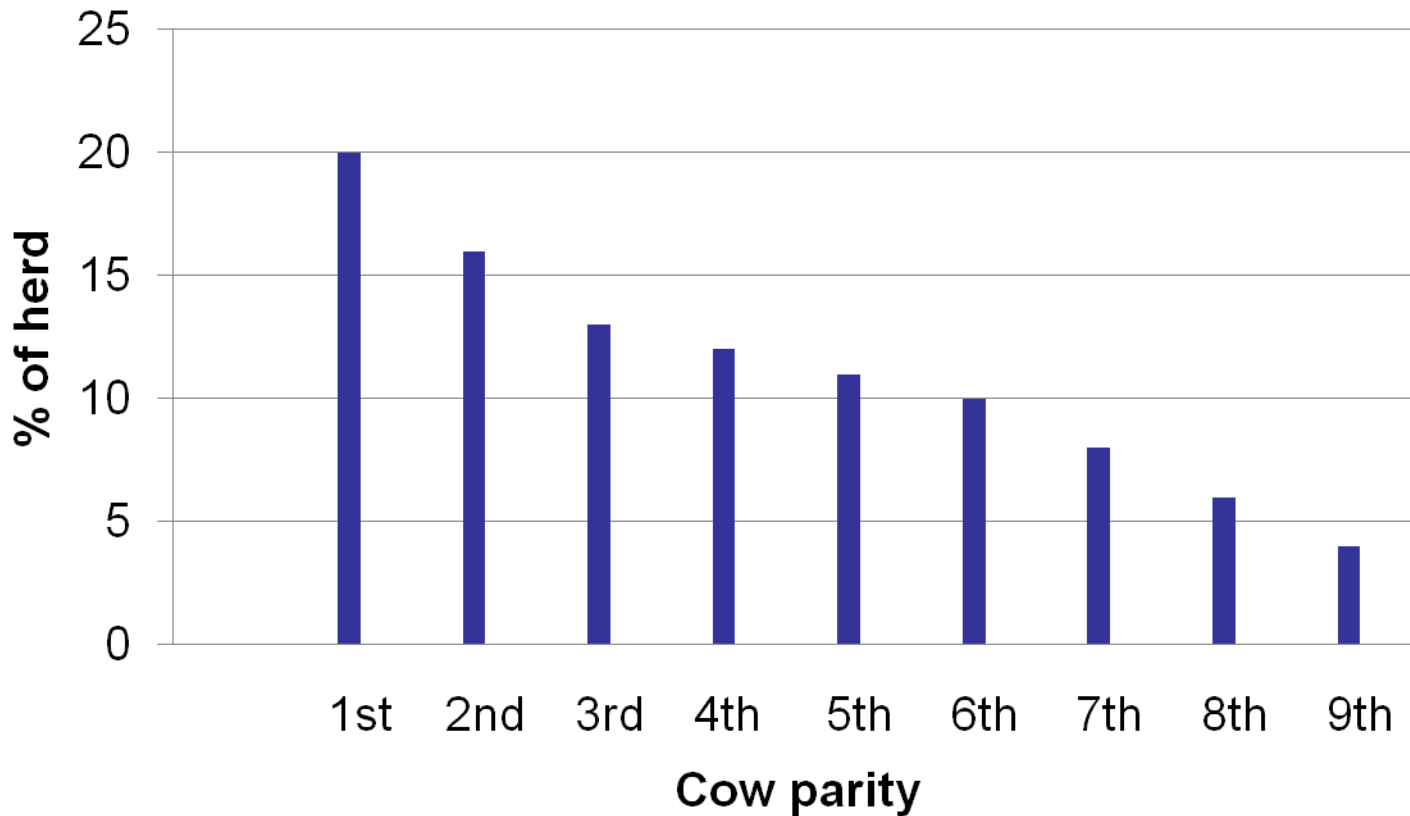
# Herd composition

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> -36%

3/4/5-36%

6/7/8/9-28%

Parity distribution of herd



# Thankyou

## Any Questions?