



Beef on Dairy: The U.S. Perspective

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach
Iowa Beef Center

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46th ICAR & Interbull Meeting



Cow-calf



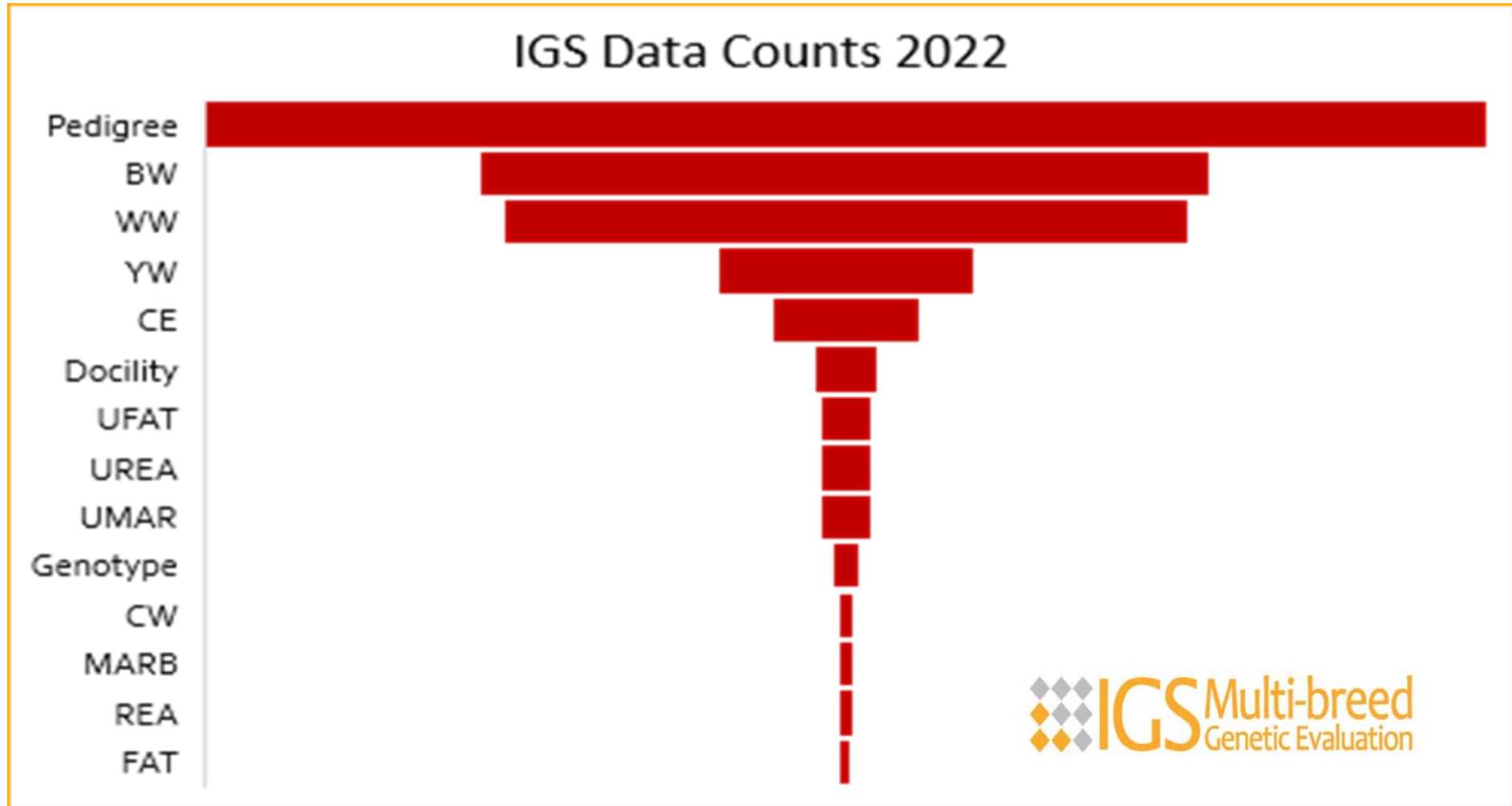
Packer



Feedlot

Segmented Industry

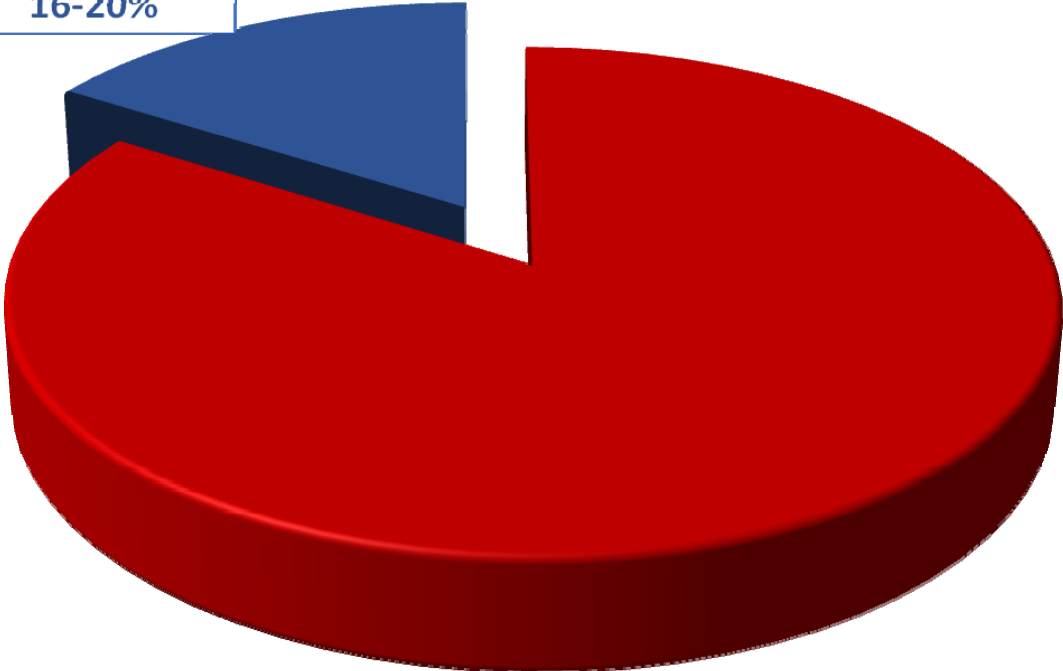
Data Reporting for Beef



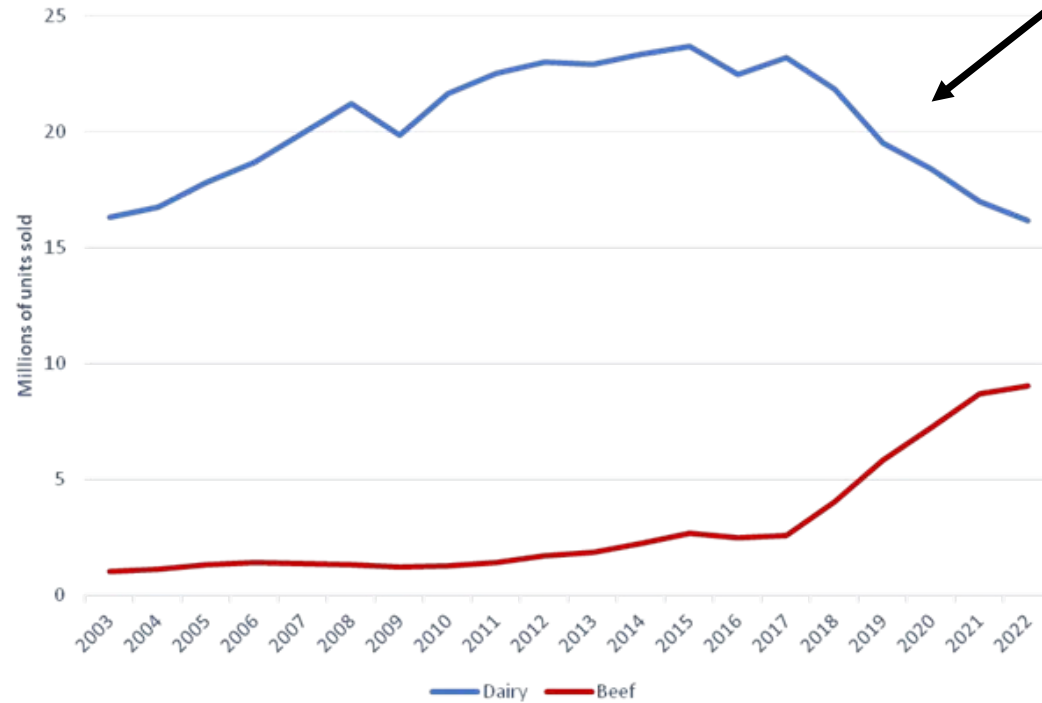


U. S. BEEF SUPPLY

[CATEGORY
NAME]
16-20%



NAAB Semen Sales



2017 to 2021

30% decrease in dairy semen sales
255% increase in beef semen sales

NAAB, 2022

Economic Incentive

As the beef breed cow herd contract, feeder calf prices go up

Records Highs: \$2.46/cwt (cwt = 45kg)

Supply & Demand

Creates opportunity for dairies:

Day old calves (CoBank Report 2023)

Straight Dairy: \$85 - \$125/hd

Beef x Dairy: \$200 - \$400/hd

Today's Market: est. \$500 - \$600/hd

Average Discounts as of May 13, 2024:

Straight Dairy: **-\$28.61/cwt**

Beef x Dairy: **-\$2.29/cwt**

CAB Premium: \$4.74/cwt (only BxD)

https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/Cattle_Contract_Library



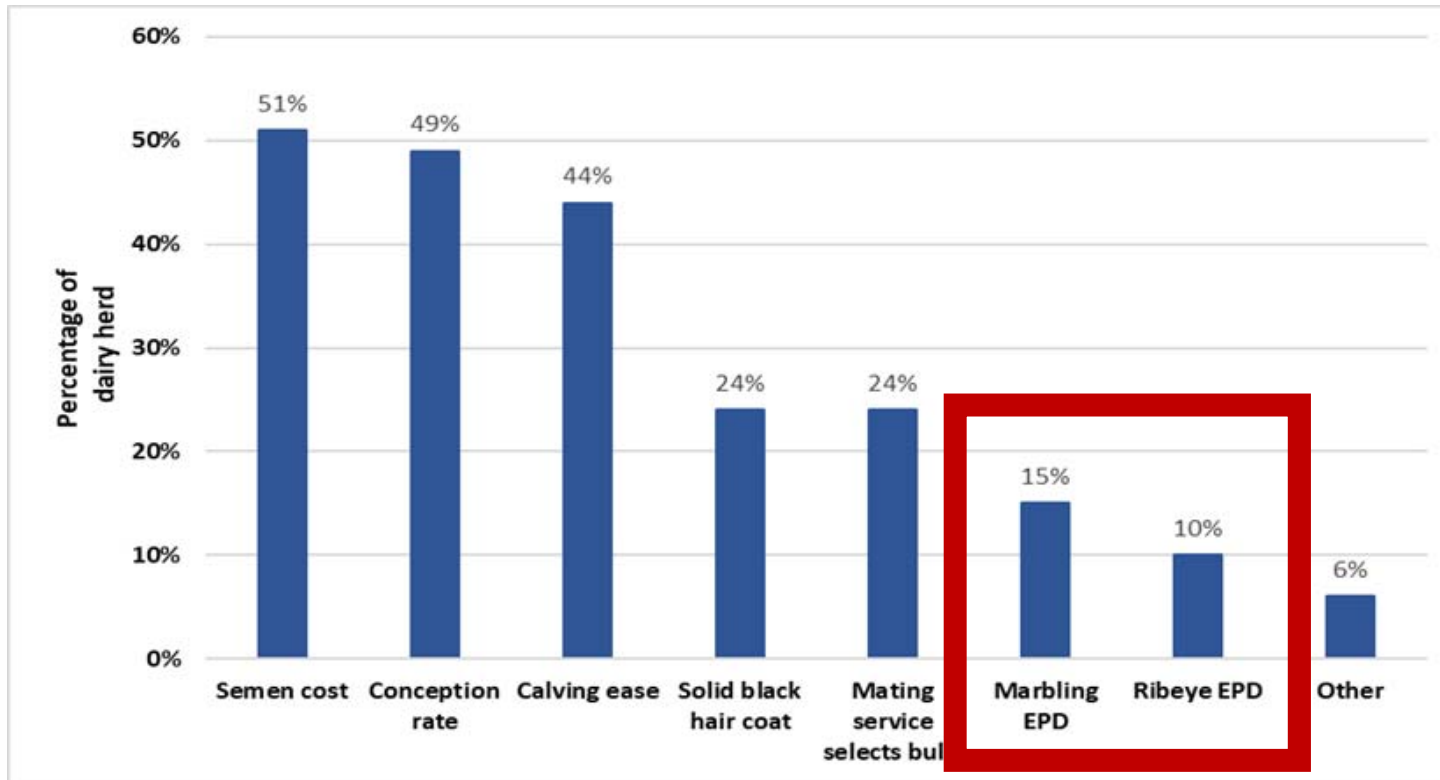


Feedlot & Carcass Performance

- Intermediate performance from straight beef & dairy
 - Intermediate in efficiency
 - Produce more Yield Grade 2 (less YG 3 & 4)
 - ADG worse than beef but better than dairy
- Considerable variability in performance
- Challenge for feeders to manage BxD compared to straight bred
 - Behavioral & Health
- Liver Abscesses: 40-60% for BxD
 - 50-80% for straight dairy
 - 15-30% for beef breeds
 - **Abscess issue needs to be addressed!**

Basiel and Felix (2022)
Foraker et al. (2022)
Rezac et al. (2014)

Beef Semen Use in Dairies



Percentage of dairy farms according to the criteria of beef bull semen selection reported by Helfman and Sterry (2019). Survey respondents had the option to select more than one response.

Genetic Evaluation

- IGS – BxD doubled carcass records
- Considerations
 - Breed differences and heterosis
 - Contemporary Grouping
 - Selection bias
 - Differences in systems (i.e. weaning ages)
 - Single sire CG
 - BIF Guidelines



What's Missing?

- Genetic Parameters are lacking
 - Heterosis
- Genomic Testing
 - Dairy breed contribution to feedlot and carcass performance
- Abscess Issue
 - Early calf development?
 - Is there a genetic component?



Things are changing...

- Dairy producers seeing value in BxD calves
 - Better early calf care (Sterry et al., 2022)
- Seeing more dairies feed BxD calves





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For more information

Iowa Beef Center

<https://www.iowabeefcenter.org/>

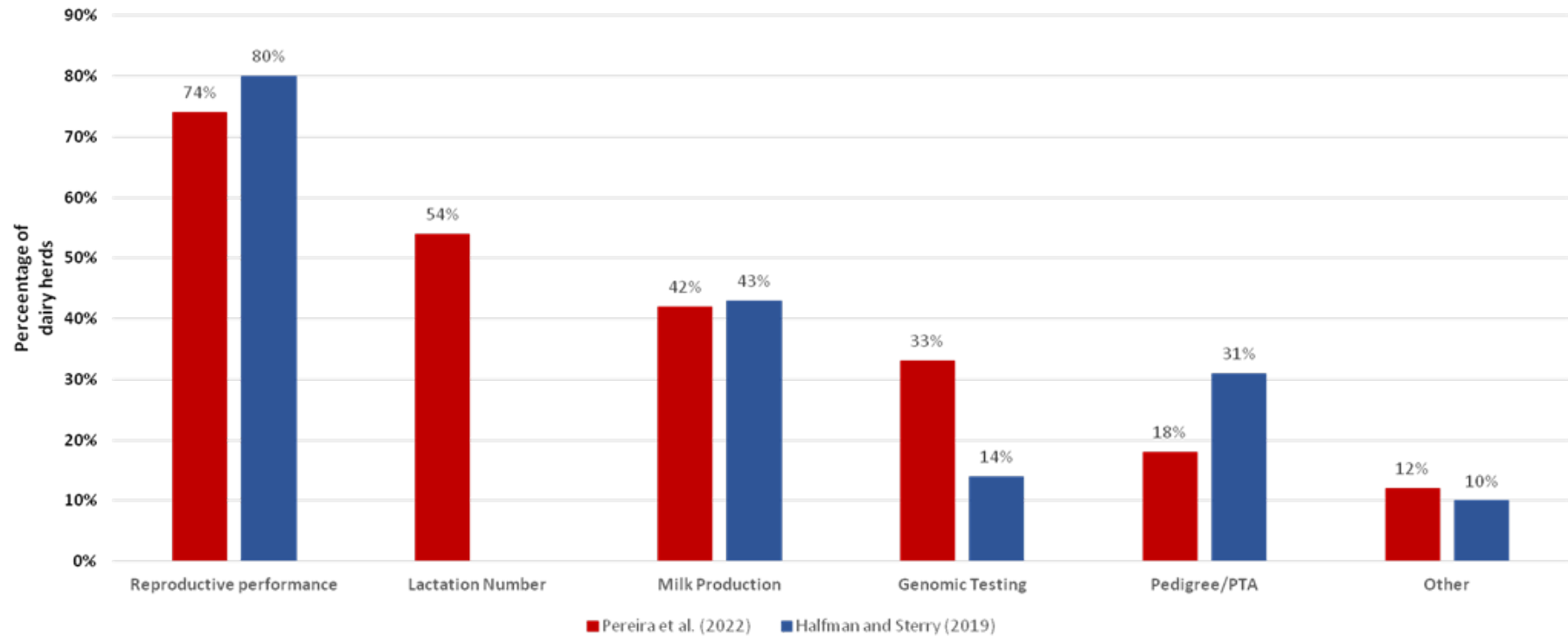
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Selection of Dairy Cows for Beef Semen



Adapted from Pereria et al., 2022 and Halfman and Sterry, 2019. Survey respondents had the option to select more than one option.