

# Novel Approaches to the Diagnosis of Respiratory Disease in Cattle

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INSTITUTE of AGRICULTURE  
**COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

# Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex

39.6 % of mortality in pre-weaned calves

Over 50% treatments in sick cattle

Average incidence of up to 14%

Economically significant

- Treatment costs
- Labor
- Loss of animal performance
- Loss of reproductive performance
- Survival



# BRD is multifactorial

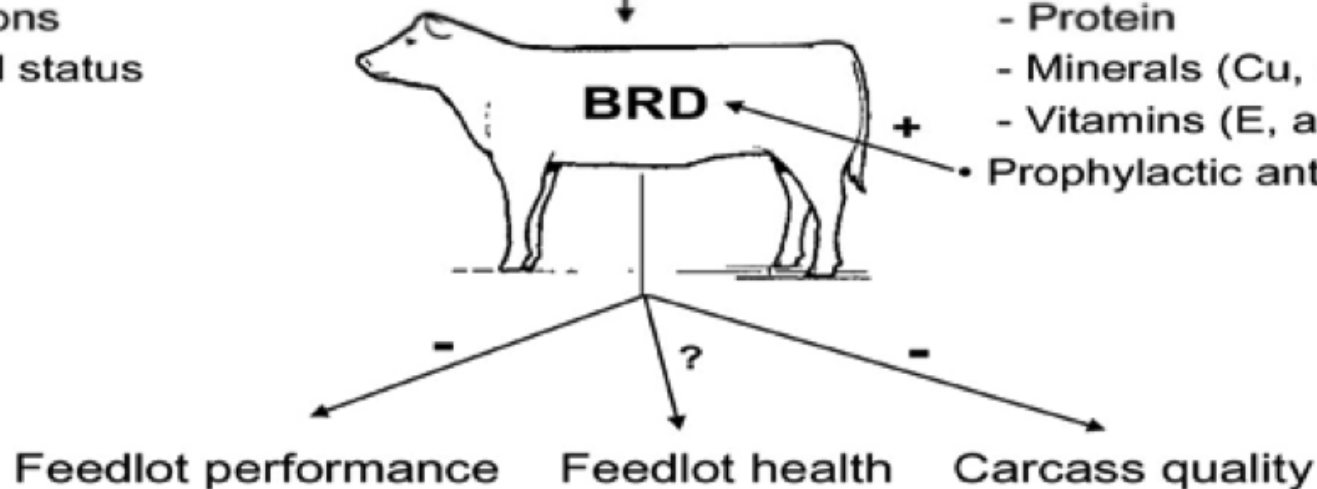
## Preweaning factors

- Prenatal nutrition —  $+$
- Intake of colostrum —  $+$
- Persistent BVD —  $-$
- Preweaning health —  $?$
- Temperament —  $+/-$
- Preshipment management —  $+$ 
  - Preconditioning
  - Vaccinations
  - Nutritional status

## Immunity

## Postweaning factors

- Transportation/marketing stress —  $-$
- Commingling —  $-$
- Receiving period management —  $-/?$ 
  - Castration, dehorning, etc.
  - Implant programs?
- Receiving diet nutrients —  $+/?$ 
  - Energy (roughage)
  - Protein
  - Minerals (Cu, Se, Zn)
  - Vitamins (E, antioxidants)
- Prophylactic antibiotics —  $+$



# BRD has many etiologic agents and often is caused by multiple pathogens

## Viral Pathogens

BHV-1

BVDV (I & II)

BRSV

PI3

BoCOV

## Bacterial Pathogens

*Mannheimia haemolytica*

*Pastuerella multocida*

*Histophilus somni*

*Mycoplasma bovis*

*Trueperella (Archanobacter)  
pyogenes*

Approach new cases of BRD as undifferentiated respiratory disease to avoid bias



# The problem....



## **Antemortem**

**Clinical Illness Scoring-Illness Behavior**

**Sampling Sites**

**Serum Biomarkers**

## **Postmortem**

**Lung Scores**

**Getting the most out of  
diagnostic lab sample**

# Pen riding is an art and a science



**Observation is critical**

**Same time every day**

**Ideally the same person**

**Should be pulling 5-10% with no disease**





# Case definition is key

Signs used in  
determining a case  
definition of BRD

1. Respiratory Rate
2. Respiratory Character
3. Rumen Fill
4. Observed Anorexia
5. Nasal Discharge
6. Ocular Discharge
7. Depression



# Clinical illness scoring attempts to remove the subjectivity of diagnosing BRD

## Depression Scores

- 1 -- mild
- 2 – moderate
- 3 – marked
- 4 – severe

## Lung Scores (Stethoscope)

- 1 – Normal
- 2 – Mild increased
- 3 – Moderately increased
- 4 – Severely increased
- 5 – Diffusely severe

## Rectal Temperature

- Arbitrary cut off
  - in light of ambient temperatures
- > 103.5 °F





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Calf 1-

Mild Depression  
1

Moderately Increased Lung Sounds  
3

>103.5 °F  
4

TREAT !

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Calf 2-

Mild Depression  
4

Moderately Increased Lung Sounds  
5

Temp +/- elevated  
9

TREAT??  
CHRONIC??

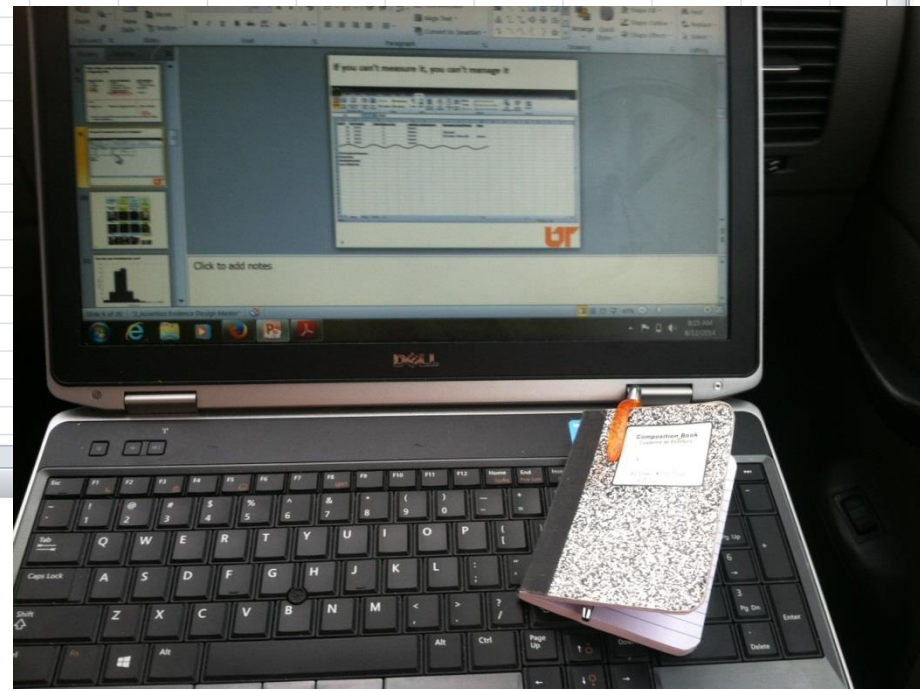
**Calves with elevated CIS have poorer prognosis and are more likely to develop chronic lung infections**













# If you can't measure it, you can't manage it

Book1 - Microsoft Excel

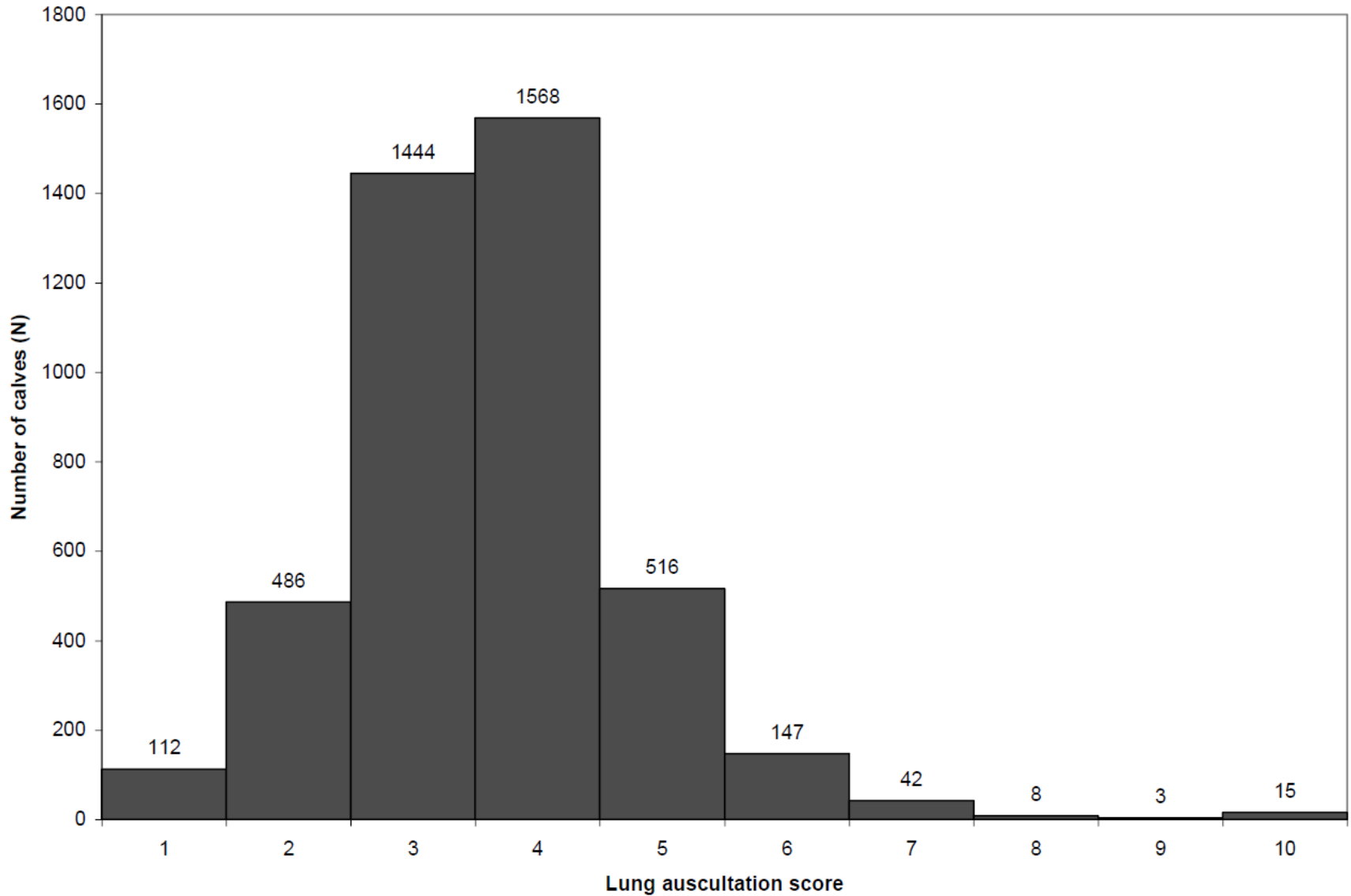
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
1	<b>Calf ID</b>	<b>Date Treated</b>		<b>Clinical Illness Score</b>			<b>Antibiotic Administered</b>			<b>Retreatment Date/Product</b>			<b>Notes</b>								
2	55	12-Jul		4			Draxxin														
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4	25	14-Jul		8			Draxxin			7/21 Nuflor, 7/25 LA 200			Chronic								
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Sheet1 Sheet2 Sheet3

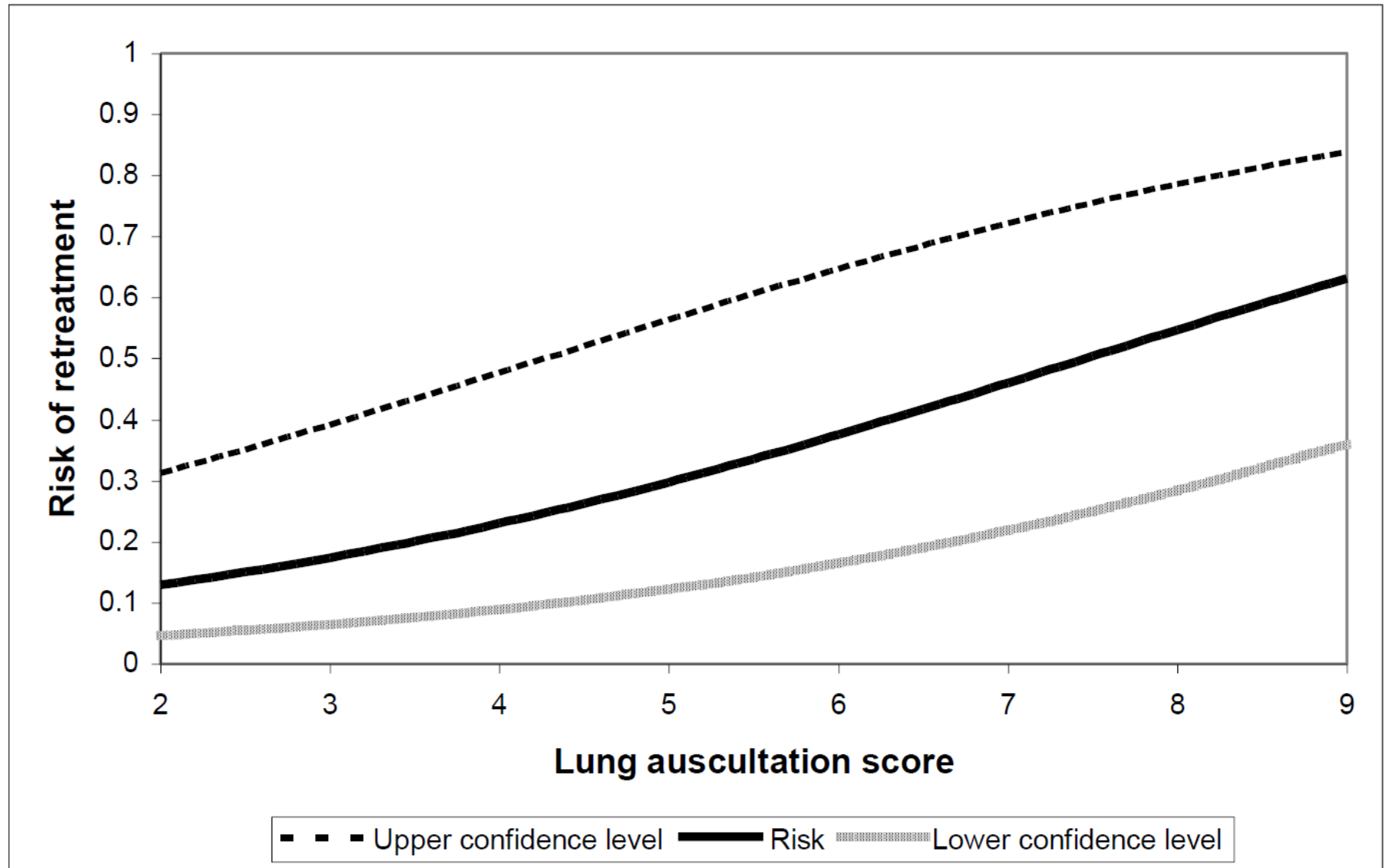


Calf Health Scoring Criteria			
0	1	2	3
<b>Rectal temperature</b>			
100-100.9	101-101.9	102-102.9	≥103
<b>Cough</b>			
None	Induce single cough	Induced repeated coughs or occasional spontaneous cough	Repeated spontaneous coughs
<b>Nasal discharge</b>			
Normal serous discharge	Small amount of unilateral cloudy discharge	Bilateral, cloudy or excessive mucus discharge	Copious bilateral mucopurulent discharge
			
<b>Eye scores</b>			
Normal	Small amount of ocular discharge	Moderate amount of bilateral discharge	Heavy ocular discharge
			
<b>Ear scores</b>			
Normal	Ear flick or head shake	Slight unilateral droop	Head tilt or bilateral droop
			

# How well does the stethoscope work?

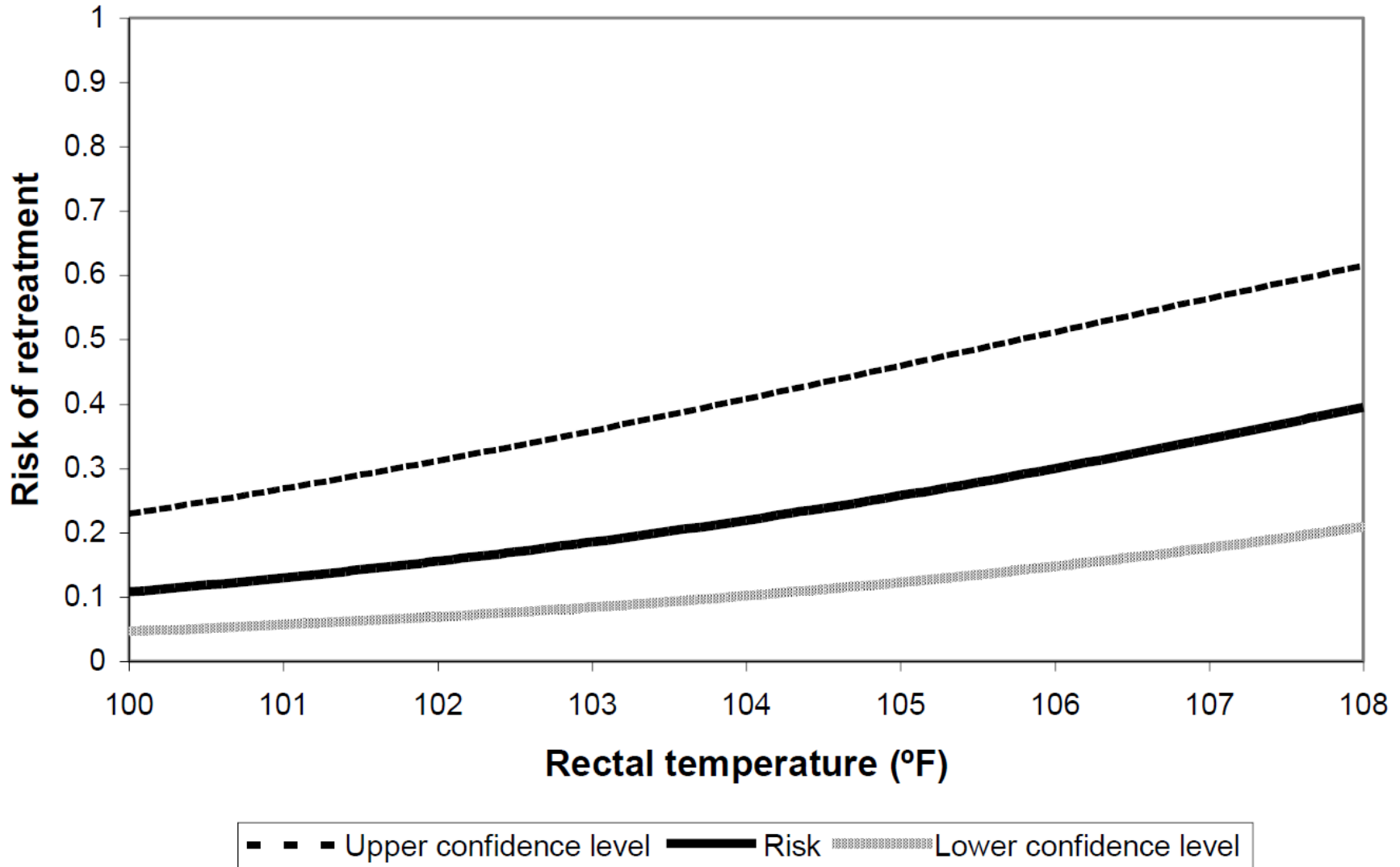


# How well does the stethoscope work?



Buczinski et al. 2014 JVIM

# How well does the thermometer work?



Buczinski et al. 2014 JVIM



# The whole cow and nothing but the.....

## Attention to details

Animals clinical condition (scoring system for consistency)

Behavior



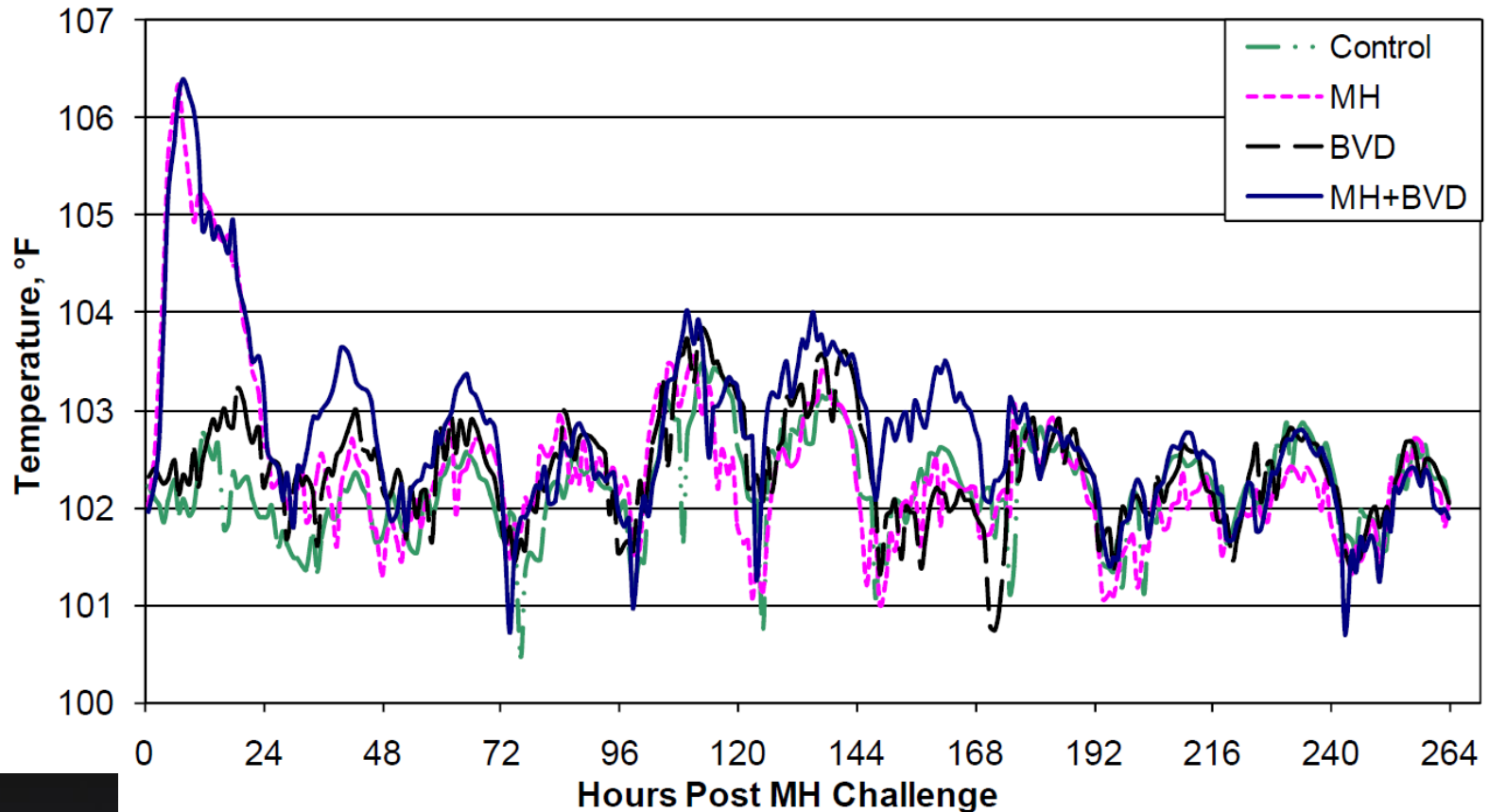
# What can technology do for me?



**GrowSafe Calf Feeding System**



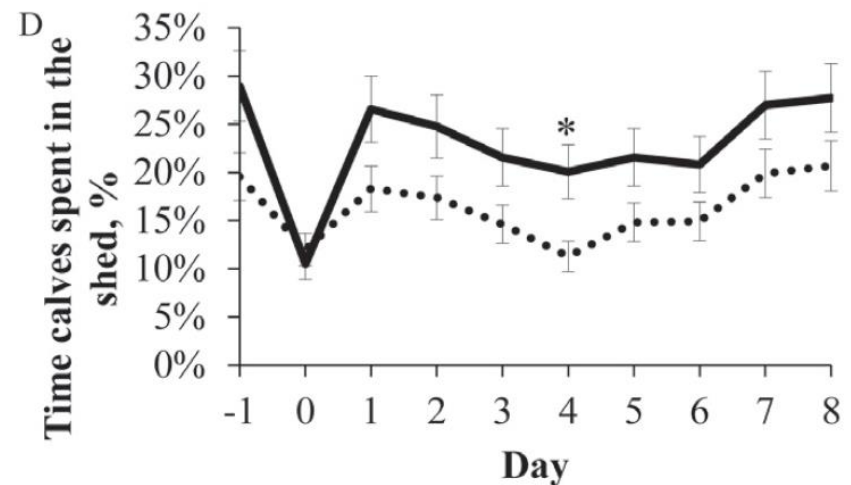
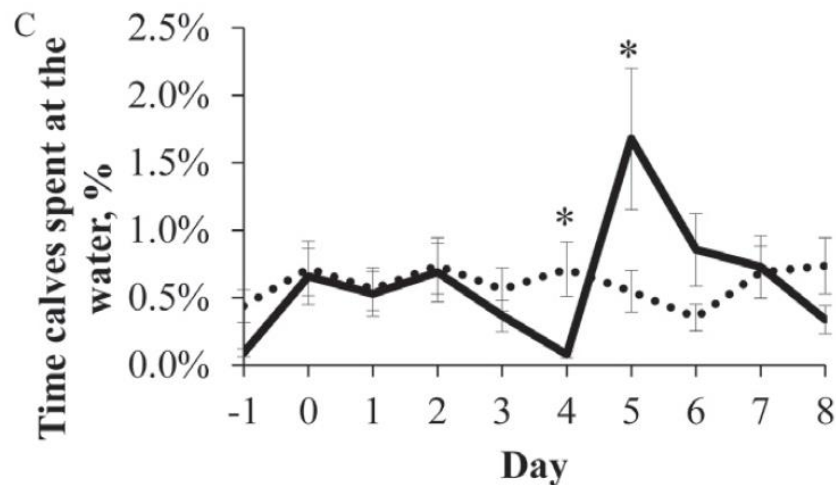
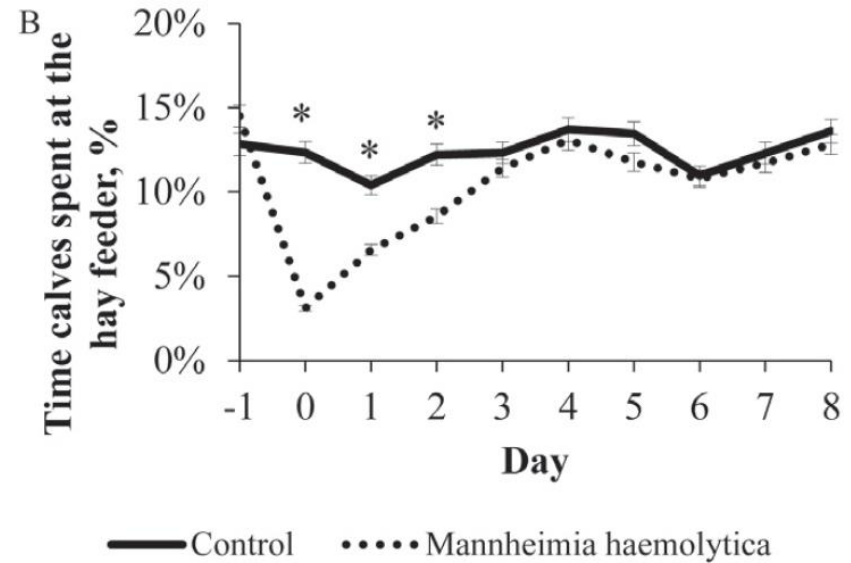
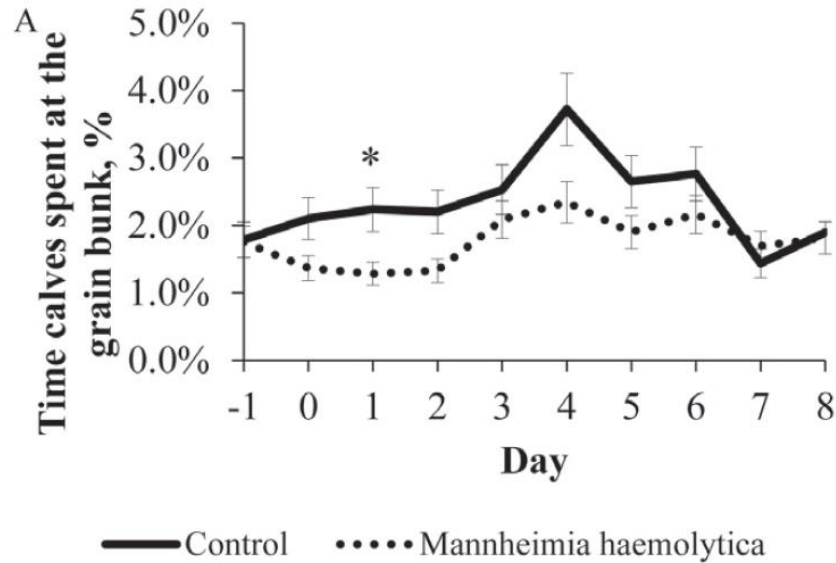
# Can technology helps us capture information about sick cattle?



**Rumen Temperature boluses can capture transient spikes in fever that occur following exposure to *M. haemolytica***



# GPS monitoring technology can detect subtle changes in behavior

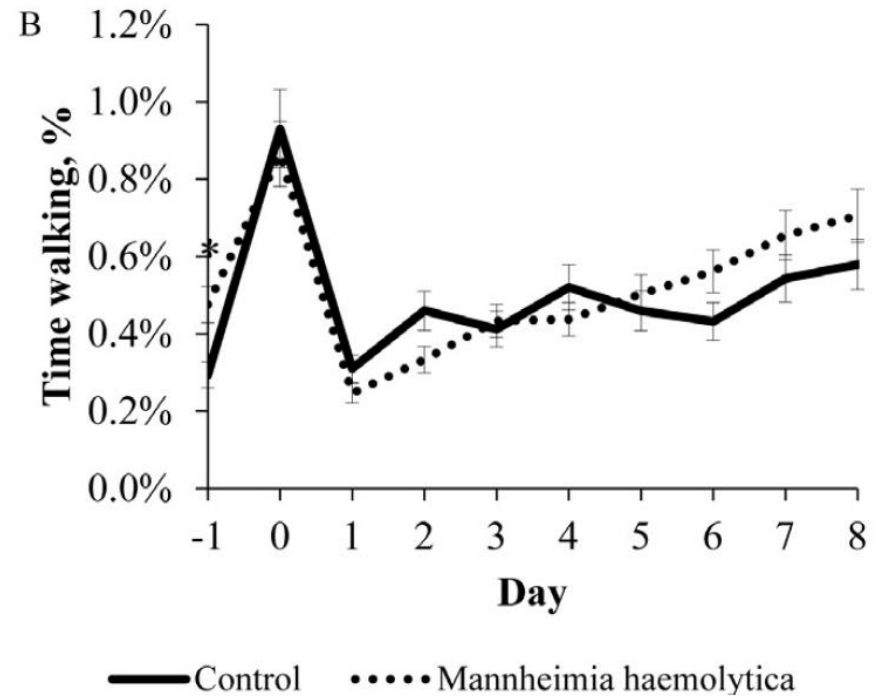
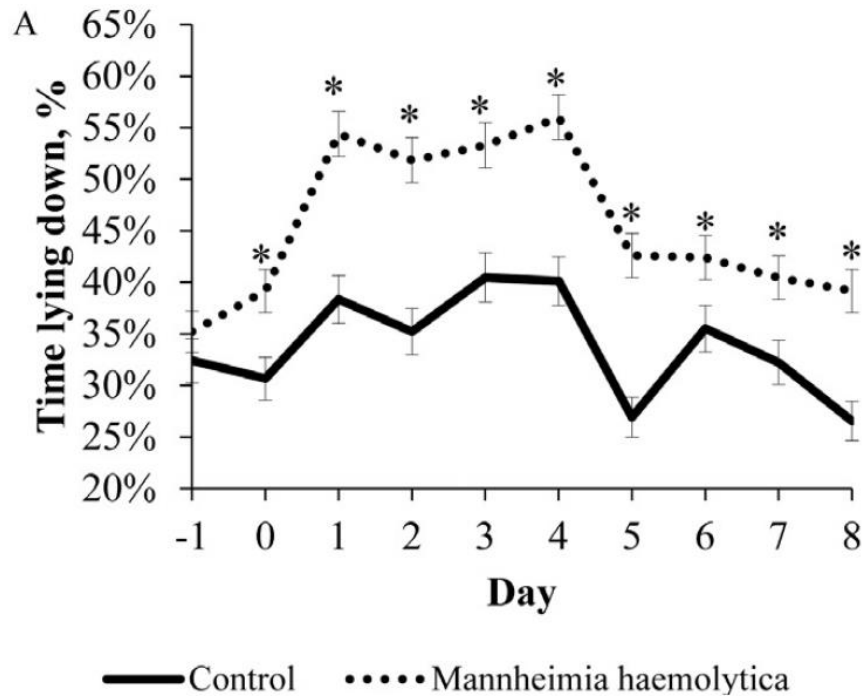




# Accelerometers can determine time spent lying down or walking



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Coetzee et al 2013 J Anim Sci



# Inflammation induces acute phase protein production

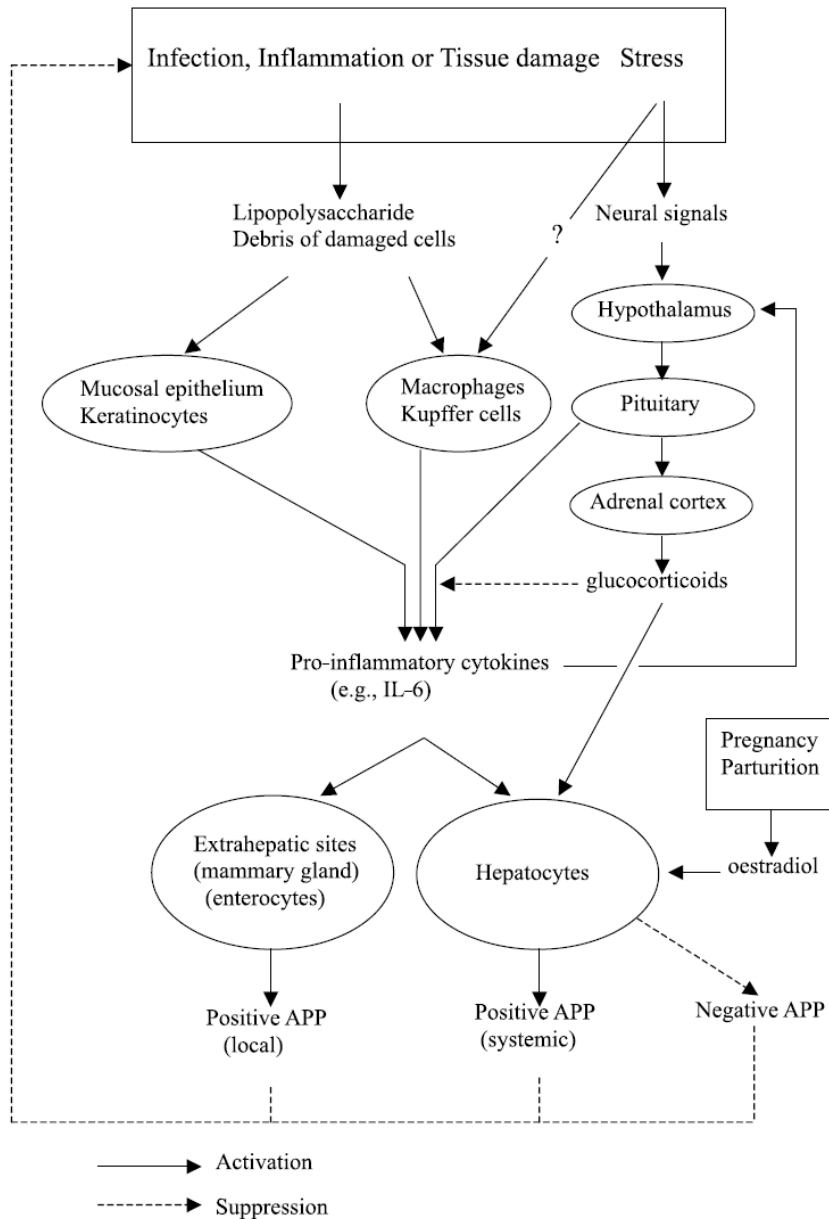
## Important Systemic APPs in Cattle

Haptoglobin

Serum Amyloid A

$\alpha$ 1 acid glycoprotein

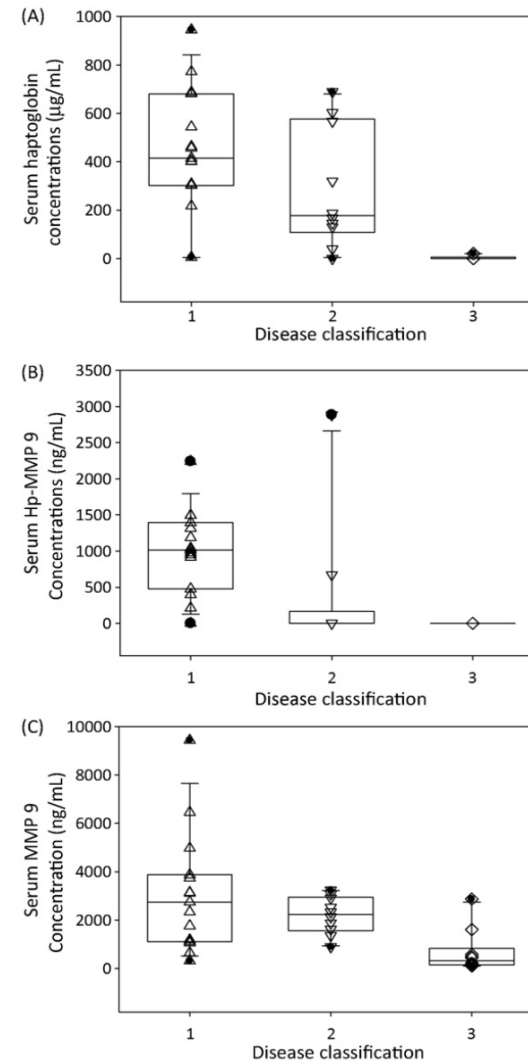
Surfactant Proteins





# Haptoglobin alone poorly predicts cattle with acute inflammation

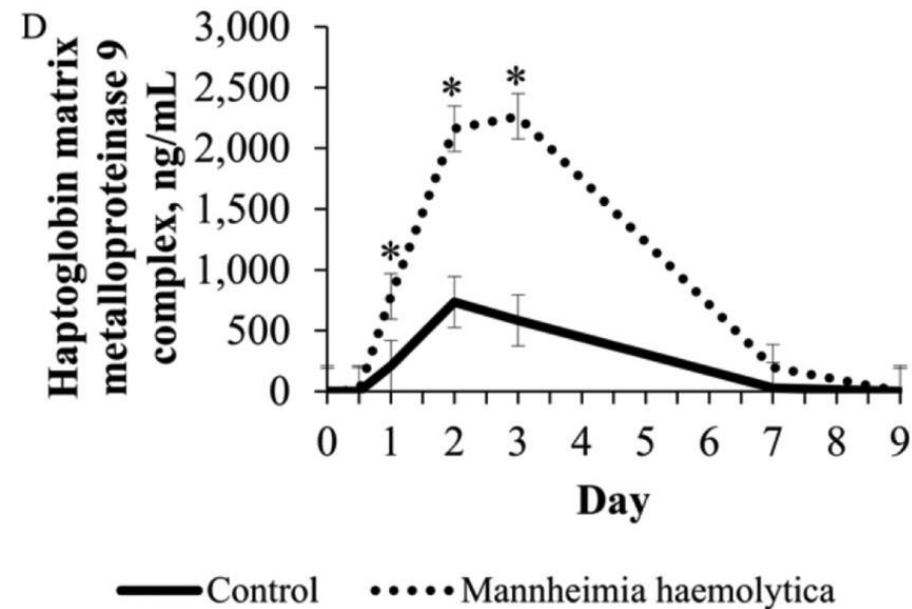
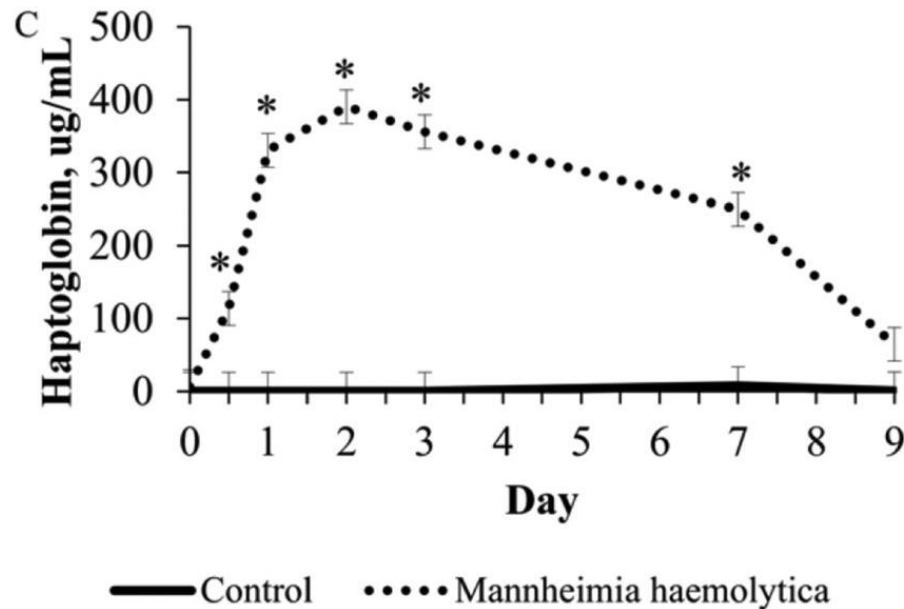
**Hp-metalloproteinase 9 complex is more accurate at discriminating acute septic inflammation**



Bannikov et al.



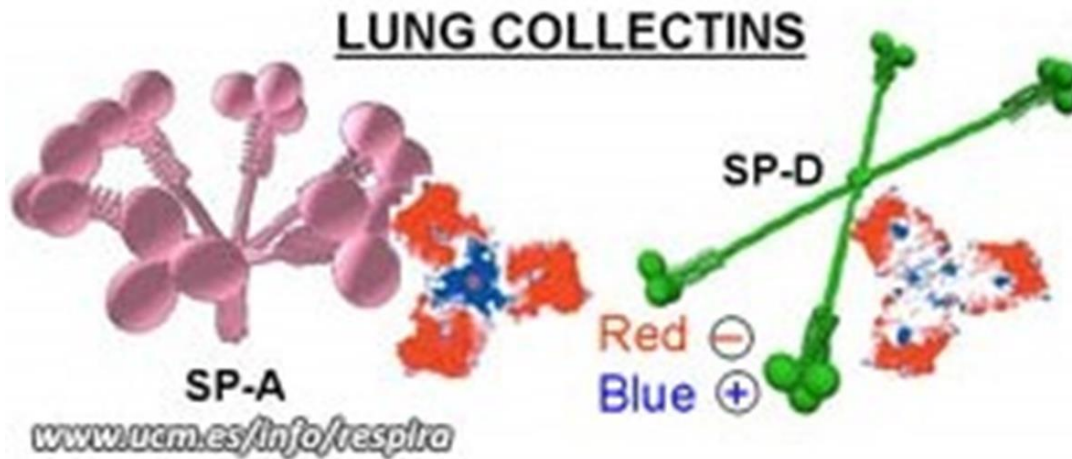
# Haptoglobin alone poorly predicts cattle with acute pneumonia



Coetzee et al 2013 J Anim Sci

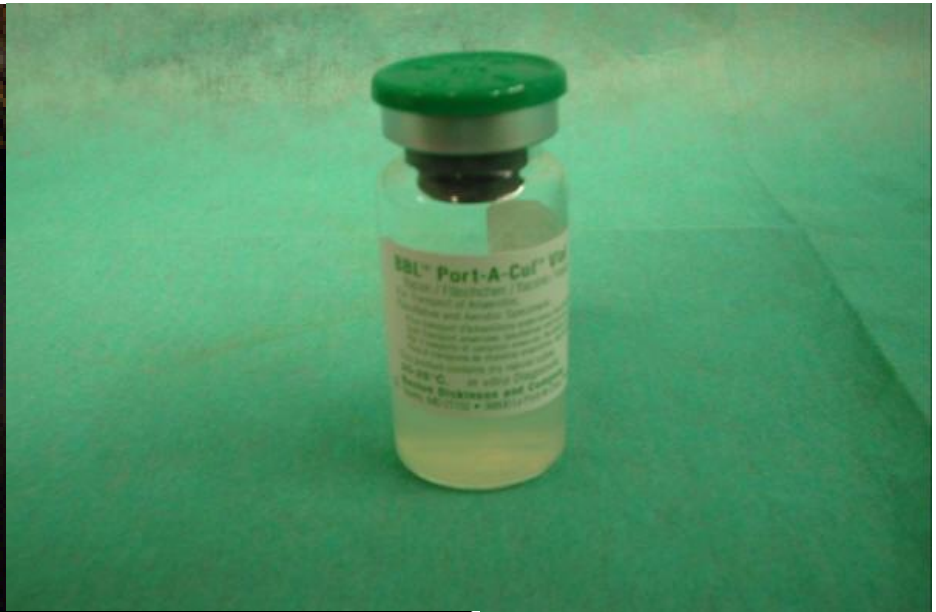


# Surfactant Proteins.....Ongoing Research



Twelve Holstein calves that weigh 300 pounds  
Six calves will be inoculated with  $3-5 \times 10^9$  CFU  
*Mannheimia haemolytica* in their tracheal bronchus  
Six control calves sham inoculated with sterile saline  
only





Book1 - Microsoft Excel

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Sheet1 | Sheet2 | Sheet3







# Nasal swabs provide the most information at the herd level, BALs provide the most information at the individual level

De Rosa *et al.* 2000

Comparison of *Pasteurella* spp. Simultaneously Isolated from Nasal and Transtracheal Swabs from Cattle with Clinical Signs of Bovine Respiratory Disease

- The same bacterial species were culture from both samples **96%** of the time
- **70%** of cultures were the genetically identical with the same antibiotic susceptibility

Thomas *et al.* 2002

Comparison of sampling procedures for isolating pulmonary mycoplasmas in cattle

- Only **10%** of cattle with BRD had positive nasal swabs for *M. bovis*
- 55% of normal cattle cultured *M. bovis* on nasal swabs



**Necropsies are a wealth of information if performed early enough**





# Summary

- **Diagnosis of BRD is moving away from simple observation of clinical signs and temperature monitoring**
- **Clinical Illness Scoring can be effective at improving the diagnosis of individual BRD cases**
- **CIS provides data that can be used to help manage BRD**
- **Chute side serum biomarkers are coming**
- **Technology can aid in continuous monitoring and detection of subtle changes**



# Questions?

