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Optimising heifer development and management

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Bigger project

- The modern day growth path of the Angus cow
- Develop clear guidelines as to how best develop and manage heifers
- Identify risk adverse management strategies
- Increase productivity and profitability

Site: King Island



Animals



- 3 cohorts of Angus heifers
- n=6000 heifers
- Various mating strategies

Measurements

- Multiple time points from weaning to third pregnancy scan
 - Height
 - Weight
 - Body condition score
 - Rib fat
 - Conception and fetal aging
 - Pasture sampling
 - Maternal productivity

Case Study: Animals

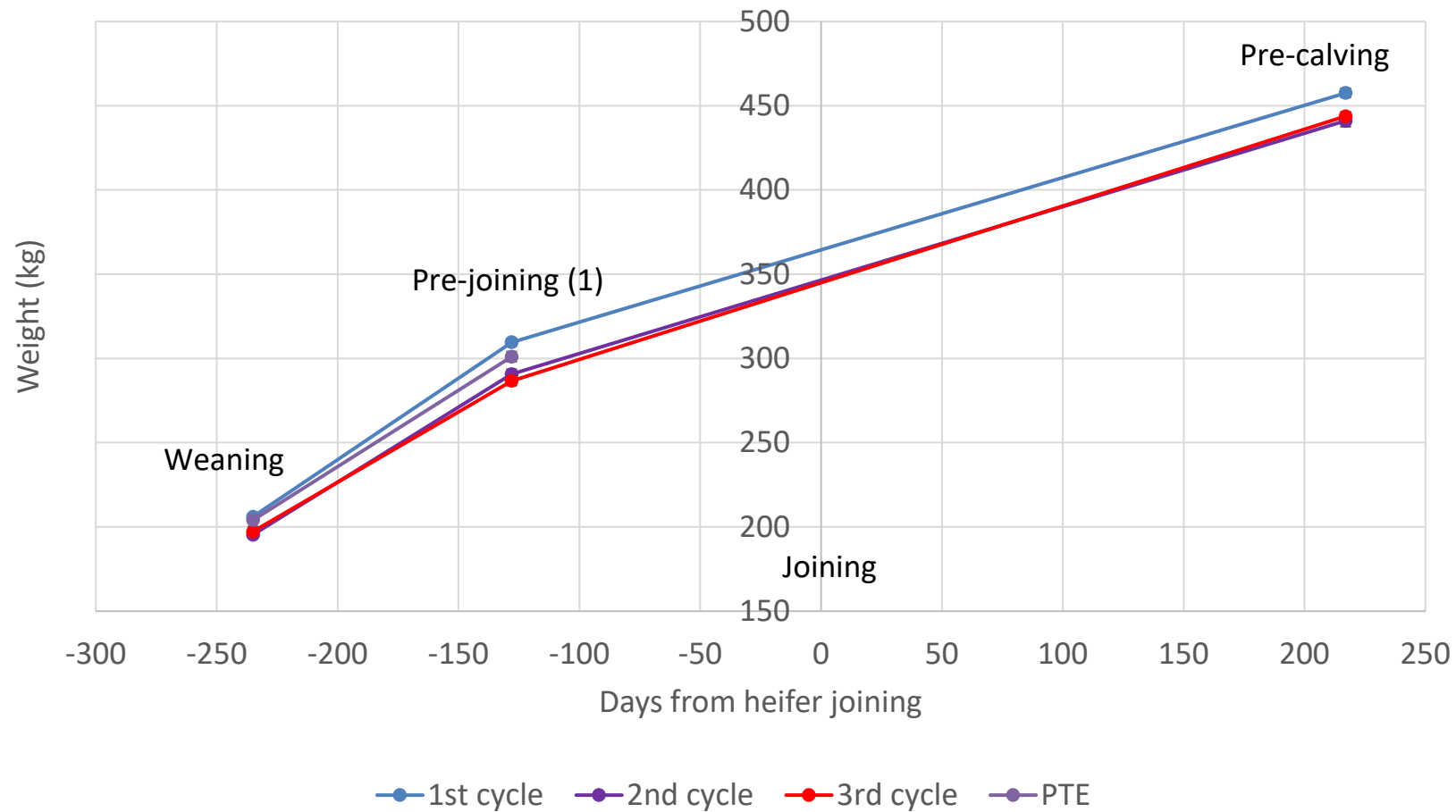
- 2018 born heifers (P's)
- n=1148 joined/PG - naturally mated
- 3 management groups (1st, 2nd and 3rd cycle)

Results: Heifer conception

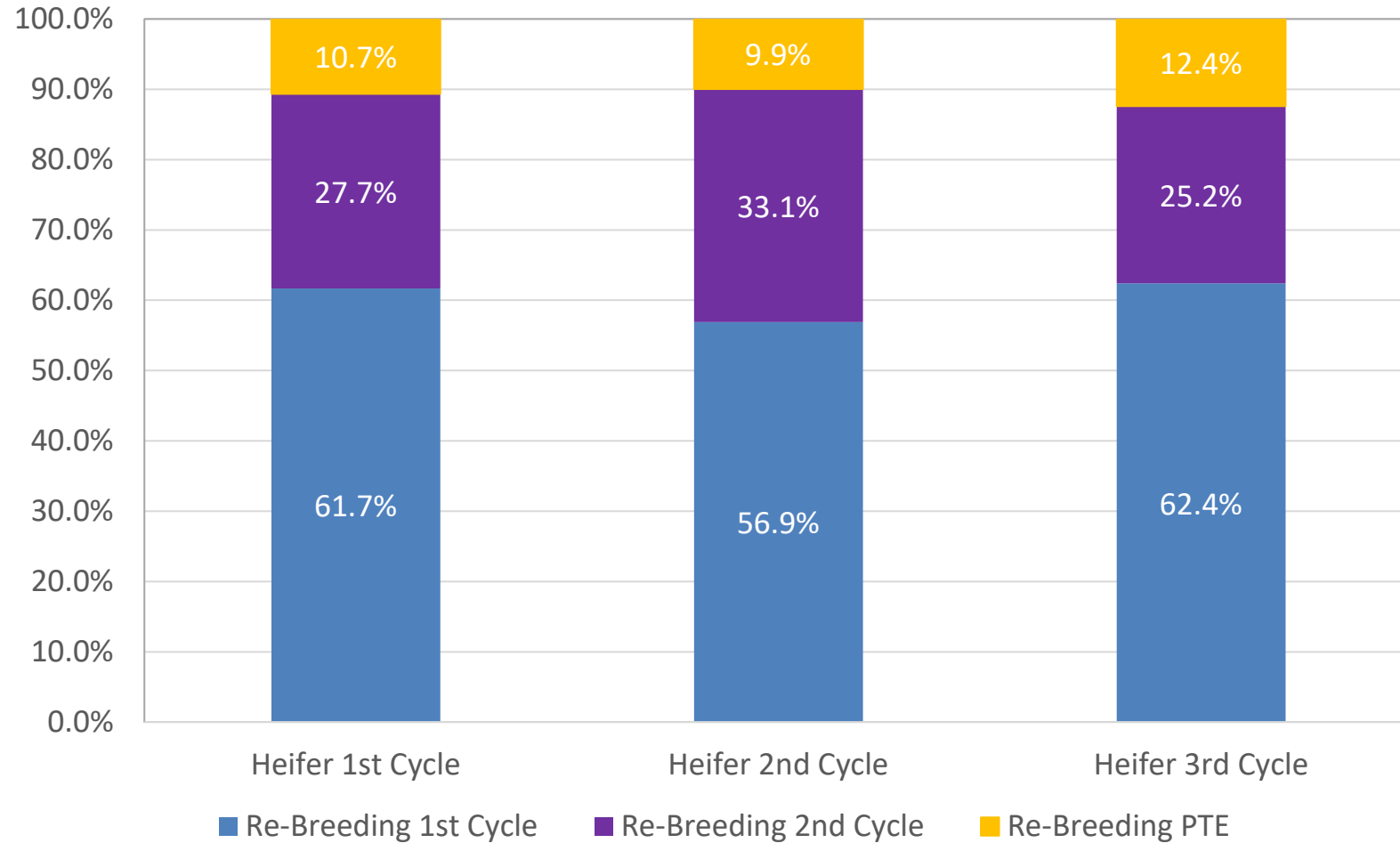
Overall heifer conception 89%

Cycle	%	#animals
1st	47%	545
2nd	18%	211
3rd	24%	280
PTE	11%	112

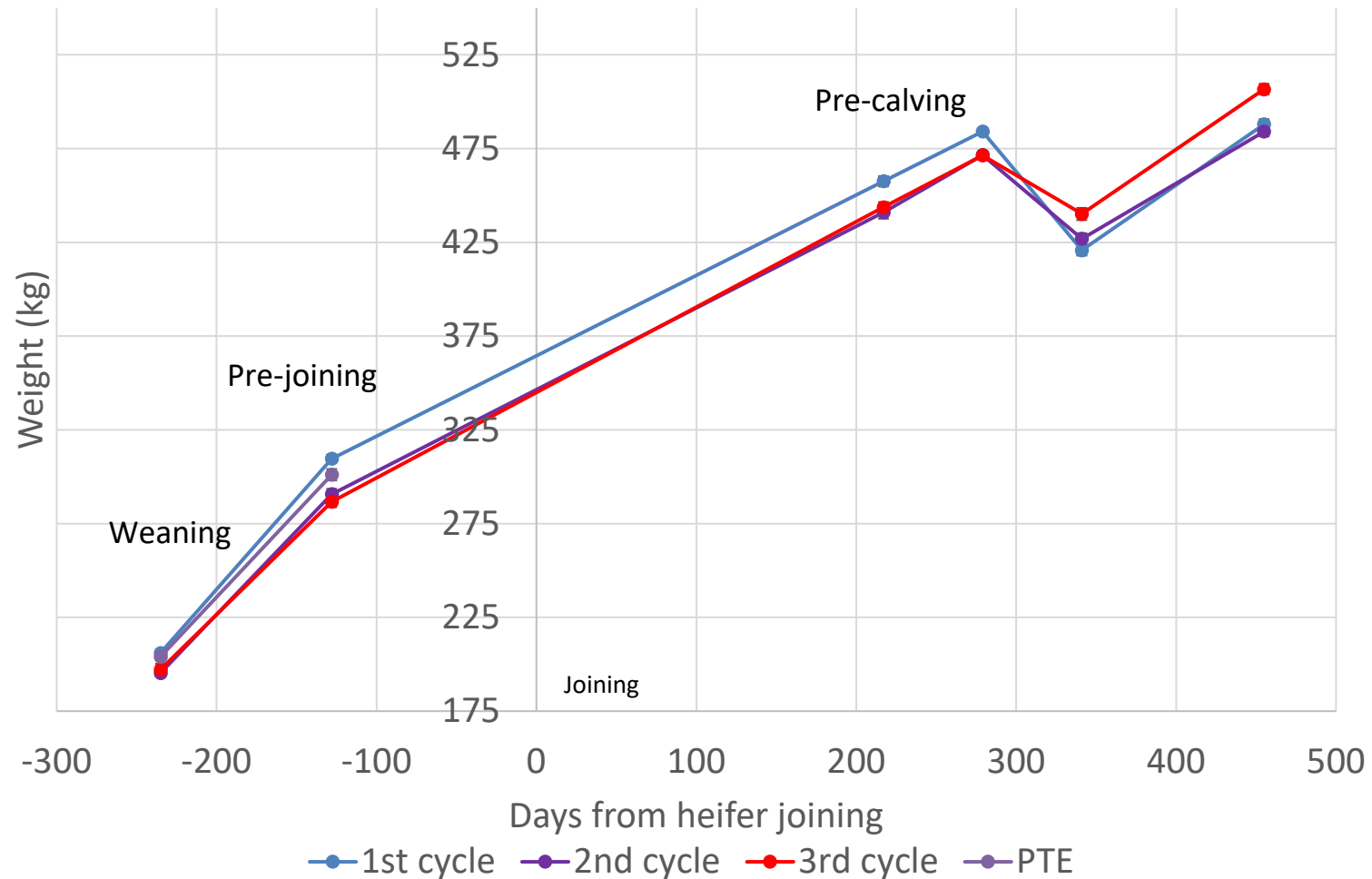
Results: Weight (kg)



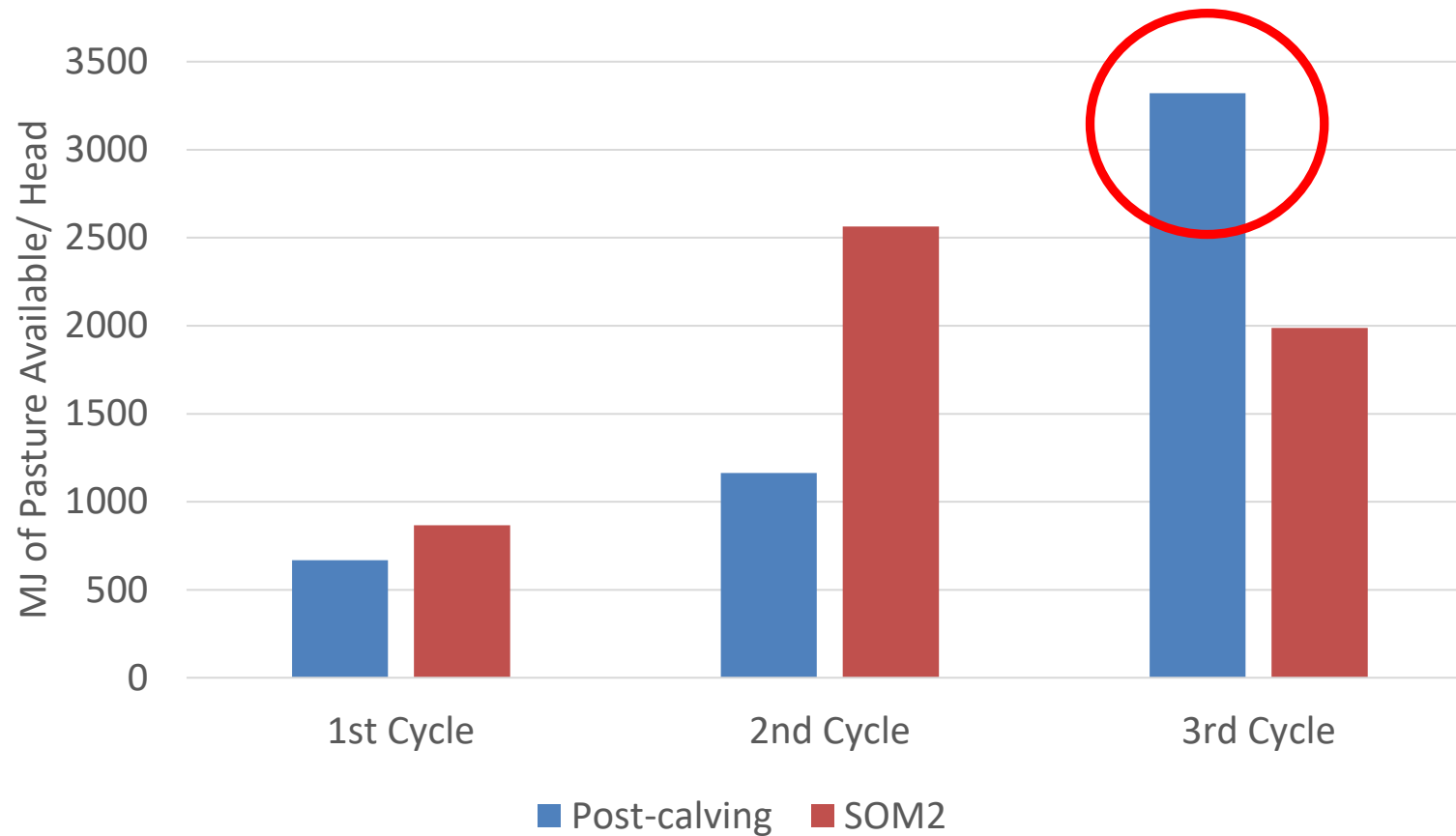
Results: Re-breeding



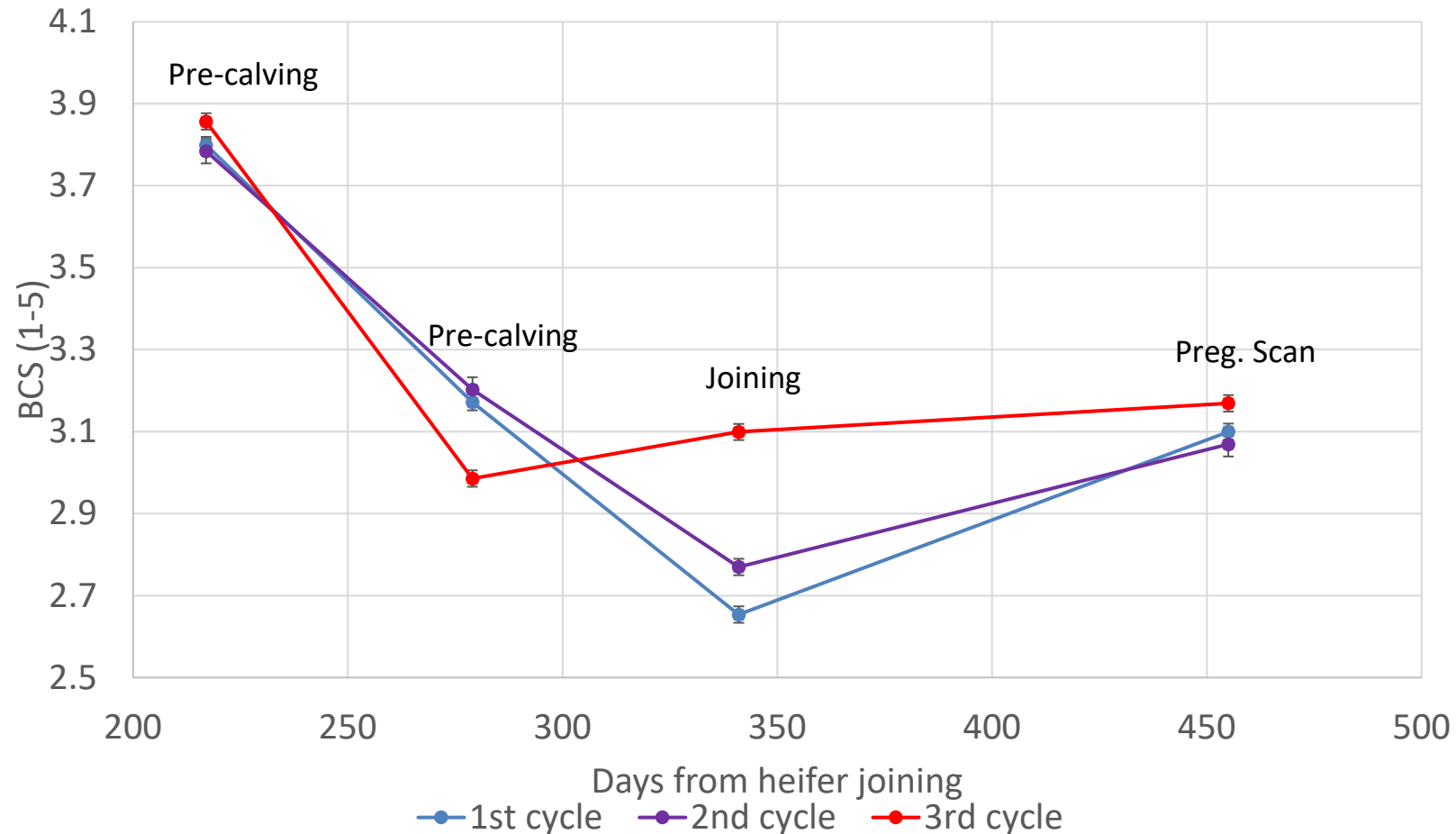
Results: Weight (kg)



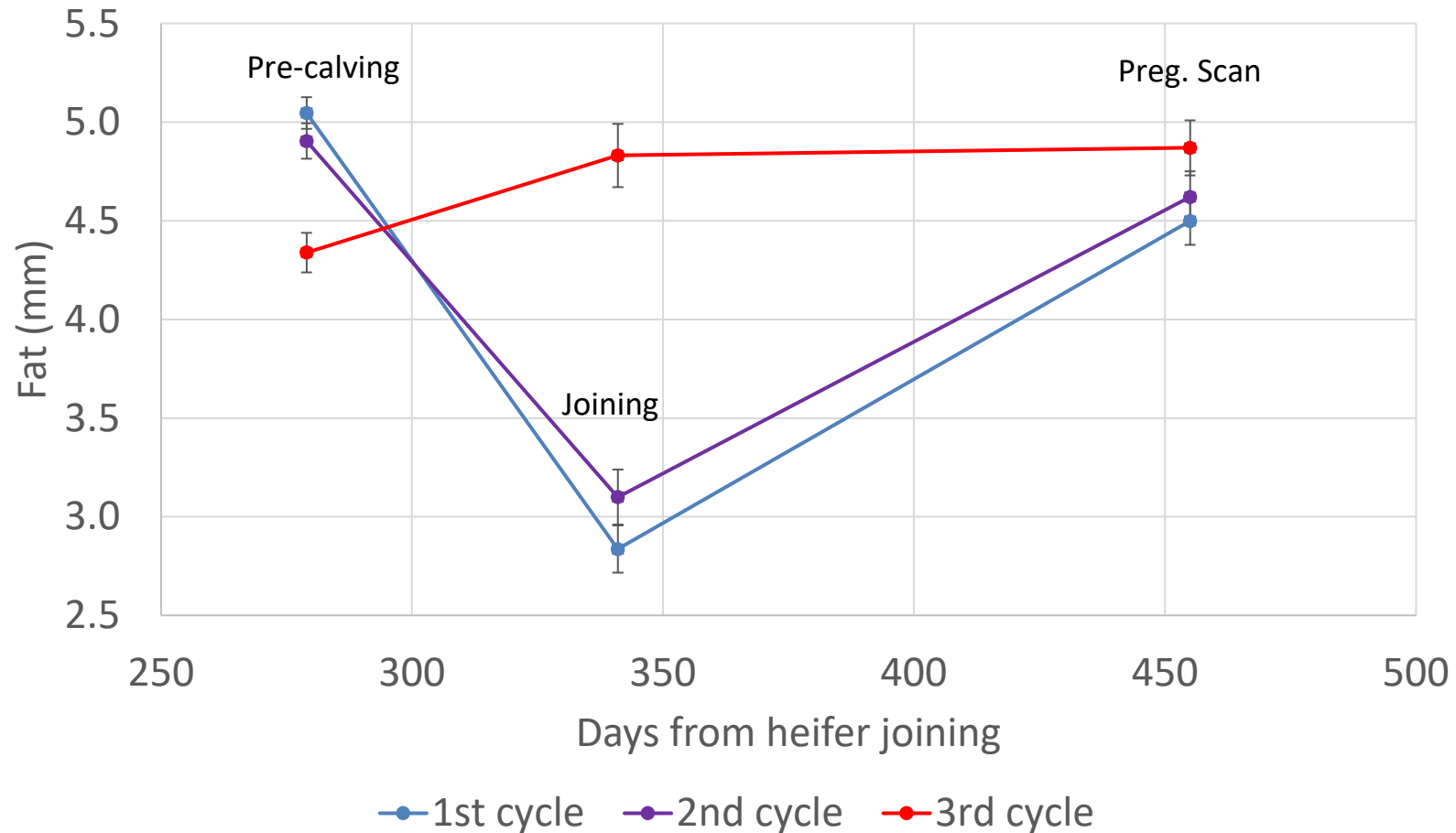
Results: Feed on offer



Results: Body condition score (1-5)



Results: Rib fat (mm)



What about productivity??

	Calf wwt (kg)	Std. Error
1st cycle	179	1.3
2nd cycle	167	2.1
3rd cycle	156	1.8

\$60/calf at weaning

What about productivity??

	% at preg scan 3
1st cycle	64%
2nd cycle	68%
3rd cycle	70%

Top three take home messages

1. Management can drive re-breeding success – harder in smaller herds
2. Feed quality and quantity are drivers of re-breeding success
3. Look after your first calvers to increase longevity

Tools, resources & training

- More Beef from Pastures
- Bred Well Fed Well
- Profitable Grazing Systems
- AI's Building Better Breeders
- BREEDPLAN Selecting Indexes
- AI Technicians for latest synchronization protocols
- Watch for info from current project



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