

## Birth to First Pregnancy. Heifer mating – how to get there.

### PRIORITY: GET IN-CALF EARLY IN THE SEASON

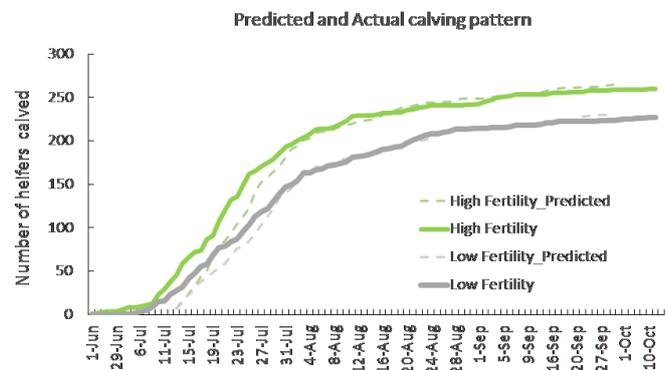
Why?

- Sets her up for lifetime performance *Australian Beef CRC research*
- Longer time to get back into calf *US MARC research*
- Will stay longer in the herd
- Wean a heavier calf

Evidence?

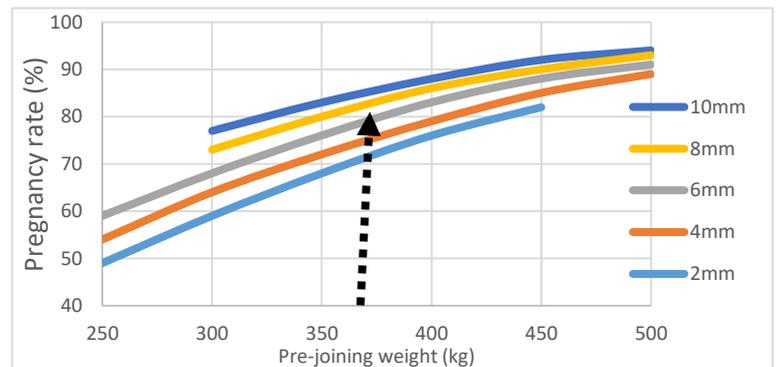
#### Dairy NZ high v low line fertility research

*'Heifers predicted to be more fertile reached puberty earlier and conceived earlier'*



#### Australian Beef CRC- High & Low fat lines

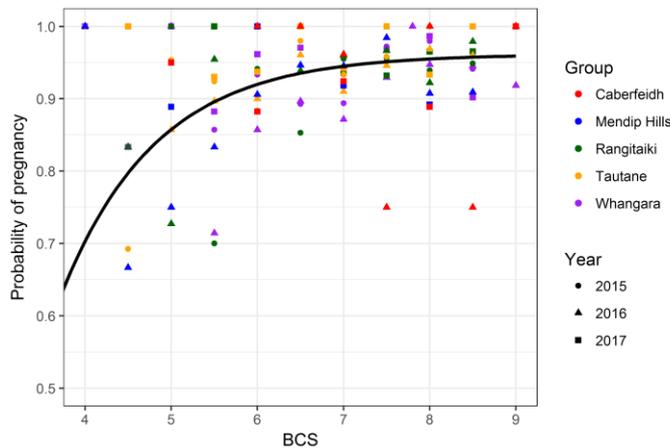
*'Heavier and fatter heifers achieve puberty and conception earlier'*



How? Management

- Grow heifers out well and get them to sufficient condition for mating and through it: *Beef CRC*
  - Don't have a rule of thumb with mating weight i.e. different systems and genetics will impact
- Reach relative proportion of mature weight at mating

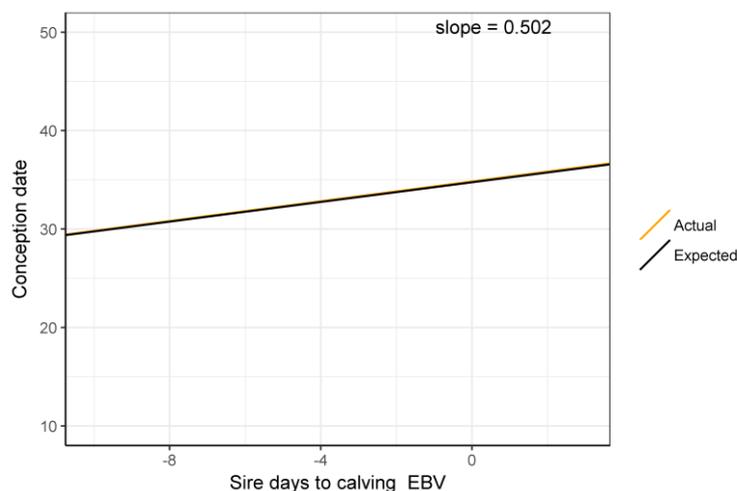
- Rule of thumb used to be 70% of mature weight. US MARC data suggests that modern cattle can be as low as 55% of mature weight at mating
- Mate lots of them and restrict to keeping those that conceive in 42 days by foetal age scanning



1 Increased Cow Body Condition score increases probability of pregnancy. B+LNZ Genetics Beef Progeny Test

### How? Genetics

- Reduced Days to Calving (DTC) EBVs = increased heifer conception
  - Use the DTC EBV (although doesn't directly refer to) improves heifer puberty: *BPT, Beef CRC, Dairy Industry*
  - Use the Scrotal Size EBV- already in DTC
  - Sires with increased Rib Fat EBVs produce daughters that are fatter and conceive earlier: *AUS Beef CRC*



2 Reduced Days to Calving EBV means cows get in calf earlier. B+LNZ Genetics Beef Progeny Test