For the latest in red meat R&D

Managing replacement heifers

Alastair Rayner

RaynerAg

The 7 most expensive words in the cattle business...

"We have always done it this way"

meatup FORUM

mla
MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

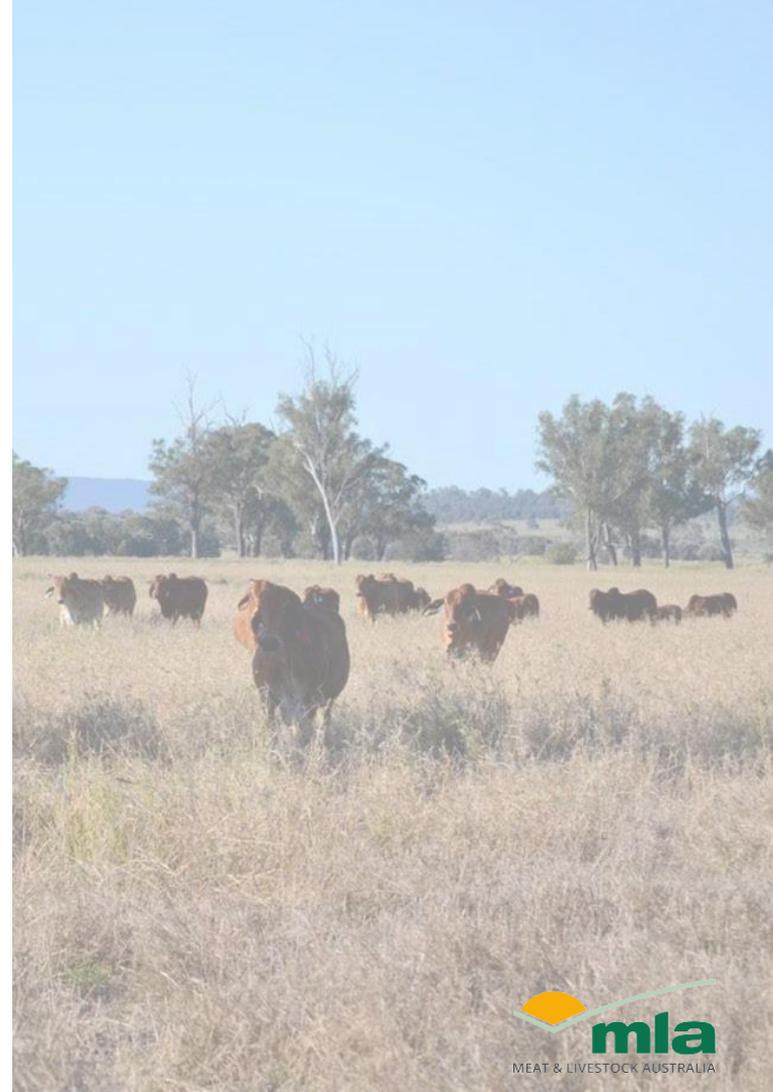# Traits shared by the top 25% of beef producers

The most common trait

FOCUS ON WHAT THEY CAN CONTROL
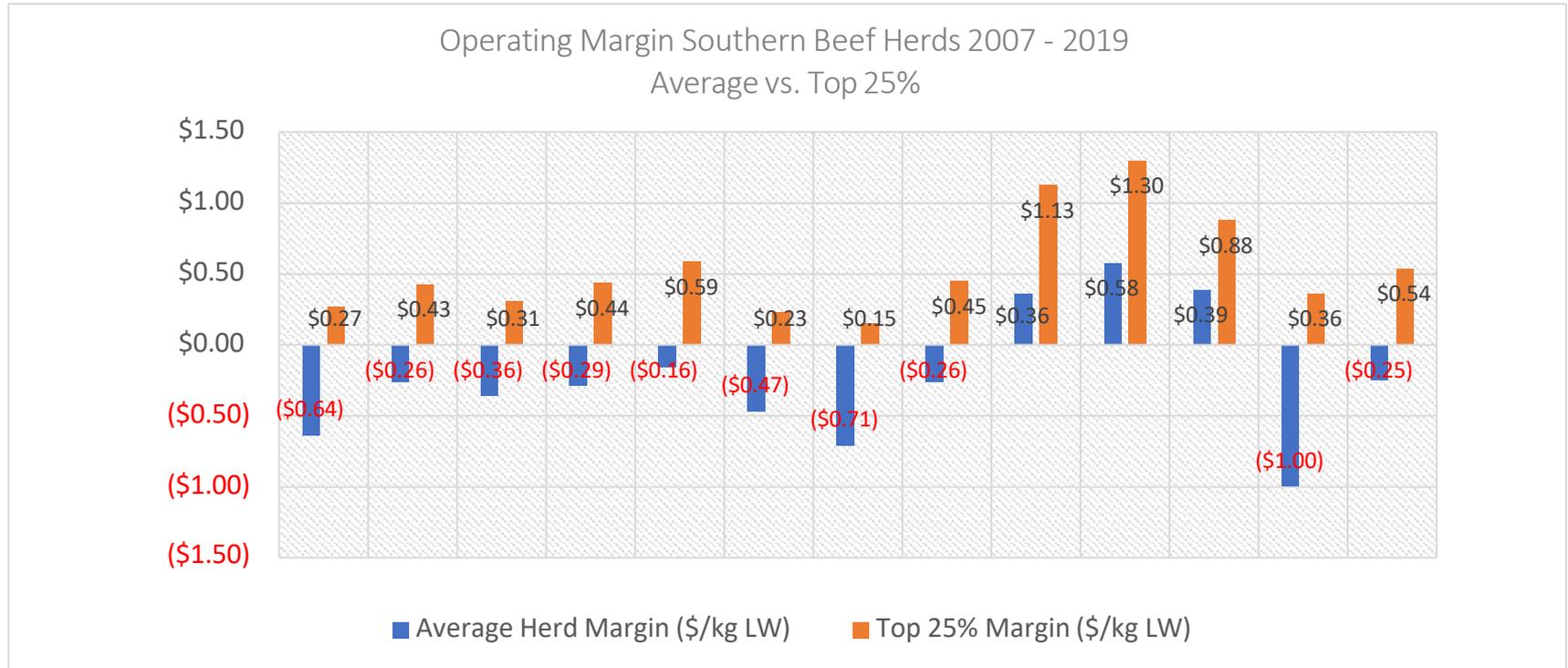
They are business savvy:

- Think differently and independently
- Their property/station is primarily a business and they take a businesslike approach
- They have and stick to a plan
- They actively seek new information, rationally assess it and apply elements of benefit to their business
- They get the simple things right

SMART Goals

- **S**pecific

- **M**easurable

- **A**chievable

- **R**ealistic / **R**elevant

- **T**imely

How much difference is there in operating margins?

Operating Margin Southern Beef Herds 2007 - 2019
Average vs. Top 25%

Average Herd Margin ($/kg LW)   Top 25% Margin ($/kg LW)

Knowing the opportunities for beef producers

- Australian Beef report 2020 suggests:
  - A 5% increase in fertility = a 7% increase in income
  - A 1% decrease in mortality = 2% increase in income

- Increasing sale weight by 5% can see a 4% increase in farm income
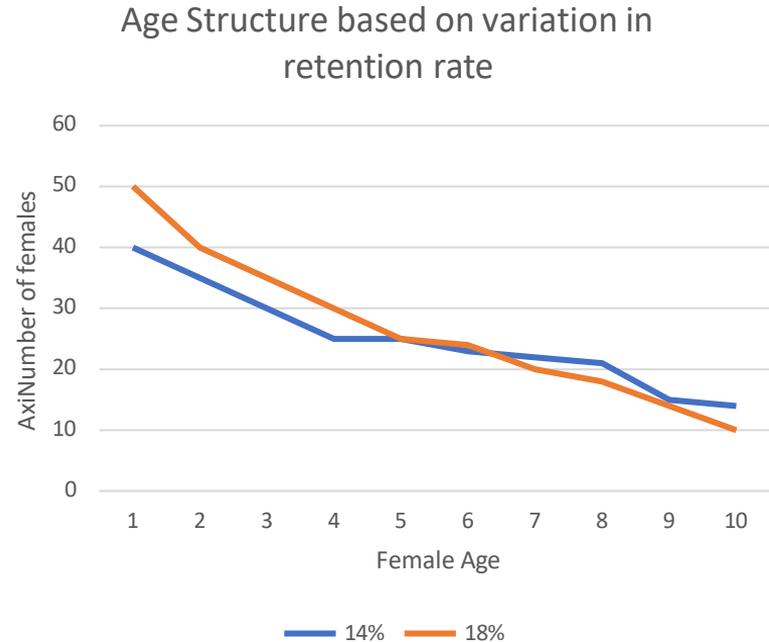
Average fertility rates in Southern Australia

FERTILITY % 2007/8 – 2018/19

■ Average Fertility % ■ Top 25% Fertility %
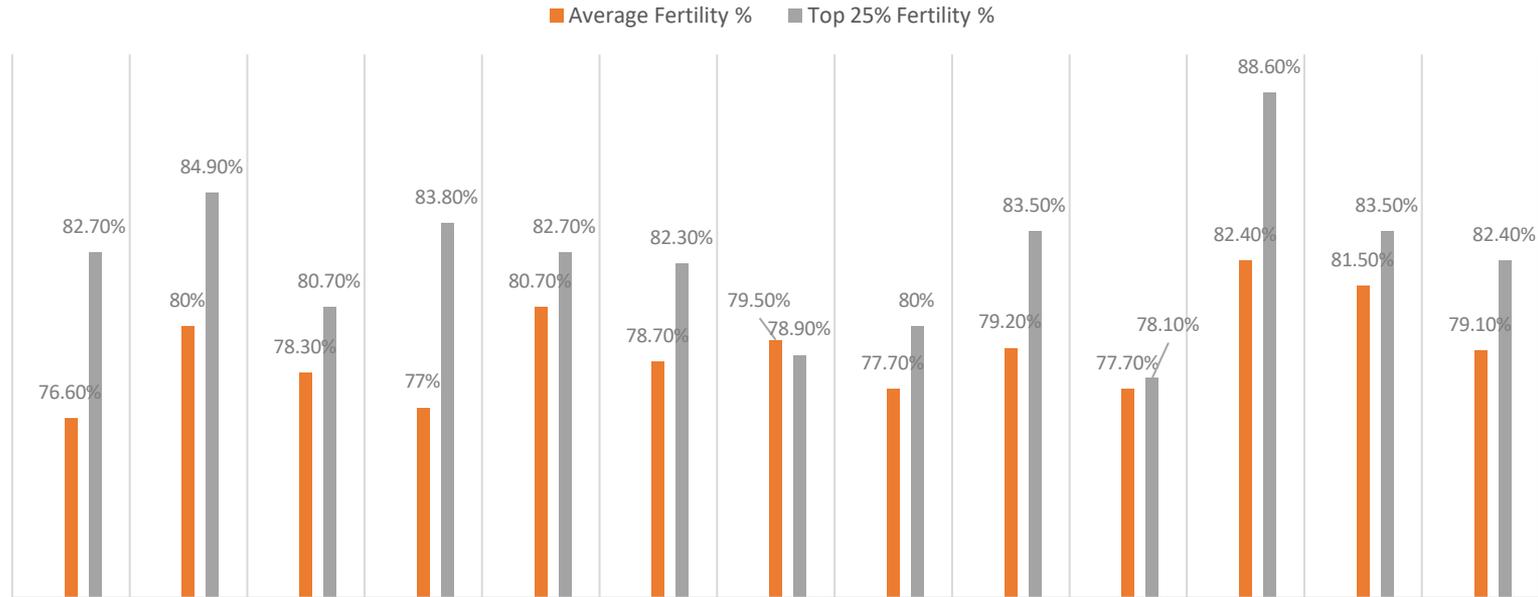
Maximising your opportunities

- What is the age structure in your herd?

- Typically, in southern Australia
  - 60 – 70% of breeders are < 6 years

  - Early management is essential to maintain & improve fertility

Age Structure based on variation in retention rate

Setting some targets

- Production targets for fertility should be well defined

- Critical Mating Weight – CMW

  - Based on achieving 84% pregnancy rate in a 6 week joining period

  - Should result in 60% conception in the first cycle
  - 60% of the remaining heifers (40%) in second cycle

    60% (1st cycle) + (24% 2nd cycle) = 84%

Individual targets

- Heifer targets should be based around herd characteristics

- Target 65% of mature cow weight at start of joining

- 90% mature cow weight at start of calving

Maternal productivity results

- Fatness has a significant bearing on conception rates

- Selection & management are both critical to achieve higher conception rates

Genotype	Weight (kg)	Rib fat (mm)	Pregnancy rate under 9 weeks joining (%)	Pregnancy rate under 6 weeks joining (%)
High Rib Fat EBV	360	4.4	91	77
Low Rib Fat EBV	364	3.5	83	65
Difference between genotypes	4	0.9	8	12

Relationships between weight & fat

Weight				Rib	fat	(mm)			
(kg)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
250	64	69	74	78	82	85			
300	71	76	80	83	86	89	91	93	94
350	78	81	85	88	90	92	94	95	96
400	83	86	89	91	93	94	95	96	97
450	87	90	92	93	95	96	97	97	98
500			94	95	96	97	98	98	98

9 week joining (400d British heifers)

Weight				Rib	fat	(mm)			
(kg)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
250	49	52	54	57	59	62			
300	59	61	64	66	68	71	73	75	77
350	68	70	72	74	76	78	80	82	83
400	76	78	79	81	83	84	86	87	88
450	82	84	85	86	88	89	90	91	92
500			89	90	91	92	93	94	94

6 week joining (400d British heifers)

Effect of weight x fat under 6 week joining

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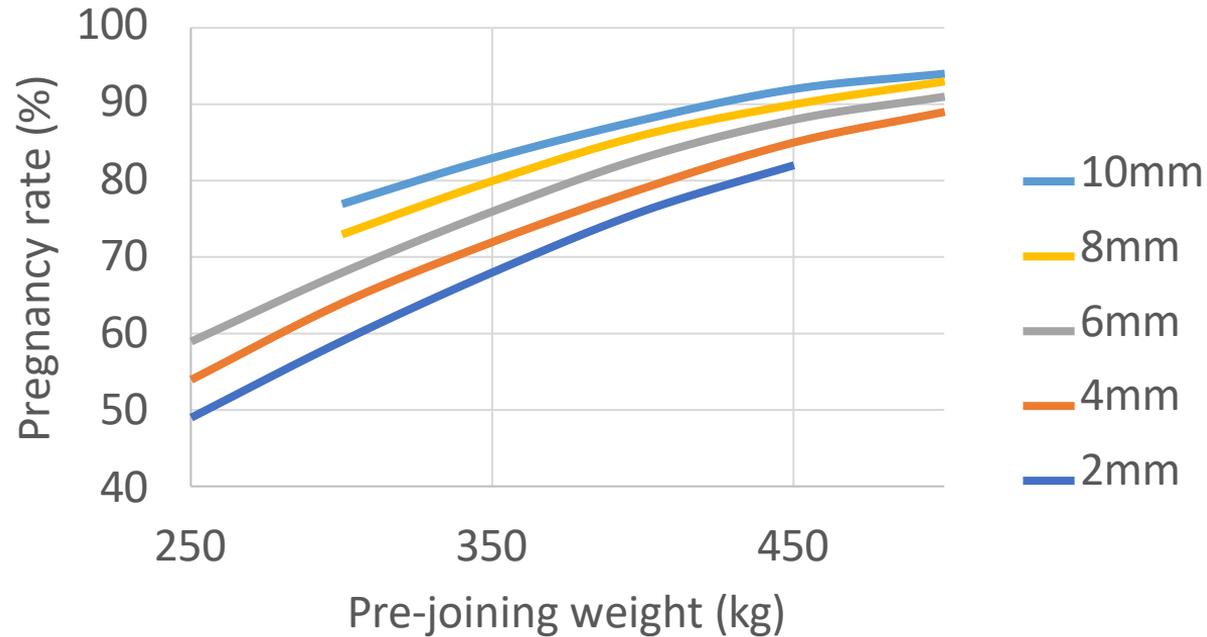
WORLD-LEADING SCIENCE, PROFITA ... NABLE LANDSCAPES

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We've linked to myMLA as a single login point so it's easier for you to access your PICS.

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QLD Floods
February 10, 2019

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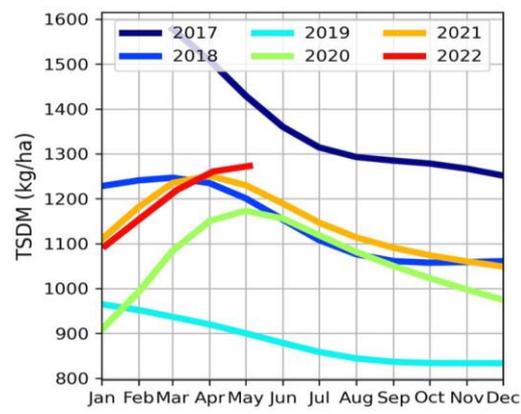MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

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Understanding Agriculture

Cibo Labs Annual TSDM comparison for 0682

1238 kg/ha

Last reported 2022-05-04
This time last year: 1215 kg/ha
All time average: 1150 kg/ha

TSDM (kg/ha) chart — 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 (Jan–Dec)

Edit Location   View Deeper Analysis

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MLA Catalogue

Here are quick links to MLA's range of products and services. We've bundled them in handy categories for fast and easy access. **Need help?**

Latest promotions

MLA members can attend BeefUp Forums and MeatUp Forums for $25 ($50 for non-members). Not a member? Sign up now

MLA members can attend Livestock Advisor Updates for $50 ($100 for non-members). Not a member? Sign up now

There's never been a better time to use eNVDs! eNVDs are free to use.

Livestock exports ⌄

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Sheep Genetics ⌄

Feedlot ⌄

Tools and resources ⌄

Corporate ⌄

Livestock reporting and news ⌄

Weather   Edit Locations

Cabarlah, QLD

4° ☀ 18°

Sunny
Chances of Rain 5% Amount < 1mm

Now	Feels like	Humidity
7.8°	4.5°	62%

Weather chart

Saturday	Sunday
3° ☀ 18°	3° ☀ 19°
5% | <1mm	5% | <1mm

View Full Forecast

MLA e-newsletters

Red meat **news, views and advice** delivered to your inbox each week.

Fostering prosperity   mla MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

Industry News

Have your say on MLA's market information
23 June

More Industry News ↗

Market News

Brazil ban expected to have limited impact on Australian beef
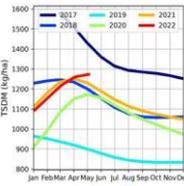10 September

More Market News ↗

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TSDM chart

Edit Location   View Deeper Analysis

Resources

‹ Grassfed Cattle - Northern ›

📄 Publication	📄 Publication
NB2 launch webinar through	Tips & Tools - NB2: Calf loss - do I have
📄 Publication	📄 Publication
Tips & Tools - NB2: What causes calf loss	Tips & Tools - Could your herd be more
📄 Publication	📄 Case Study
Webinar: Feed Budgeting Webinar	Five tips to prepare for the wet season

More R&D ↗ \| More Publications ↗ More Tools ↗

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Australian Feedbase Monitor
Information for producers

The Australian Feedbase Monitor is an on-farm management tool developed by Cibo Labs and MLA to support:

- improved grazing management with near-real time data
- increased use of fodder budgeting across grazing enterprises and supply chains
- improved ability to manage and report on feed utilisation and ground cover.

The Australian Feedbase Monitor will provide:

- access to rolling monthly pasture biomass estimates for every Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) account holder, updated every five days
- customised pasture ground cover information sourced from more than 5,000 sites using world-leading monitoring services
- data showing the trends in pasture growth and ground cover dating back to 2017
- support in creating more accurate feed budgets for grazing livestock.

Benefits to producers

The Australian Feedbase Monitor will provide multiple benefits to producers and the wider red meat industry, including:

- providing the data to back up more accurate and timely grazing decisions, allowing an increase in production and the ability to meet market specifications
- avoiding environmental or welfare issues in grazing enterprises due to increased ability to monitor ground cover and pasture
- increased consumer confidence in the environmental stewardship of red meat producers.

Get involved

Want access to the Australian Feedbase Monitor when it launches in the second half of 2022?

The tool can only be accessed via MyMLA, so make sure you've registered for MyMLA and linked it to your current LPA account.

Training and further information will be available through industry events such as MeatUp and BeefUp forums, as well as MLA's communication channels such as Feedback magazine, The Weekly e-newsletter and social media.

More information

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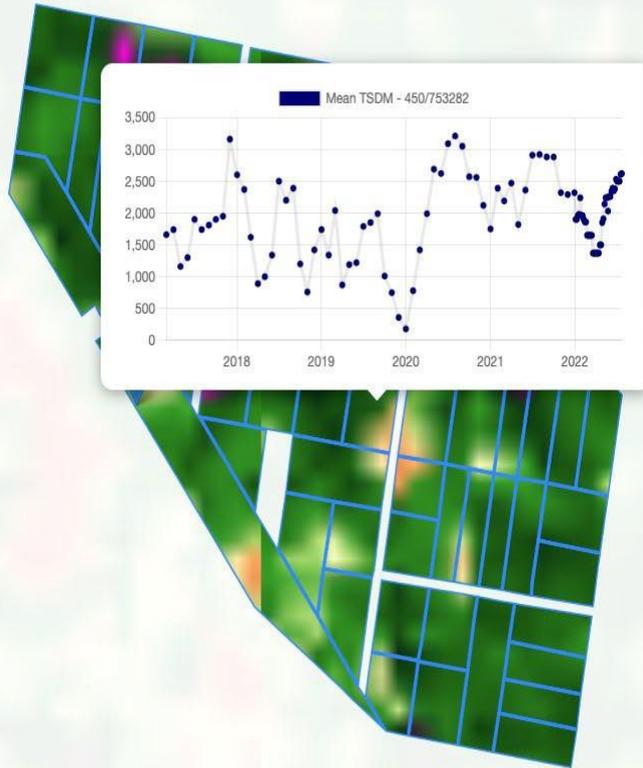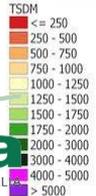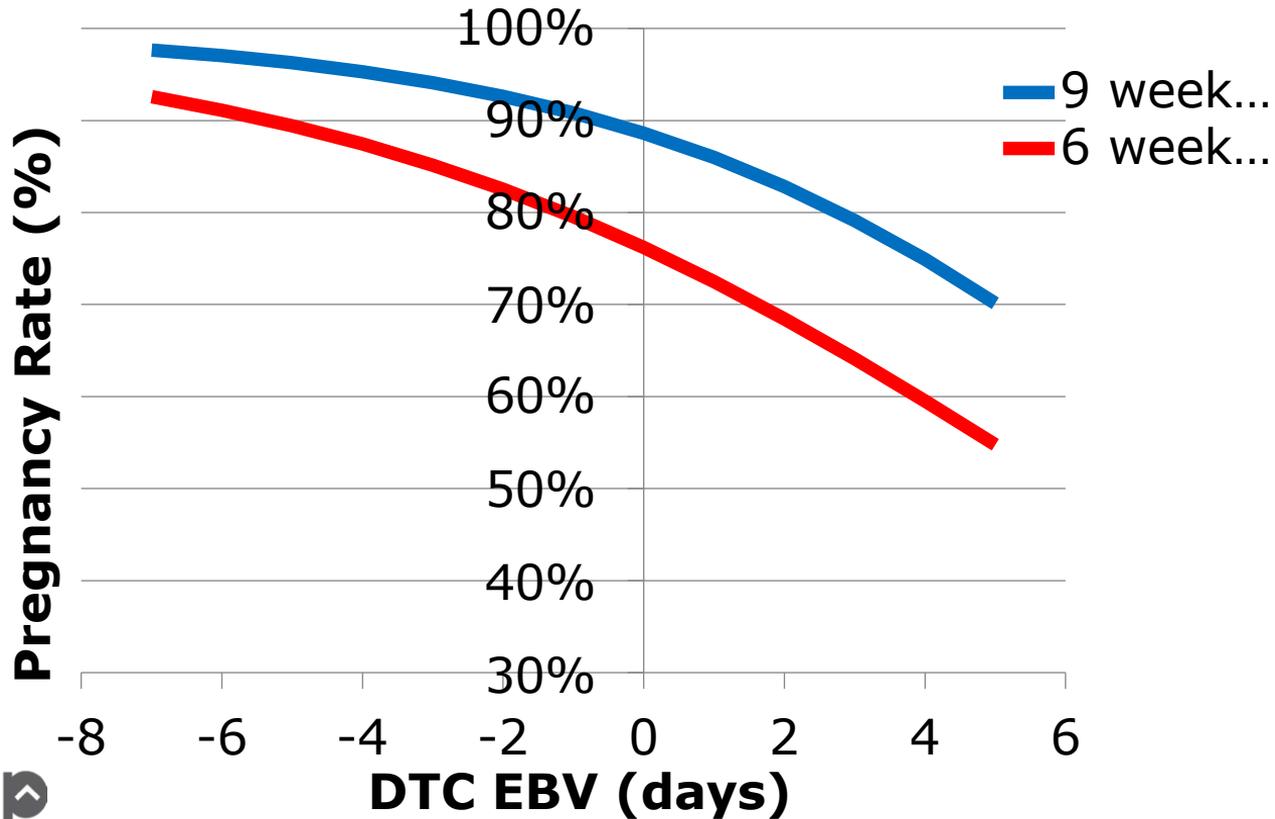
Sire selection

- Fertility is a lower heritability trait

- However - it is possible to select for traits

- Consider Days To Calving (DTC); Gestation Length (GL)

Relationship with Days to Calving EBV

Pregnancy Rate (%) vs DTC EBV (days)

- 9 week…
- 6 week…

Building Better Breeders

- MLA – Profitable Grazing Systems (PGS)

- Based on the success of Lifetime Ewe Management

- 6 on farm sessions focused on key management points of breeders

Core skills

- The sessions are built to enhance current skills
  - Selection & management practices
  - Nutrition & pastures

- Providing a framework for these skills around key points
  - Weaning
  - Joining
  - Calving
  - Rejoining
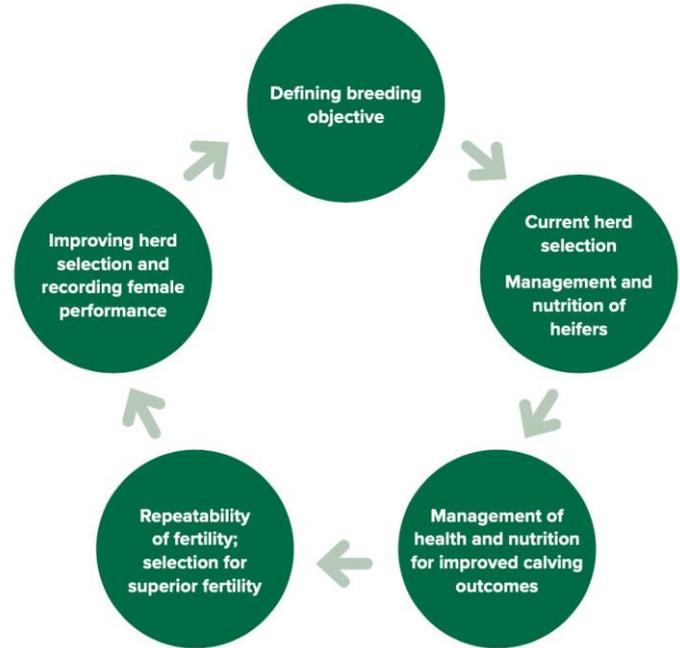
Module overview

- Building Better Breeders Modules

  - Setting breeding objectives
  - Preparing for joining
  - Joining
  - Weaning & calving preparation
  - Calving
  - Successful rejoining

Take home messages

- Heifers can make up a significant proportion of herd structure

- Clear production targets to include weight & fatness are critical

- Managing these targets through better grazing / environmental management

- Selection for traits that contribute to fertility shouldn't be overlooked

Tools and resources

MLA Profitable Grazing Systems

(https://www.mla.com.au/extension-training-and-tools/profitable-grazing-systems/)

MLA – PROGRAZE & More Beef From Pastures

Future Beef (www.futurebeef.com.au)

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Let's Talk