

**Az amerikai húsmarha-ágazat tendenciái,  
különös tekintettel az  
elmúlt 30 év genetikai változásaira**

**Debrecen, Hungary  
August 2017**

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Dr. David Lalman, Professor and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist  
Oklahoma State University

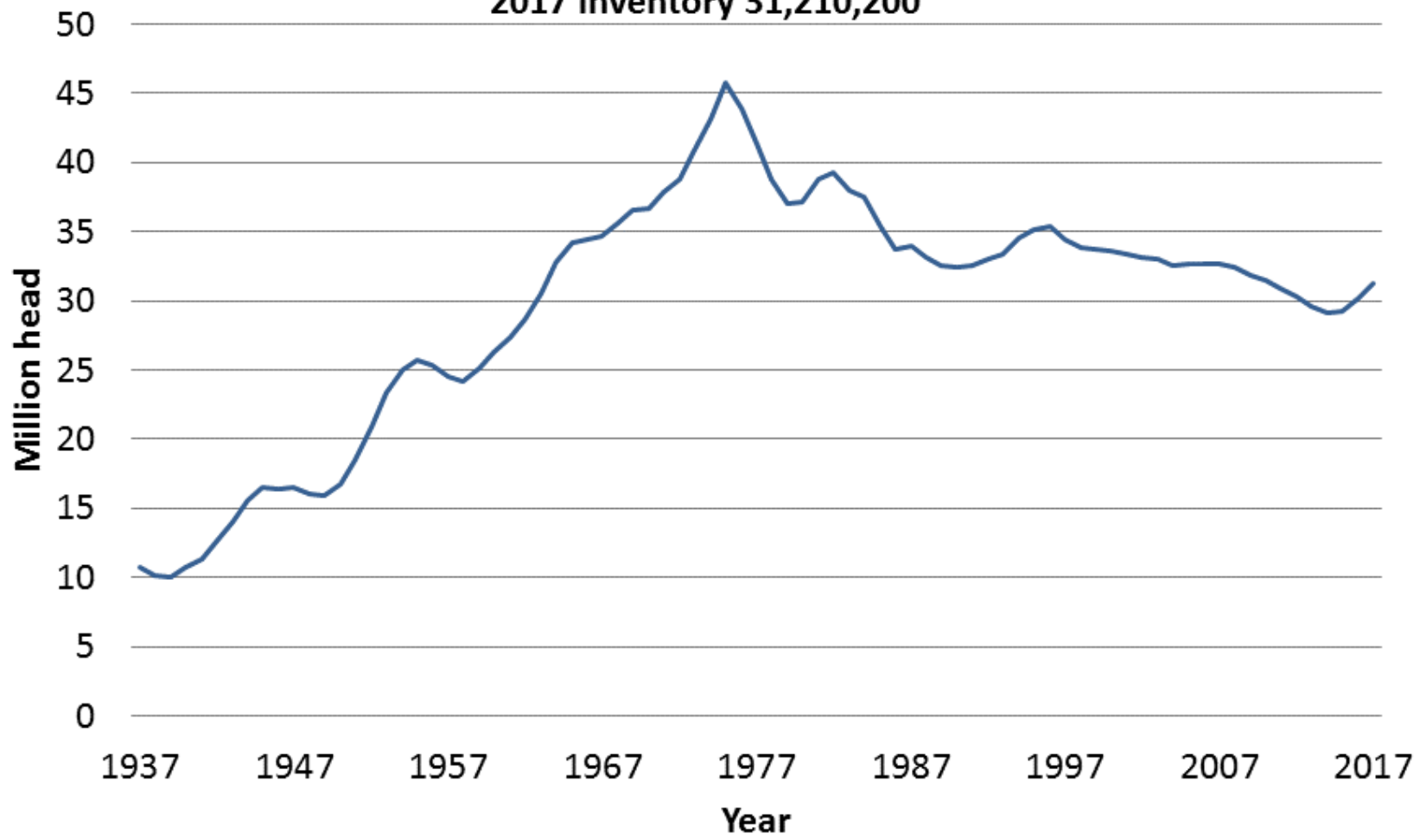






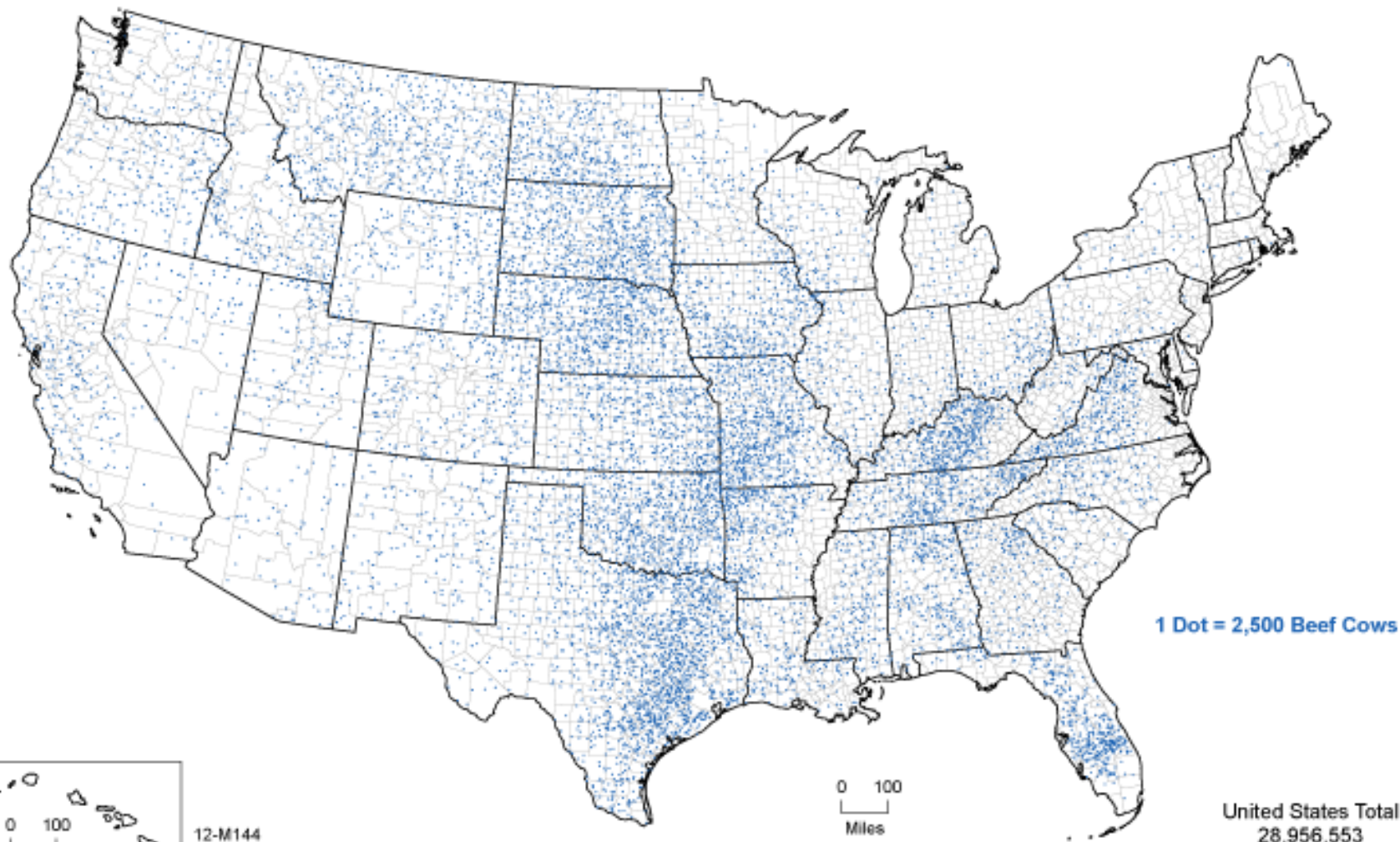
# January 1 U.S. Beef Cow Inventory 1937-2017

2017 Inventory 31,210,200

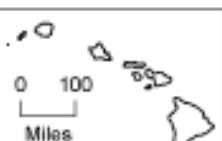




## Beef Cows - Inventory: 2012



United States Total  
28,956,553



**It is important to learn  
from our past**

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**40's and 50's**  
**“Era of Insanity”**



**1953**

**CHAMPION ANGUS  
FEMALE  
CHICAGO  
INTERNATIONAL  
EXPOSITION**



**60's**

**“Recognition of  
Need to Change”**

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**1969**

**GRAND CHAMPION  
STEER  
CHICAGO  
INTERNATIONAL  
EXPOSITION**



**70's and 80's**

**“Return to Insanity”**

AMERICAN ROYAL LIVESTOCK SHOW 1981



Grall



90's and 2000's  
"Back Again"

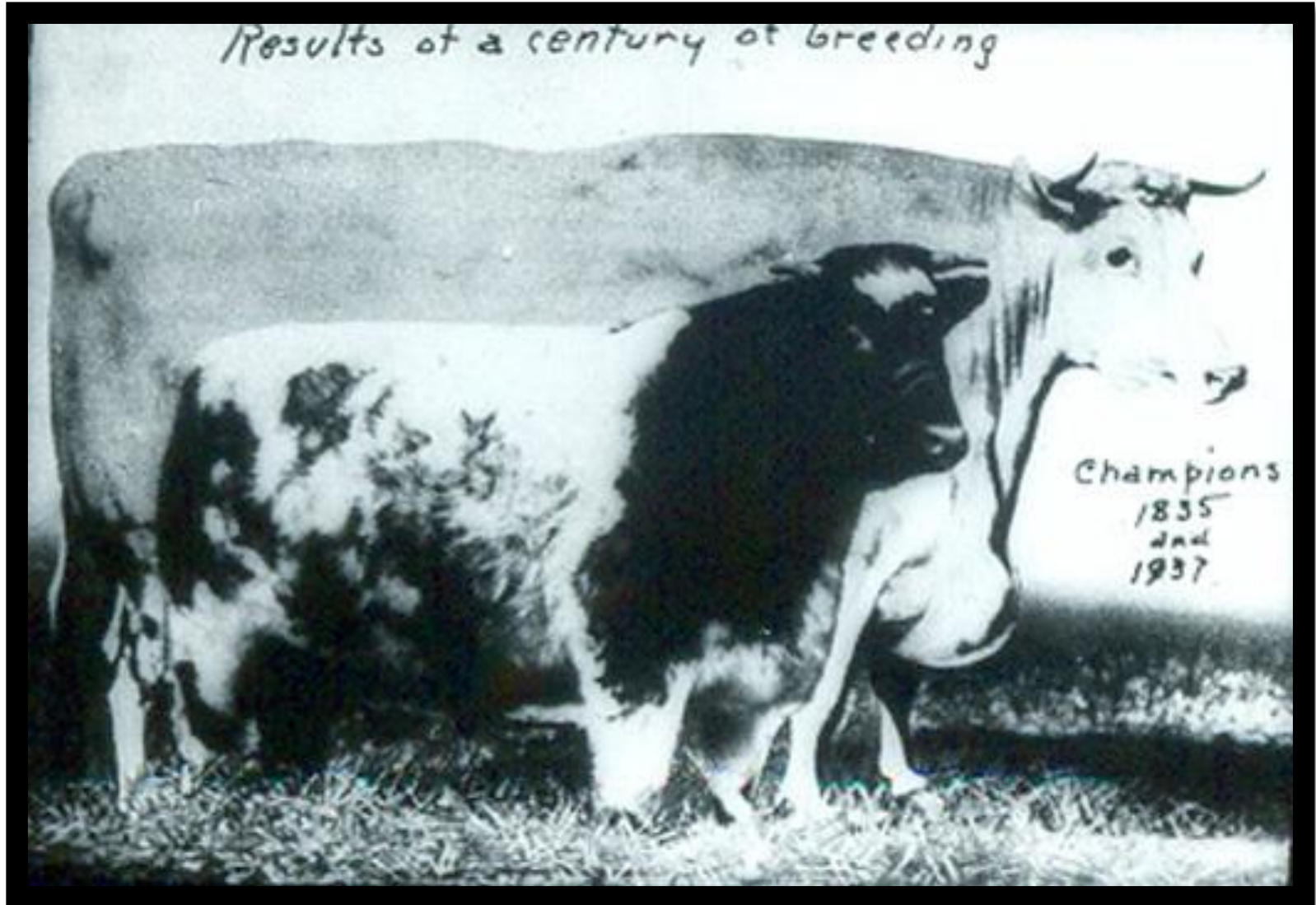




# What have we learned?

- Our producer's are willing to adapt. They can and they will create change
- Sometimes we go too far!

# Cattle are Changing More Rapidly Today



# Post-weaning Perspective

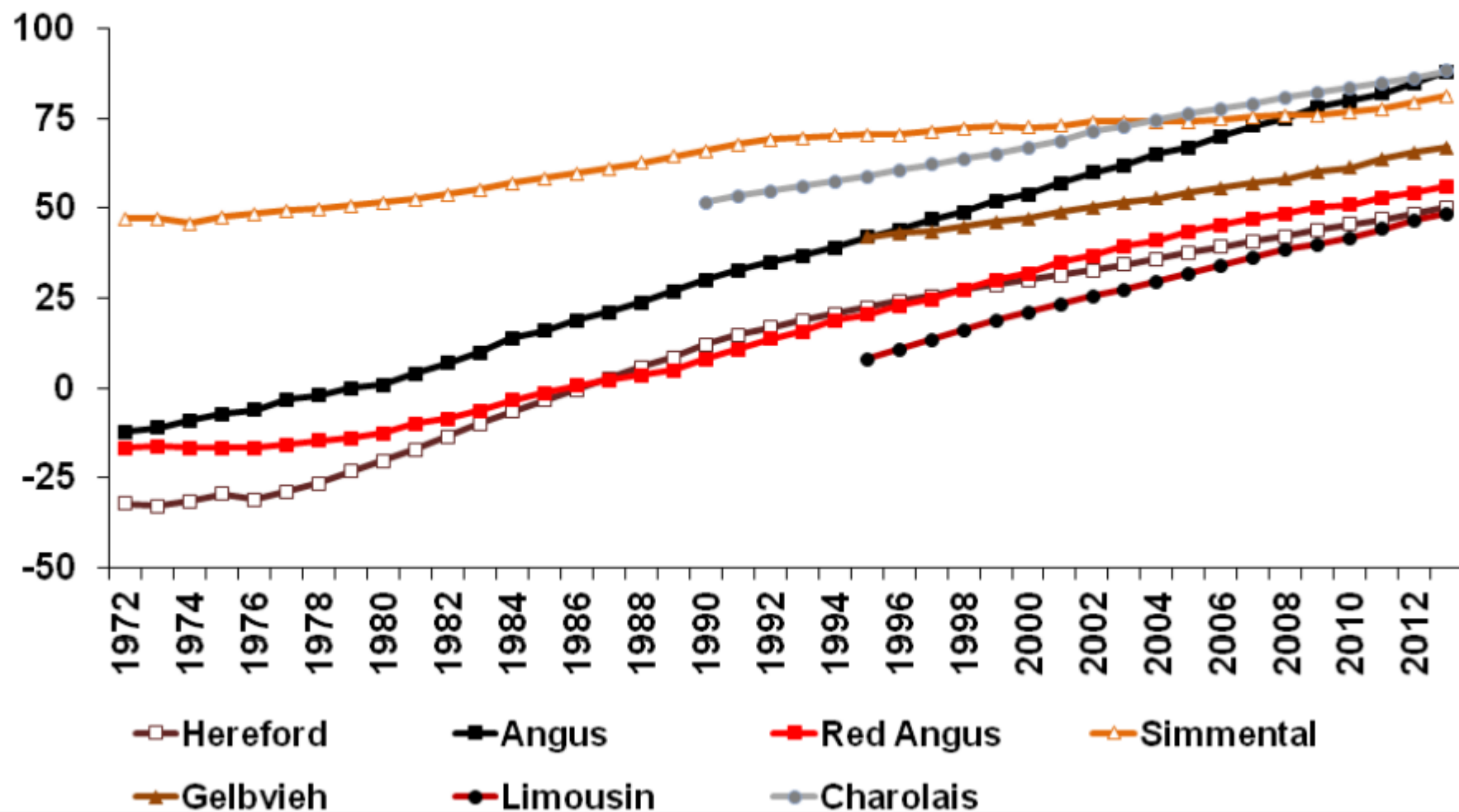
Today cattle have tremendous capacity for post-weaning growth and carcass weight



Photo Courtesy of Oklahoma State University

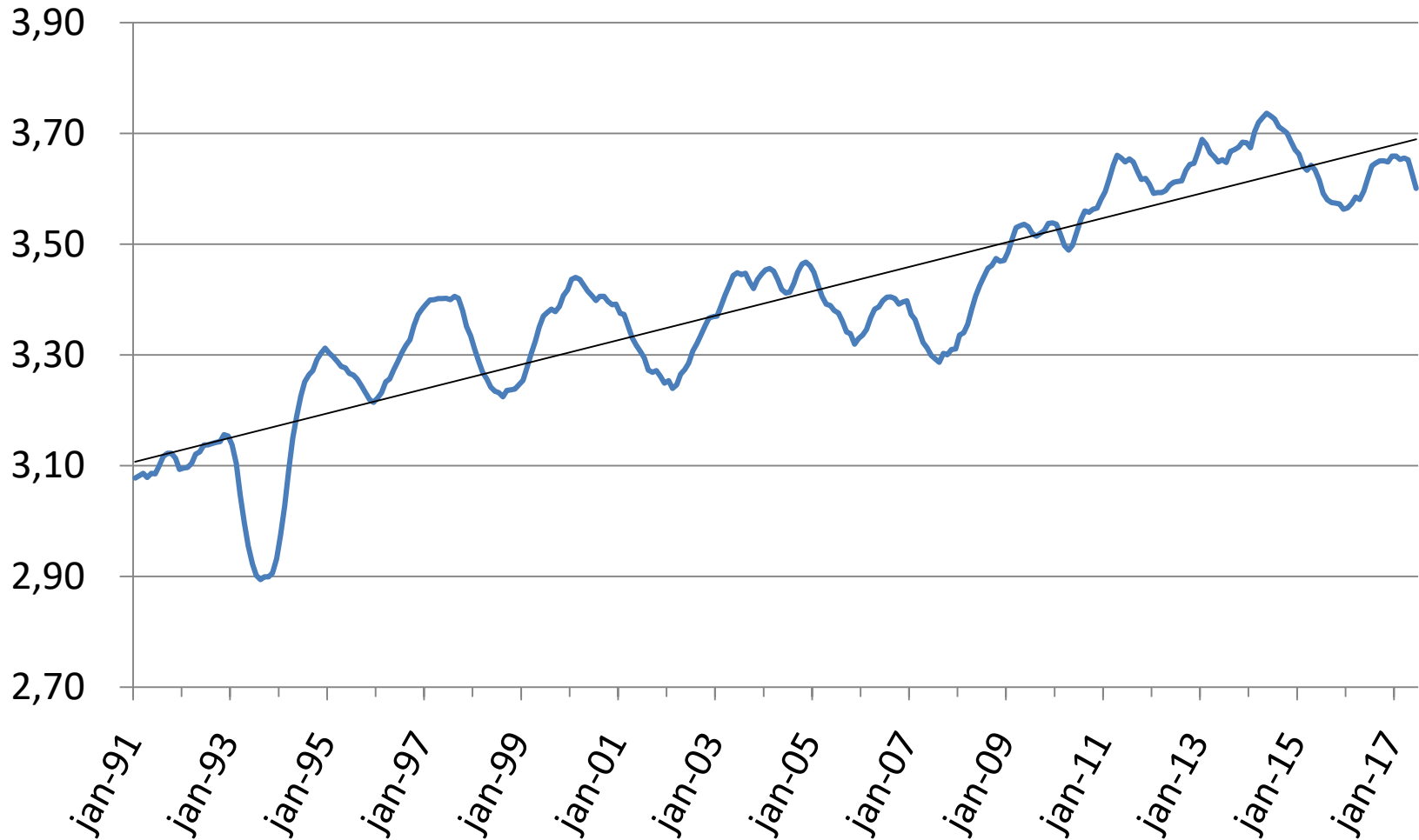
Figure 3. Relative genetic trends for yearling weight (lb) of the seven most highly used beef breeds (3a) and all breeds that submitted 2015 trends (3b) adjusted for birth year 2013 using the 2015 across-breed EPD adjustment factors.

3a.



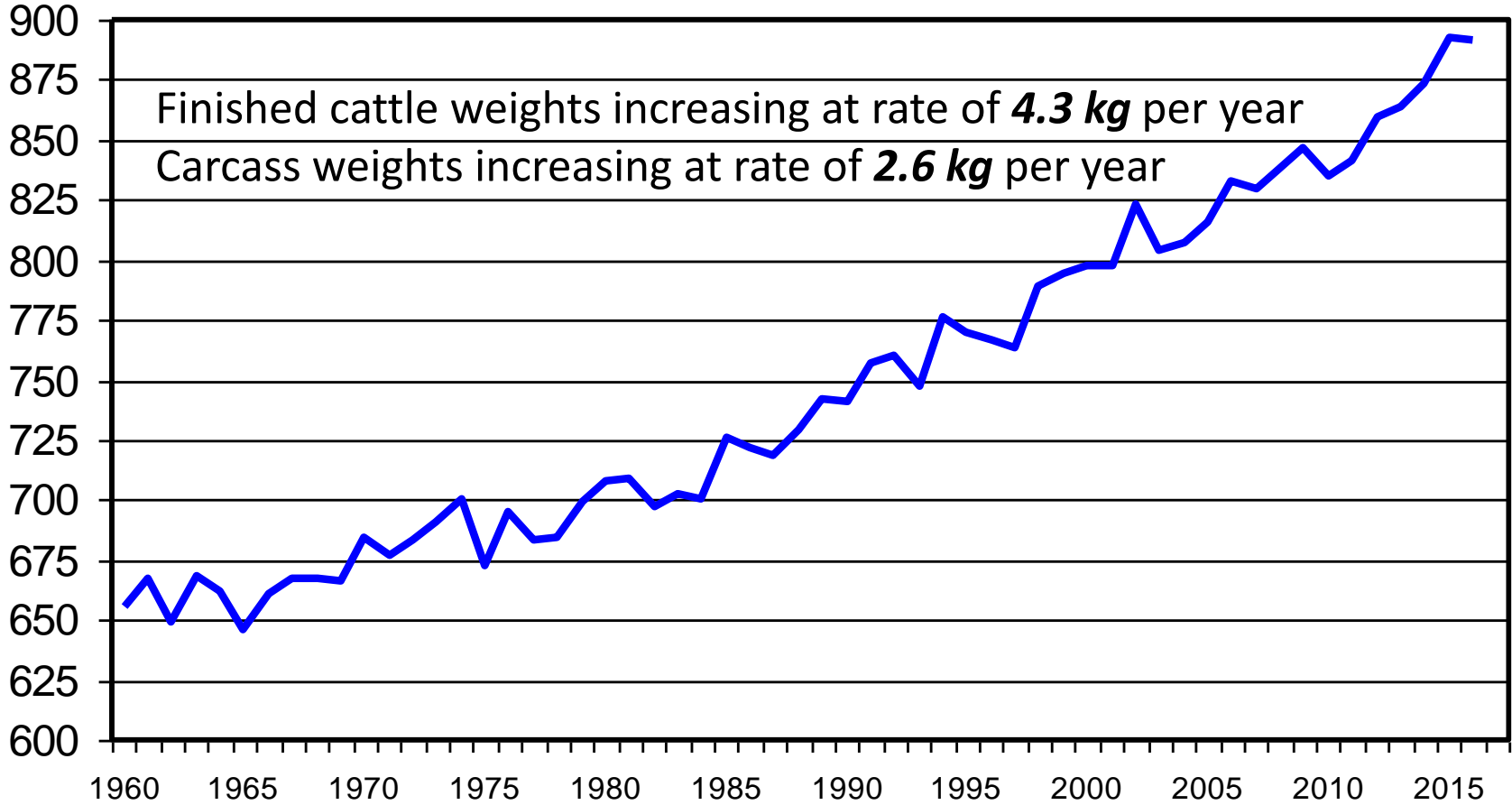
# Finishing Phase (Feedlot)

## Performance is Increasing



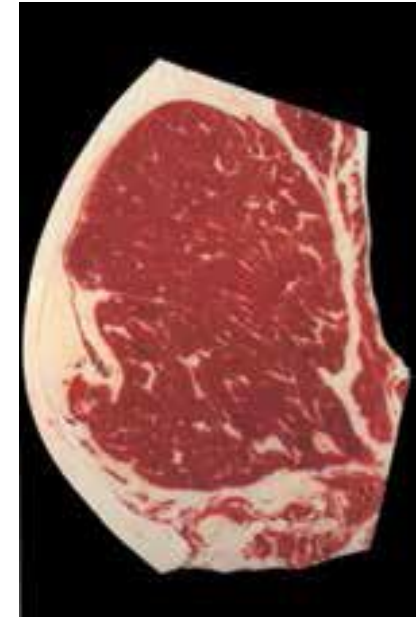
# Steer Carcass Weight Federally Inspected

Pounds



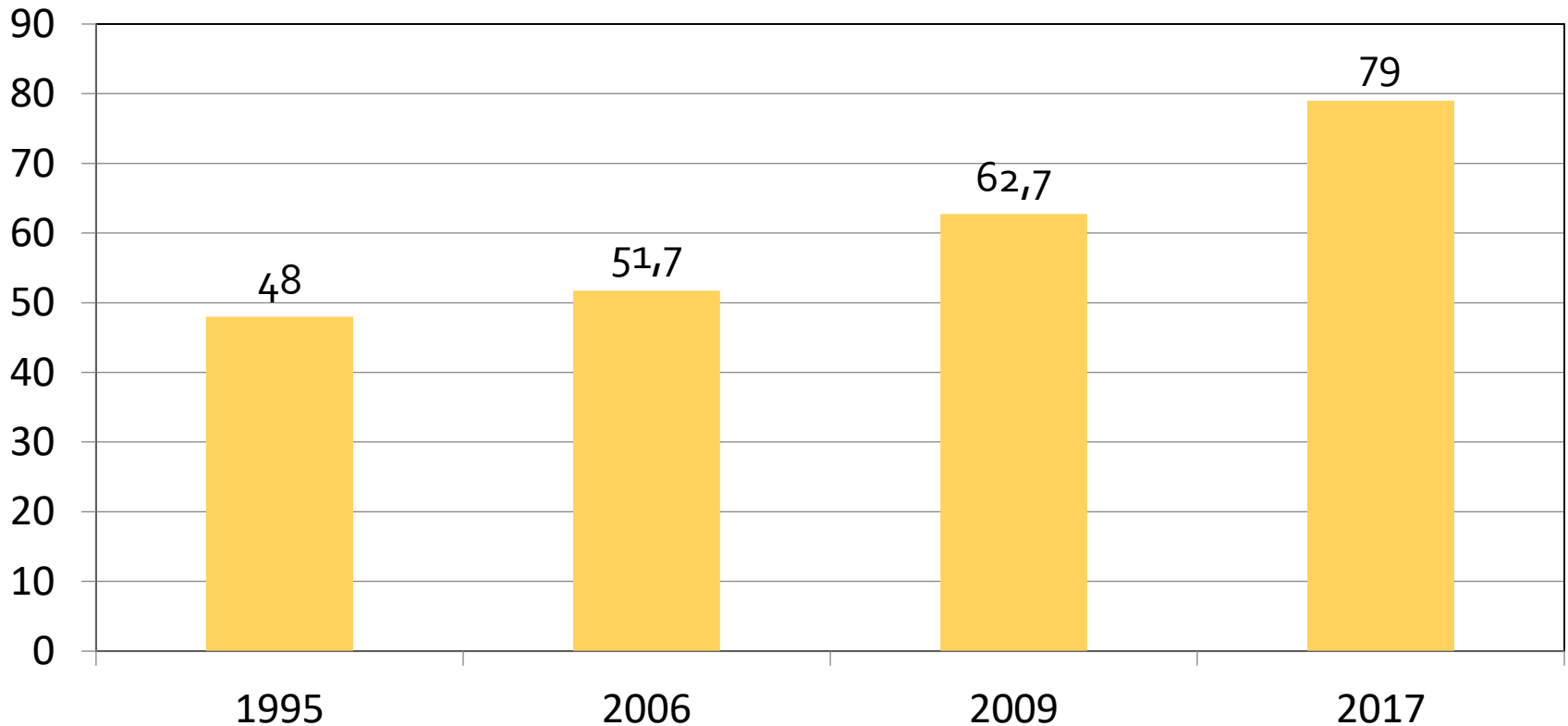
# Post-Weaning Perspective

Cattle have tremendous capacity for marbling



# Beef quality

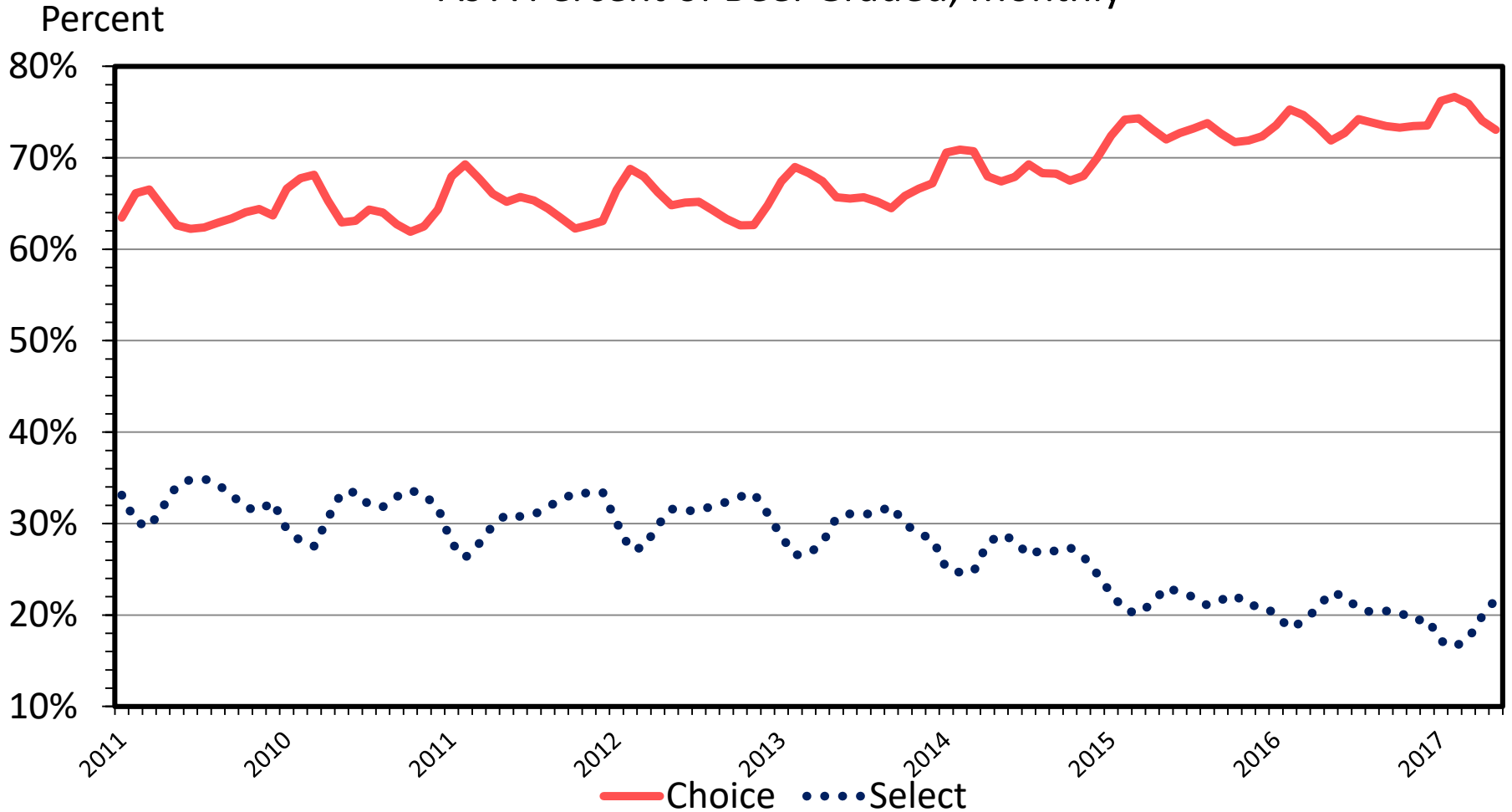
## % Cattle Grading USDA Choice and Above





# BEEF GRADED CHOICE AND SELECT

As A Percent of Beef Graded, Monthly



Data Source: USDA-AMS, Compiled by LMIC

Livestock Marketing Information Center

M-S-25  
07/28/17

# Cow/Calf Enterprise



Photo Courtesy of Oklahoma State University

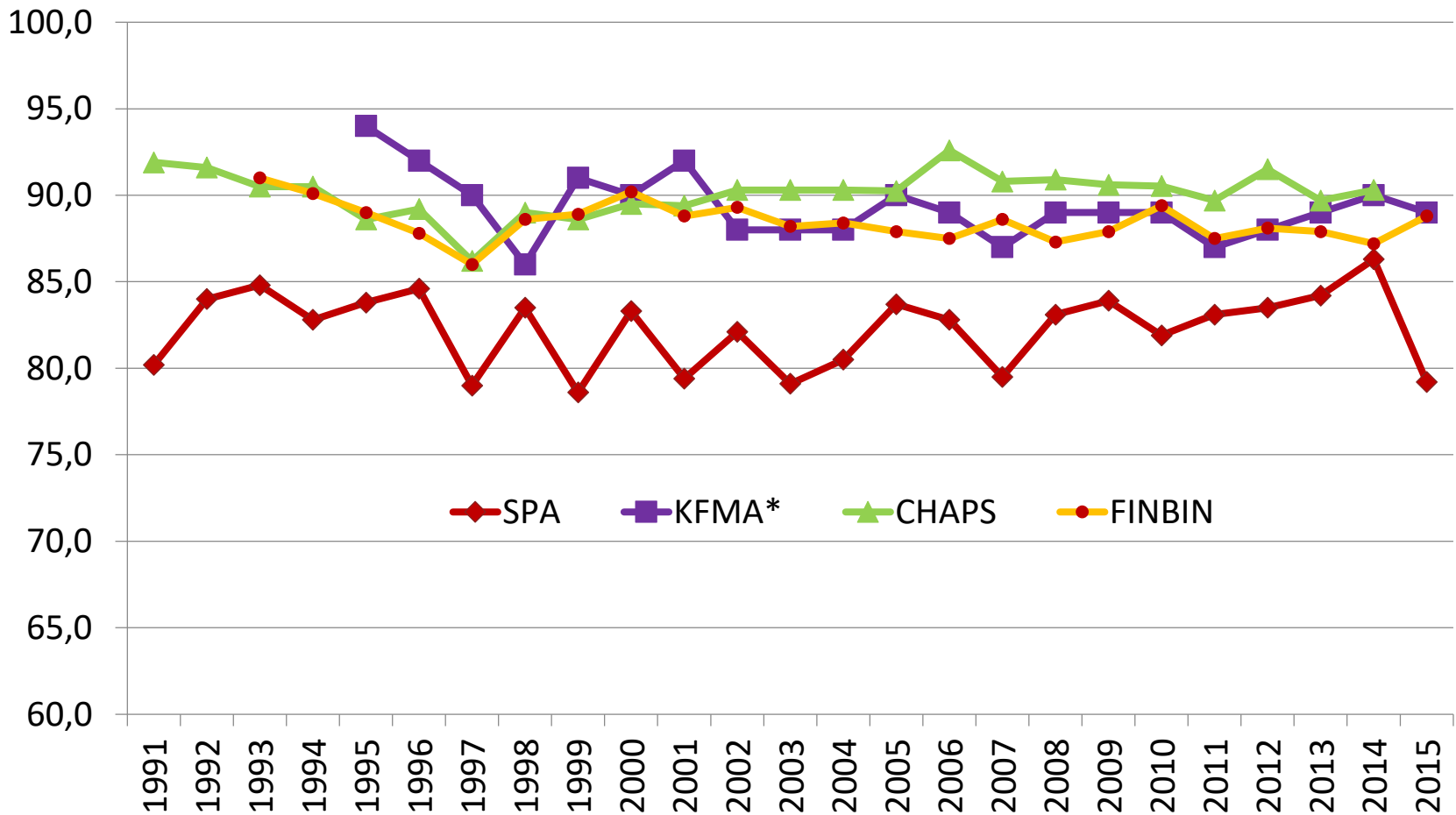
# Profitability and Performance Data

- Kansas: Kansas Farm Management Association (KFMA)  
Kevin Herbel
- North Dakota: Cow Herd Appraisal Performance Software (CHAPS)  
Dr. Kris Ringwall
- New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas: Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA)  
Dr. Stan Bevers
- Upper Midwest (FINBIN), Center for Farm Financial Management, University of Minnesota

# Reproduction

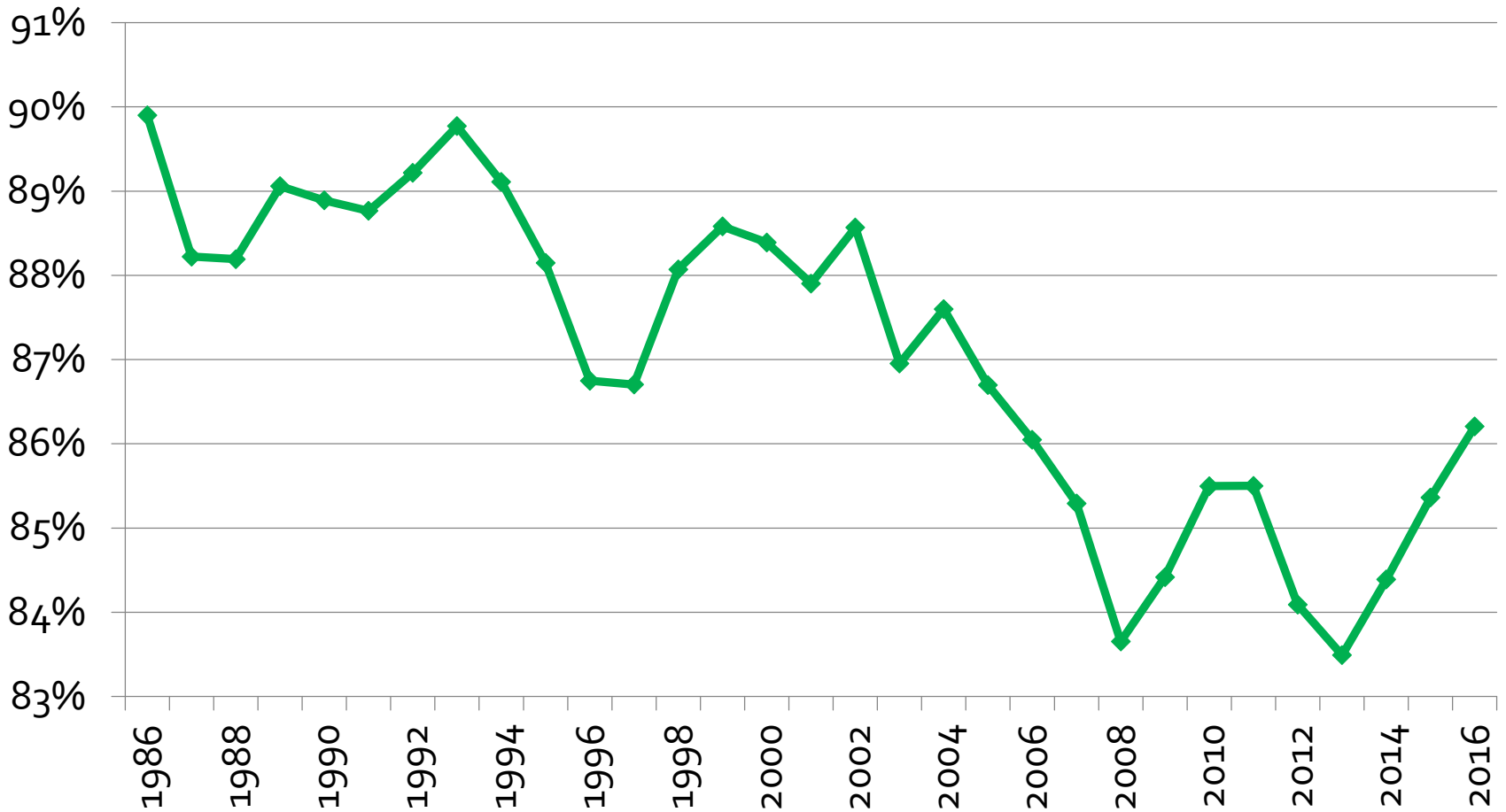


# Weaning Rate in Commercial Cow/Calf Operations



# Beef Calf Crop Percent

Estimated from USDA NASS Data



Source: Dr. Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University

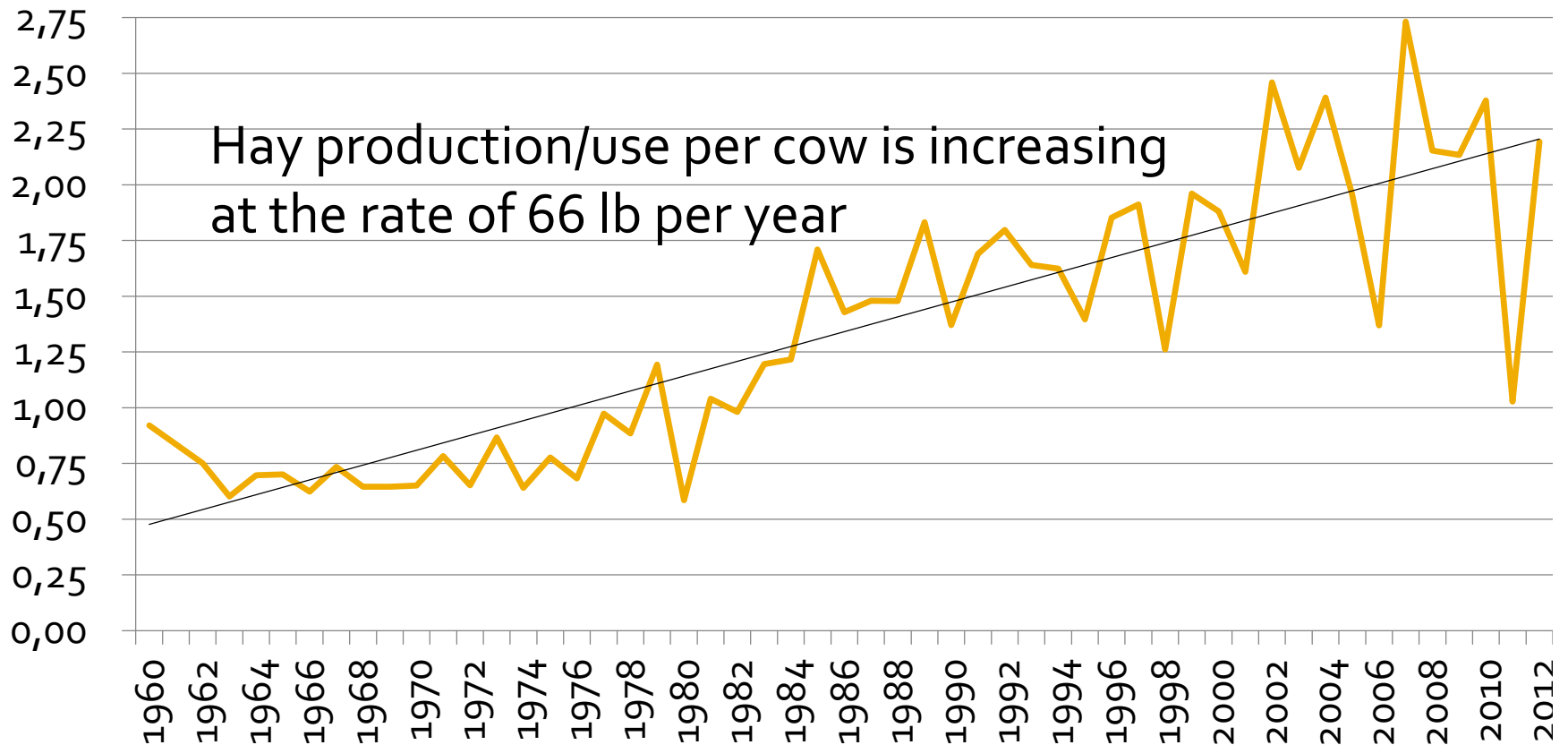
# Reliance on Grazing vs Harvested Feed/Forage



Photo Courtesy of Oklahoma State University

# Hay Production: Oklahoma

## Tons Per Beef Cow





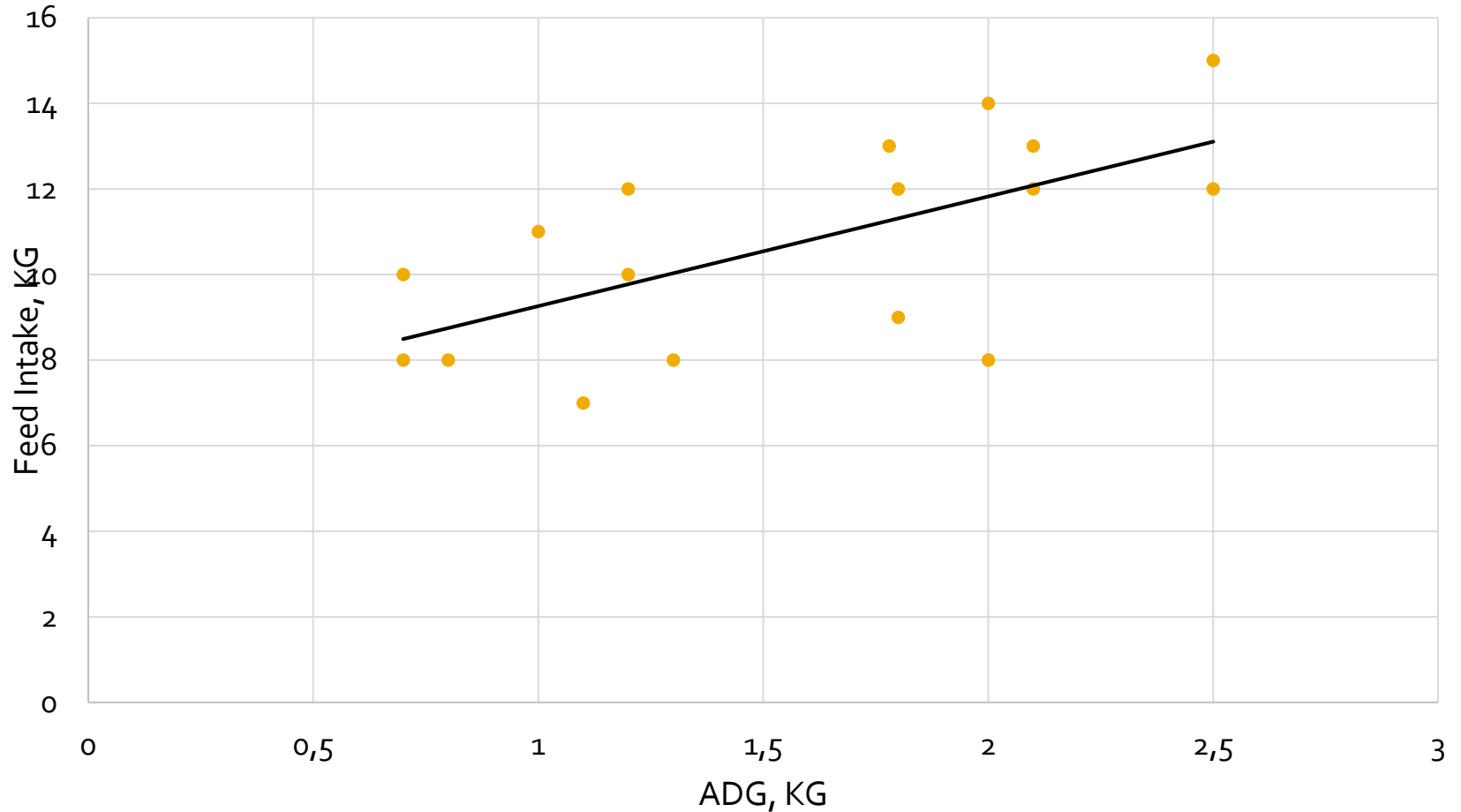
# Summary

- When cattle producer's are provided effective science-based tools, THEY USE THEM
- Dramatic improvement in ***post-weaning performance, total beef produced per cow, and carcass quality***
- In the meantime, tools for cow herd efficiency and particularly for fertility have made little to no progress

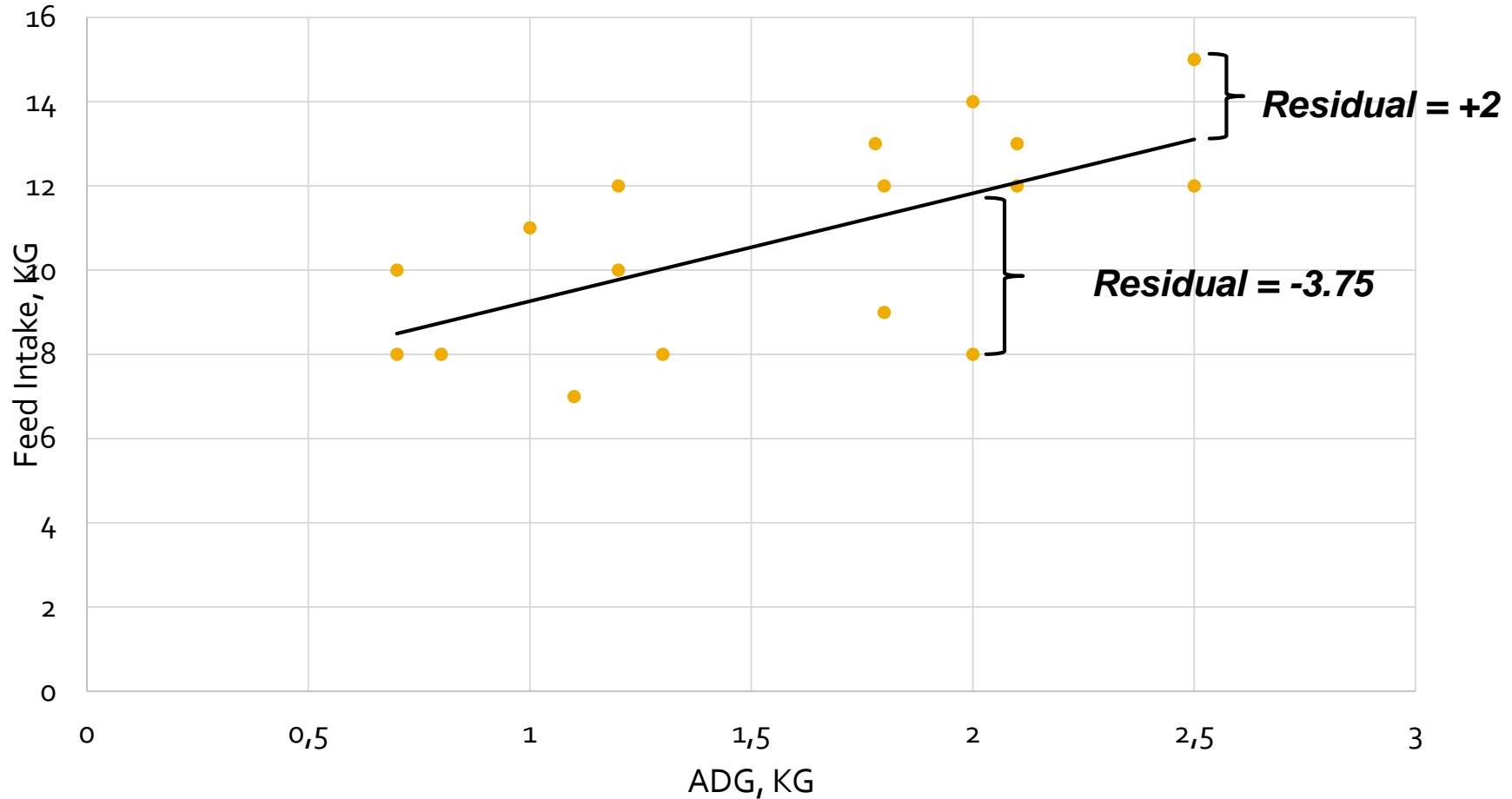
# The Focus Will Once Again Shift: With Change Comes Opportunity

- Our current level of beef production can be sustained with
  - 20% lower feed inputs
  - 30% lower methane production
  - 17% lower N, P and K output
- Selection for feed intake and residual feed efficiency is now a reality
  - EPD's for feed intake and residual feed efficiency now available for Angus, Hereford, and Simmental

# Residual Feed Intake



# Residual Feed Intake



# Specialized Equipment

## GrowSafe



## Insentec



## SmartFeed



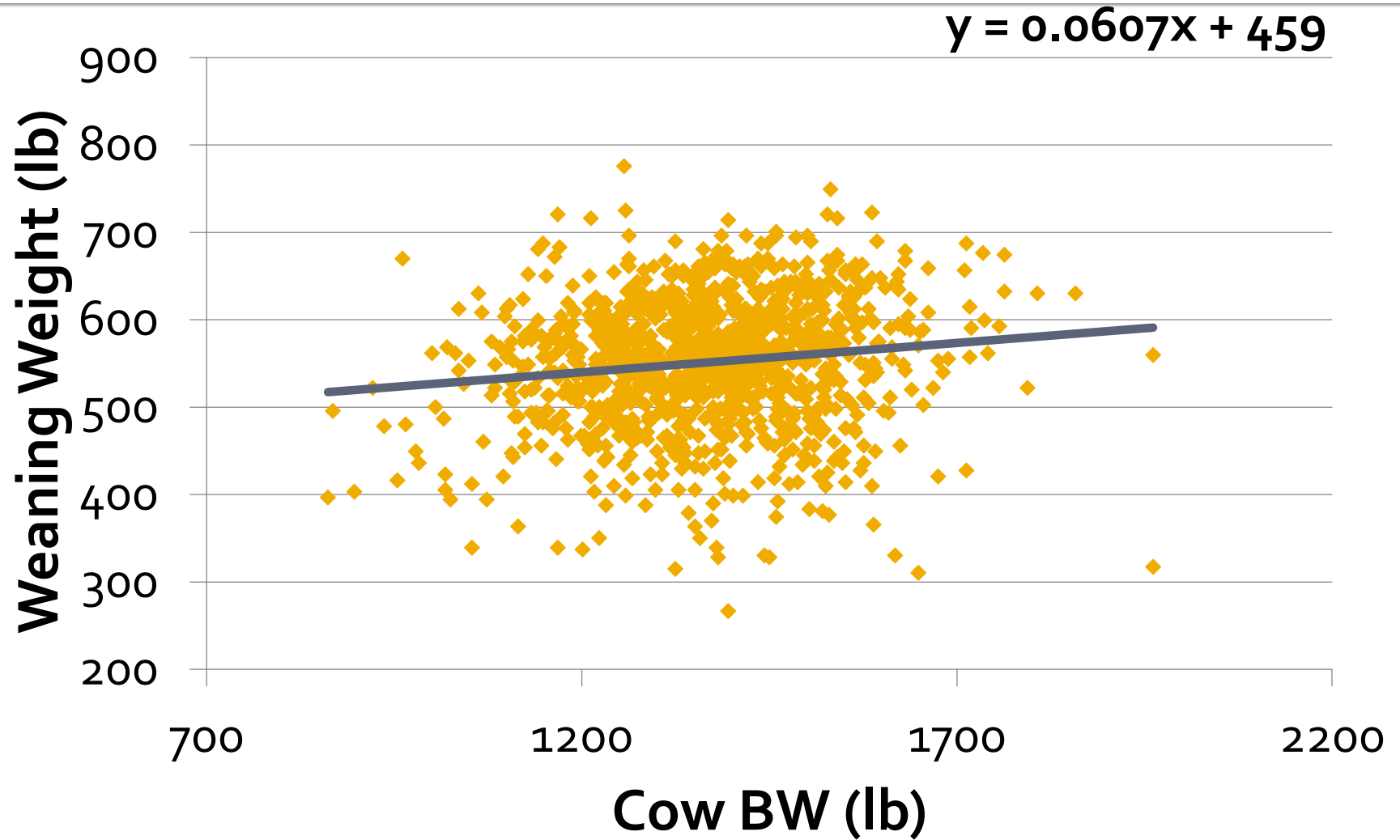
**How about the cow?**



**Do bigger cows  
wean bigger calves  
in a restricted environment  
(commercial herds)?**

**If “yes”, at what cost?**

# Calf WW vs Cow BW





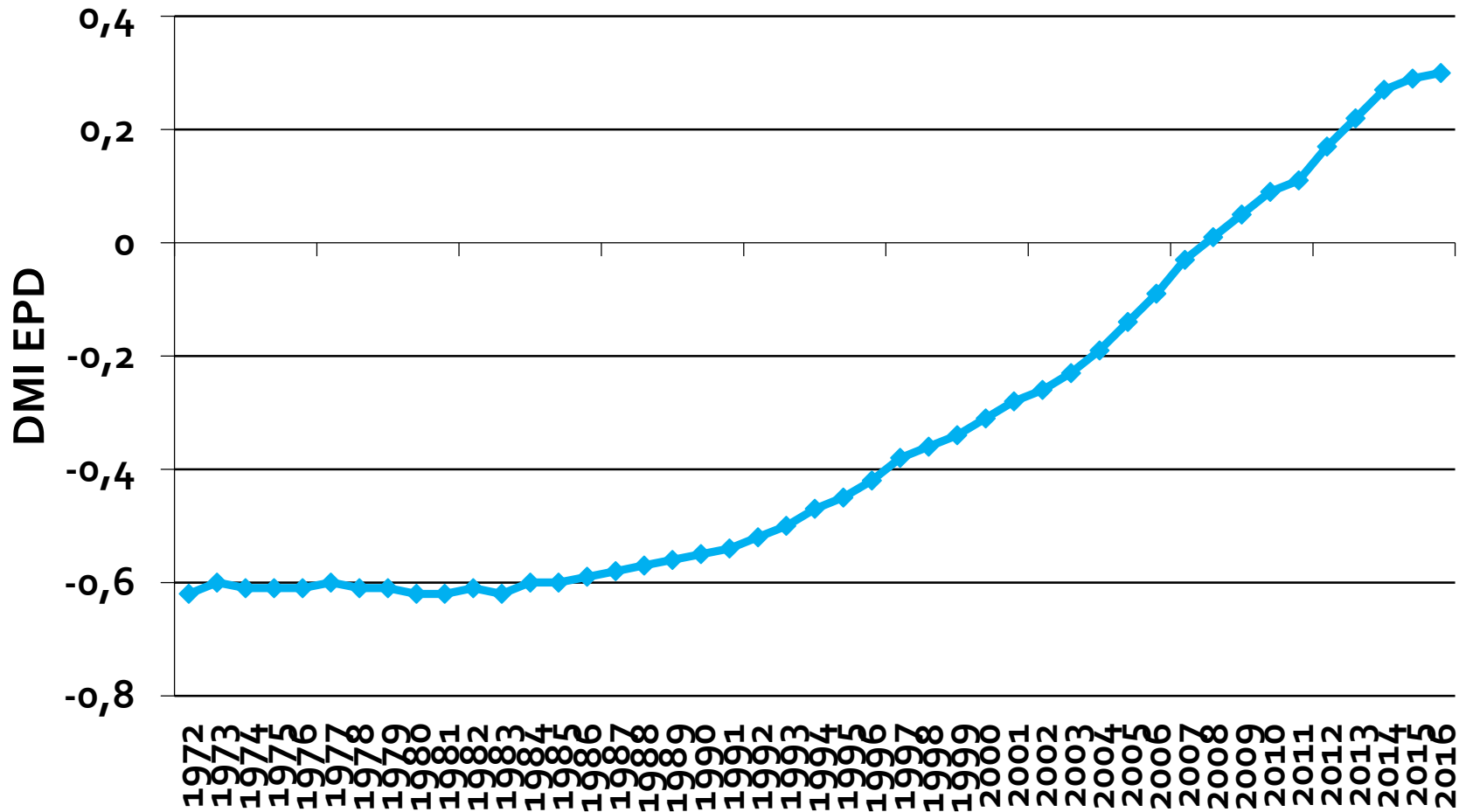
# Cost of Added Cow Weight

**Annual cost / 45 kg of additional cow BW = \$42**

(Doye and Lalman, 2011)

What happens to cow maintenance costs with aggressive selection for **growth**, gradual increases in cow **size** (primarily from increased visceral organ mass), and genetic potential for **milk**?

# Genetic Trend For Dry Matter Intake Angus



**Video**

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# The Focus Will Once Again Shift: With Change Comes Opportunity

- Genetics tools will finally be available to make meaningful improvement in fertility
  - Genomic discoveries developing now
  - Hereford, Red Angus, Angus and Charolais working hard to roll out new fertility EPD's this fall

# SUSTAINED COW FERTILITY (SCF)

The Sustained Cow Fertility (SCF) results, reported in percentage units, are oriented such that larger breeding values reflect sires whose daughters calve annually for more years.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a news article. The article title is "AHA Releases New Fertility Traits". The text describes the American Hereford Association's (AHA) 15th anniversary of Whole Herd Reporting and the development of two new fertility traits: Heifer Calving Rate (HCR) and Sustained Cow Fertility (SCF). A photo of a man, likely a representative of the AHA, is shown on the left side of the article. The article text is partially obscured by a dark overlay at the bottom of the browser window. The browser's address bar shows the URL "https://issuu.com/buyhereford/docs/december2015hw". The Windows taskbar at the bottom of the screen shows various application icons and the system clock indicating 6:24 AM on 2/26/2016.

## AHA Releases New Fertility Traits

The American Hereford Association (AHA) is in its 15th year of Whole Herd Reporting. Recently, this program allowed for the development of two new fertility traits, Heifer Calving Rate (HCR) and Sustained Cow Fertility (SCF), which have been released as a research analysis on the AHA website at [Hereford.org](http://Hereford.org). These two traits will become part of the full fertility expected progeny differences (EPDs).

**Heifer Calving Rate**  
The Heifer Calving Rate EPDs are produced from an animal model genetic evaluation for 293,313 animals encompassing a six-generation pedigree. Heifer calving records were analyzed as a categorical trait in which more than 98,000 records were used in the binary analysis as calved at first calving between 600-800 days was used as part of edits along with checks for contemporary group variation. Heifer calving rate for the dataset was 73%, under the criterion that the heifers calved by 800 days of age. The heritability for heifer calving rate is .15, which is consistent with the magnitude of estimates for lowly heritable reproductive traits but still allows for genetic progress.

**2016 sires BLUESTEM**  
MCR 755T  
P4365067  
Sire: TH 223 7

# SUSTAINED COW FERTILITY (SCF)



Both bulls have 200 plus daughters in production

One bull SCF = 170

One bull SCF = 57



# Summary

- In the U.S., we have excellent/enough
  - Growth
  - Milk
  - Mature cow size
  - Carcass weight
  - Marbling
- The new frontiers are
  - Reducing cow/calf phase cost
  - Cow annual feed energy consumption...true cow efficiency
  - Progress in fertility of the U.S. cow herd begins this fall



# Opportunities for Hungary Cattle Industry

- You can't manage (or select for) what you do not measure
  - Cow costs
  - Feed consumption/efficiency (cow phase and post-weaning)
- Organize to initiate feed efficiency selection
- Organize / explore fertility EBV's
- Importance of all of these will be magnified in "post" or "reduced" subsidy era

