



# Immunity+™



## The Best Way to Fight Disease



**SEMEX**®

Genetics for Life®

# Exclusive Patented Technology



# Immunity+™

Disease Resistant Genetics





Immunity+™ won  
**Innovation  
Award**

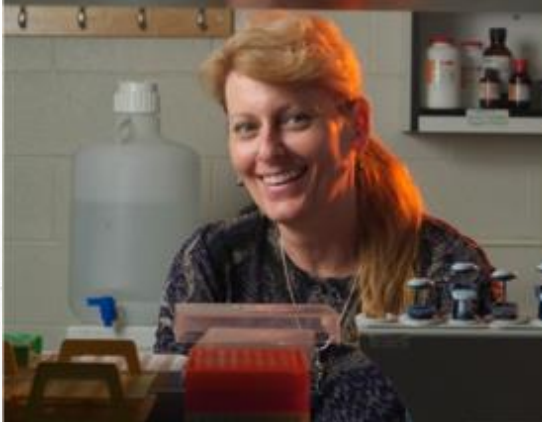
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Pathobiology,  
University of Guelph



Almost 100 research papers  
in referred journals on  
immune response

Several thousand animals  
tested in research, beta test  
& commercial herds

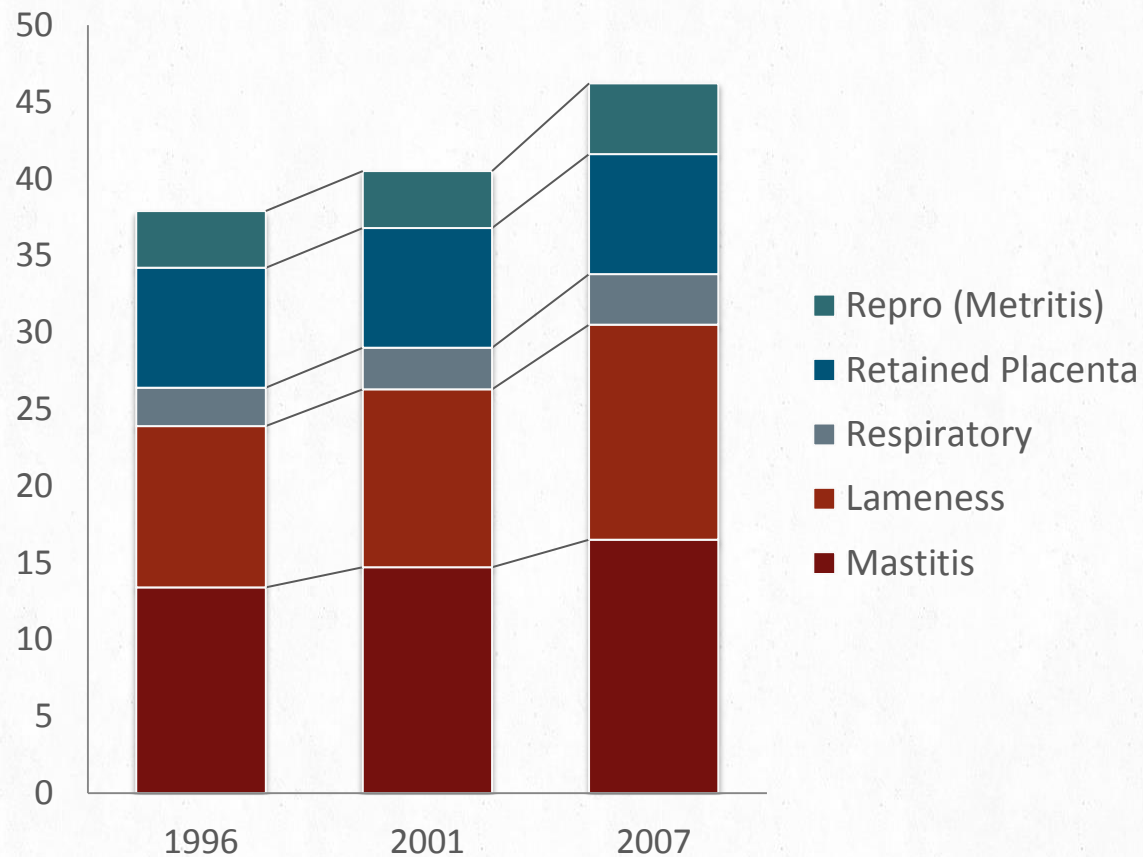


Genetic regulation of the  
immune system of  
livestock

22-YR RESEARCH PROGRAM  
SEMEX SUPPORTED



# Disease Trends



NAHMS Dairy 2007 Part II: Changes in the Dairy Cattle Industry 1991-2007



# Past Genetic Selection for Health



**Few “true” direct health traits**



**Hope it achieves better health**



**Selecting an end result**

Productive Life

Daughter Pregnancy Rate

Daughter Calving Ease

SCS



**Low heritability traits**

# Need a Better Approach



## **Selection for Higher Immunity**

It is the ultimate goal.

Even better than direct selection for individual diseases.



## **A starting point for a healthier dairy**



## **Changes the way dairies will select for health**



# What is Immunity?



### Bacterial infections

- mastitis, listeriosis, brucellosis, E. coli scours, bacterial pneumonia, metritis, digital dermatitis

### Others diseases

- Parasitic, prion & fungal diseases

### Viral & mycobacterial infections

- -viral pneumonia, BVD, IBR, leucosis, foot & mouth, tb, retained placenta, Johne's

MEMORY OF  
PAST  
EXPOSURES

MEMORY OF  
PAST  
EXPOSURES

Antibody-mediated adaptive  
immune response

Cell-mediated adaptive  
immune response

Immune  
response is  
controlled &  
directed by  
2-3,000 genes

Innate

# Immunity Genetics

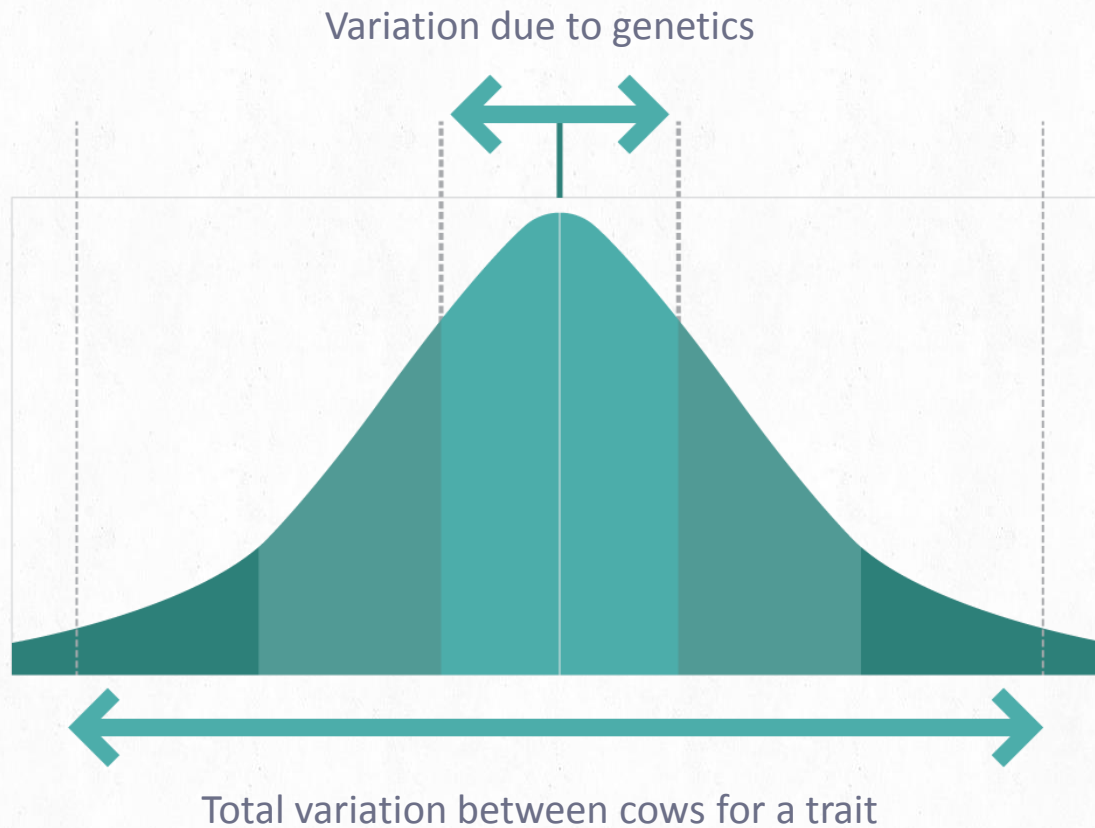
Emerging technology

Immuno-genetics research programs are being initiated at institutions around the world



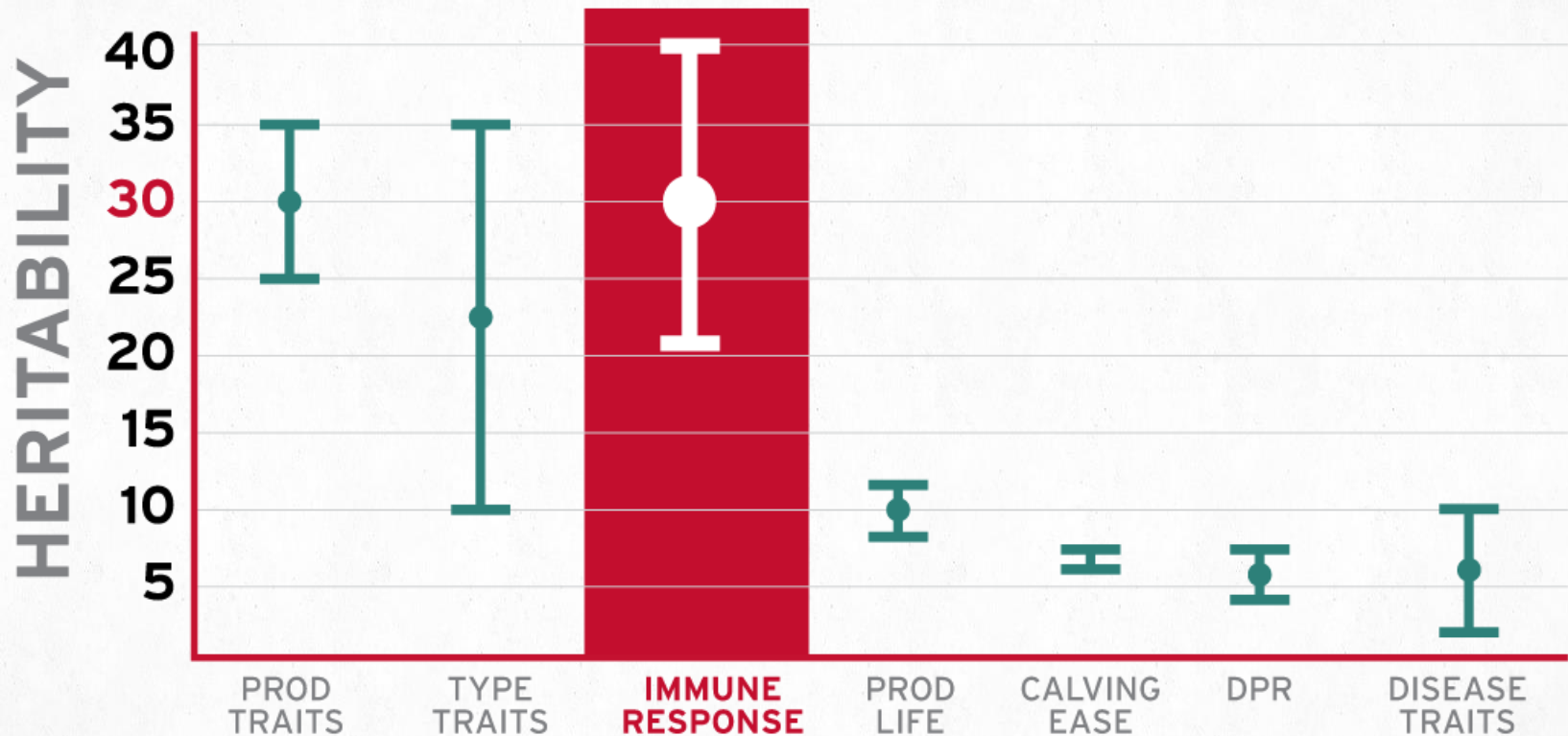
# Heritability

% of total variation that's explained by genetics





# IMMUNE RESPONSE HERITABILITY IS NOW **30%**



# Broad-based Defence Against Most Viral & Bacterial Infections



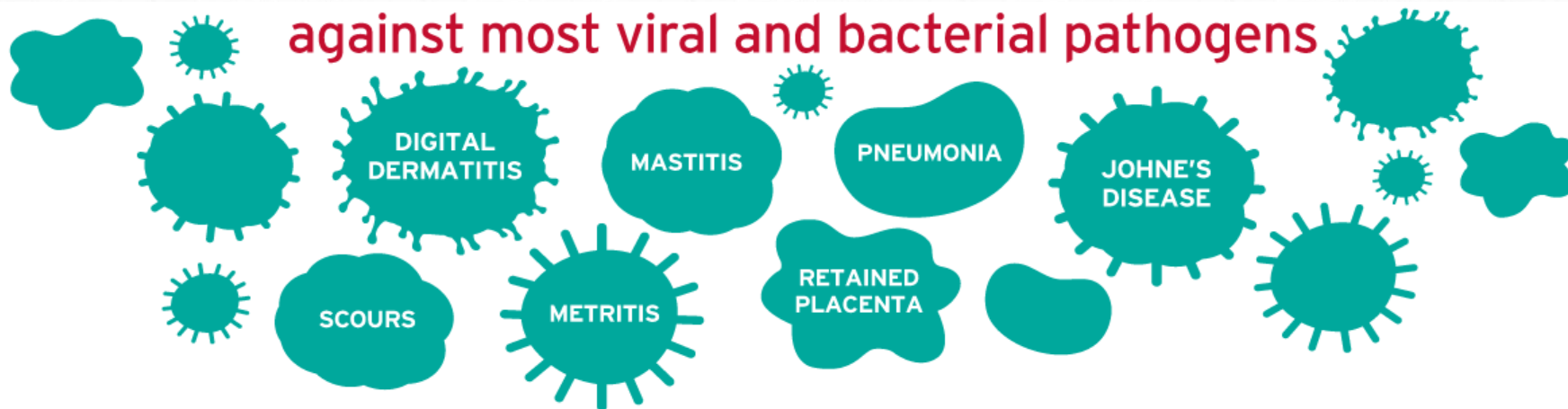
High Immune Response Technology



# Immunity+™

## BROAD-BASED DEFENSE

against most viral and bacterial pathogens



...and healthier cows have



LESS METABOLIC  
DISEASE ie. Ketosis



FEWER  
REPRODUCTIVE  
PROBLEMS

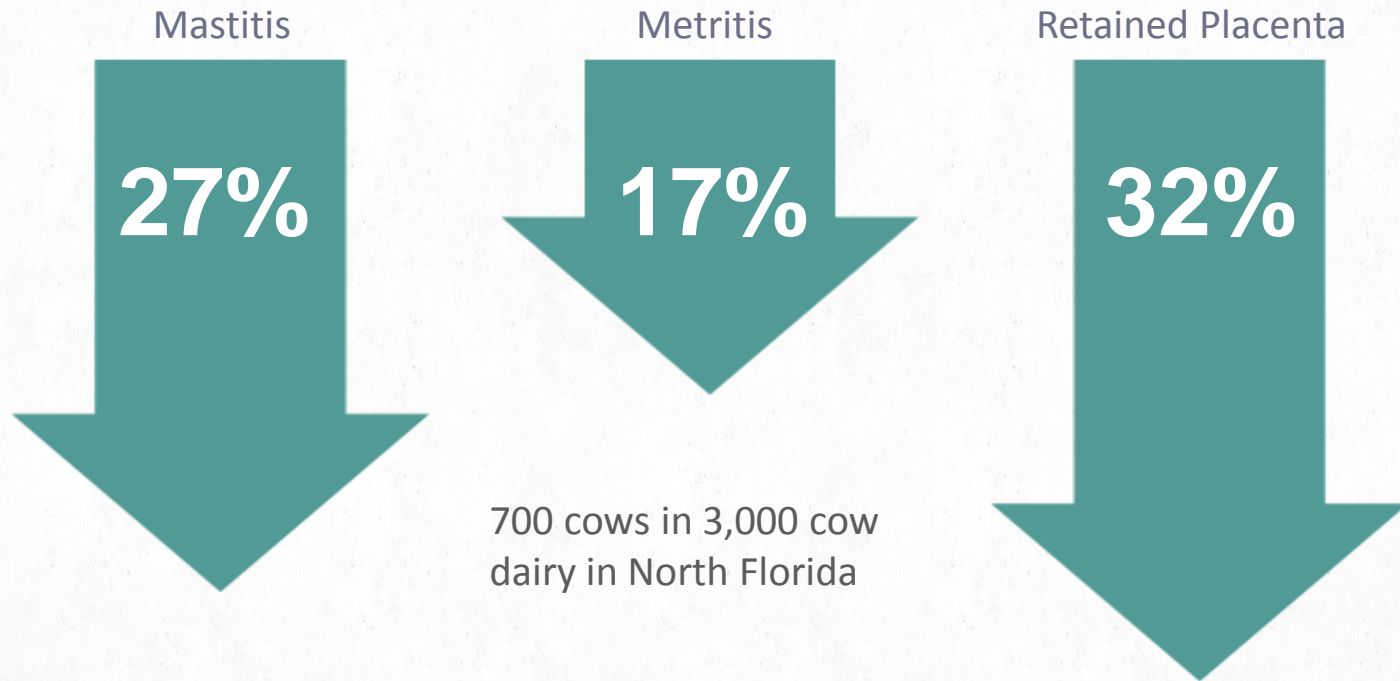


LESS CHANCE  
OF CULLING



# Less Disease

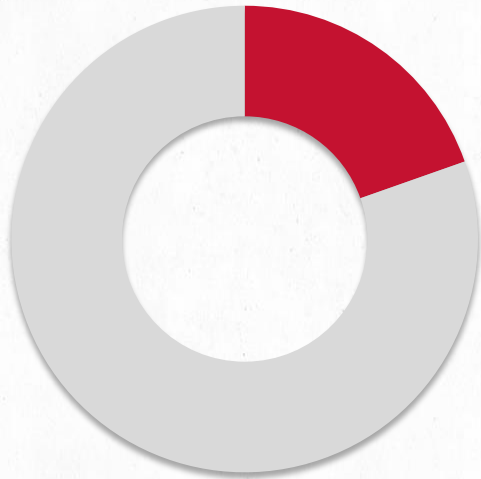
High Immune Responders have Less Disease



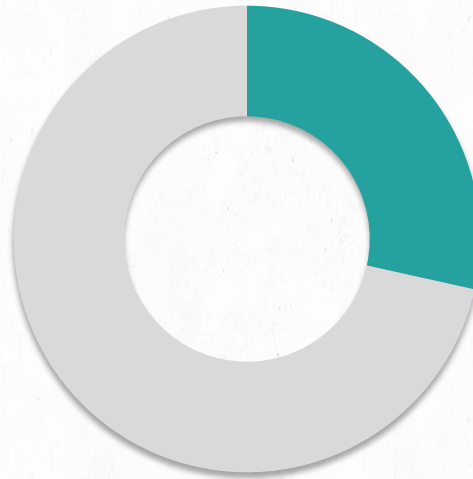
Range in all herds was 19–30% less incidence of disease  
(High responders vs. herd average)

# Disease Incidence

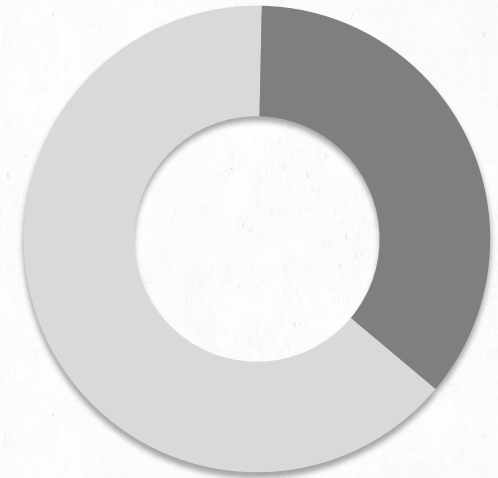
Incidence Rate of Clinical Mastitis in Cows



High Antibody  
Immune Responders  
17.1%



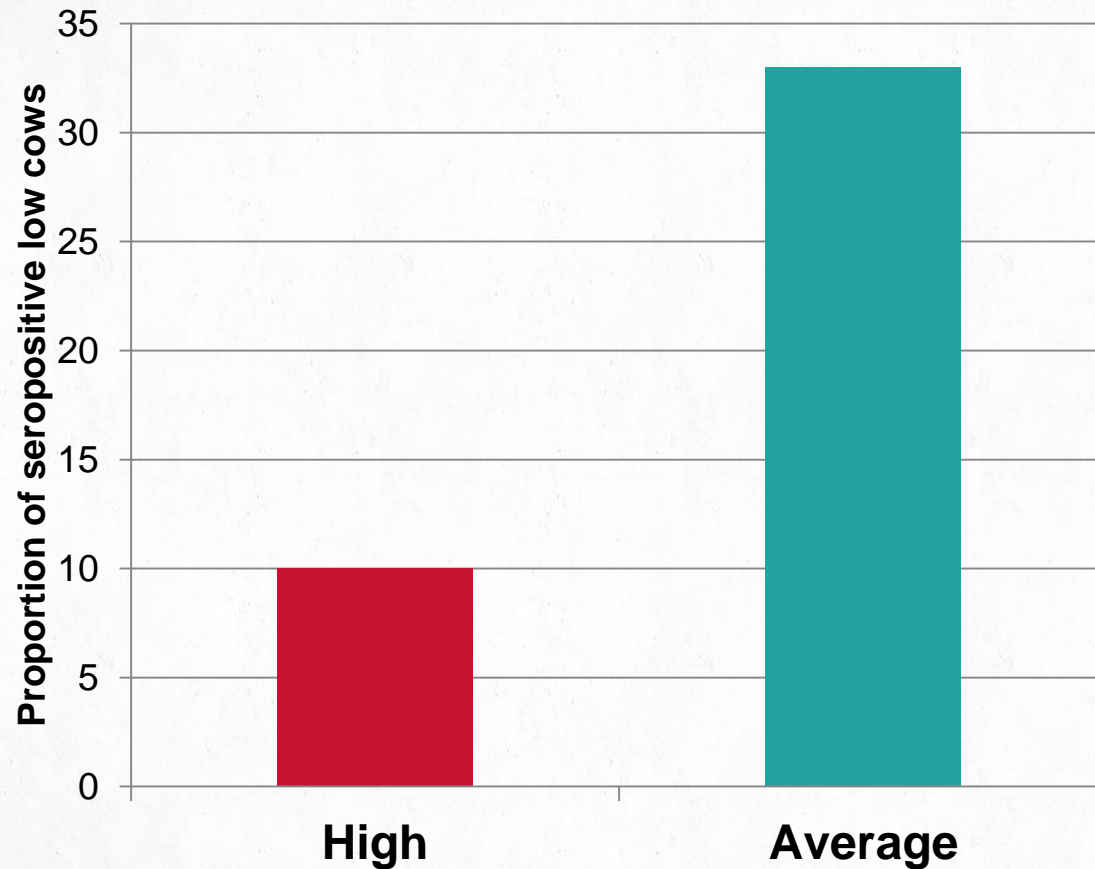
Average Antibody  
Immune Responders  
27.9%



Low Antibody  
Immune Responders  
30.7%

Reference: Thompson-Crispi et al Clin  
Vaccine Immunol 2012

# High CMIR = Less Johne's Sero-positive Cows



## Categories:

Negative (OD=0- 0.49)

Inconclusive (OD 0.5-0.99)

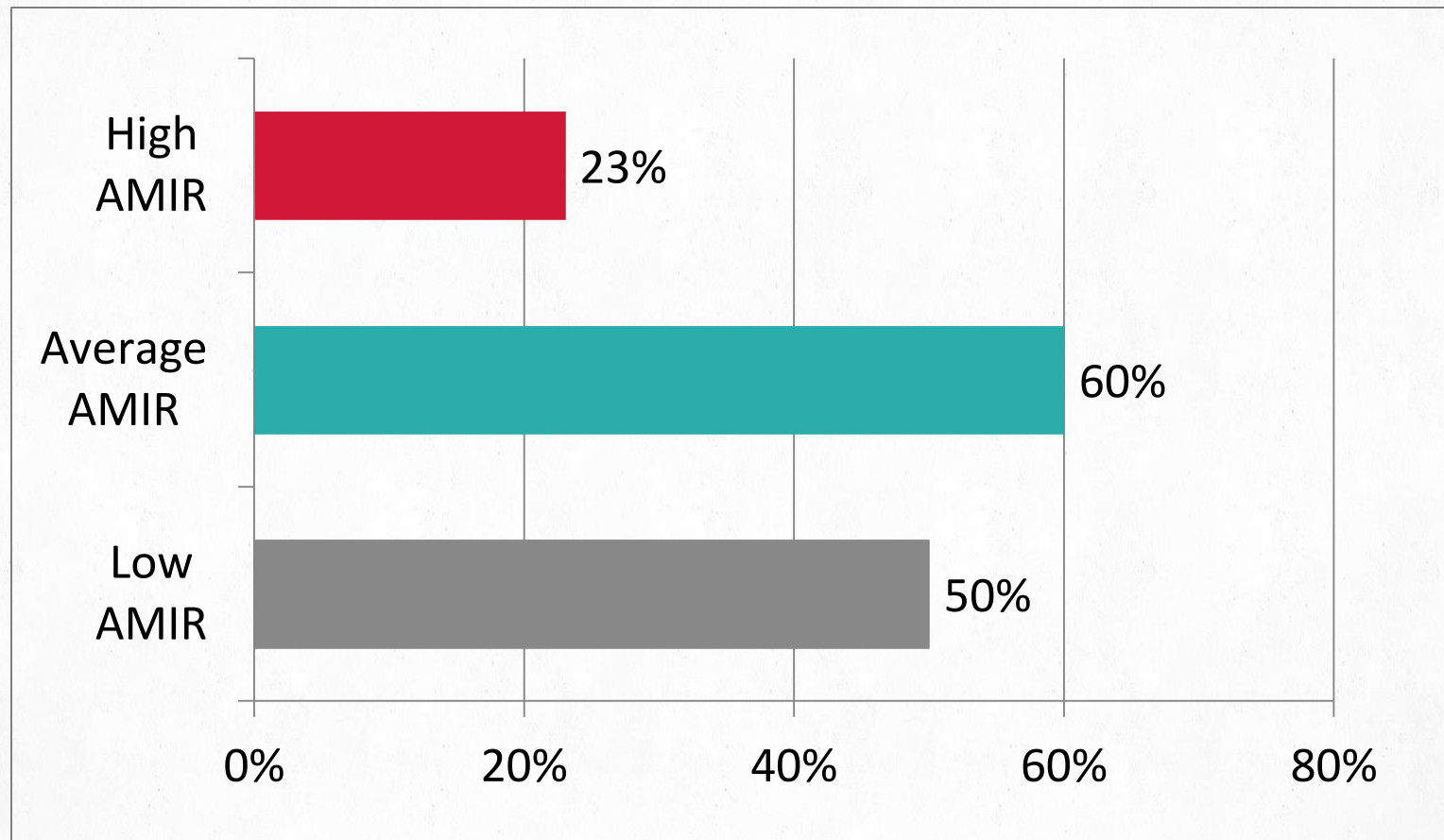
Positive (OD 1.0-3.49)

Strong Positive (OD>3.5)

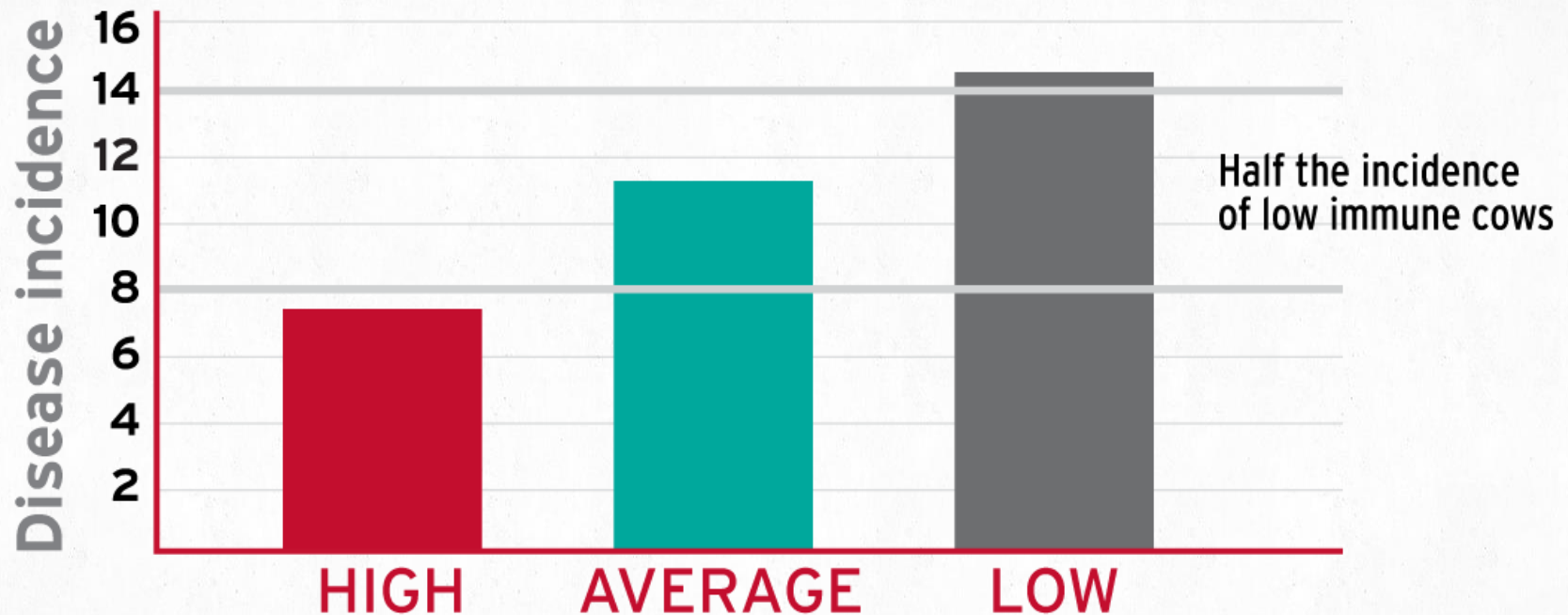
P.J. Pinedo, A. Donovan, O. Rae and De la Paz, Proc. Int. Colloq. Paratb., Mn, Aug 9-14, 2009



# Infectious Digital Dermatitis



# RESEARCH SHOWS HIGH IMMUNE RESPONSE COWS HAVE LESS DISEASE

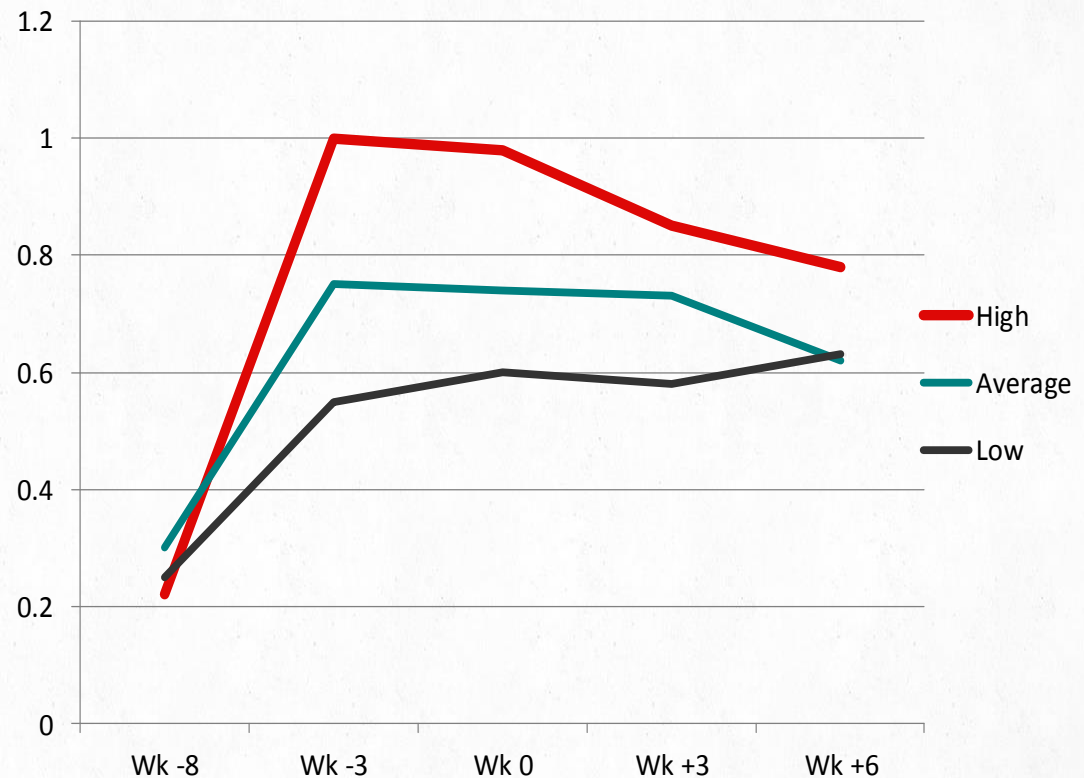


Studies across 64 herds in North America.

Wagter, et al. 2000 J. Dairy Sci. 83:488-498; Thompson-Crispi, et al. 2012. J. Dairy Sci. 95:3888-3893; Thompson-Crispi, et al. 2013. Clin Vacc Immuno. 20:106-112.

# Vaccine Response

High immune cows  
respond better to  
commercial  
vaccines.

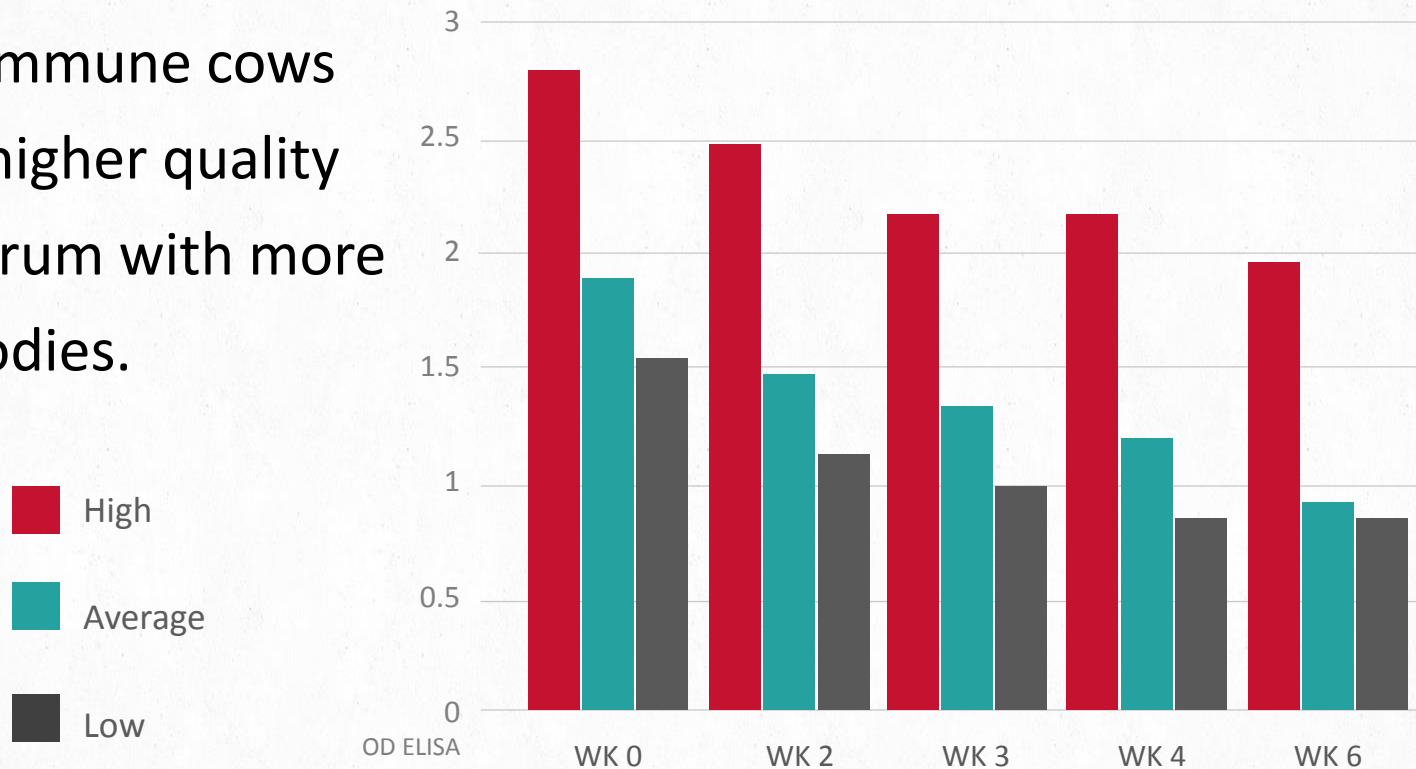


Reference: Wagter & Mallard et al 2000 JDS 83:488



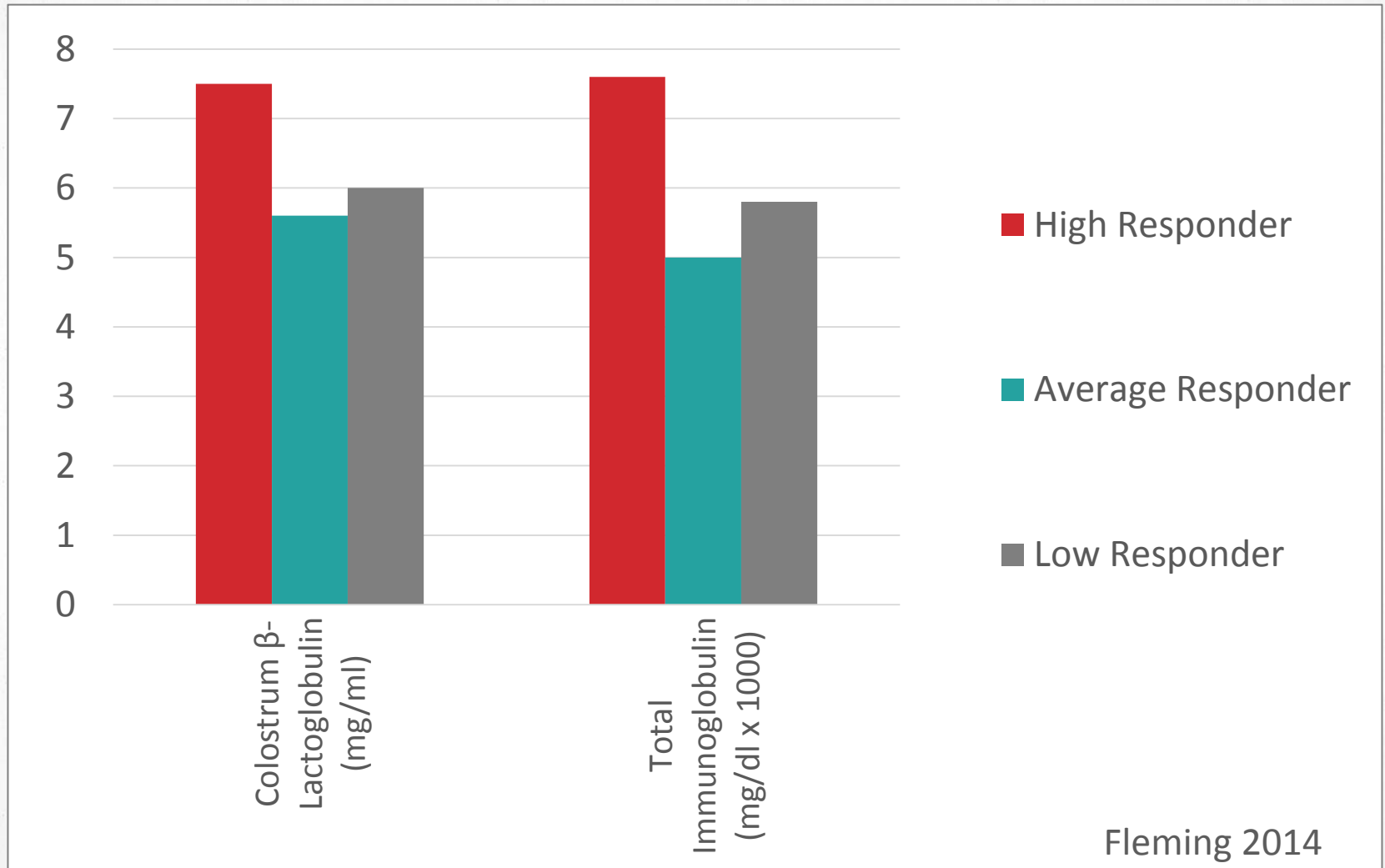
# Quality Colostrum

High immune cows have higher quality colostrum with more antibodies.



Wagter & Mallard et al 2000 JDS 83:488

# Components of Colostrum



Fleming 2014

# Economic Value of High Response Cows

HIGH IMMUNE COW



**VS.**

HERD AVERAGE COW

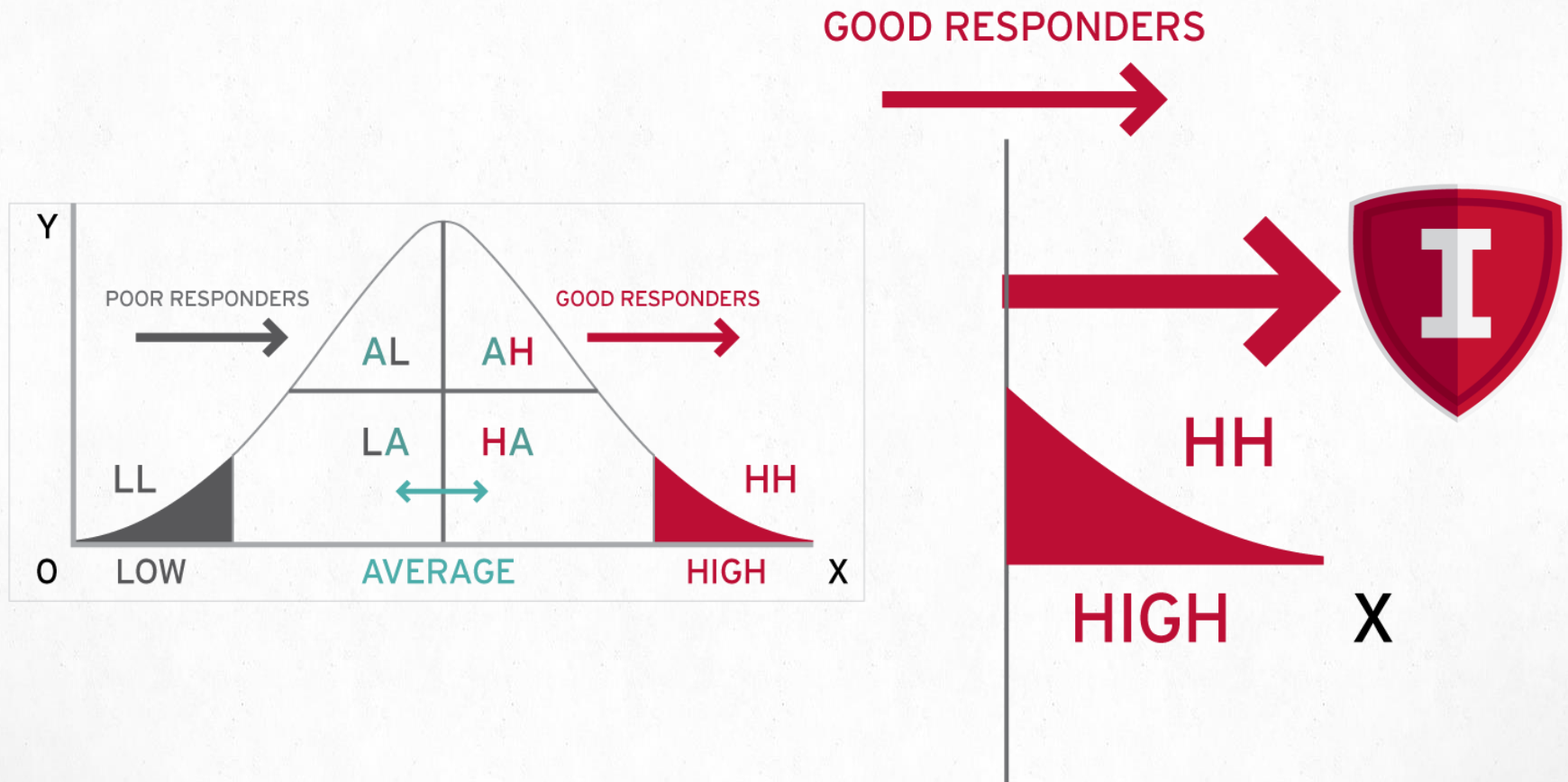


- less disease
- higher quality colostrum
- improved vaccine response
- lower cull rates

**\$124 PER COW PER YEAR**

# Bulls Designated as Immunity+

Approximately 10% of sires





# Transmission to Daughters



**25%**

Heritability of immune response

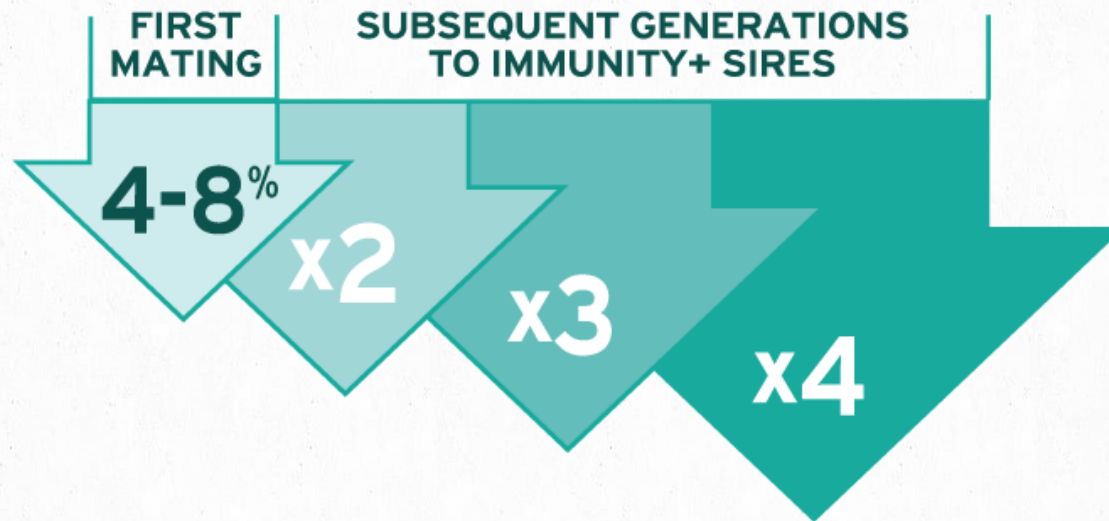


**50%**

Proportion of genes that sire  
passes on to his daughters

# Breeding to an Immunity+ Sire

## DISEASE RESISTANCE LESS DISEASE FOR EACH GENERATION



# Dairies Using Immunity+ Sires

Compare disease incidence of daughters of Immunity+ bulls vs. daughters of other bulls



## Herd 1

1,509 cows

1,267 heifers

## Herd 2

1,682 cows

2,031 heifers  
(no disease data)

## Herd 3

2,450 cows  
(few Immunity+ daus)

2,724 heifers

# Immunity+ Daughters vs. Daughters of Other Sires

Recorded Condition	Herd	Cattle	Immunity+ Daughters	All Other Daughters	Disease Reduction
Pneumonia	Herd 1	Heifers	6.8% 160 heifers	9.1% 1107 heifers	25.3%
Pulm. Treatment (reg./intensive)	Herd 3	Heifers	19.5%/0.9% 231 heifers	27.4%/1.6% 2493 heifers	28.8% / 43.8%

Pneumonia	Middle East Large Dairy	Heifers	0.3% 350 heifers	1.4% 17k heifers	84.6%
Scours	Middle East	Heifers	9.6% 350 heifers	13.6% 17k heifers	29.4%
Pink Eye	Middle East	Heifers	0.3% 350 heifers	3.2% 17k heifers	90.6%

Middle East Dairy: Early indications from their first group of Immunity+ heifers

# Immunity+ Daughters vs. Daughters of Other Sires

Recorded Condition	Herd	Cattle	Immunity+ Daughters	All Other Daughters	Disease Reduction
Mastitis	Herd 1	Lact 1	8.8% 34 cows	15.8% 632 cows	<44.3%
	Herd 2	Lact 1 & 2	11.7% 120 cows	14.5% 988 cows	<19.3%
Metritis	Herd 2	Lact 1 & 2	4.2% 120 cows	5.6% 988 cows	<25.0%
Retained Placenta	Herd 2	Lact 1 & 2	0.0% 120 cows	0.7% 988 cows	<100%



# REAL WORLD DATA, IOWA DAIRY (2015)

**1200 MILKING COWS**  
**9% FROM IMMUNITY+ SIRES**

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DAUGHTERS OF IMMUNITY+ SIRES  
VS. HERD AVERAGE

- ↓ **49%** less cow mortality
- ↓ **31%** less cows with disease
  - ↓ **41%** less lame cows
  - ↓ **57%** less mastitis
  - ↓ **57%** less retained placenta

**1100 HEIFERS**  
**40% FROM IMMUNITY+ SIRES**

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DAUGHTERS OF IMMUNITY+ SIRES  
VS. HERD AVERAGE

- ↓ **31%** less heifer mortality
- ↓ **20%** less heifer with disease
  - ↓ **2%** less diarrhea
  - ↓ **17%** less pneumonia
  - ↓ **57%** less scours

# Immunity Genetics

It is the future of health  
genetic selection

Researchers are currently  
developing a genomic  
test for immunity



# Immunity+ Sires



Immunity+ sires help accentuate disease resistance genes in the population for healthier cows and more profitable dairies.





# A BETTER, MORE NATURAL WAY TO FIGHT DISEASE.



Less disease



Greater response  
to vaccines



Higher quality  
colostrum



Longer,  
healthier lives



More profit  
for you

