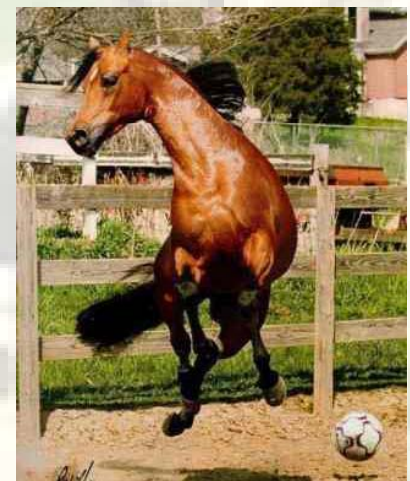


Tightening the Calving Window w/ the Ideal Grazing Cow

Stacey A. Hamilton Ph.D.
University of Missouri



“Horses for Courses”



Cow System

- Breed ? Purebred or Crossbred
- Size <1100 pounds
- Fertility <1.5 S/C
- Production 12-18,000 pounds/cow
Stocking rate dependent




09/15/2005









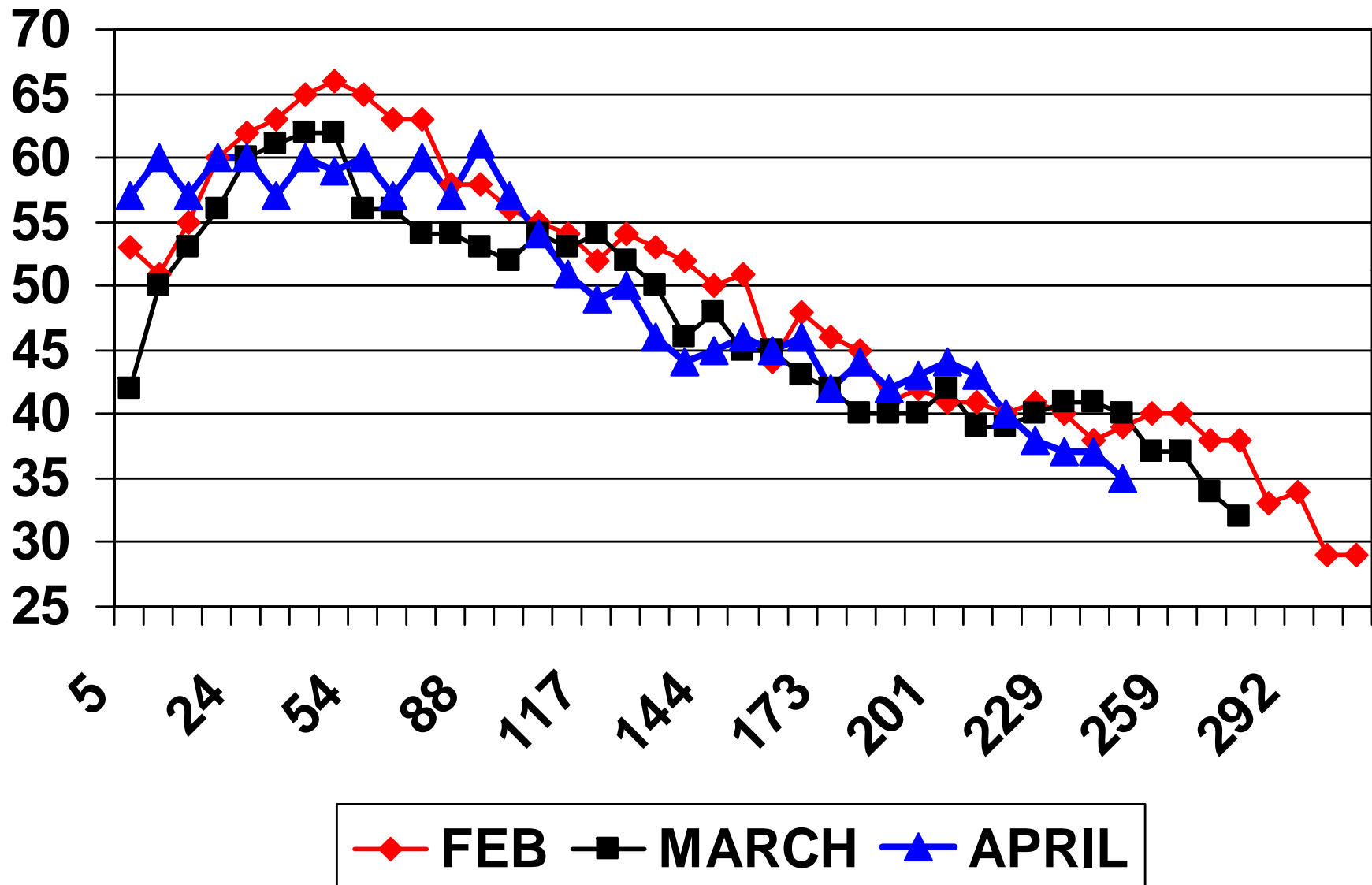


So How Do I do it? Why I do it?

- Advantages
 - Get calving done and over with
 - Calves are grouped by age and size
 - Not messing with fresh cows year round
 - Get breeding done in one or two windows
- Disadvantages
 - ALL those calves at once!
 - Do I have facilities and equipment
 - Do I have the sanity?
 - ALL that breeding at once!
 - Requires excellent records and time management
- **DO NOT HAVE TO BE A GRAZIER!!!!**

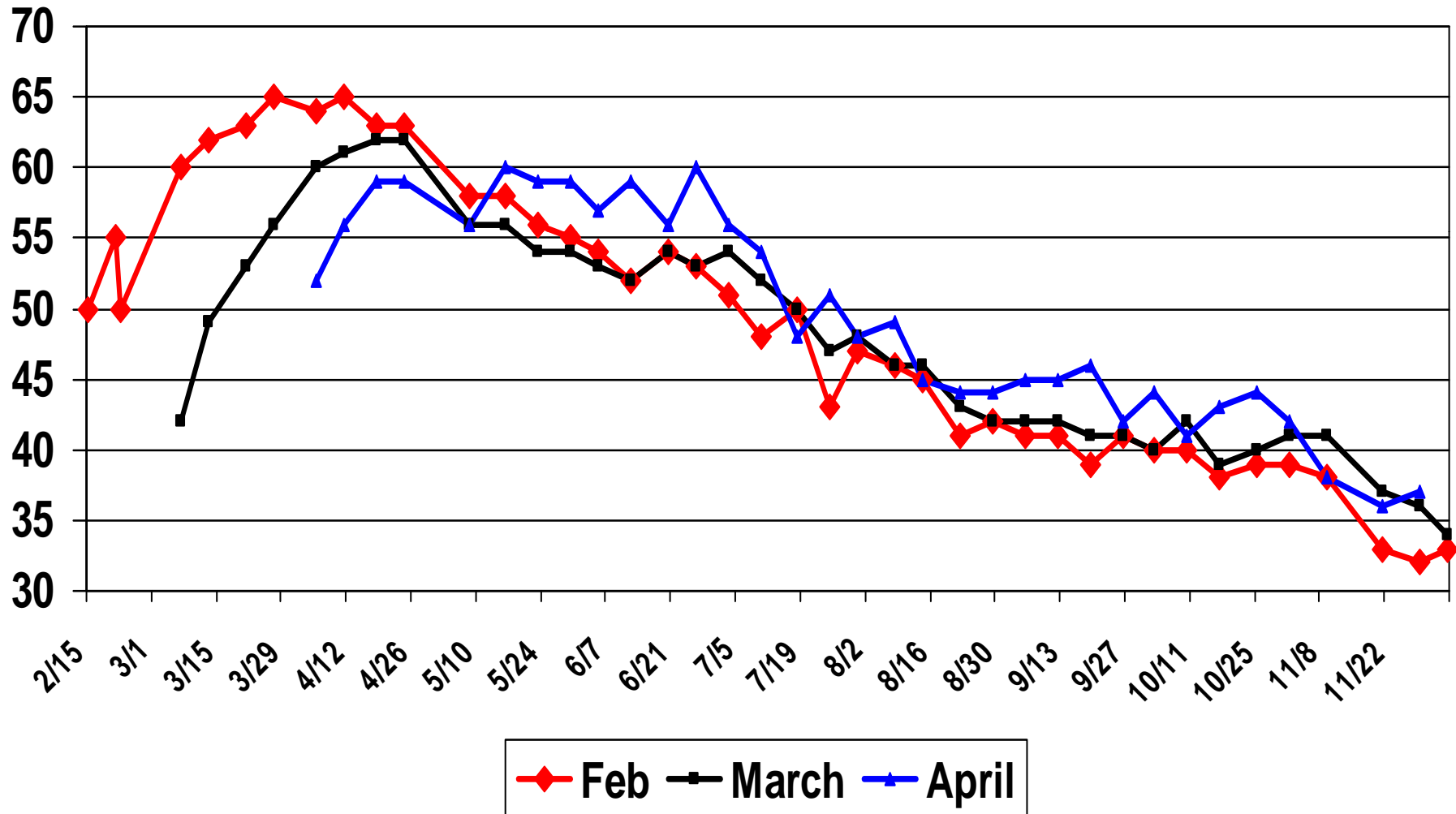
Lactation Curve by DIM

cows calving in Feb, March and April



Lactation Curve by month

cows calving in Feb, March and April

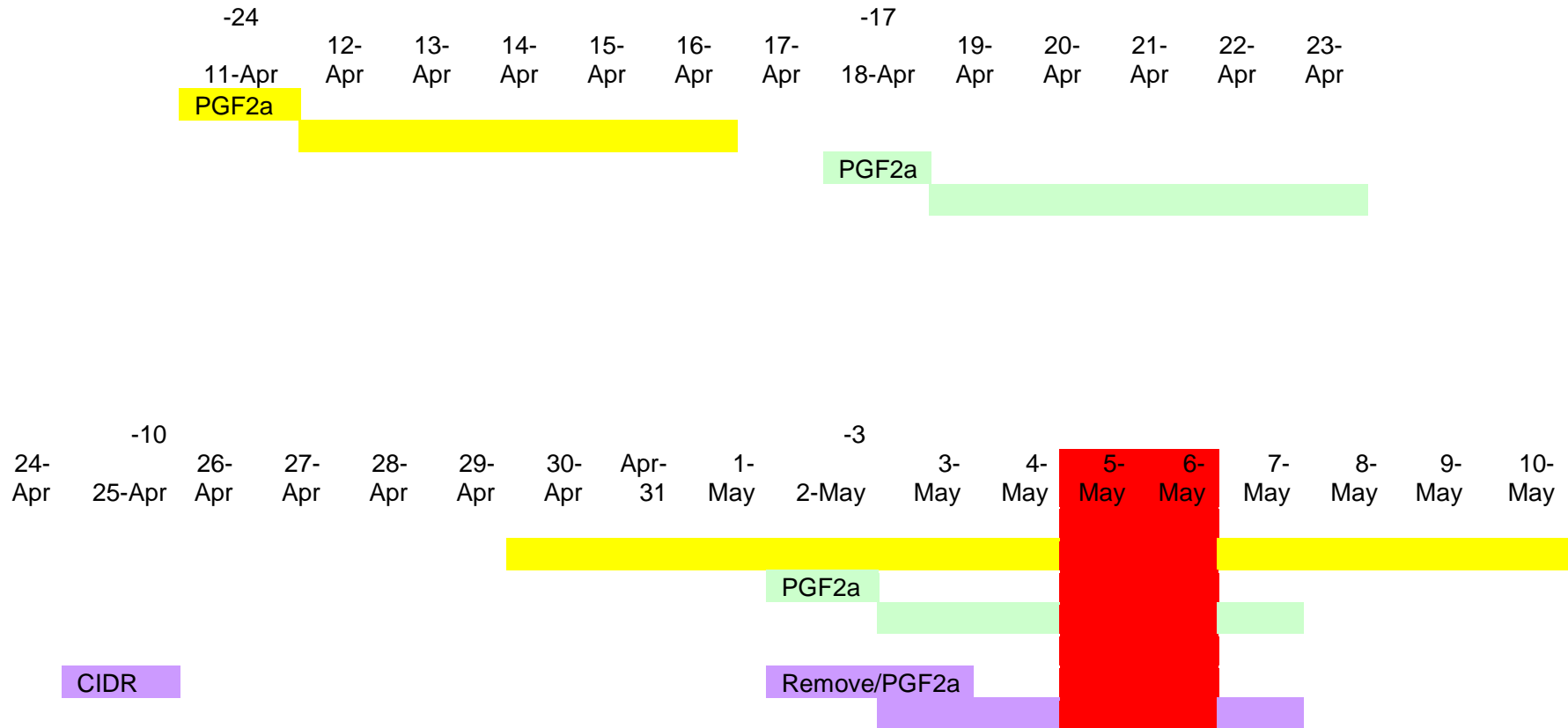


When to calve?

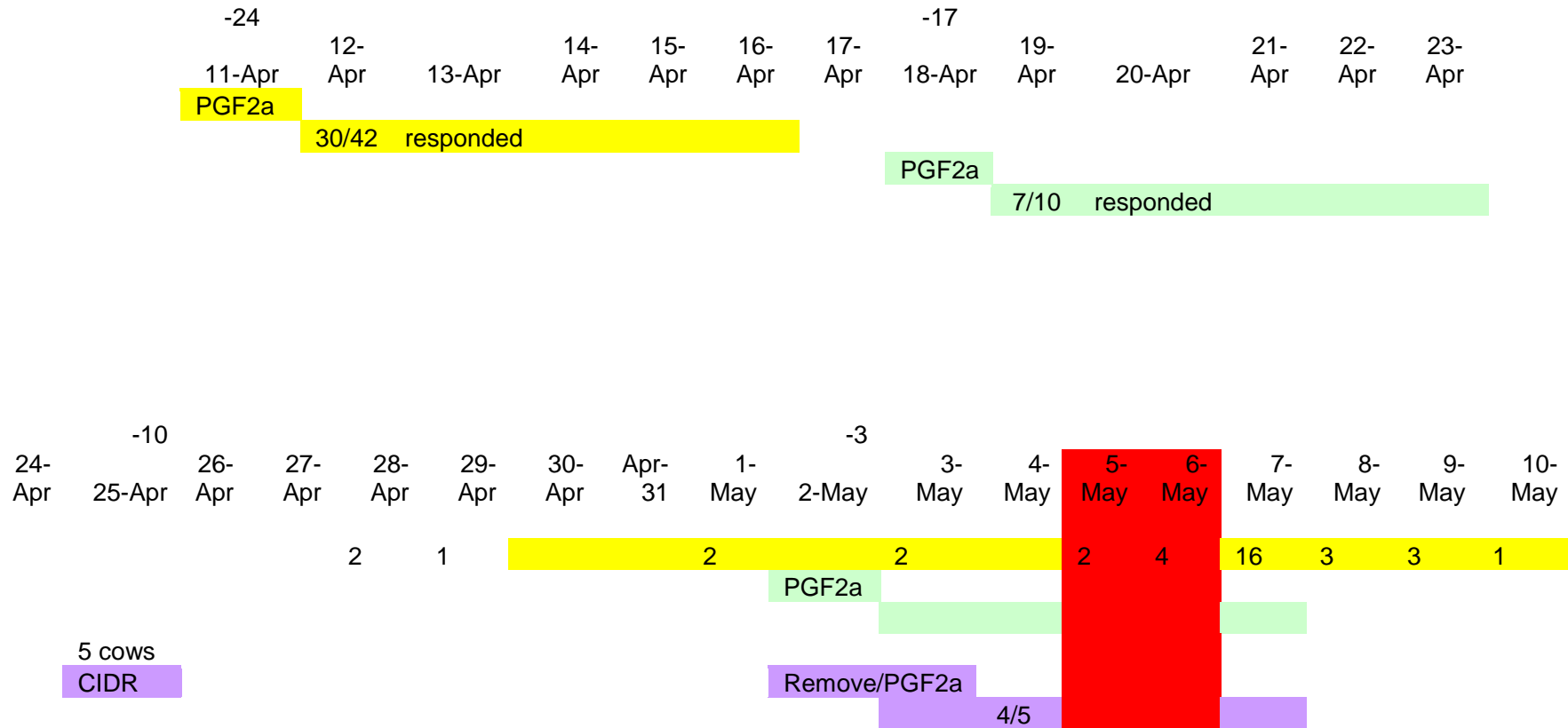
- Feb calvers produce 3480# more milk before mean calving date of April calvers
- Feb calvers produce 2552# more milk overall versus mean calving date of April calvers
- Additional Costs
 - Around \$180
 - Additional income \$331
 - Advantage of \$151
 - Advantage of rebreeding schedule



Synchronization Program at SW Center Seasonal Dairy

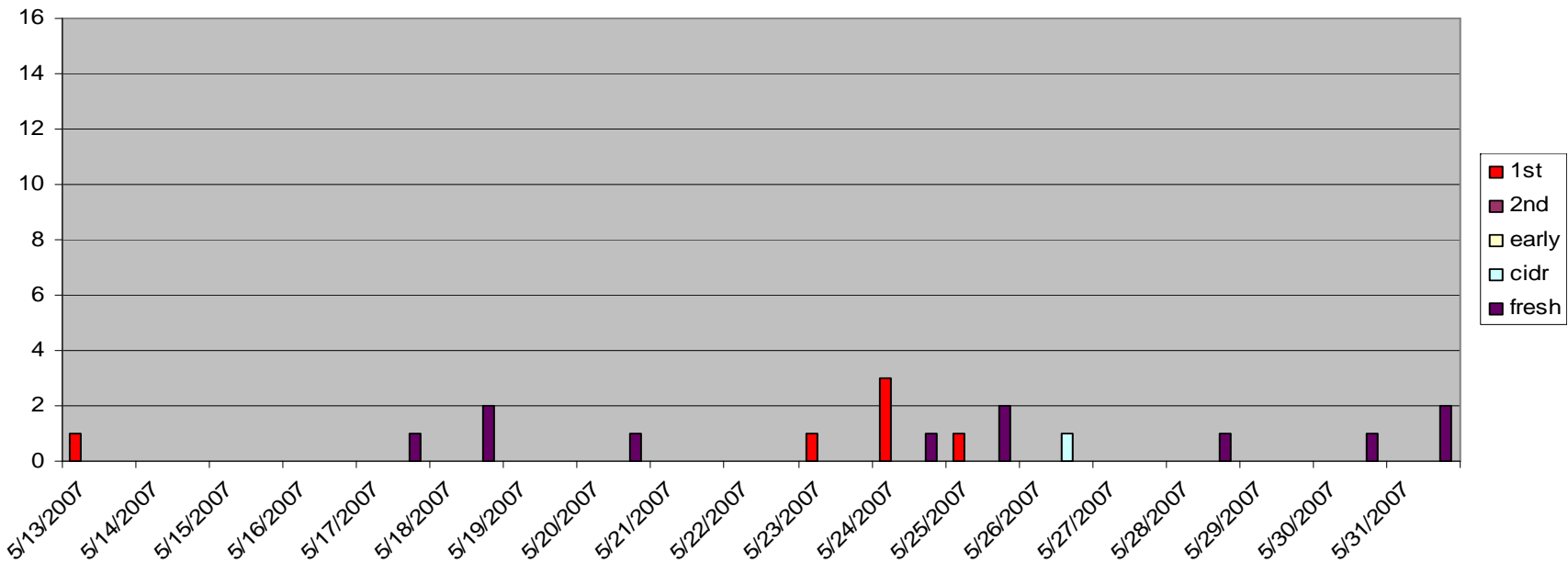
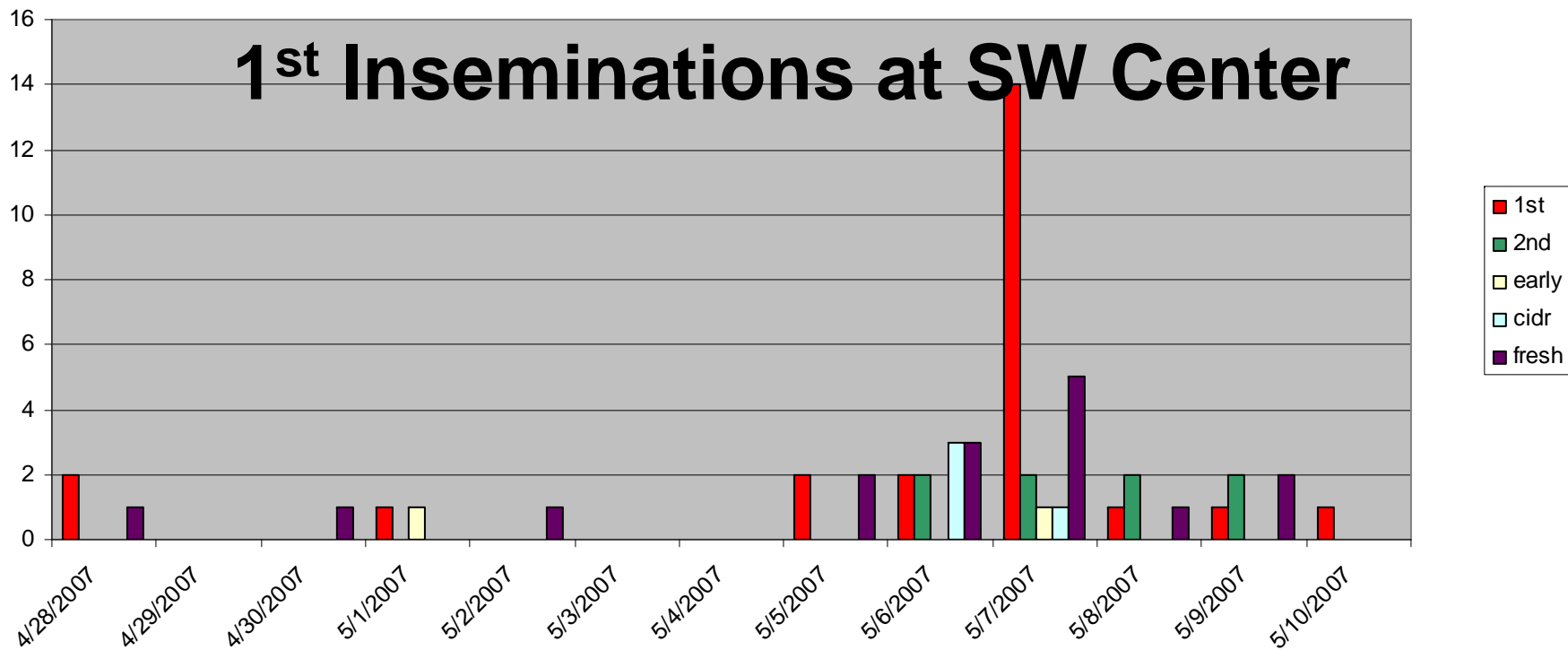


Results of Program at SW Center

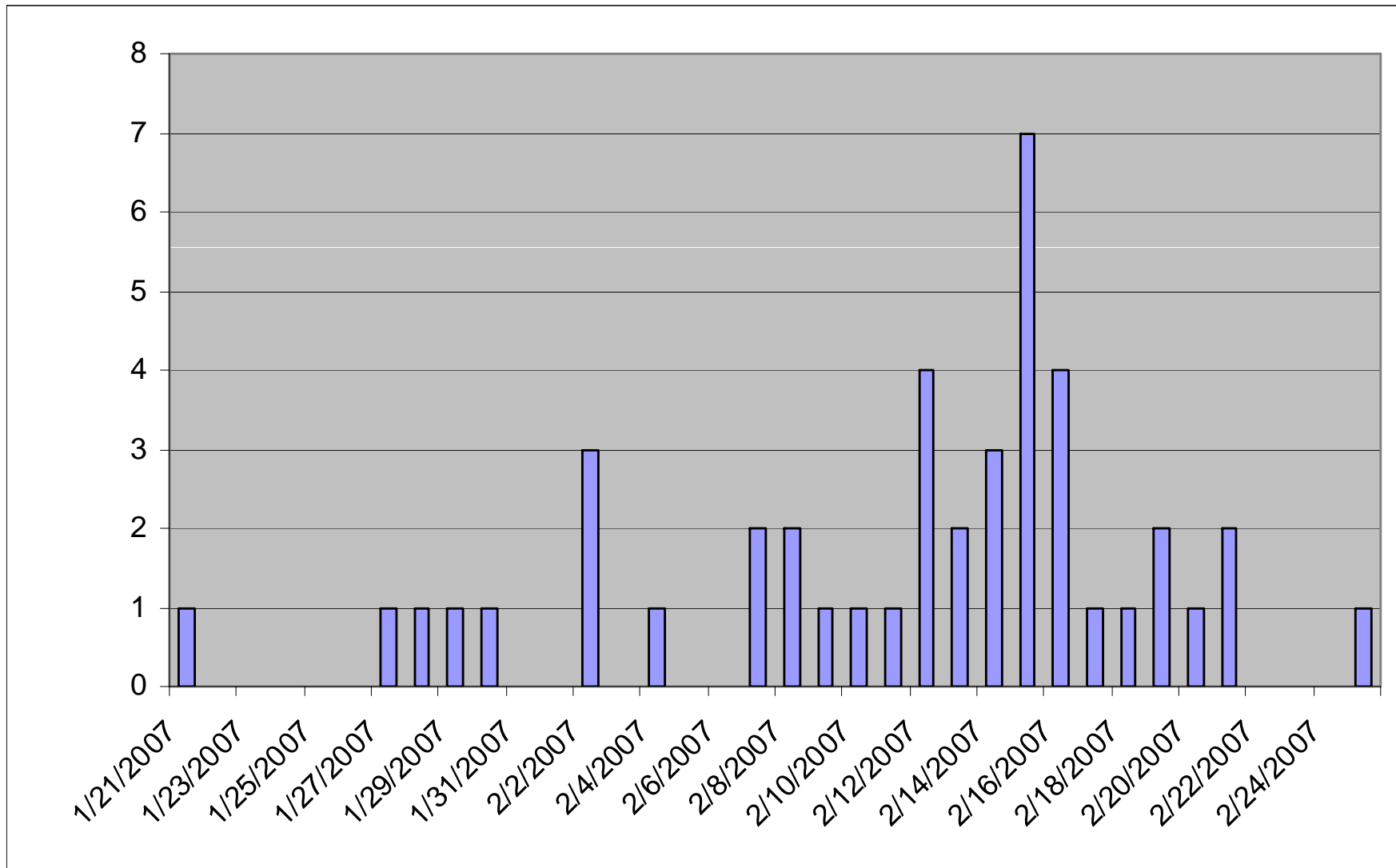


some cows cycled beyond May 10 (missed heats?)

1st Inseminations at SW Center



2007 SW Center Calving Pattern



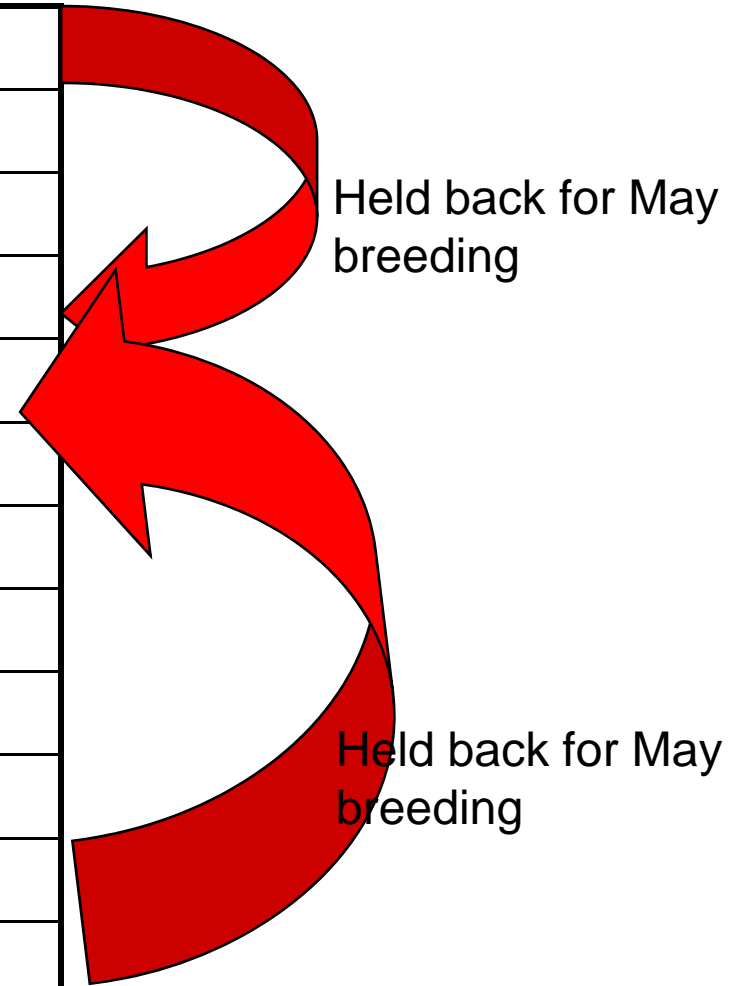
So How Do I do it?

- Do not have to be totally seasonal (fall or spring)
- Most have chosen a 70:30 calving pattern
 - (70% cows fresh in spring; 30% cows fresh in fall)
- Must be willing to “hold” cows back

Example

Going to 70:30 spring:fall pattern

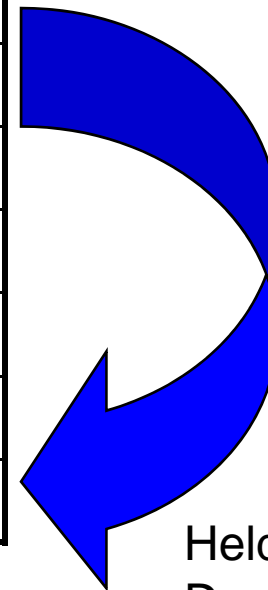
January	4
February	5
March	7
April	10
May	11
June	5
July	1
August	3
September	7
October	8
November	8
December	6



Example

Going to 70:30 spring:fall pattern

January	4
February	5
March	7
April	10
May	11
June	5
July	1
August	3
September	7
October	8
November	8
December	6



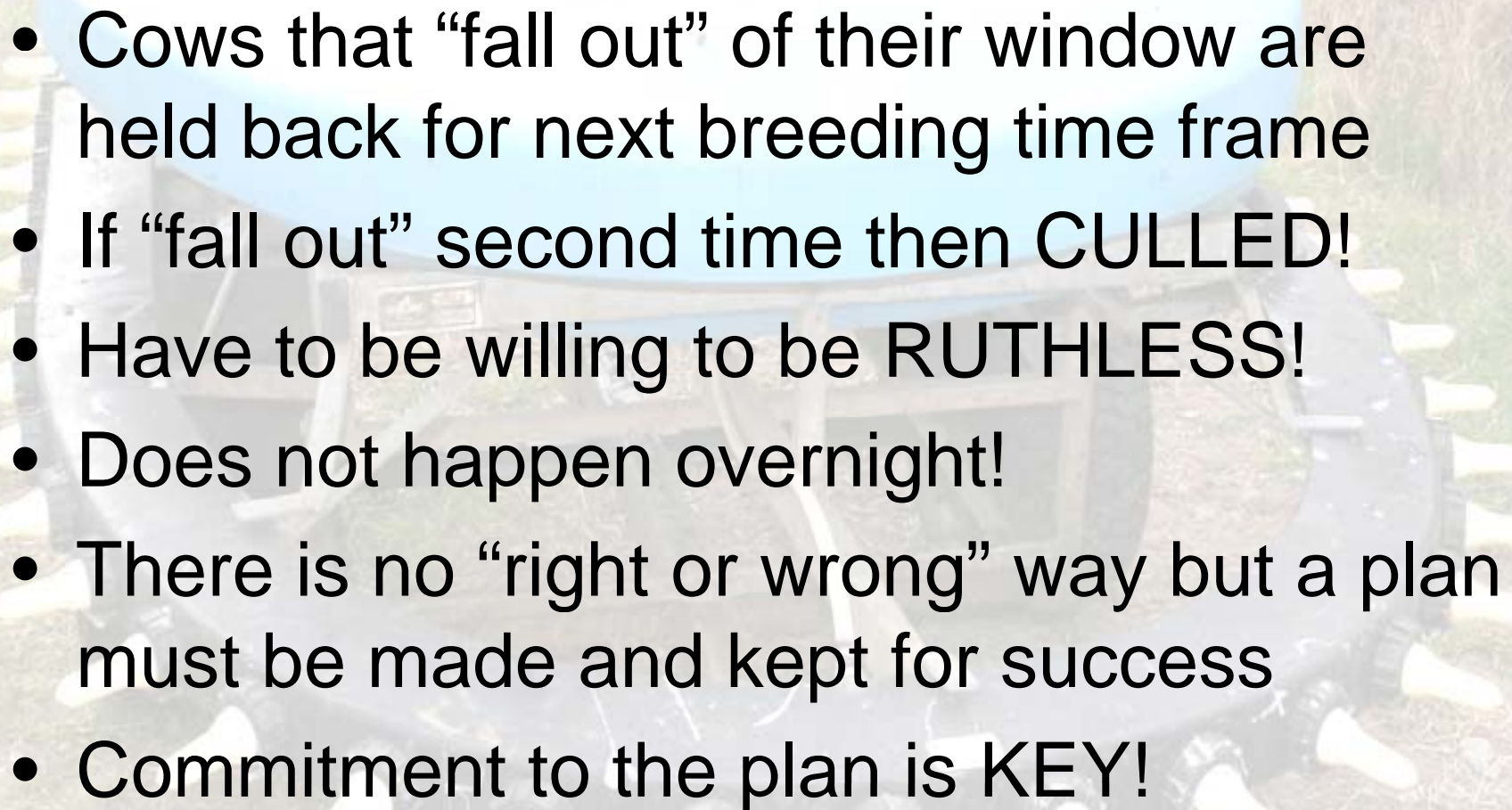
Held back for
December breeding

Example

Going to 70:30 spring: fall pattern

January	4
February	5
March	7
April	10
May	11
June	5
July	1
August	3
September	7
October	8
November	8
December	6

Results in 24 cows (32%)
For fall breeding and 51
cows (68%) for spring
Breeding.

- 
- Cows that “fall out” of their window are held back for next breeding time frame
 - If “fall out” second time then CULLED!
 - Have to be willing to be RUTHLESS!
 - Does not happen overnight!
 - There is no “right or wrong” way but a plan must be made and kept for success
 - Commitment to the plan is KEY!



