

# The role of precision technologies in beef cattle production



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## What to use and why?

- It needs to generate a return of the investment
- It needs to integrate with other technologies or day to day practices at the farm.
- It needs to help us accomplish goals we already have (technology is not the goal)

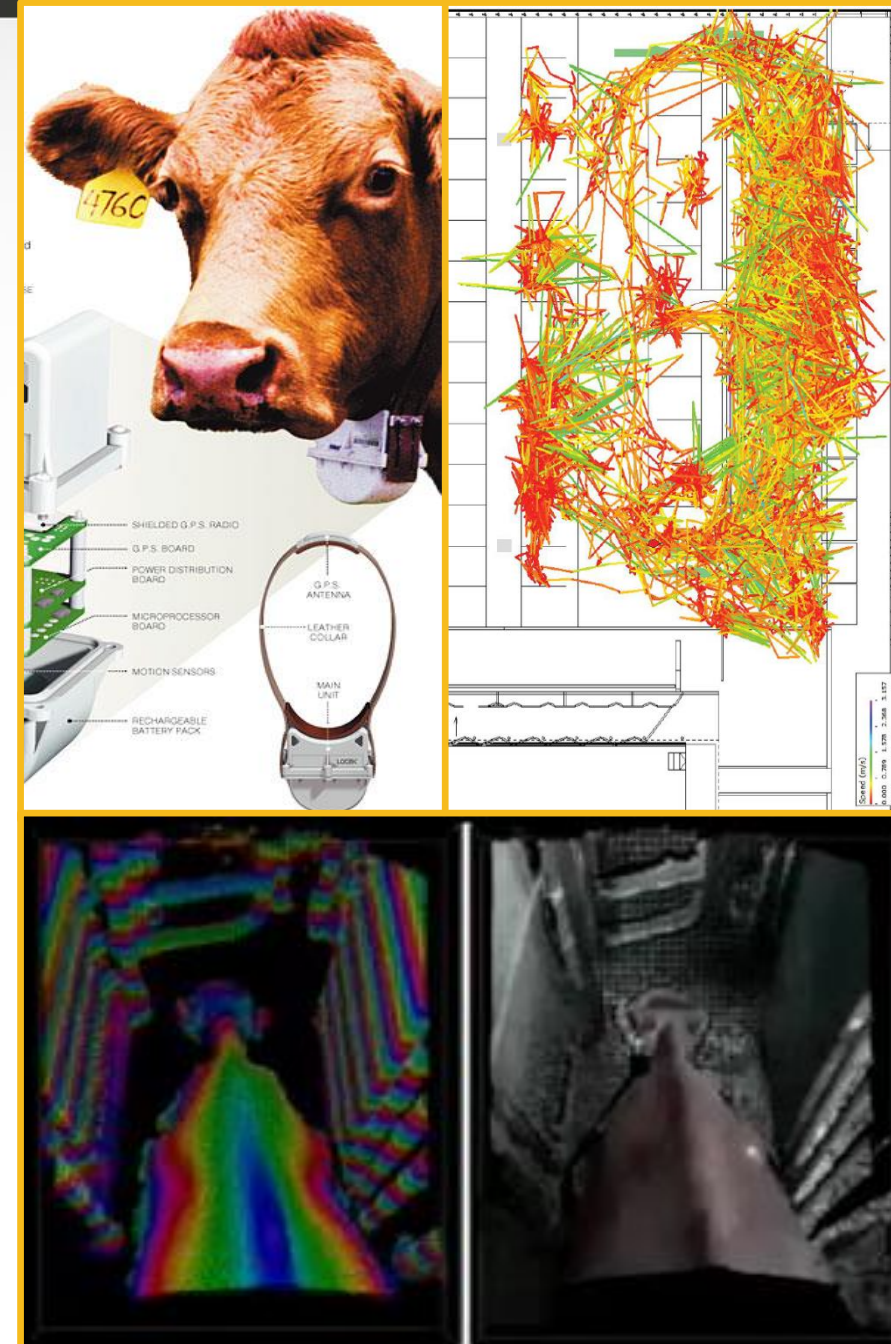




# Precision technologies to phenotype livestock

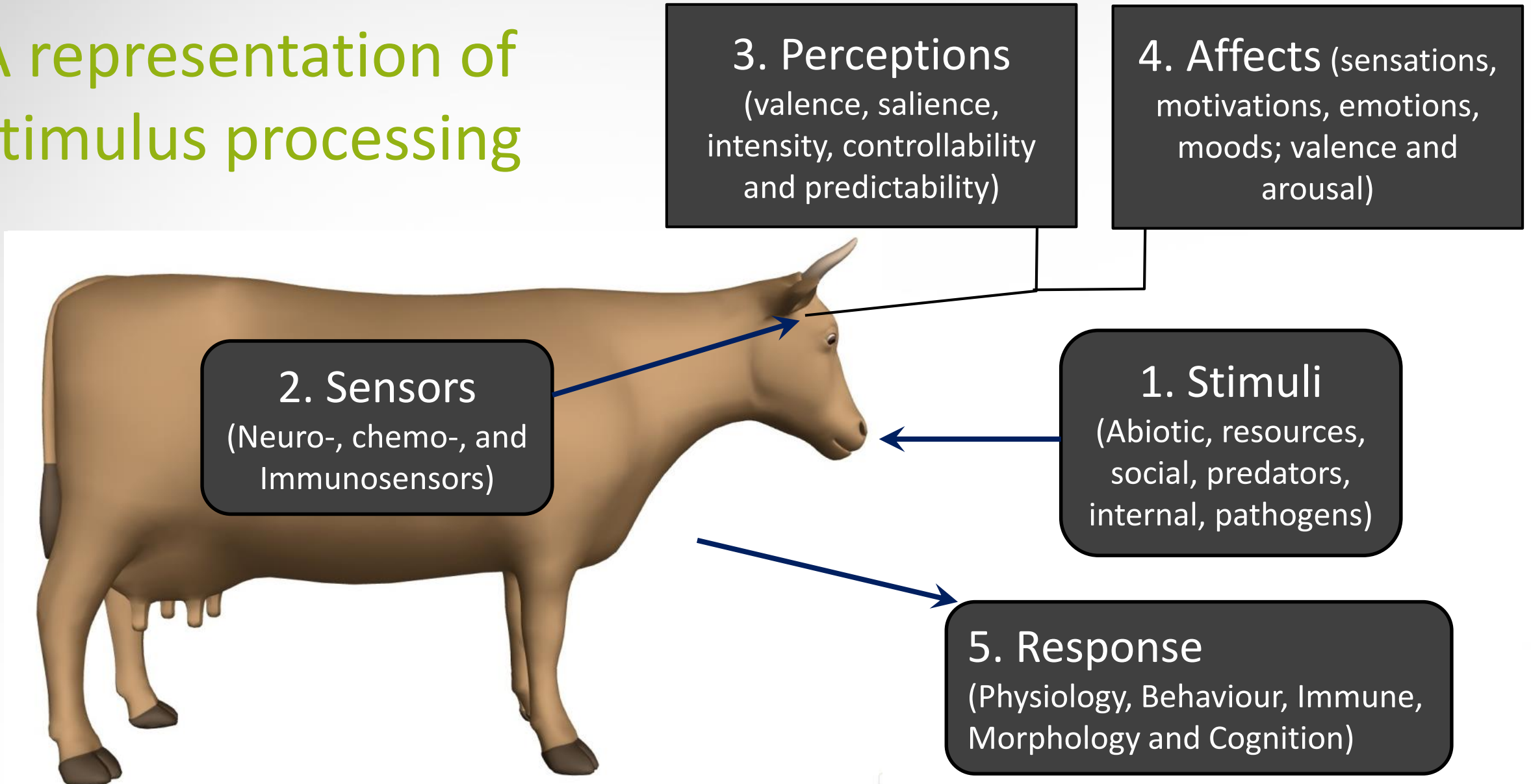
To measure and manage herd variability at an individual level (including animal movement, activity, feed intake...)

- Early diagnostic of diseases (use and efficacy of antimicrobials)
- Resources exploitation
- Improved management strategies





# A representation of stimulus processing



**Causal factors:** Interpretations of external changes and internal states of the body that serve as inputs to the decision-making centre.

## External factors

Surroundings

Food characteristics

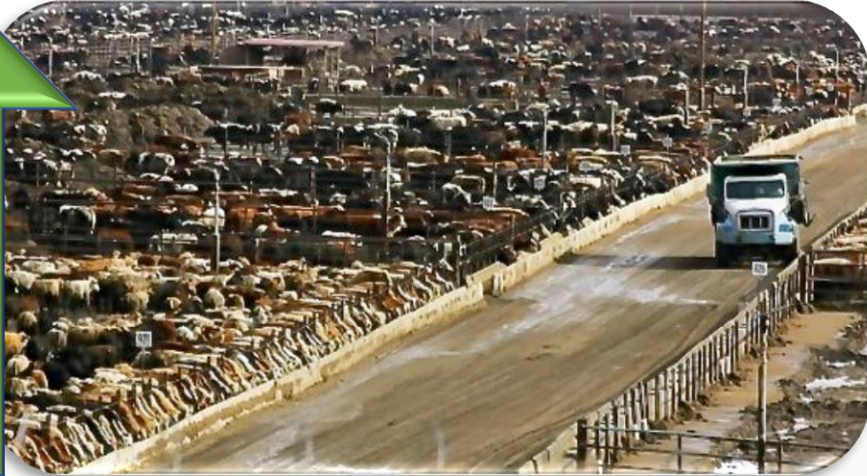
## Internal factors

Previous experience

Body signals



# Previous experience



Initiate feeding

Efficiency of finding food

Rate of ingestion

# Other internal factors

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## Age

More efficient  
as they get  
older



## Breed

Genetic  
component  
and selection



## Gender

Social and  
hormonal  
differences

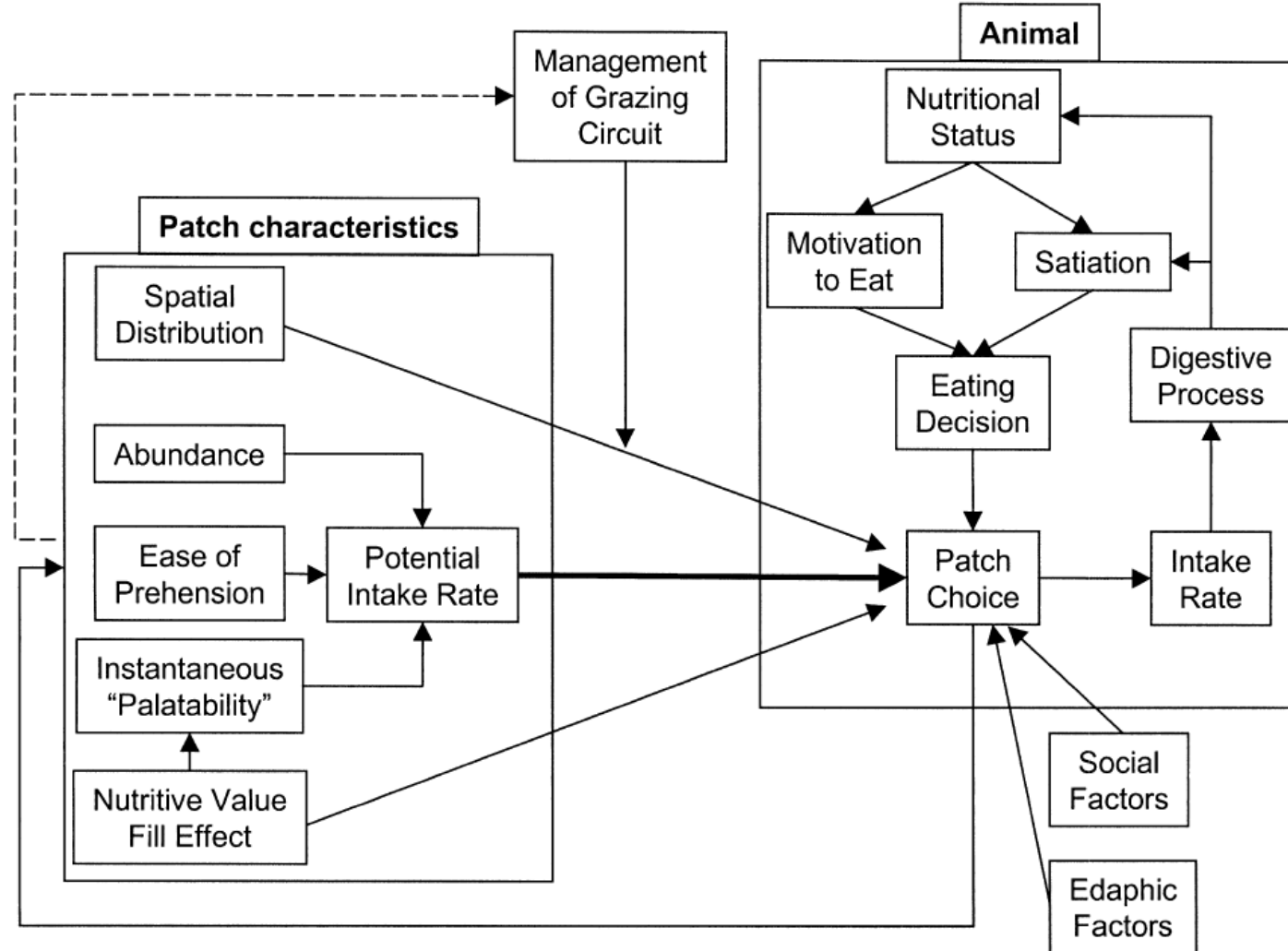


# Feed-related factors affecting feeding behavior and ruminal fluid pH

- Feed related factors affecting feeding behavior and rumen function:
  - a) Amount and type of grain: NSC, effective fiber, rumen degradability
  - b) Feed additives: monensin, sodium bicarbonate, flavours,...
- Feeding management:
  - a) Feeding frequency: More deliveries, more stable rumen.
  - b) Feed bunk management: ad libitum vs restricted or clean bunk
  - c) Consistency of feeding: Irregular schedules (delays, health status,...) may cause cattle to ingest large quantities of feed during a short time period once feed becomes available

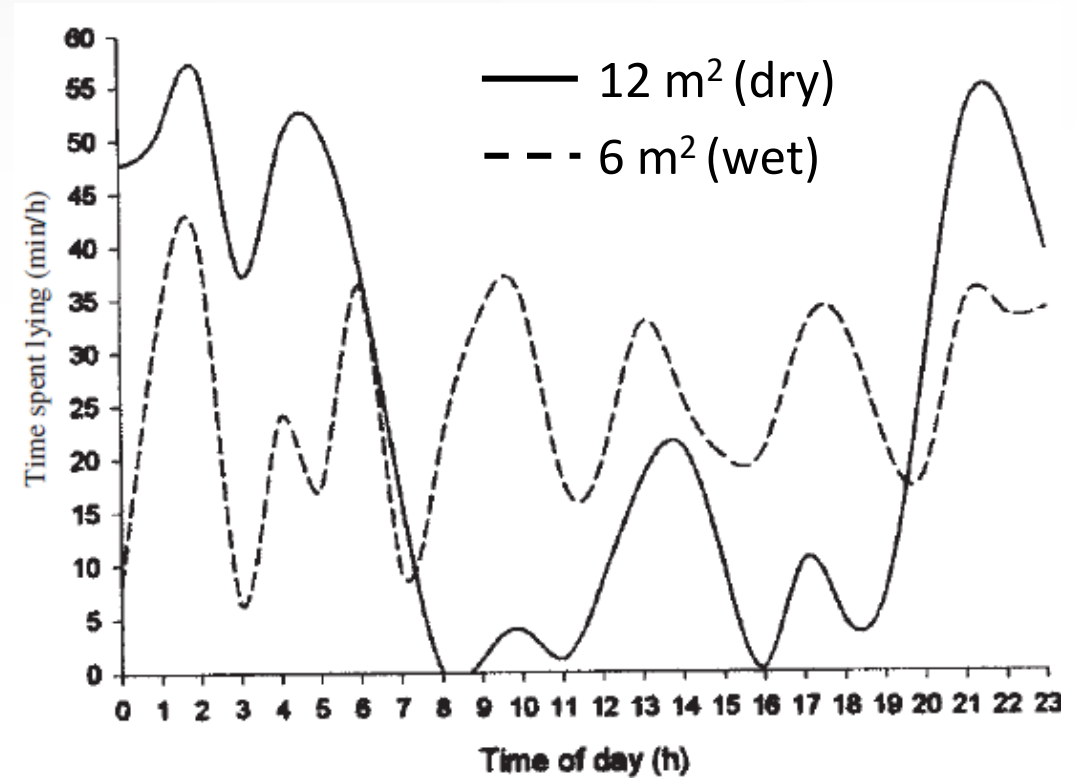
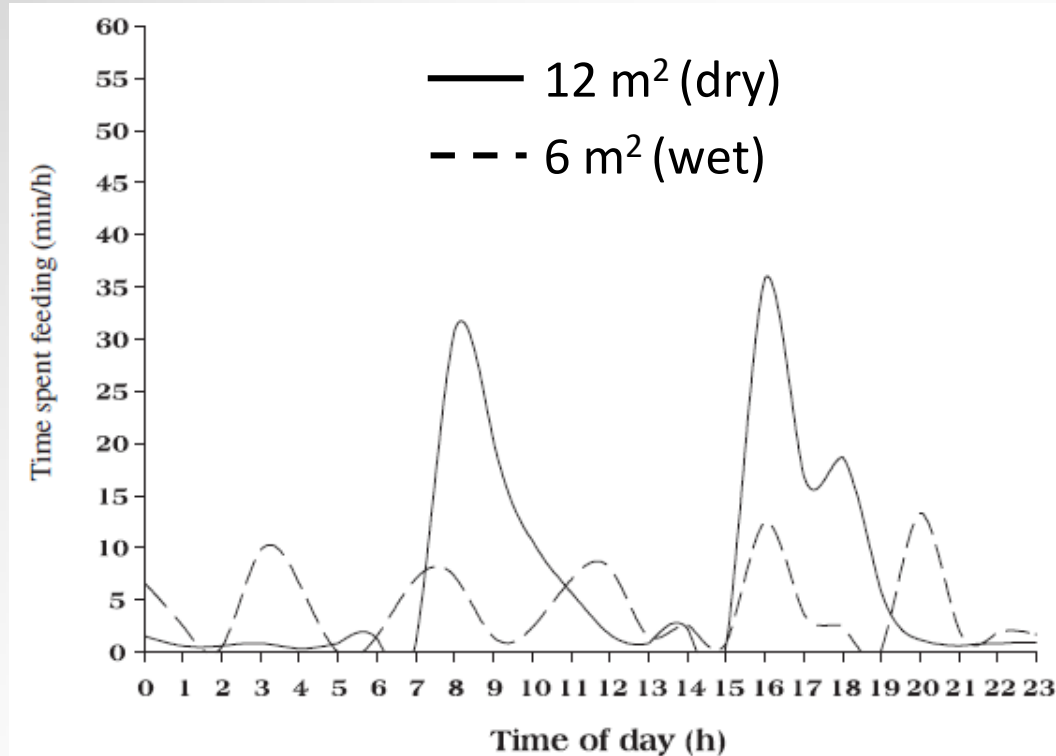


# How forage characteristics influence behaviour and intake in small ruminants (Baumont et al., 2010)





## More external factors: Pen conditions



The difference in pattern of feeding and lying enabled the high-density cattle to cope relatively successfully with altered conditions.

# Competition

Animals graze at faster rates when they know that the herbage available is limited

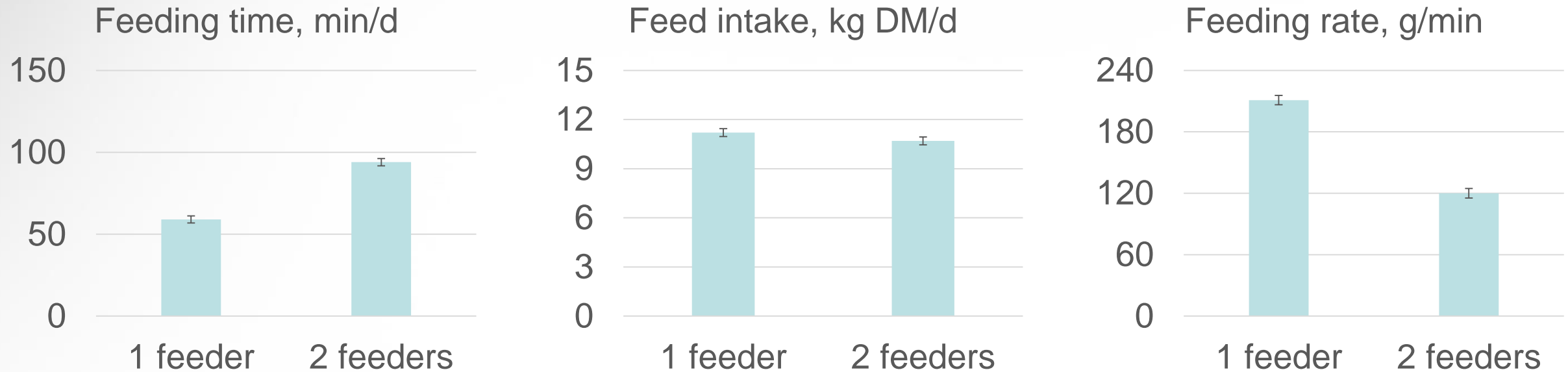


Picture: [www.punjab-tourism.com](http://www.punjab-tourism.com)



# Effect of social pressure on feeding behaviour

Feeding groups of 15 growing heifers in 2 or 1 feeders per pen (n = 120):



Such an increase in eating rate would result in a reduction of 22 L/d in daily saliva production.

# Other factors

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Temperature

Photoperiod

Pregnancy

Disease



Picture: [www.cutestpaw.com](http://www.cutestpaw.com)

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# Monitoring location



**GPS**



**UWB sensors**



**Video**



# GPS trackers

Using GPS the University of Missouri Extension weed scientists have learned that weed control improves pasture productivity and creates a grazing space preferred by most cows.



Before application



2 months after



4 months after





**1 batch of 64 ms** every 30 s for 5 min



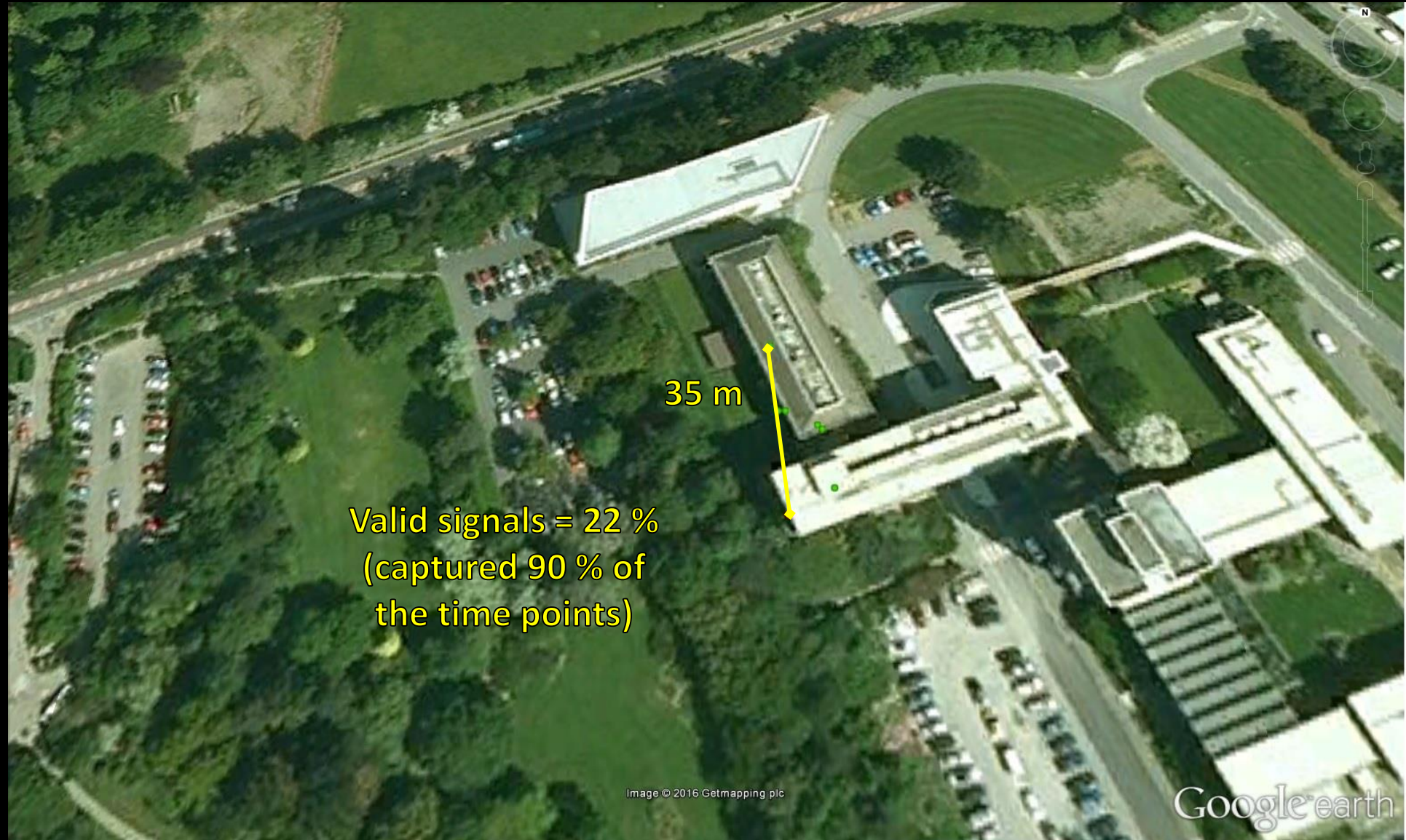
Valid signals = 0 %

Image © 2016 Getmapping plc

Google earth

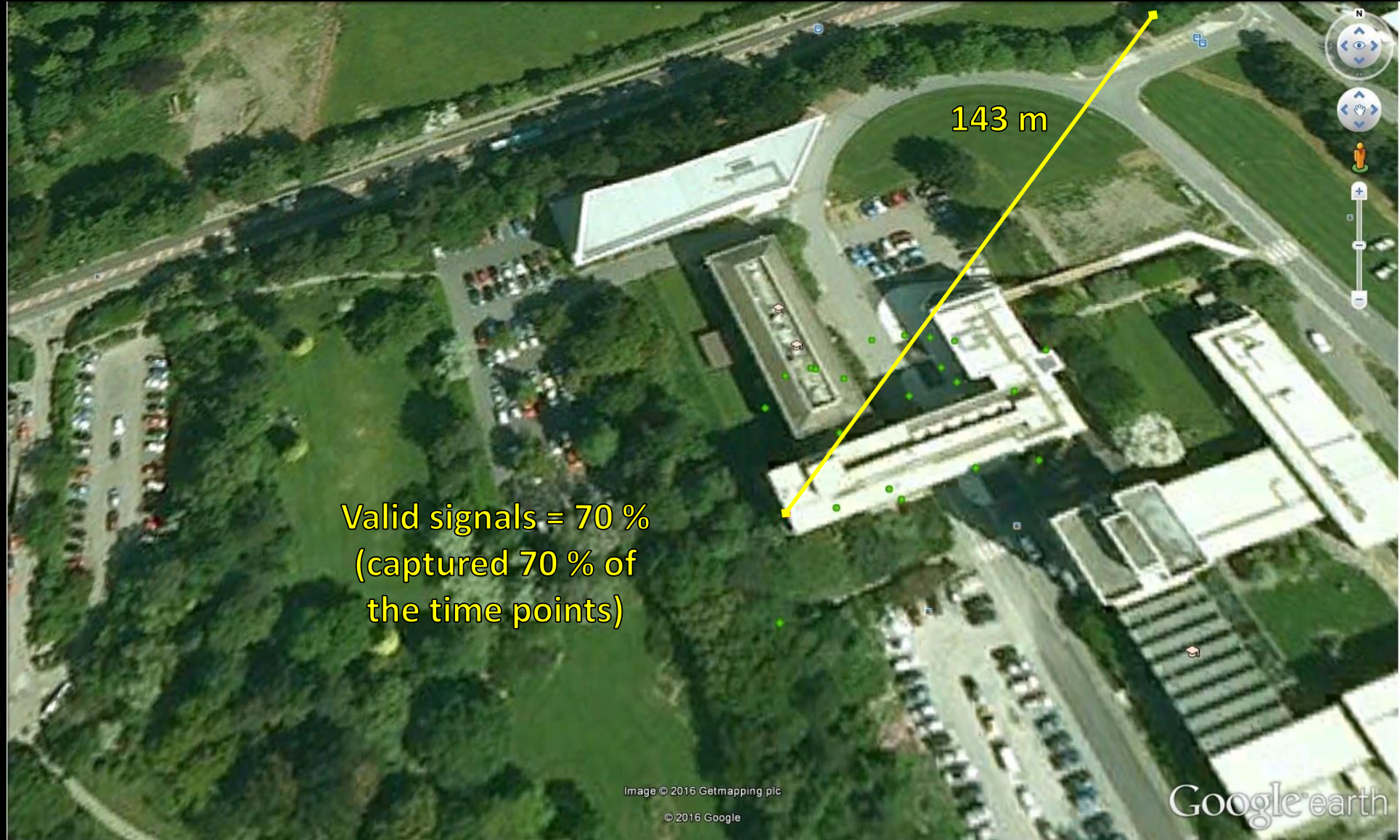


**10 batches of 64 ms** every 30 s for 5 min



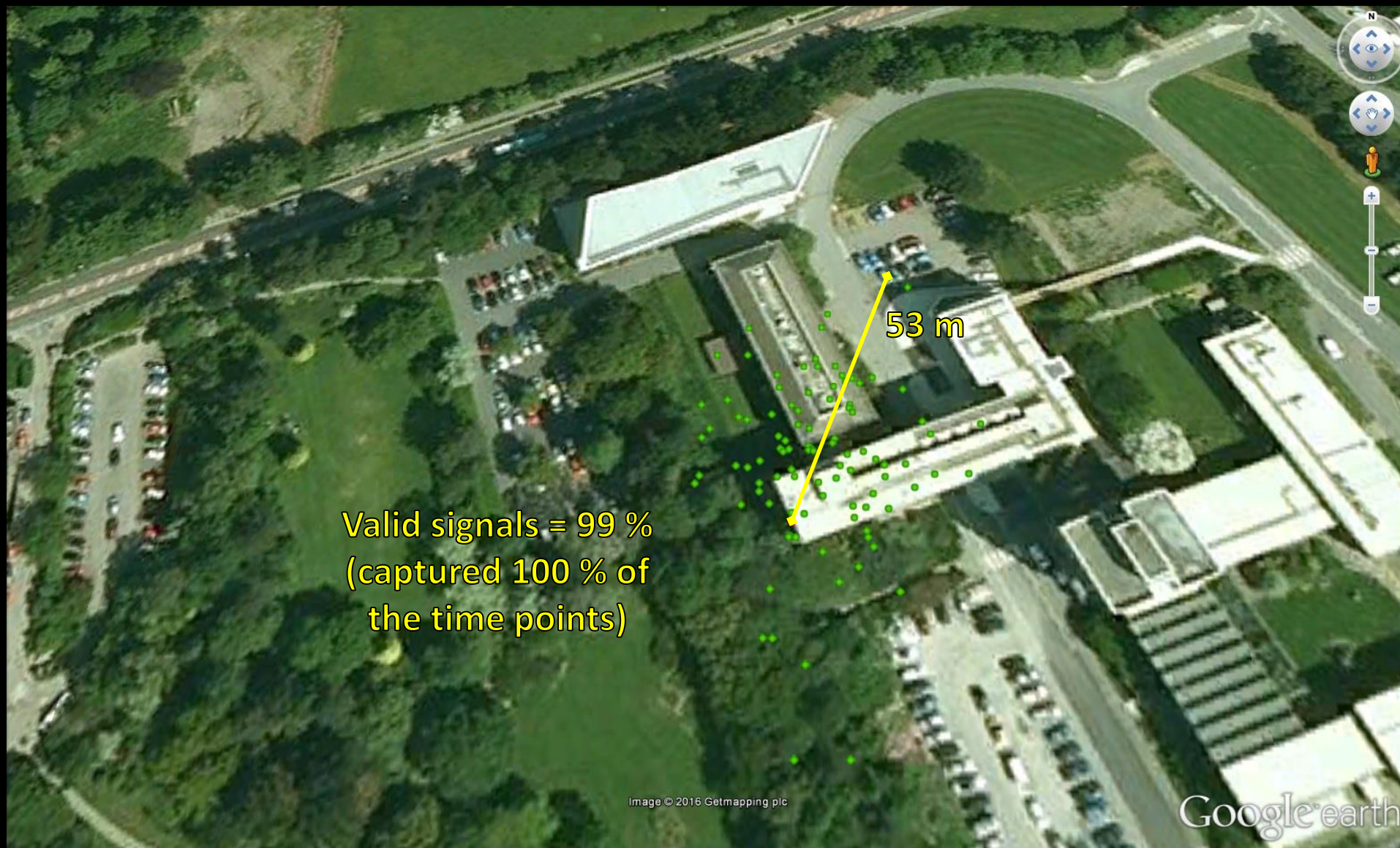


**1 batch of 512 ms** every 30 s for 5 min





**10 batches of 512 ms** every 30 s for 5 min



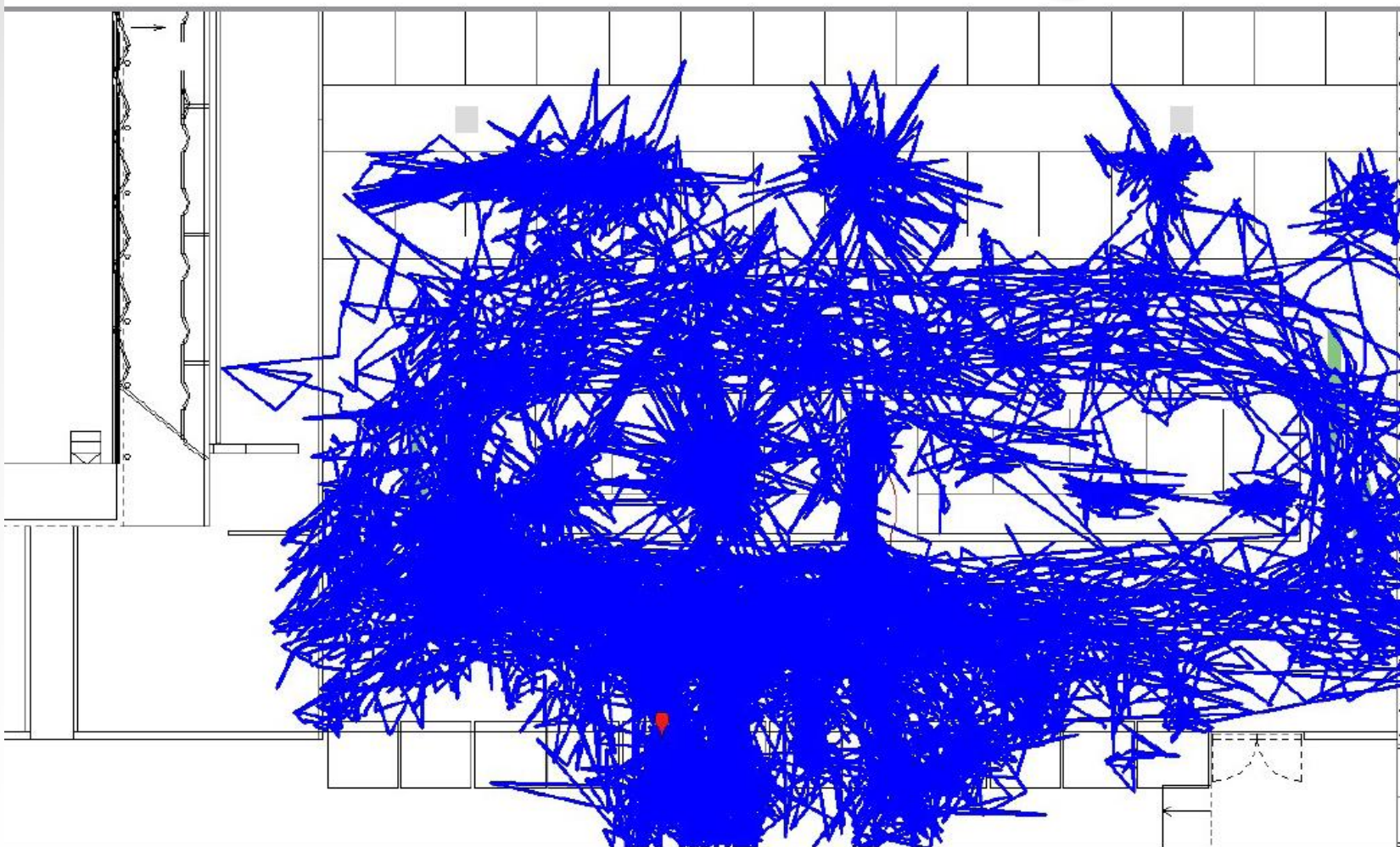


**Tracking the location and movement of farm animals gives insight into the behaviour, health, and welfare of farm animals.**

# **Ultra wide-band sensors**

**Tracking the location of farm animals gives insight into the behaviour, health, and welfare of farm animals.**

# **UWB sensors on dairy cows**



**Overall  
movement**



**Individual  
speed**



**Heat Map**

**Used in a wide range of fields, mostly related to behavioural neurosciences, also in applied ethology, and animal welfare studies.**

# Markerless video tracking



side view



top view



**Methodology under development.**

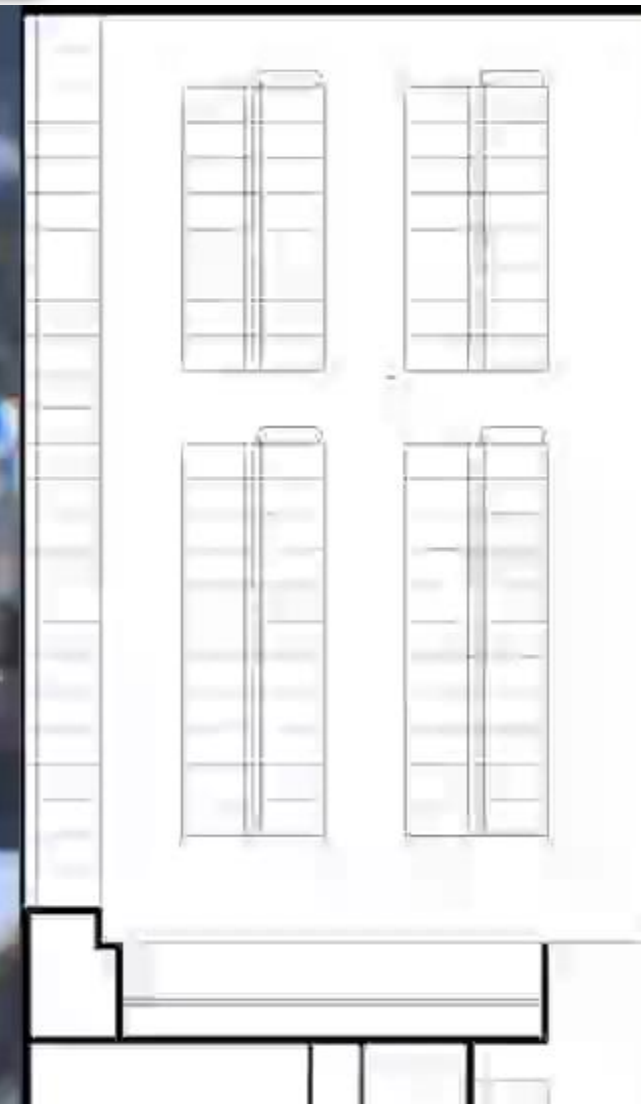


Click the button to automatically  
recognise sheep faces automatically  
recognised

**Markerless  
video tracking**

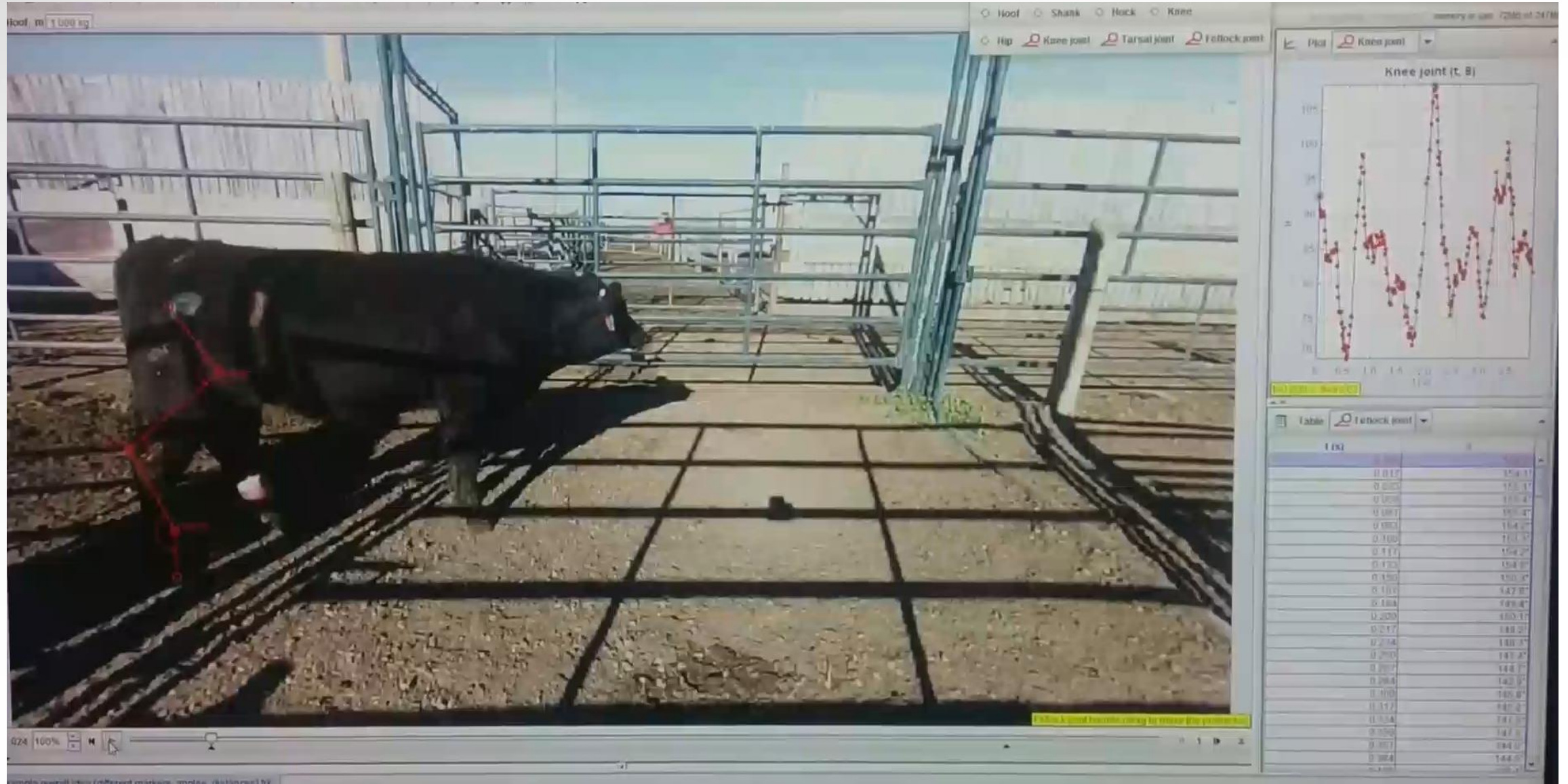
**Methodology under development.**

# Markerless video tracking





# Markerless video tracking to assess cattle lameness





- ❑ What, when and how?
- ❑ Monitoring animal location
- ❑ Monitoring animal activity
  - Grazing preference
  - Tail flick behaviour
  - Feed intake
- ❑ Pain assessment
- ❑ Temperament assessment
- ❑ Cognitive research
- ❑ Motivation state



# Monitoring activity



**Video      Accelerometers      Acoustics**



# Video recording: versatile but time consuming





05/16/2019 12:00:06

PEN BEH2





05/16/2019 12:04:34

PEN BEH2





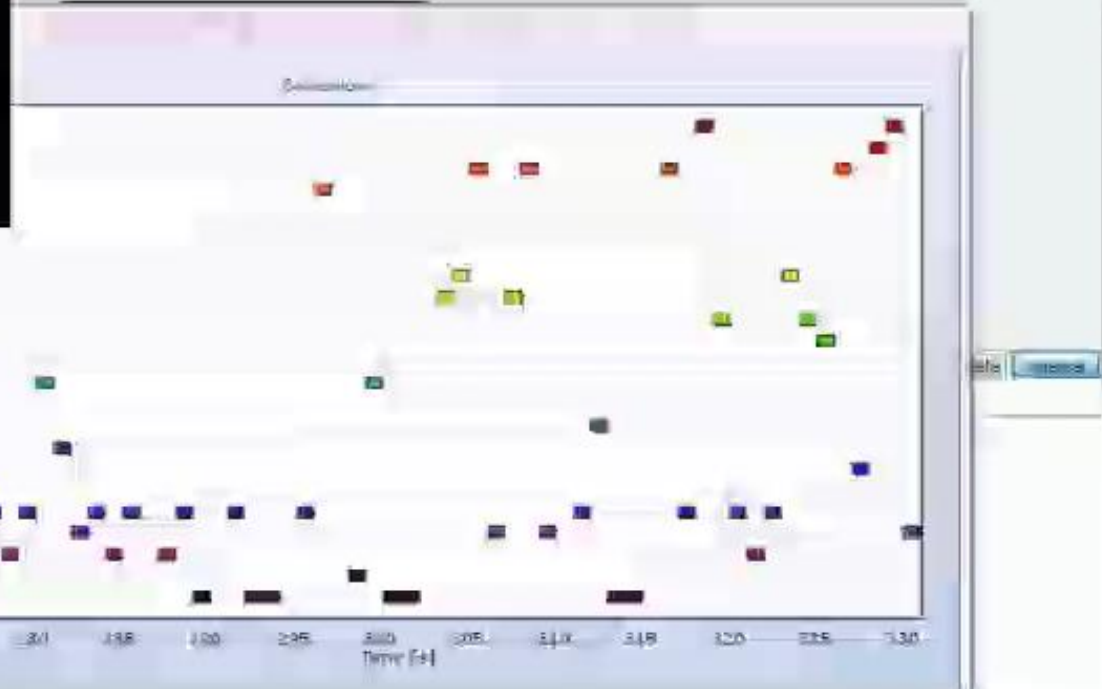
# Video monitoring





**Alternative to visual observation, where behaviours are determined by a pattern recognition algorithm based on visual data. Only in rodent models**

# Video-based activity monitor



Results

Minimum Group Size ?

Overestimation range: 0.698-0.720

Included summary:

Bo.	Pole	Time	Run time	Avg. velocity (m/s)	Trash length (cm)	Action
1	1	10.00	Fast	0.698	0.720	

Date	Time	Boat
11/01/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/02/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/03/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/04/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/05/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/06/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/07/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/08/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/09/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/10/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/11/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/12/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/13/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/14/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/15/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/16/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/17/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/18/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/19/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/20/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/21/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/22/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/23/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/24/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/25/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/26/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/27/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/28/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/29/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)
11/30/2015	11:27:05 A	(544, 475)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Level \_\_\_\_\_  
 Status \_\_\_\_\_  
 Priority \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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## Drones

- Fence checking
- Cow chasing
- Pasture scoping
- Crop/Range condition checking
- Research purposes





- ❑ What, when and how?
- ❑ Monitoring animal location
- ❑ Monitoring animal activity
  - Grazing preference
  - Tail flick behaviour
  - Feed intake
- ❑ Pain assessment
- ❑ Temperament assessment
- ❑ Cognitive research
- ❑ Motivation state





A photograph of three people walking away from the camera through a vast, green field under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The person on the left is a man wearing a blue and white checkered shirt, blue jeans, and a baseball cap. The person in the middle is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, holding a white sheet of paper. The person on the right is a woman with long brown hair, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, also holding a white sheet of paper. The field is filled with tall green grass, and a line of trees is visible on the horizon.

# Mob grazing trial

1. Assess the performance and persistence of new legume and grass varieties under intensive grazing conditions across consecutive grazing seasons.
2. Characterize forage preference of the grazing animals.
3. Determine whether forage preference is related to forage performance and nutritive value.
4. Determine the effects of animal temperament on grazing behaviour and forage preference.









## Corridor test

- Speed
- Lunges
- Head turns

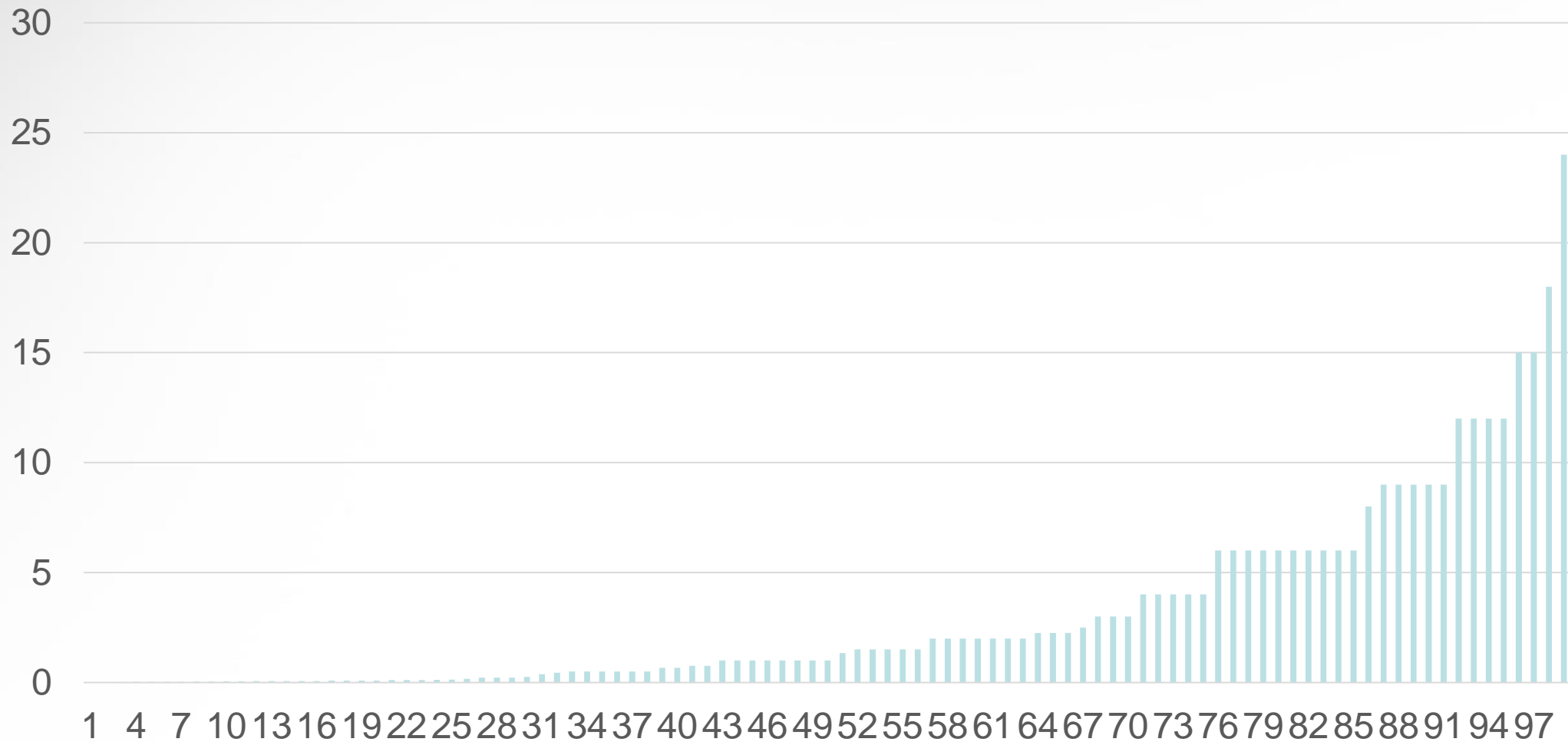




Nobel Object Test



## Temperament score







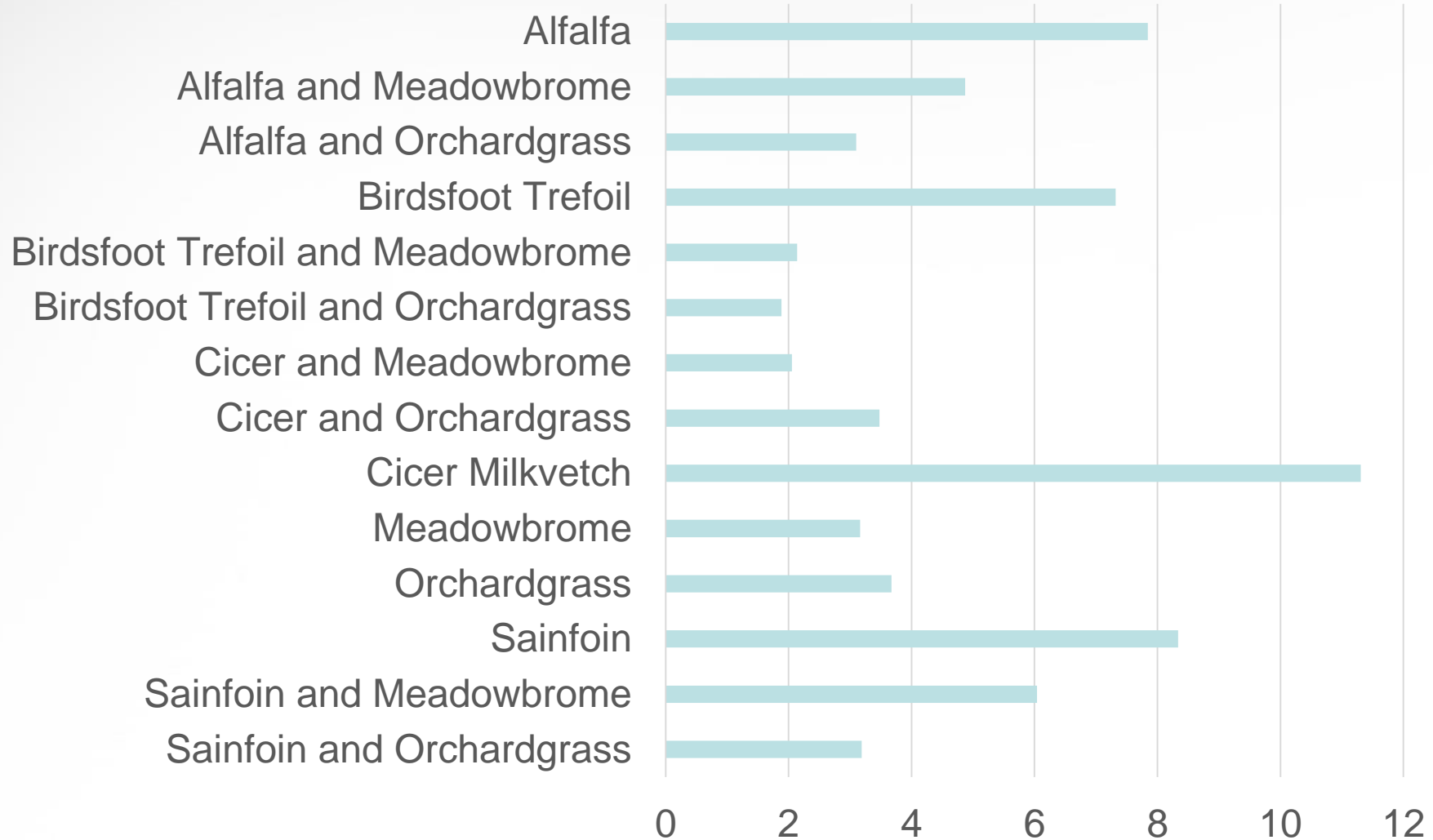


# Grazing preference

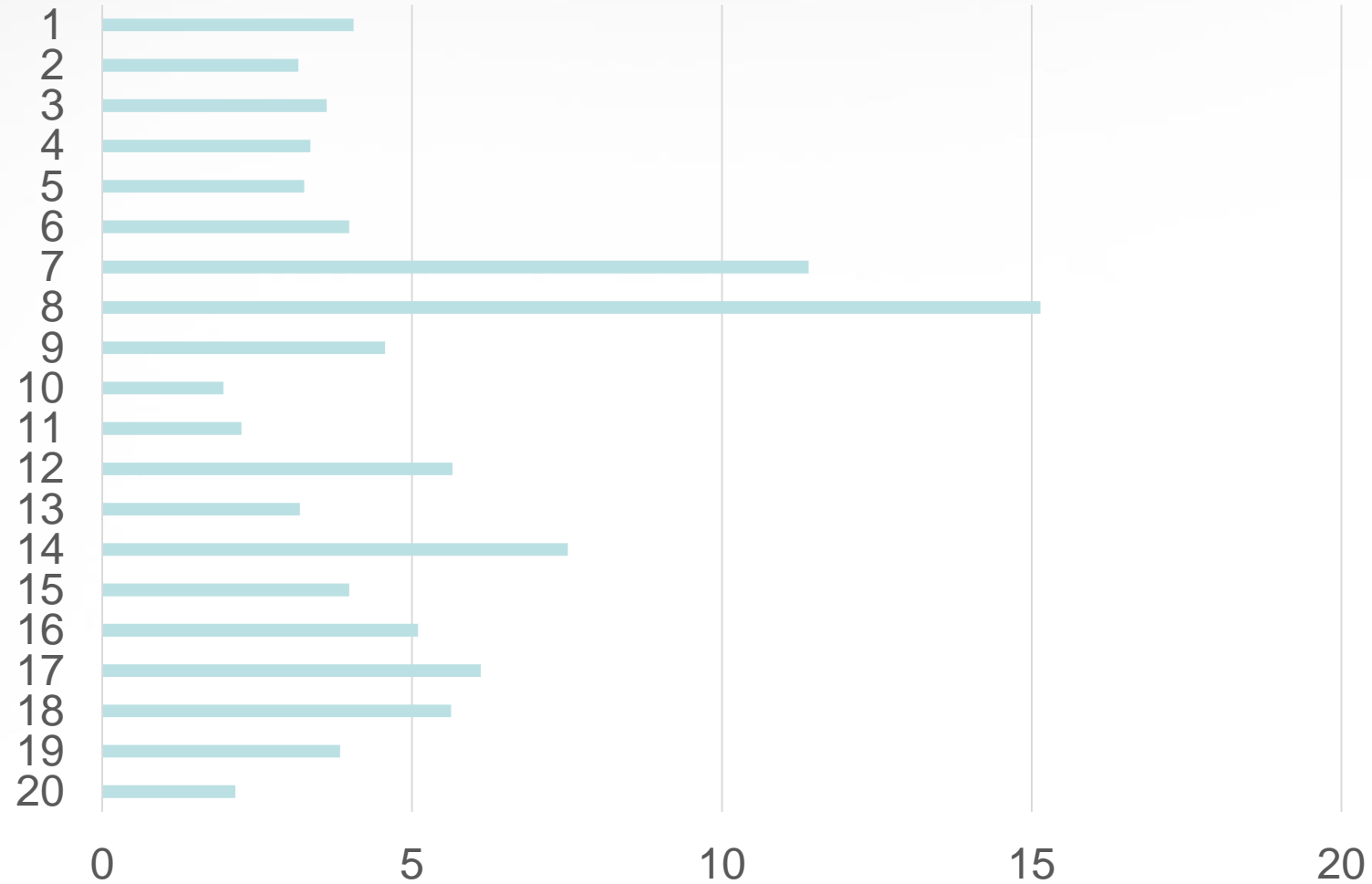
	28-Jul	29-Jul	30-Jul	31-Jul	1-Aug	2-Aug
Birdsfoot Trefoil and Meadowbrome			1			
Alfalfa and Orchardgrass						
Orchardgrass		3 1 3				
Alfalfa and Orchardgrass	3	3			1	
Cicer and Meadowbrome	1		1	1		
Sainfoin and Meadowbrome			1 1	1 2 2	1	
Cicer Milkvetch	2	3 3 3 3 1	2 1	2 2 3 1 1	1	1
Sainfoin	1 3	1 1 2	1 3 3 3	1 1	2	
Alfalfa and Meadowbrome					1 1	1 1
Sainfoin and Orchardgrass					1	
Meadowbrome					2	1
Alfalfa and Meadowbrome			1 2		1	2 2
Cicer and Orchardgrass		1	1 1			
Alfalfa	3	3 2	3	3 1	2 1 2 3	3 3 1
Alfalfa and Orchardgrass			1		2	2
Alfalfa and Meadowbrome	1	2	1 1		1	1
Birdsfoot Trefoil and Orchardgrass	2				1	1
Alfalfa		1	1	2	1 1	1 1
Alfalfa		1	1	3	1	2
Birdsfoot Trefoil		1			1	3



## Average frequency of steers by treatment



## Average frequency of steers within strips





- What, when and how?
- Monitoring animal location
- Monitoring animal activity
  - Grazing preference
  - Tail flick behaviour
  - Feed intake
- Pain assessment
- Temperament assessment
- Cognitive research
- Motivation state



# Use of accelerometers



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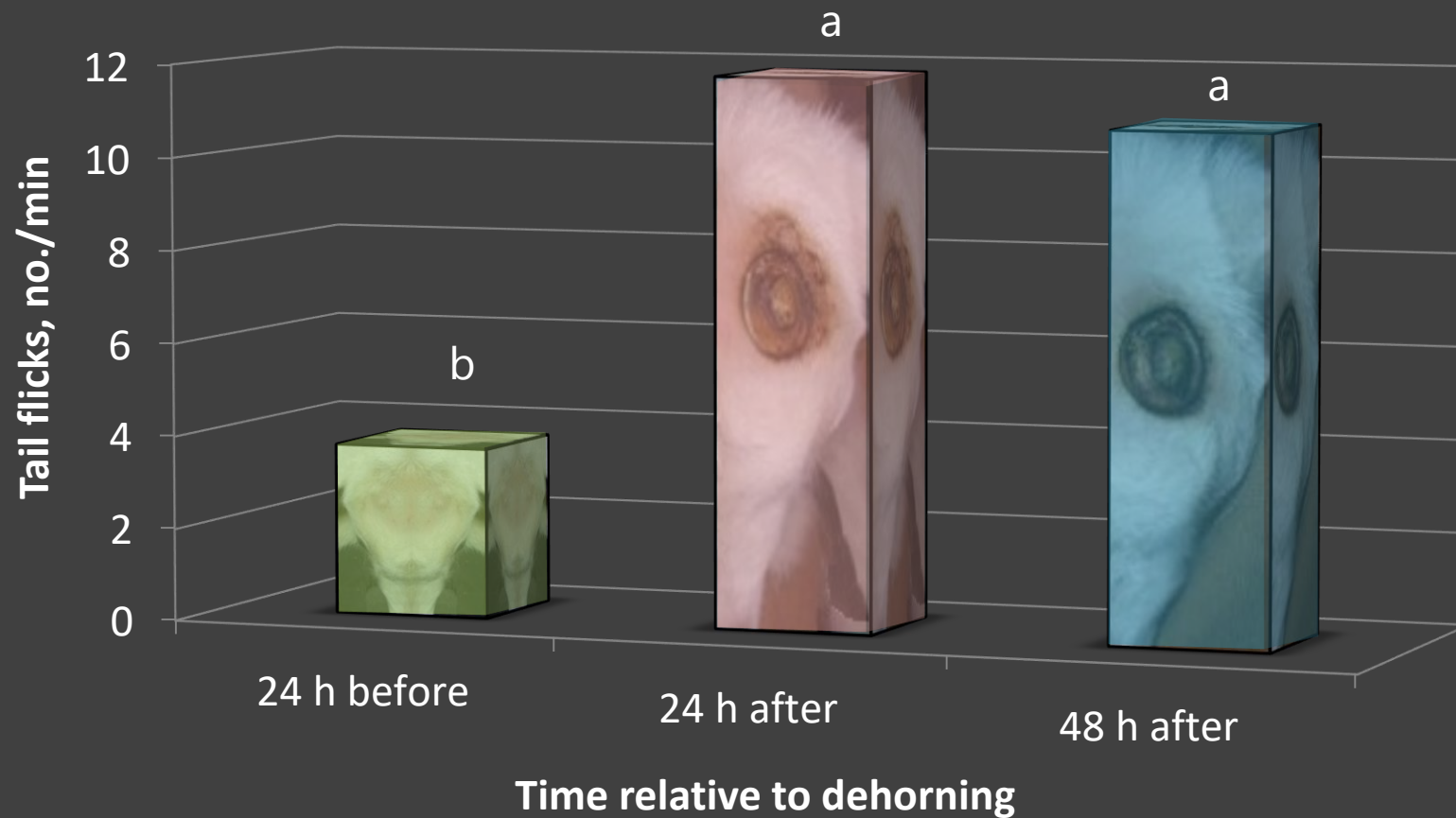
A **tail flick** is a **muscle-powered** movement of the tail from its **straight down** resting position to **one side**. If the tail moves from side to side **crossing** its resting position, **another** tail movement is recorded.

**Visual observation** of tail-flicking behavior is **time consuming** and **subjective** in nature.

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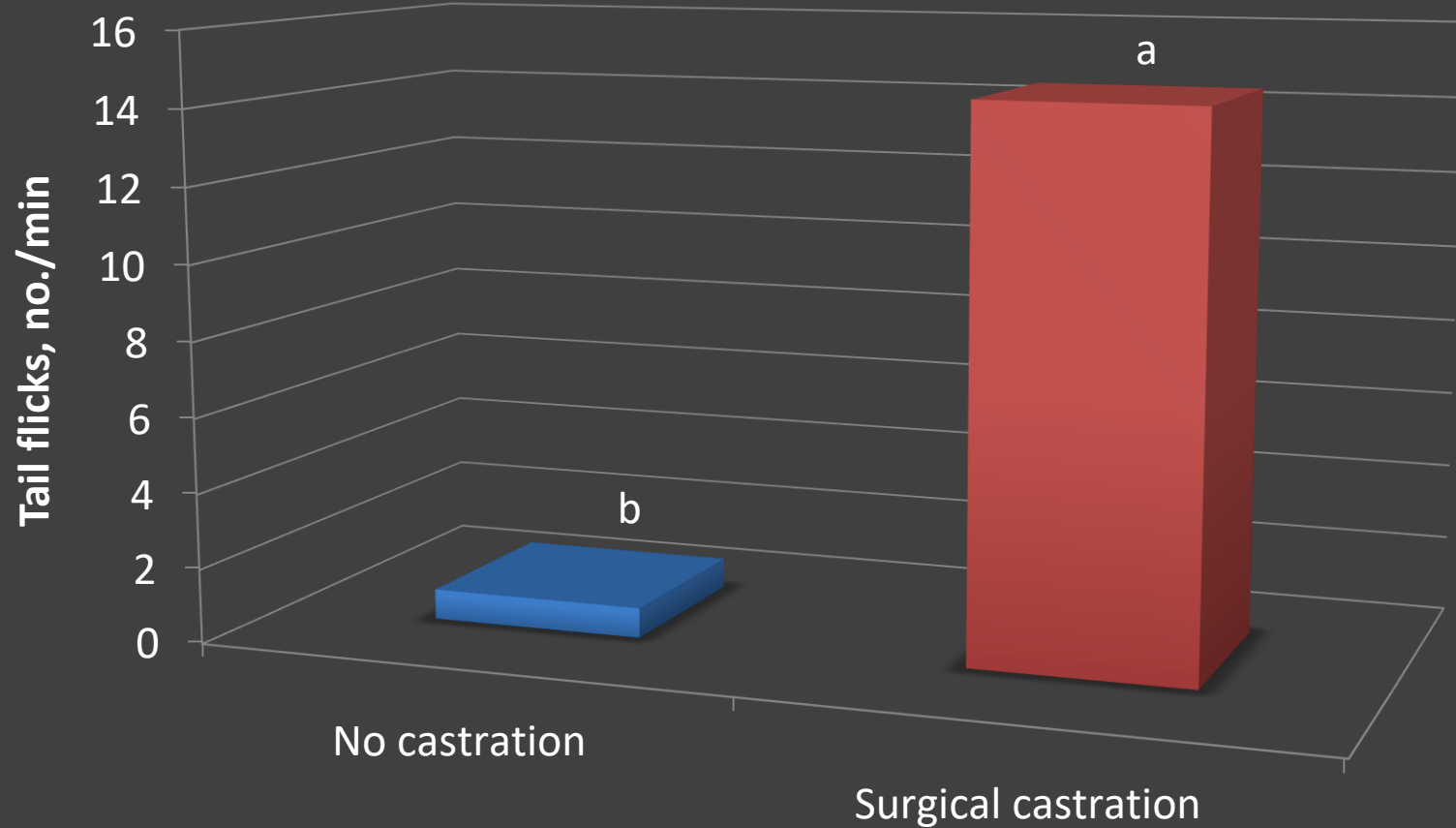


# Proxy for animal disscomfort



Different letter means  $P < 0.05$

# Proxy for animal disscomfort



Different letter means  $P < 0.05$



# Hypothesis



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Possible **alternative** to visual observations, allowing researchers to measure tail motion with **minimal time commitment** and **less subjectivity**

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# Materials and Methods

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Accelerometers (HOBO Pendant G Data Loggers, Onset Computer Corporation, MA).

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Affixed with vet wrap to the tail of 5 Angus cows housed in tie stalls.

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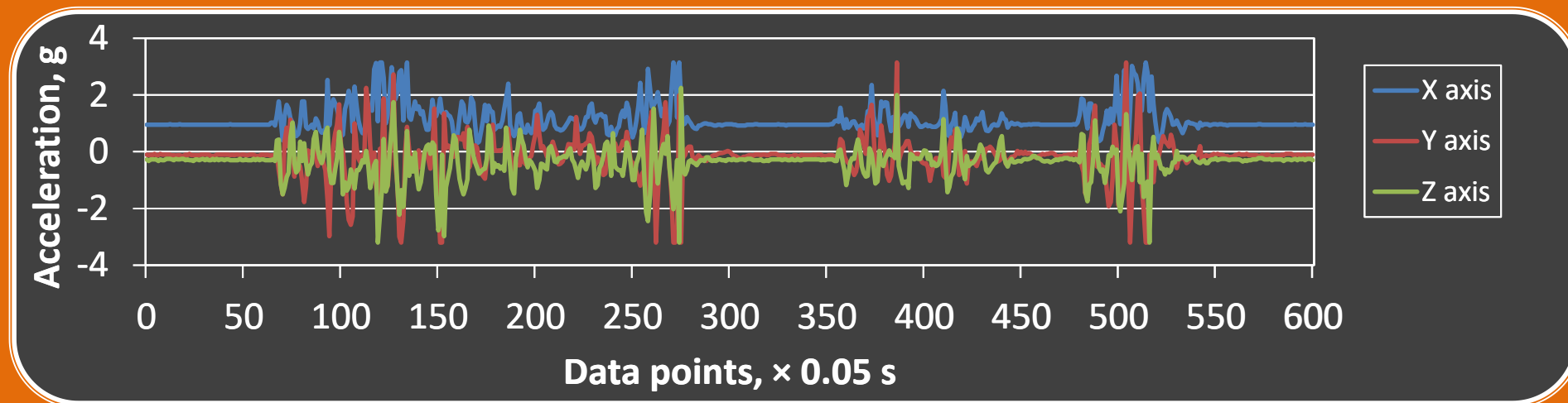
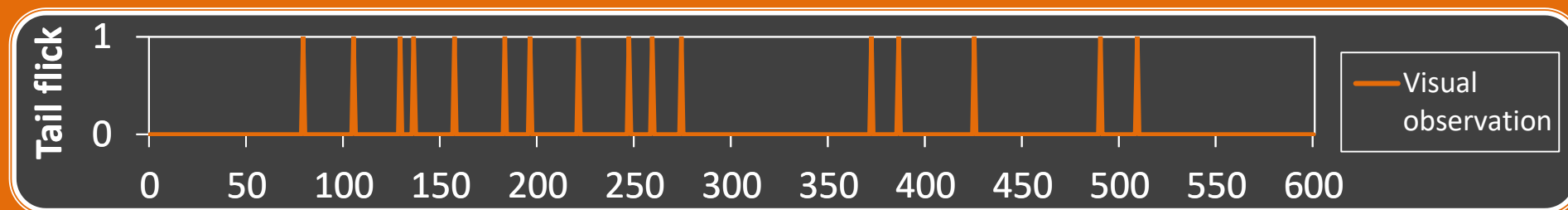
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3 different locations: 8 cm below the base, 26 cm below the base, and above the tail switch.

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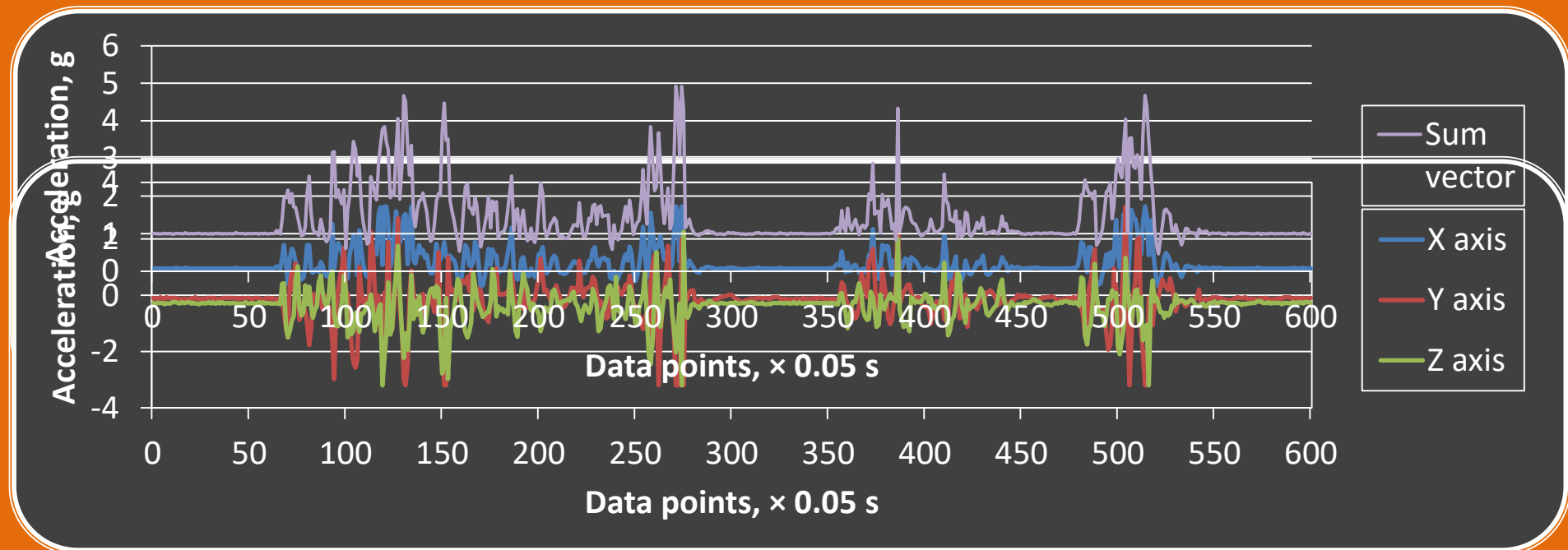








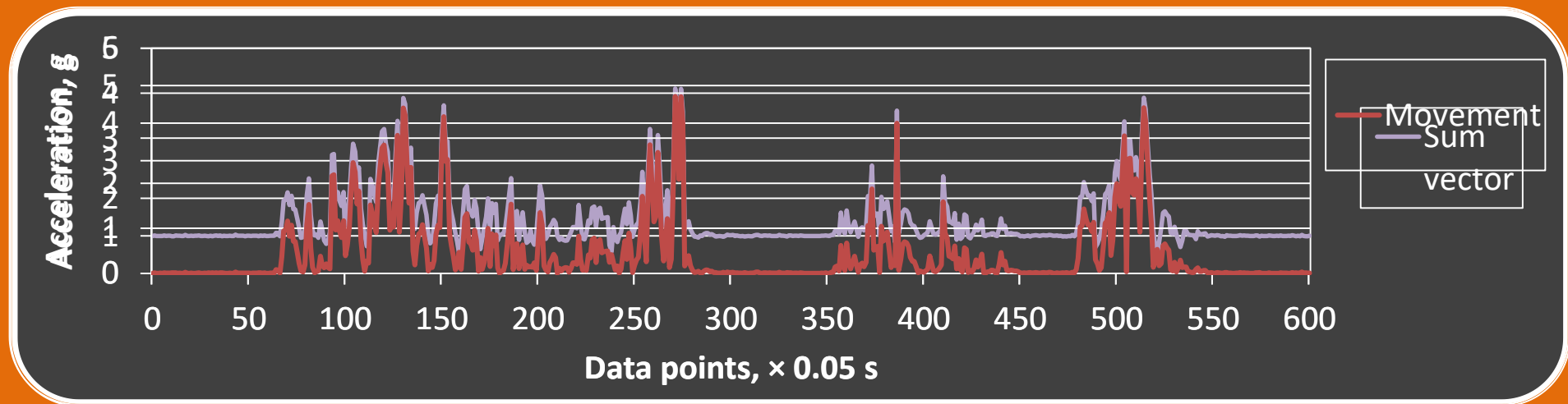
$$\text{Sum vector} = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2 + Z^2}$$

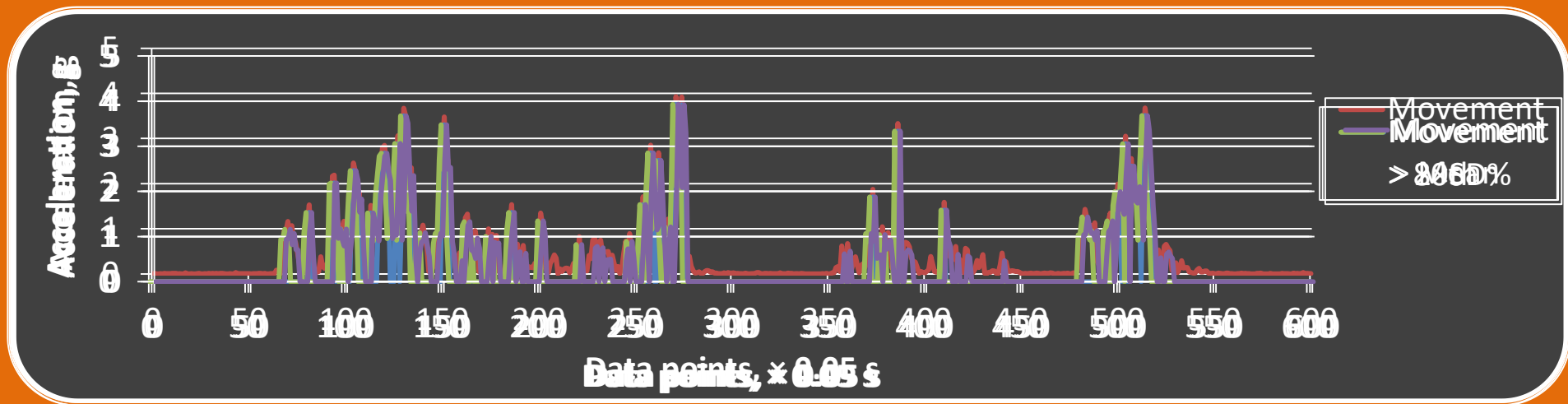
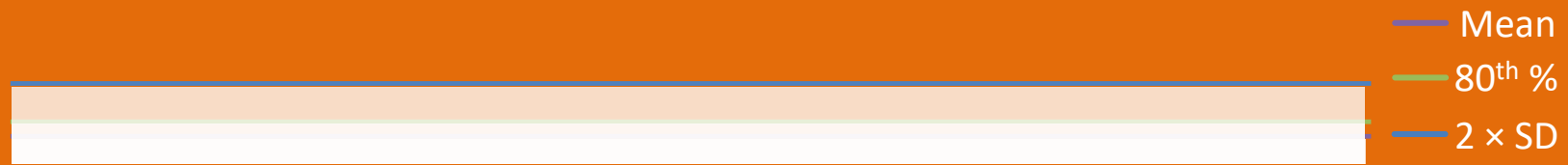




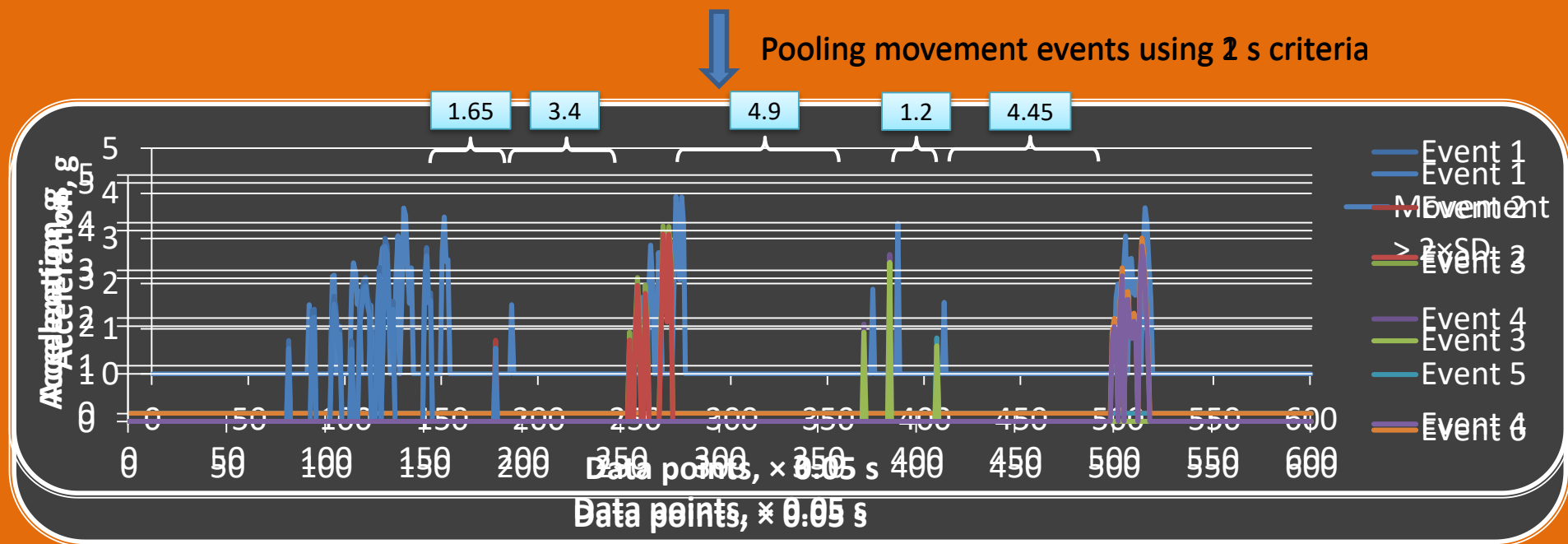


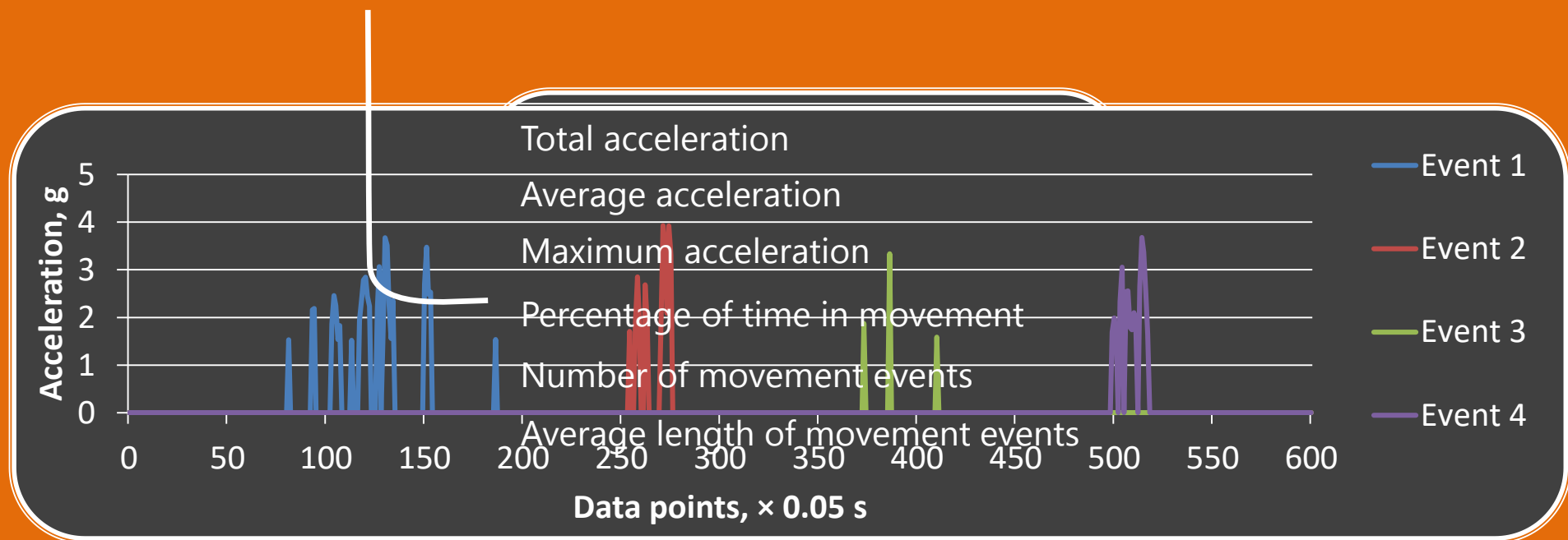
Zero the baseline acceleration when the tail is in resting position





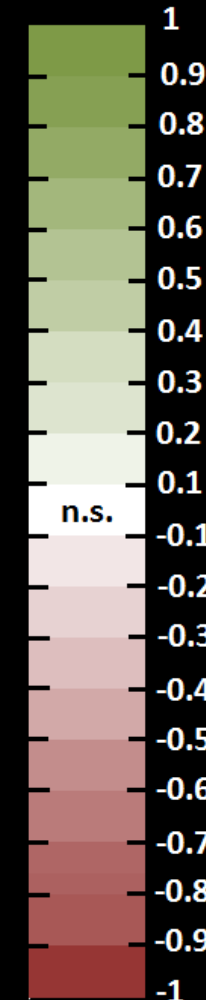








Movement criteria	Intentionality threshold	Accelerometer location	Animal position	N	Correlation between visual observation and accelerometers					
					Total acceleration	Maximum Acceleration	Number of movements	Average Acceleration	Percentage of time in movement	Average length of movement
1 sec	2STDEV	Top	Standing	30	0.92	0.47	0.44	0.81	0.73	0.24
1 sec	2STDEV	Top	Lying	12	0.50	0.35	0.67	0.36	0.13	-0.40
1 sec	2STDEV	Top	Both	7	0.82	-0.19	0.78	0.75	0.58	-0.75
1 sec	2STDEV	Middle	Standing	29	0.87	0.46	0.57	0.85	0.82	0.43
1 sec	2STDEV	Middle	Lying	12	0.79	0.40	0.94	0.72	0.83	-0.71
1 sec	2STDEV	Middle	Both	7	0.89	0.62	0.86	0.73	0.84	-0.24
1 sec	2STDEV	Bottom	Standing	30	0.91	0.47	0.77	0.79	0.92	0.51
1 sec	2STDEV	Bottom	Lying	12	0.74	0.22	0.97	0.69	0.80	-0.25
1 sec	2STDEV	Bottom	Both	7	0.86	0.72	0.85	0.67	0.94	0.29
1 sec	80PERCENTILE	Top	Standing	30	0.92	0.47	0.51	0.94	-0.45	-0.43
1 sec	80PERCENTILE	Top	Lying	12	0.51	0.35	0.60	0.48	-0.40	-0.70
1 sec	80PERCENTILE	Top	Both	7	0.78	-0.19	0.84	0.79	-0.80	-0.84
1 sec	80PERCENTILE	Middle	Standing	29	0.92	0.46	0.41	0.92	0.20	-0.30
1 sec	80PERCENTILE	Middle	Lying	12	0.84	0.40	0.50	0.82	0.33	-0.28
1 sec	80PERCENTILE	Middle	Both	7	0.92	0.62	0.69	0.92	0.70	-0.61
1 sec	80PERCENTILE	Bottom	Standing	30	0.94	0.47	0.32	0.93	-0.13	-0.35
1 sec	80PERCENTILE	Bottom	Lying	12	0.81	0.22	0.69	0.79	-0.61	-0.80
1 sec	80PERCENTILE	Bottom	Both	7	0.89	0.72	0.89	0.90	-0.23	-0.83
1 sec	MEAN	Top	Standing	30	0.93	0.47	0.60	0.89	-0.16	-0.32
1 sec	MEAN	Top	Lying	12	0.37	0.35	0.79	0.52	-0.65	-0.78
1 sec	MEAN	Top	Both	7	0.24	-0.19	0.58	0.84	-0.29	-0.40
1 sec	MEAN	Middle	Standing	29	0.91	0.46	0.56	0.89	0.23	-0.25
1 sec	MEAN	Middle	Lying	12	0.81	0.40	0.25	0.77	-0.81	-0.76
1 sec	MEAN	Middle	Both	7	0.89	0.62	0.62	0.86	0.01	-0.16
1 sec	MEAN	Bottom	Standing	30	0.93	0.47	0.58	0.84	0.36	-0.19
1 sec	MEAN	Bottom	Lying	12	0.79	0.22	0.77	0.73	-0.79	-0.80
1 sec	MEAN	Bottom	Both	7	0.95	0.72	0.82	0.71	0.14	-0.35
2 sec	2STDEV	Top	Standing	30	0.93	0.47	0.38	0.81	0.76	0.28
2 sec	2STDEV	Top	Lying	12	0.52	0.35	0.73	0.36	0.14	-0.45
2 sec	2STDEV	Top	Both	7	0.83	-0.19	0.79	0.74	0.61	-0.72
2 sec	2STDEV	Middle	Standing	29	0.88	0.46	0.58	0.85	0.84	0.44
2 sec	2STDEV	Middle	Lying	12	0.81	0.40	0.90	0.73	0.86	-0.69
2 sec	2STDEV	Middle	Both	7	0.88	0.62	0.84	0.73	0.84	-0.28
2 sec	2STDEV	Bottom	Standing	30	0.91	0.47	0.73	0.78	0.93	0.59
2 sec	2STDEV	Bottom	Lying	12	0.76	0.22	0.90	0.71	0.83	-0.13
2 sec	2STDEV	Bottom	Both	7	0.86	0.72	0.83	0.68	0.94	0.22
2 sec	80PERCENTILE	Top	Standing	30	0.92	0.47	0.77	0.94	-0.49	-0.66
2 sec	80PERCENTILE	Top	Lying	12	0.51	0.35	0.79	0.49	-0.43	-0.78
2 sec	80PERCENTILE	Top	Both	7	0.78	-0.19	0.70	0.79	-0.77	-0.71
2 sec	80PERCENTILE	Middle	Standing	29	0.92	0.46	0.68	0.92	-0.05	-0.56
2 sec	80PERCENTILE	Middle	Lying	12	0.84	0.40	0.71	0.82	0.30	-0.56
2 sec	80PERCENTILE	Middle	Both	7	0.93	0.62	0.58	0.92	0.67	-0.52
2 sec	80PERCENTILE	Bottom	Standing	30	0.94	0.47	0.67	0.93	-0.23	-0.30
2 sec	80PERCENTILE	Bottom	Lying	12	0.81	0.22	0.74	0.79	-0.60	-0.84
2 sec	80PERCENTILE	Bottom	Both	7	0.89	0.72	0.86	0.90	-0.33	-0.81
2 sec	MEAN	Top	Standing	30	0.93	0.47	0.77	0.89	-0.18	-0.42
2 sec	MEAN	Top	Lying	12	0.37	0.35	0.68	0.52	-0.66	-0.63
2 sec	MEAN	Top	Both	7	0.24	-0.19	0.66	0.84	-0.29	-0.43
2 sec	MEAN	Middle	Standing	29	0.91	0.46	0.69	0.89	0.21	-0.27
2 sec	MEAN	Middle	Lying	12	0.81	0.40	0.73	0.77	-0.81	-0.85
2 sec	MEAN	Middle	Both	7	0.89	0.62	0.71	0.86	0.00	-0.28
2 sec	MEAN	Bottom	Standing	30	0.93	0.47	0.71	0.84	0.35	-0.25
2 sec	MEAN	Bottom	Lying	12	0.79	0.22	0.77	0.73	-0.79	-0.81
2 sec	MEAN	Bottom	Both	7	0.95	0.72	0.84	0.71	0.13	-0.37



# Conclusions

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The information obtained from **visual observation** and the **accelerometers** is highly **correlated** ( $r = 0.94$ ,  $P < 0.01$ )

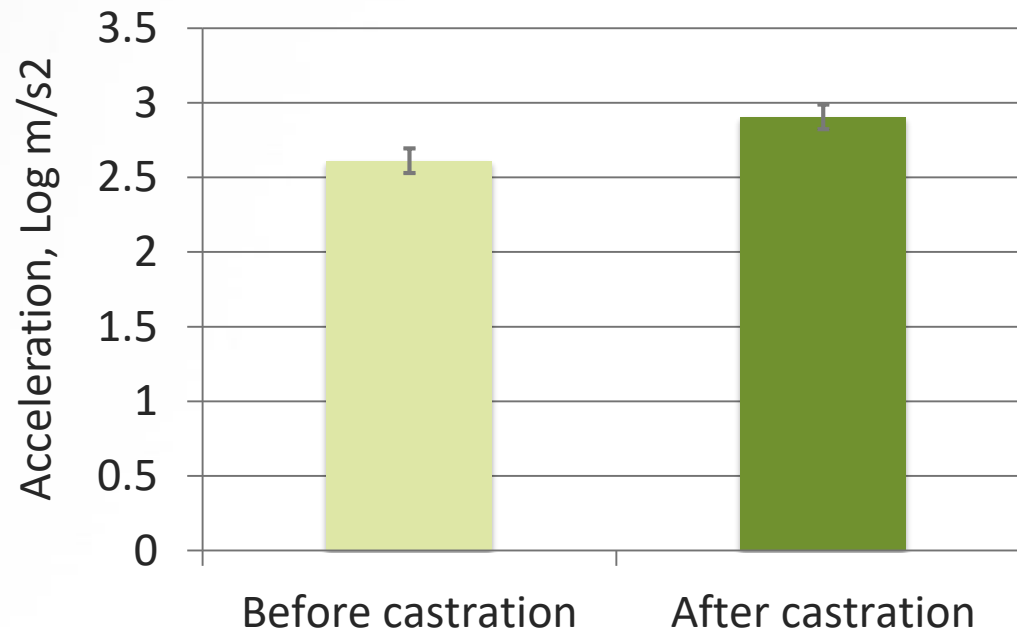
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- 
- Place the accelerometer above the tail switch.
  - Discard movements below the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile.
  - Calculate overall acceleration over the sampling period.
-



# Biological validation: Tail flick behavior after castration

- Accelerometers affixed above the tail switch of 14 bulls
- Two 20-min sampling periods: before and after castration



$P = 0.03$



- ❑ What, when and how?
- ❑ Monitoring animal location
- ❑ Monitoring animal activity
  - Grazing preference
  - Tail flick behaviour
  - Feed intake
- ❑ Pain assessment
- ❑ Temperament assessment
- ❑ Cognitive research
- ❑ Motivation state





# Combination of multiple devices



Knowledge gap: Precision feeding largely unexplored in grazing herds



# Objectives

To assess the effect of differing levels of intake on rumen fermentation profile, nutrient digestibility, methane emissions, and feeding behaviour in sheep

To evaluate existing methodologies on finding biomarkers of food intake





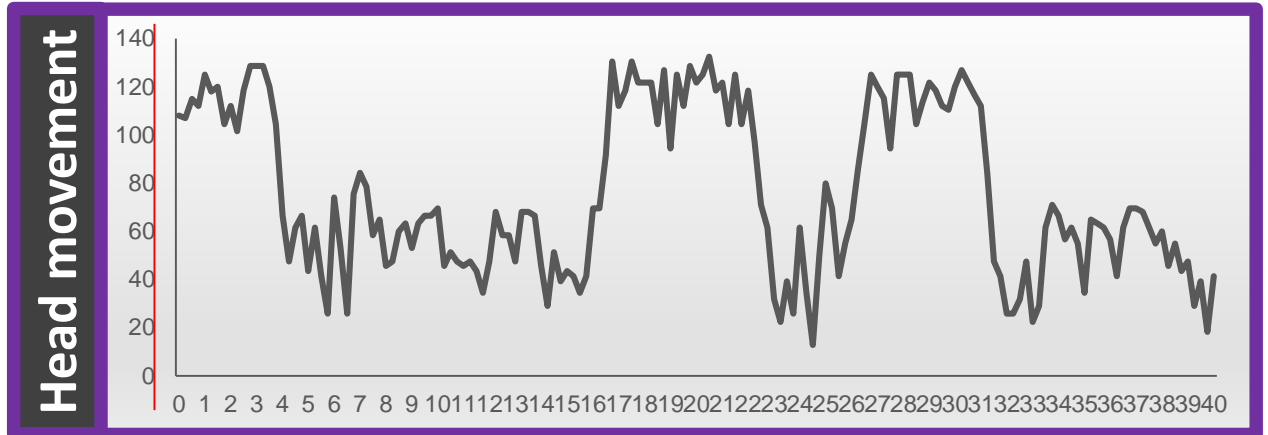
# Use of accelerometers and sound recorders attached to a head harness to estimate feed intake.



Video



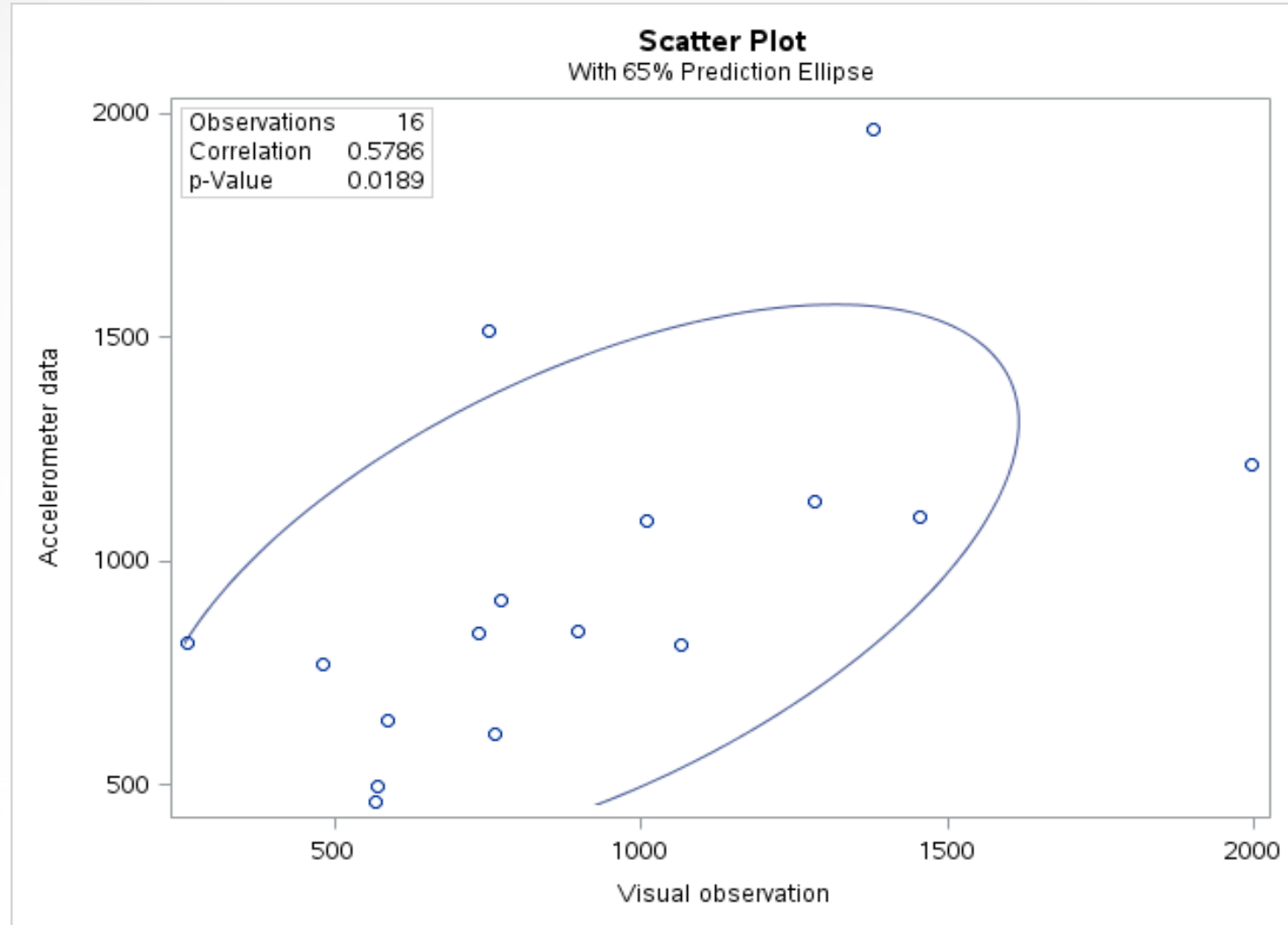
Sound record



Head movement

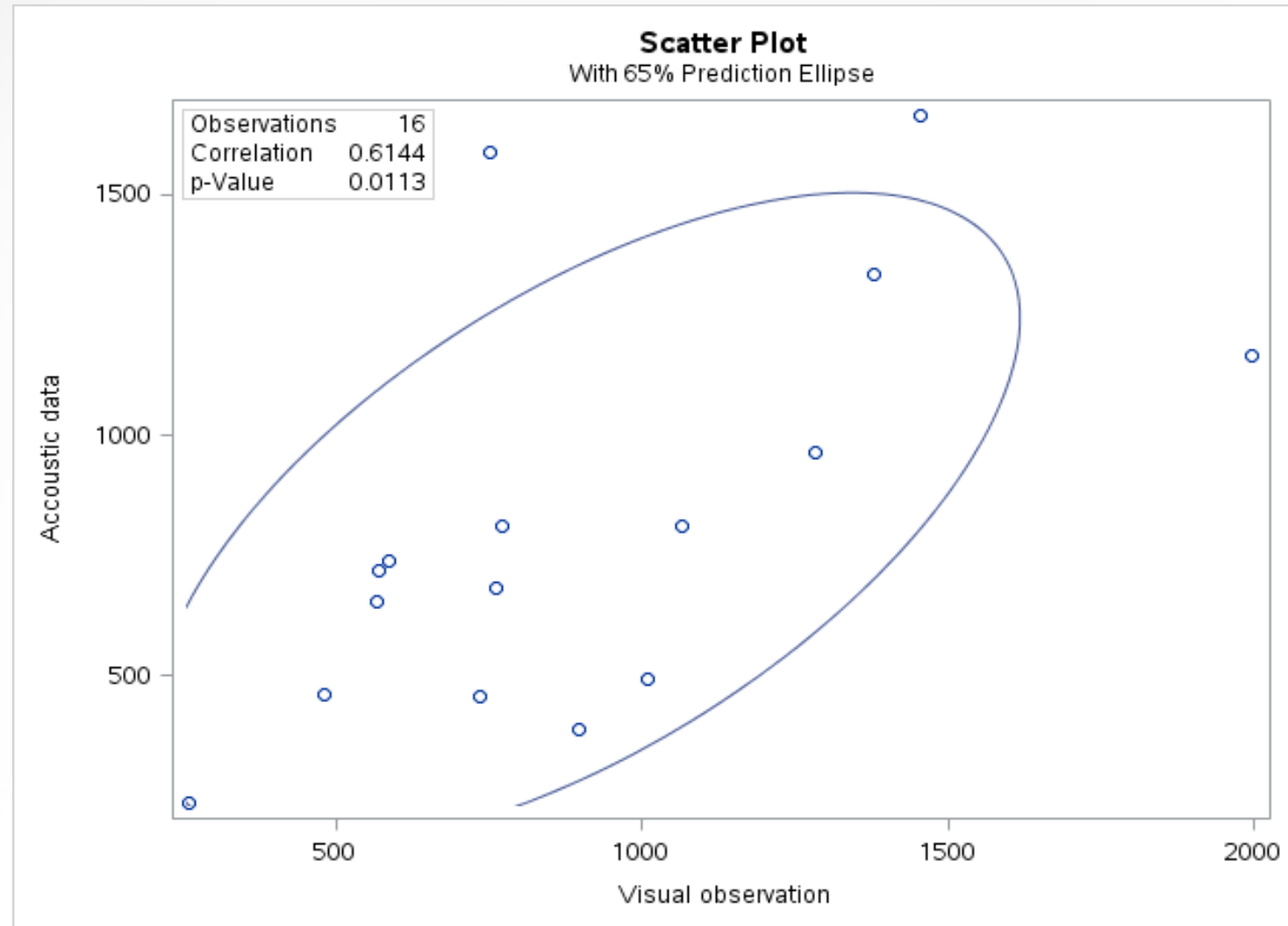


# Visual observation vs Accelerometer





# Visual observation vs Acoustic data



# Conclusions

Increased levels of intake have a measurable impact on diet fermentation and digestibility

- ↓ Digestibility rate
- ↓ Methane emissions

The combination of different data sets is a promising alternative to current methodologies to estimate feed intake



# Tools to monitor feed intake





# Tools to monitor feed intake











24 h



Visits:



Meals:



Meal frequency  
(meals/d)

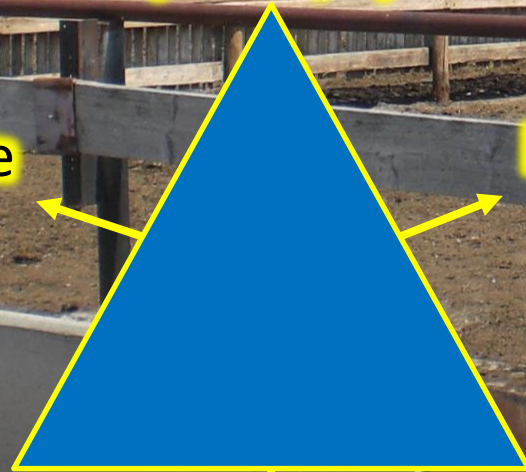
Feed intake  
(kg/d)

Feeding time  
(min/d)

Meal size  
(kg/meal)

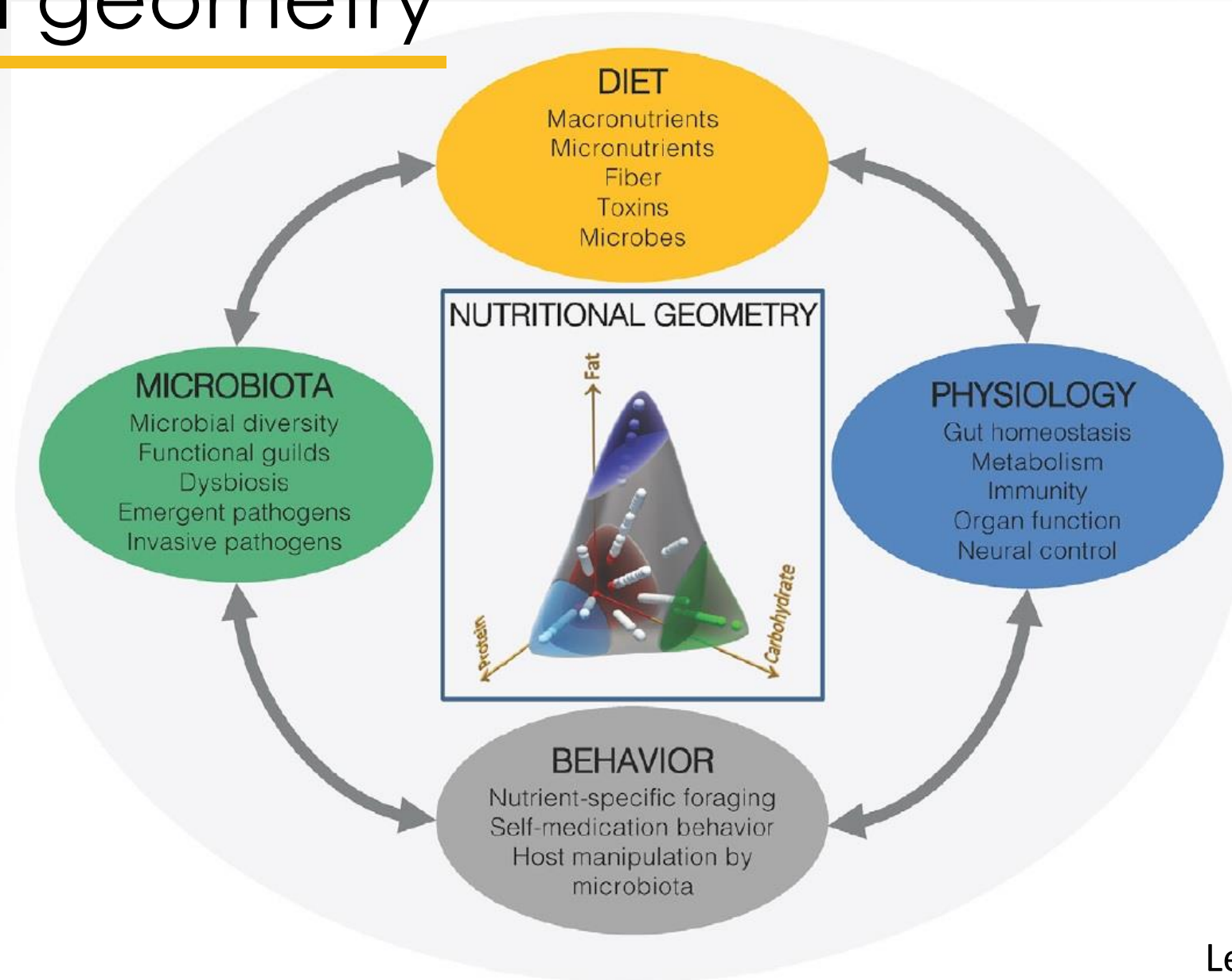
Meal length  
(min/meal)

Feeding rate  
(kg/min)





# Nutritional geometry





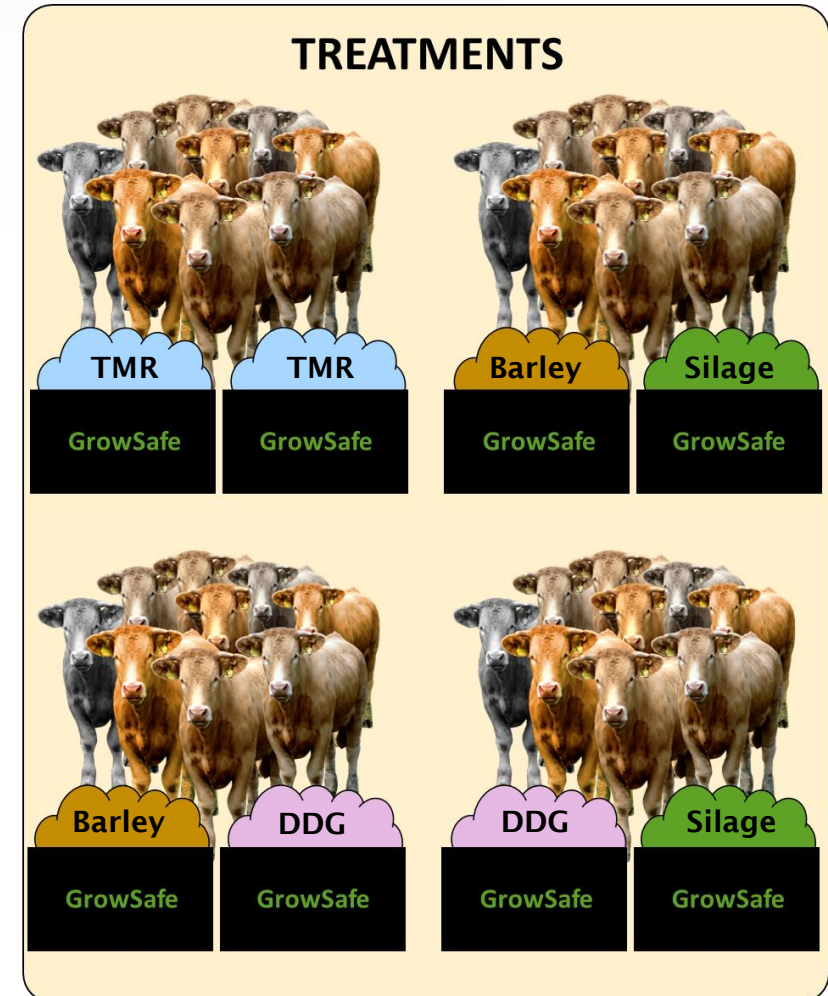
# The effect of competition on feeding behaviour and growth performance of feedlot cattle

To assess the effects of the competitive interactions at the feed bunk on feeding behaviour and growth performance of beef cattle when offered a total mixed ration or different free-choice diets.

## COMPETITIVE INTERACTIONS

Two feeding events from different heifers registered at the same feeding bunk within 5 sec.

At each competitive interaction, the outgoing and incoming animals were identified.



# The effect of competition on feeding behaviour and growth performance of feedlot cattle



## ACTIVITY

Amount of competitive interactions for each individual:

- **LOW** (bottom 15%)
- **MEDIUM**
- **HIGH** (top 15%)

## ENCOUNTERS OUTCOME RATIO

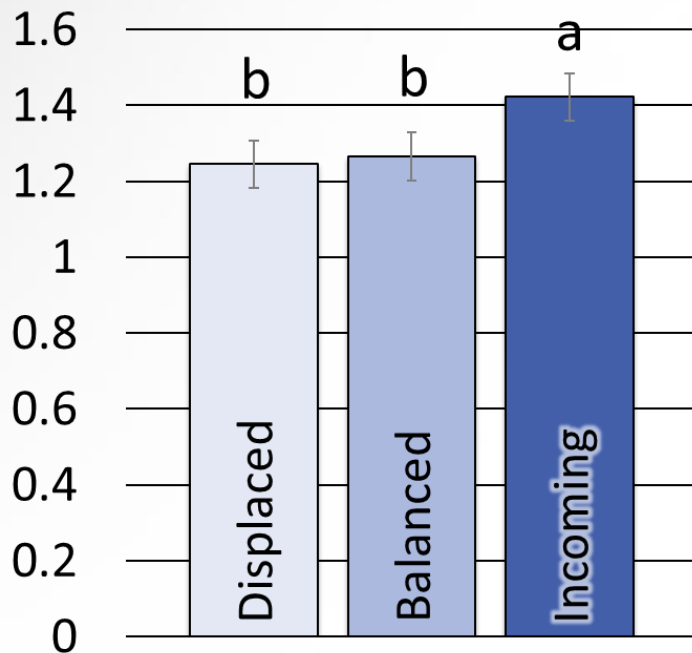
Depending on the incoming:outgoing ratio:

- **DISPLACED:** ratio  $\leq 0.5$
- **BALANCED:**  $0.5 < \text{ratio} < 1.5$
- **INCOMING:** ratio  $\geq 1$

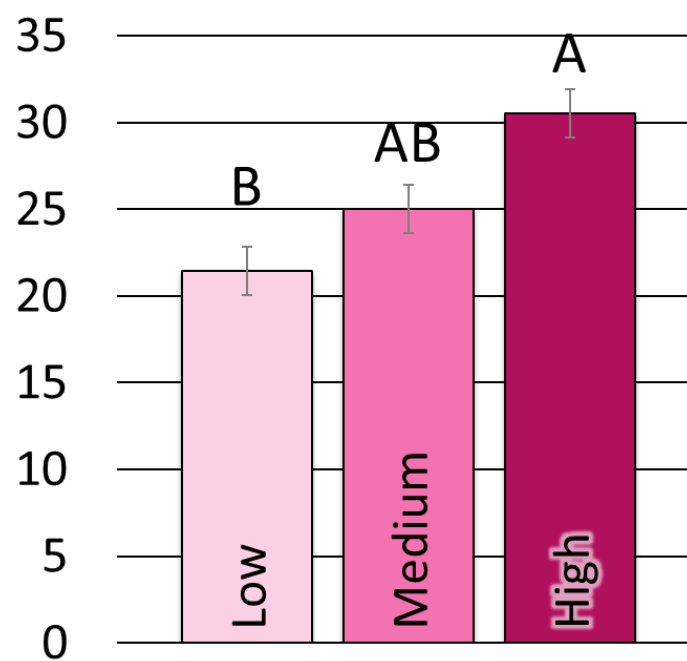


# The effect of competition on feeding behaviour and growth performance of feedlot cattle

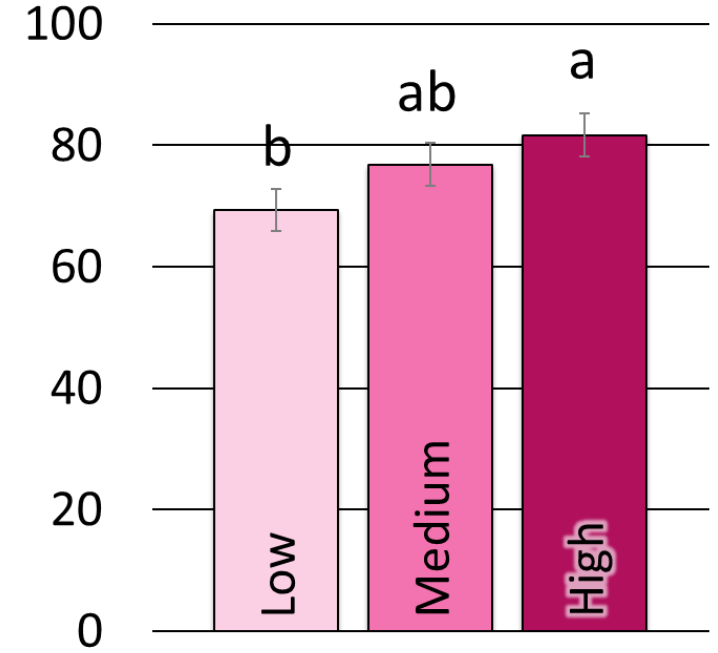
Average daily gain, kg BW/d



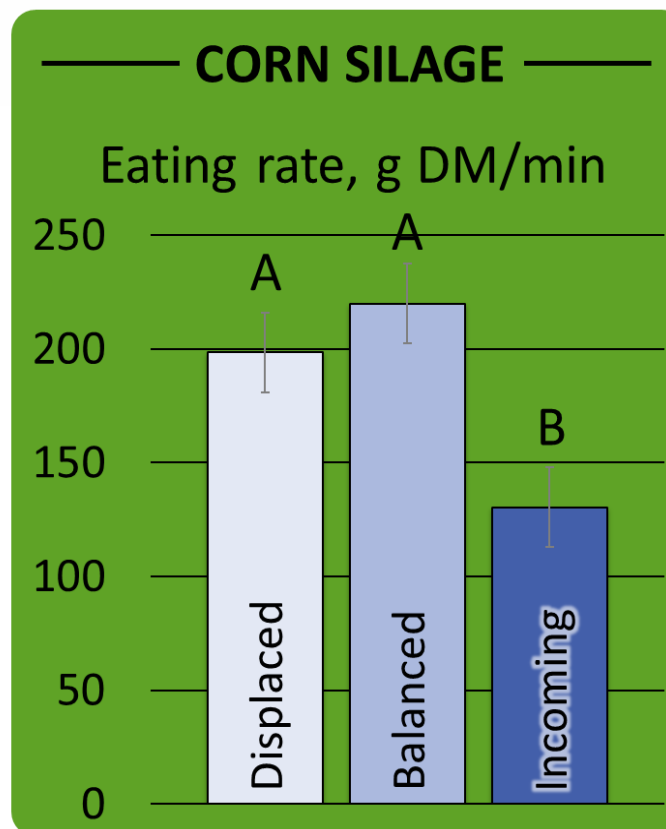
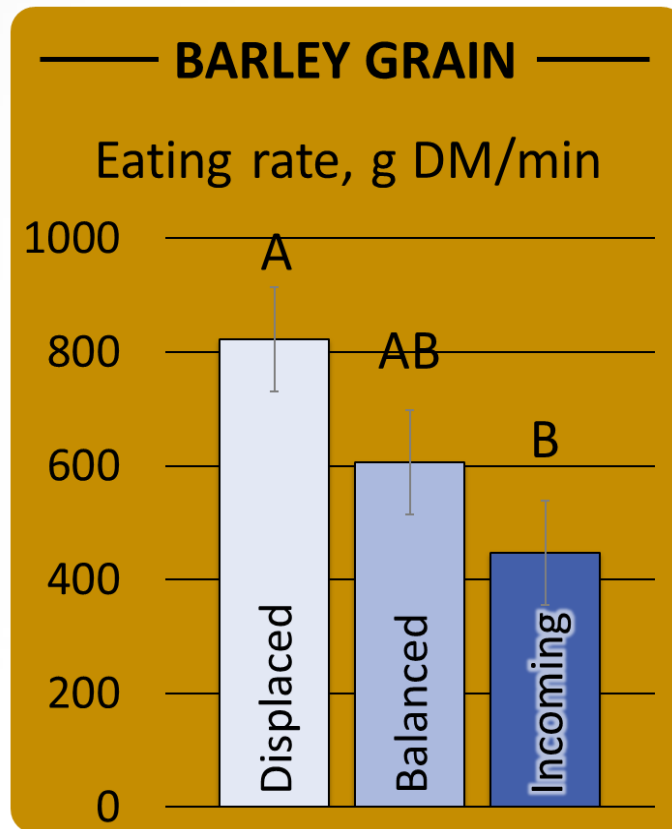
Frequency of visits, no./d



Duration of visits, min/d



# Effects of feed bunk competition on feeding behaviour and growth performance





# Outcomes

Competitive encounters at the feed bunk changed feeding behaviour towards different feed options and growth performance of beef heifers.

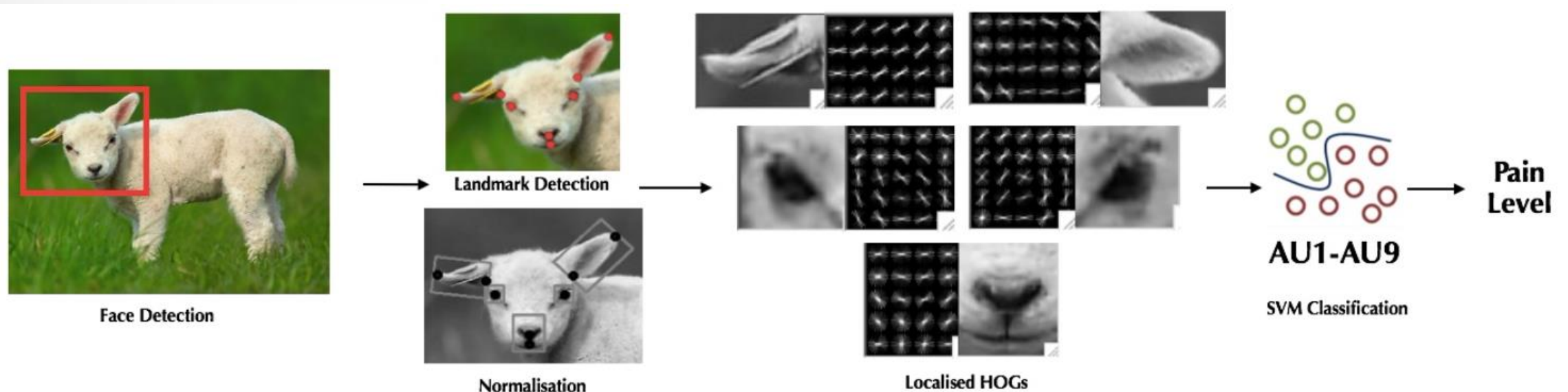
- ## Pain assessment





# Signs of pain (the future?)

- Despite their different anatomy; mice, rats, rabbits, horses and sheep (including lambs) all pull a similar pain-face. They tighten their eyes, change the position of their ears and tense their mouths.

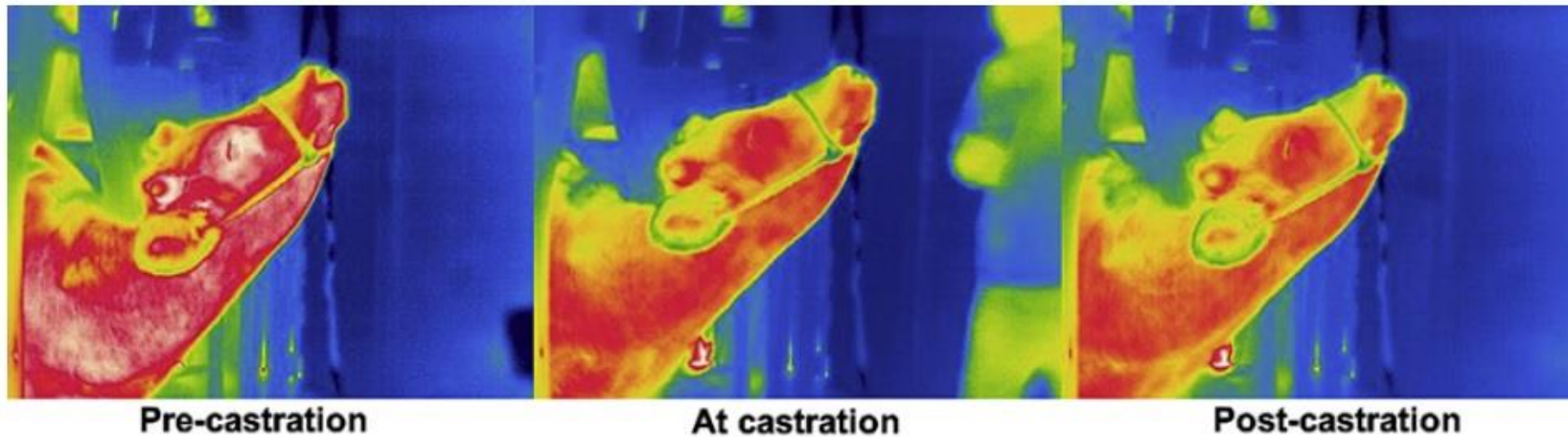




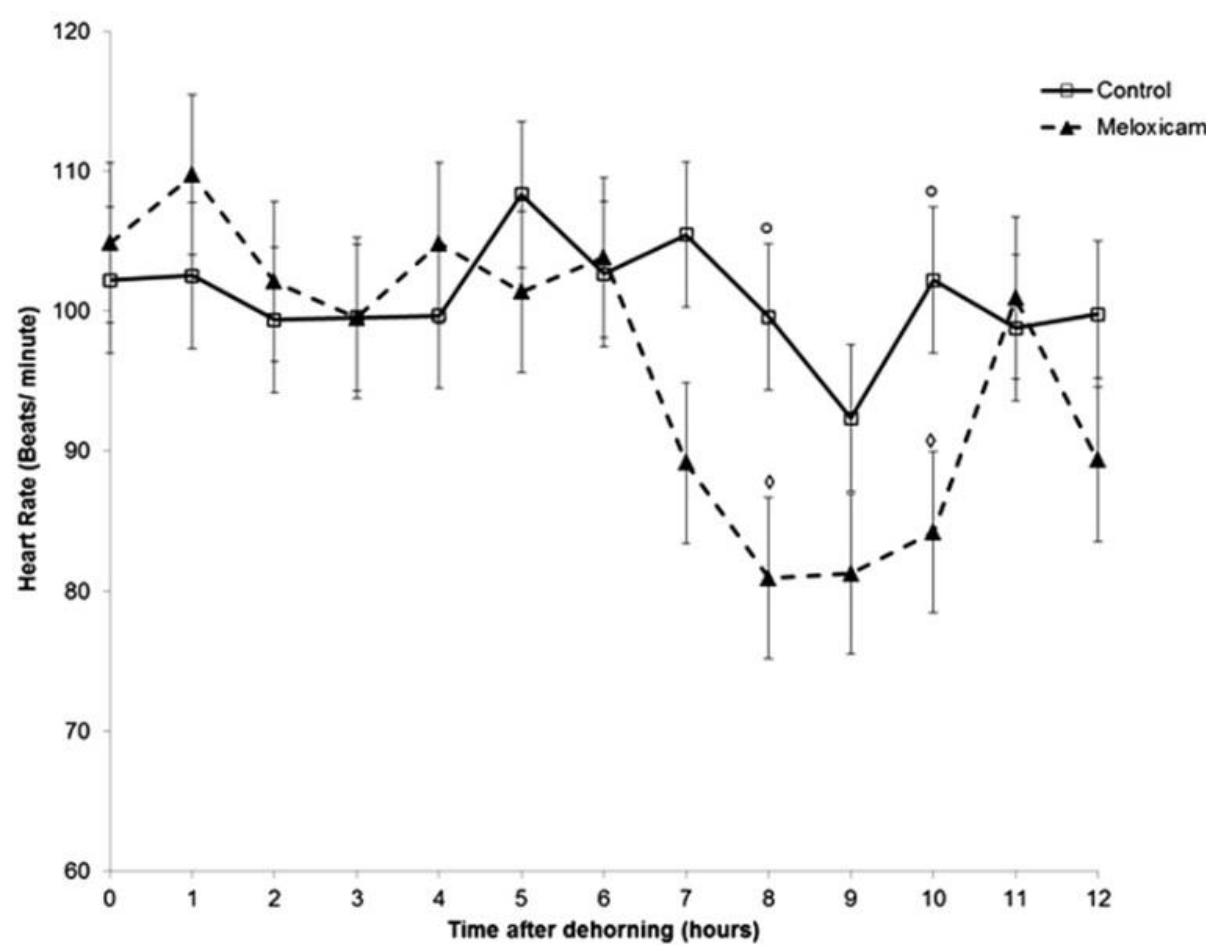


# Infrared thermography during castration

- Colour changes likely indicate changes in peripheral perfusion associated with catecholamine release following castration



# Heart rate after dehorning

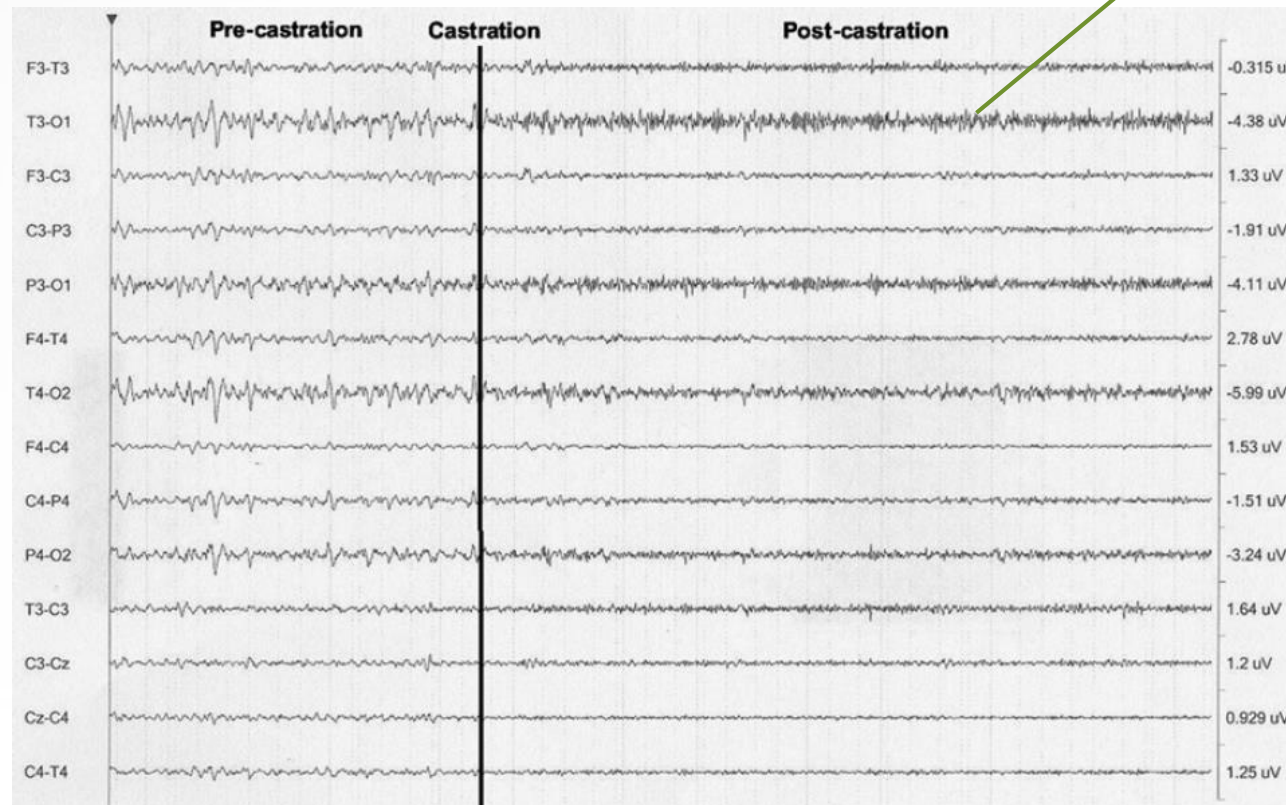


Data from Coetzee et al., 2012, adapted by Stock et al., 2013 Vet Clin Food Anim



# Electroencephalogram during castration

- Example of an EEG trace (30 s duration) illustrating brain electrical activity in a 6-week-old calf at castration



Greater  
frequency,  
lower  
amplitude









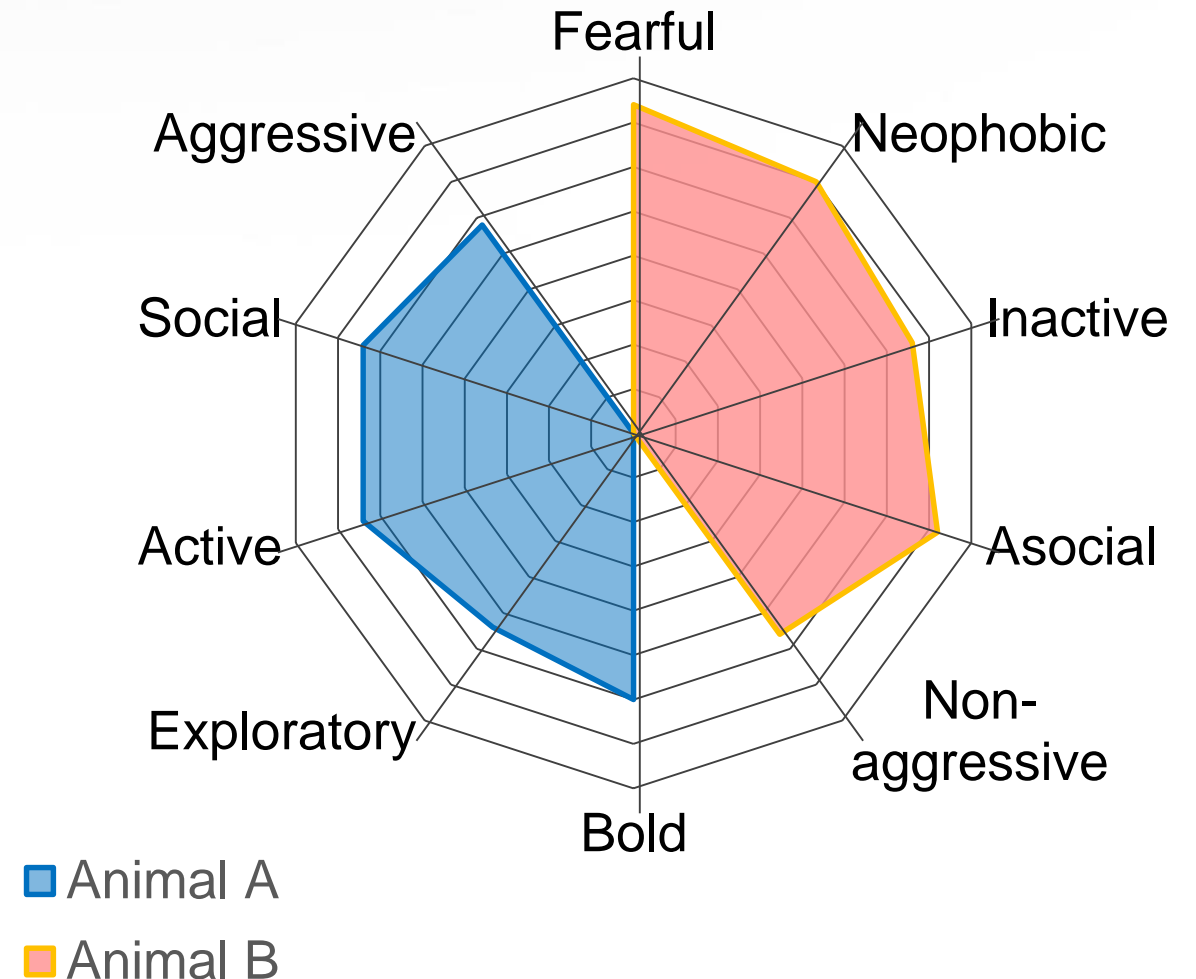
- What, when and how?
- Monitoring animal location
- Monitoring animal activity
  - Grazing preference
  - Tail flick behaviour
  - Feed intake
- Pain assessment
- Temperament assessment
- Cognitive research
- Motivation state





# What is temperament?

- Defined as a trait that is individual to each animal
- Capable of influencing an animal's response to handling (Sebastian et al. 2011)
- Stable over time and repeatable from one situation to the next (Colditz et al. 2016)
- Influenced by many factors (Grandin. 1997)
- Moderately heritable (Hasktell et al. 2014)



# The effects of temperament on...

## Productivity

- Cattle that remained calm during weighing and handling had higher ADG (Muller et al. 2006)
- Greater risk of causing injury to themselves or other animals

(Haskell et al. 2014)





# The effects of temperament on...

## Immune function

- Cascade effect: Higher levels of cortisol in excitable animals → chronic stress → Reduced immune function → Increased susceptibility to disease



# Measuring Temperament

- Chute score: Strain gauges connected to head gate (Stookey et al. 1994).
- Human reactivity test: Scale of 1 (highly reactive) to 5 (unreactive).
- Flight speed: Laser beams (Burrow. 1988)



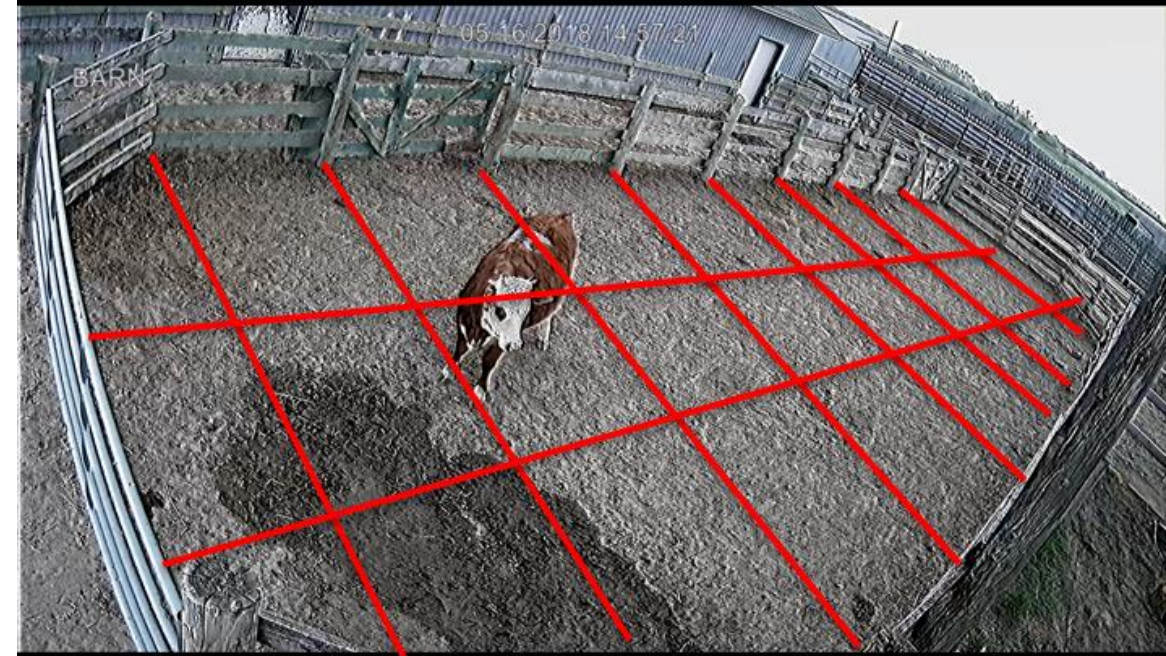






# Measuring Temperament

- Novel object test: Recorded heifers that got close or stayed away.
- Open-field test: Number of squares visited, lines crossed, time spent walking vs running and in center vs squares





# Dominance status

- Behaviors observed:
  - Fighting
  - Head butting
  - Displacement
  - Chasing
  - Chasing-up
  - Licking
  - Horning
- Recorded acting and receiving animal of each dyadic interaction → Dominant / Balanced / Subordinate



# Effect of grain type and processing index on growth performance, carcass quality, feeding behavior, and stress response of feedlot steers<sup>1</sup>

D. Moya,\*<sup>2</sup> M. L. He,\*<sup>†2</sup> L. Jin,\* Y. Wang,\*  
G. B. Penner,<sup>†</sup> K. S. Schwartzkopf-Genswein,\* and T. A. McAllister\*<sup>3</sup>

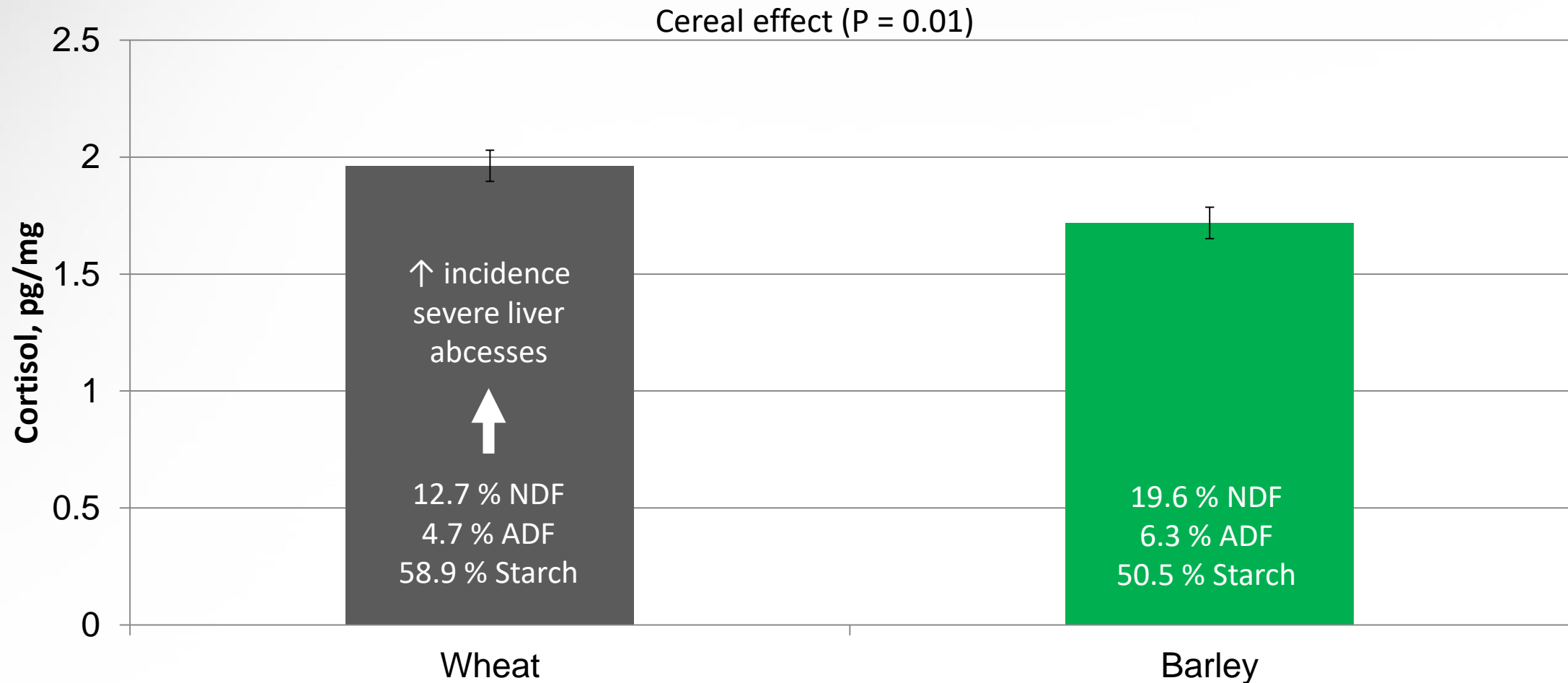
\*Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Centre, Lethbridge, AB T1J 4B1, Canada;  
and <sup>†</sup>Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5A8 Canada



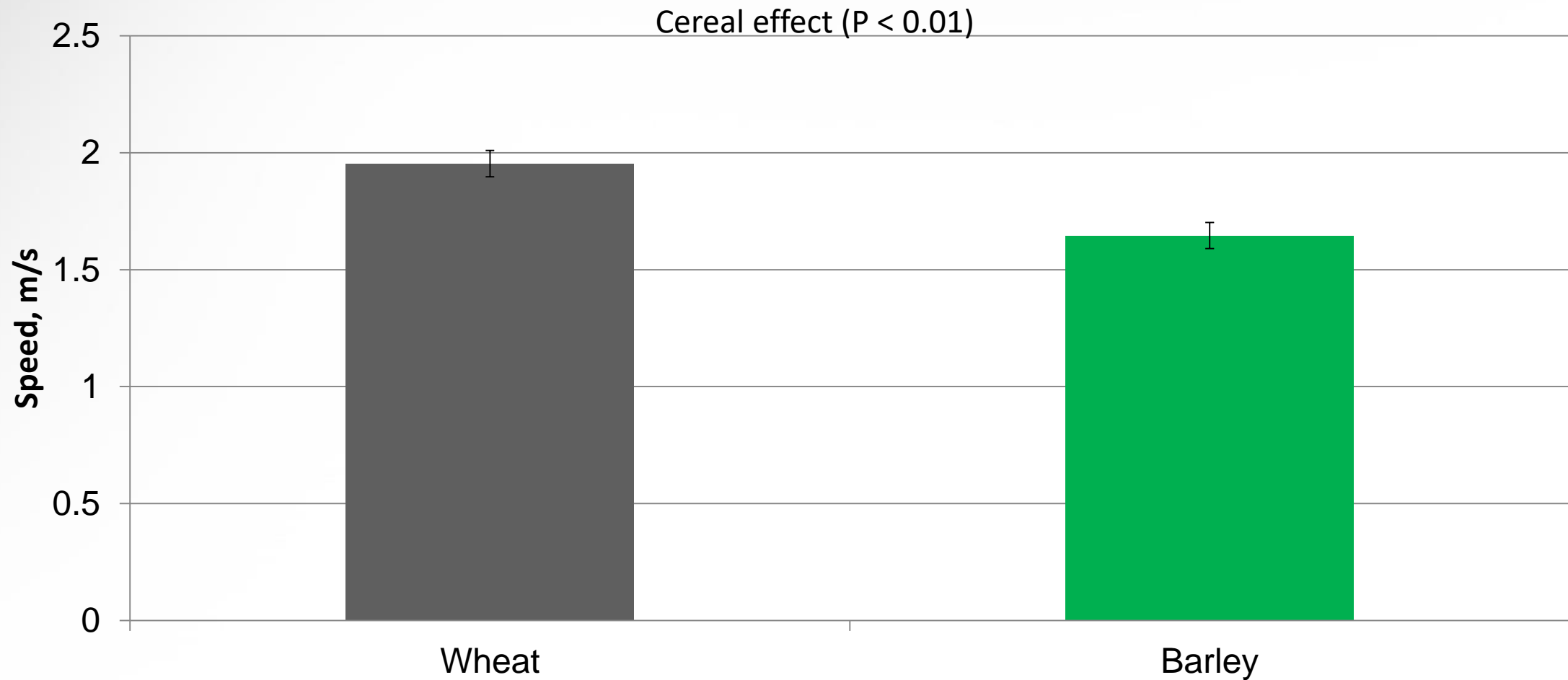
- ❑ The use of wheat instead of barley reduced DMI, frequency of visits to the feed bunk, and time spent at the feed bunk.
- ❑ These differences did not have any effect on growth performance or carcass quality, but...
- ❑ ...it did have an impact on animal welfare



## Hair cortisol



## Exit speed





- **What, when and how?**
- **Monitoring animal location**
- **Monitoring animal activity**
  - Grazing preference
  - Tail flick behaviour
  - Feed intake
- **Pain assessment**
- **Temperament assessment**
- **Cognitive research**
- **Motivation state**



Cognitive research has the potential to highlight mismatches between current husbandry practices and adaptive abilities of livestock (adaptation to new facilities, feed bunks, pen mates...)

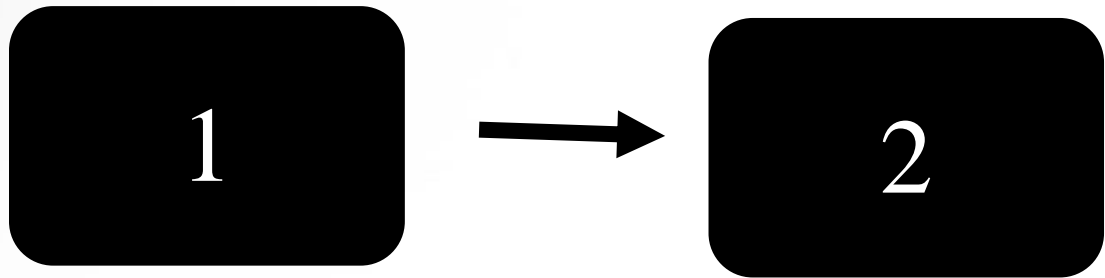




# Other links to cognitive function

## Parasitic infestation/Immune status

- Appears to have a detrimental effect on visual attention, learning and memory
- Numbers 1-4: When 1 followed by 2 → PRESS button
- Poor performance on the attention task showed a significant association with parasite status



Visual attention  
and parasite  
burden in sheep?





# Physical cognition

## *COGNITIVE TRAIT*

**Object permanence:** Notion that objects continue to exist when they move out of the visual field

## *IMPLICATIONS*

Perceived predictability of environment (housing)



# Physical cognition

## *COGNITIVE TRAIT*

### **Reasoning/Inferences:**

Establishment of an association between a visible and an imagined event.

## *IMPLICATIONS*

Perceived predictability of environment (housing);  
Complexity of cognitive enrichment





# Physical cognition

## *COGNITIVE TRAIT*

**Tool use:** Manipulation of objects to reach a goal

## *IMPLICATIONS*

Complexity of cognitive enrichment

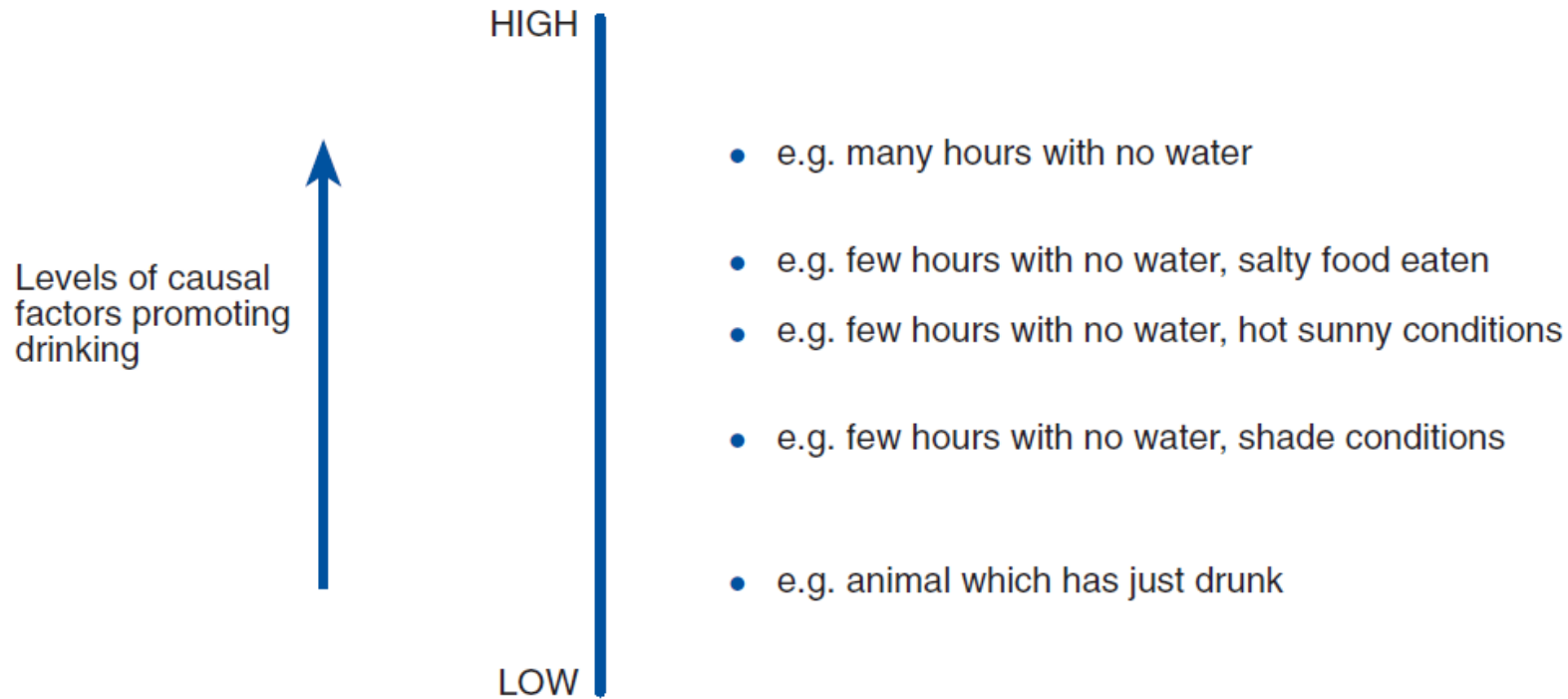


- What, when and how?
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The **motivational state** of an animal is a combination of the levels of all **causal factors** (genes, physiology, and experience/learning/memory)



**Fig. 4.2.** Levels of causal factors that promote a particular action vary over a range, and the state of the animal can be described in terms of these.

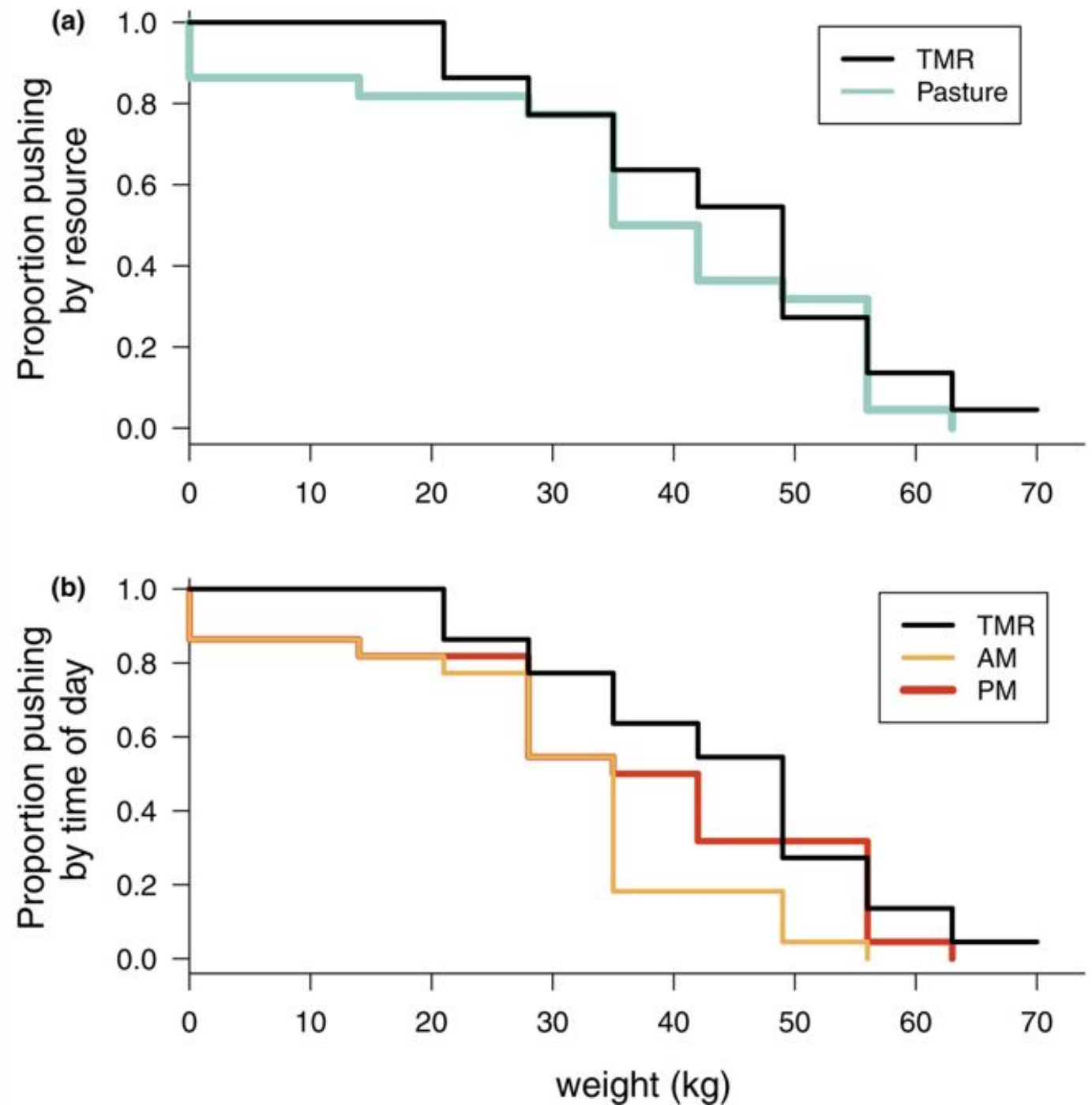
# Measuring motivation: operant conditioning

Once animals have learned to perform an operant task to obtain access to a resource, the 'work' required for each access can be increased.





- Dairy cows are as motivated to access pasture as they are to eat fresh feed two hours after milking.
- Results suggest that motivation to access pasture was not driven by hunger, but rather motivation to be outside.
- Further research could investigate the nature of this motivation (e.g. providing grazing opportunities vs. outdoor access only).





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