

Breeding Cows – 12 weeks

Median Calving Date - 20th February

Day	Week	Date	Task
-10		20 th April	Tail paint all cows red and record heats
0		30 th April	Tail paint all cows that have shown heat green
1		1 st May	Mating start date– identify cows in heat and bull Tail paint cows bulled blue
11		11 th May	Vet examines non-cycling cows – red cows
21	3	21 st May	Calculate three week submission rate bred (blue cows)/ total * 100
42	6	11 th June	Introduce bull
84	12	23 rd July	Mating end date - Remove bull



Synchronising Heifers – 3 weeks

Day	Date	Task
1-6	23 rd April	Mating Start Date - Tail paint heifers red and bull heifers that show heat Tail paint heifers green after being served
7	29 th April	Prostaglandin injection to all heifers not bulled. Bull as they show heat and paint blue
17	10 th May	2 nd shot of PG to heifers not yet bulled (red cows)
17-20	10 th - 13 th May	Bull to a standing heat
20-21	13 th - 14 th May	AI heifers not bulled at 72 and 96h

100% submission rate
70% conception rate

Cow of the future

- 365 days calving interval
- 5 + Lactations
- Maximise solids production from Grass
- High % Solids
- Easy care, low maintenance, high health status



The “Invisible Cow”

Bull Selection

1. Use high EBI bulls
2. Team of 5 genomic bulls for the cows
3. Fertility sub-index €190+, Herd Target €140
4. High production sub-index - +.15% protein, 15 kg protein, +30 kg's solids
5. Active Bull List

$$A + B - C = €$$

Tips: Use bull selection to address herd weaknesses
Only proven easy calving bulls for heifers - <2% C. diff
For late-calving cows, use short gestation bulls.
Herd Plus sire advice, match bulls to cows for you
Benefits of cross breeding



Cows in heat:

- One mount typically lasts 2-3 seconds
- 70% of heats displayed from 9pm to 7am
- Frequency of mounts decreases when less cows are in heat
 - 3 cow bulling – 37 mounts/cow,
 - one cow bulling – 11 mounts/cow

1 missed heat costs €250

Relying on observation?

4 times/day for 20 minutes
(80 min/day) = 98% heat
detection rate

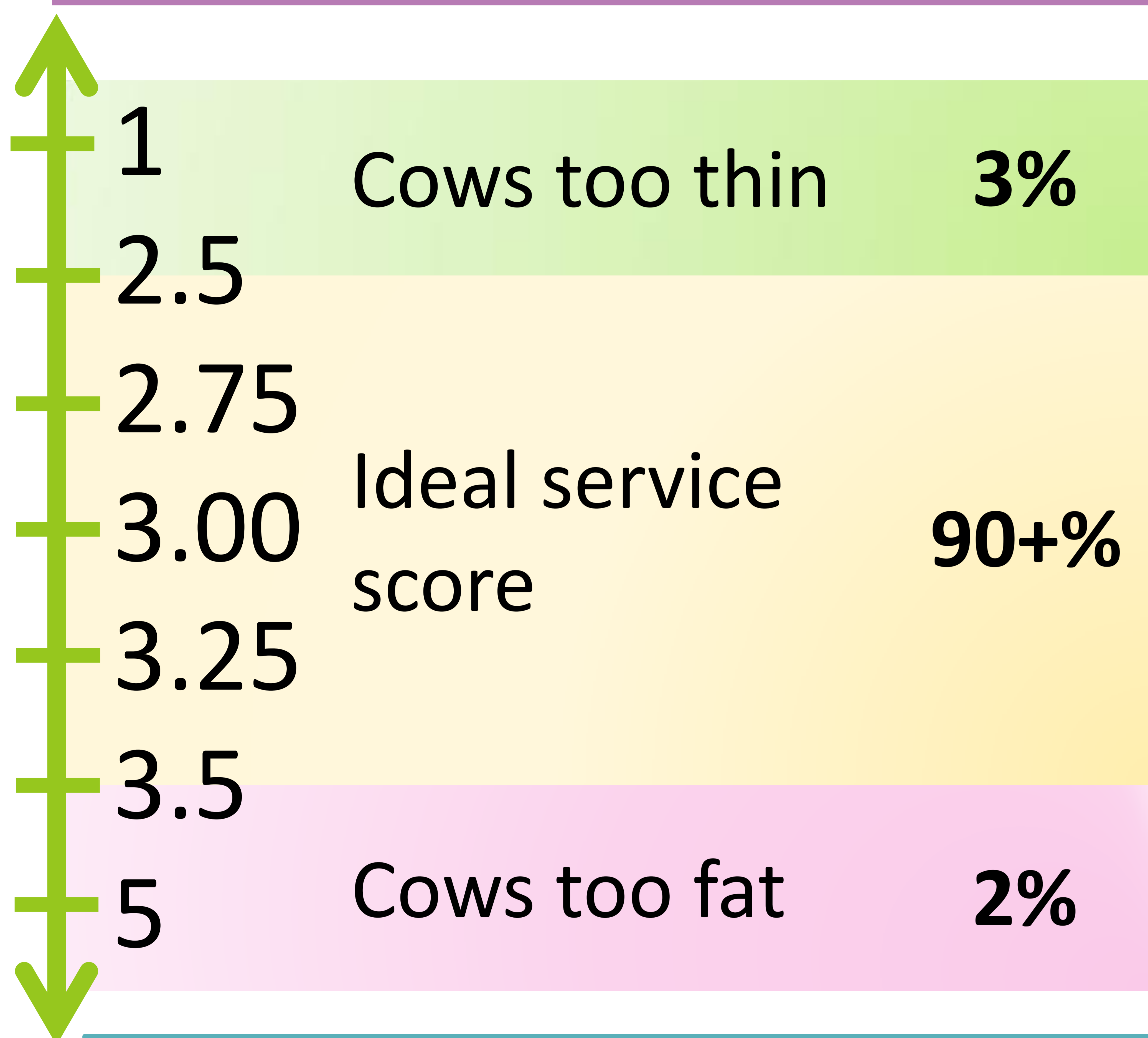
Who can afford to spend this
amount of time observing
cows?

Heat detection aids

- Tail paint
- Paint sticks
- Scratch cards
- Bubble that burst (Kamar)
- Vasectomised bull/chinball
- Automated heat detection



How to BCS



- Handle in crush - pins, lion and ribs
- Observe general appearance in field
- Deal with thin cows – milk once a day
- Ensure no feed deficits from calving to service

Condition score NOW – Why??

- Thin cows, <2.75 , are slow to go back in calf - 16% submission rate
- Thin cows will not Peak – less milk (1L/cow/May = 220L/cow/year)
- BCS loss >0.5 (20-25 kg)
 - lower submission rates -50%
 - lower conception rates -20%
- More cull cows

