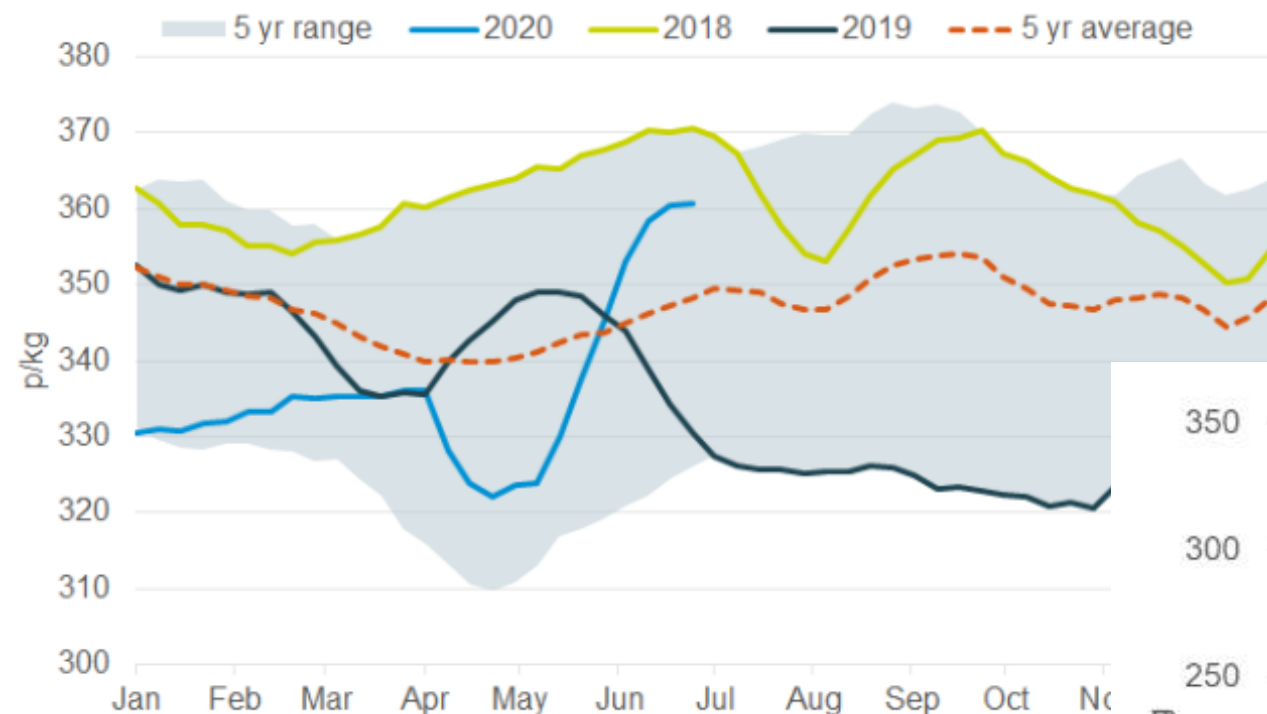


THE ECONOMICS AND PRACTICALITIES OF REARING HOLSTEIN / FRIESIAN DAIRY HEIFERS ON AN UPLAND SHEEP FARM

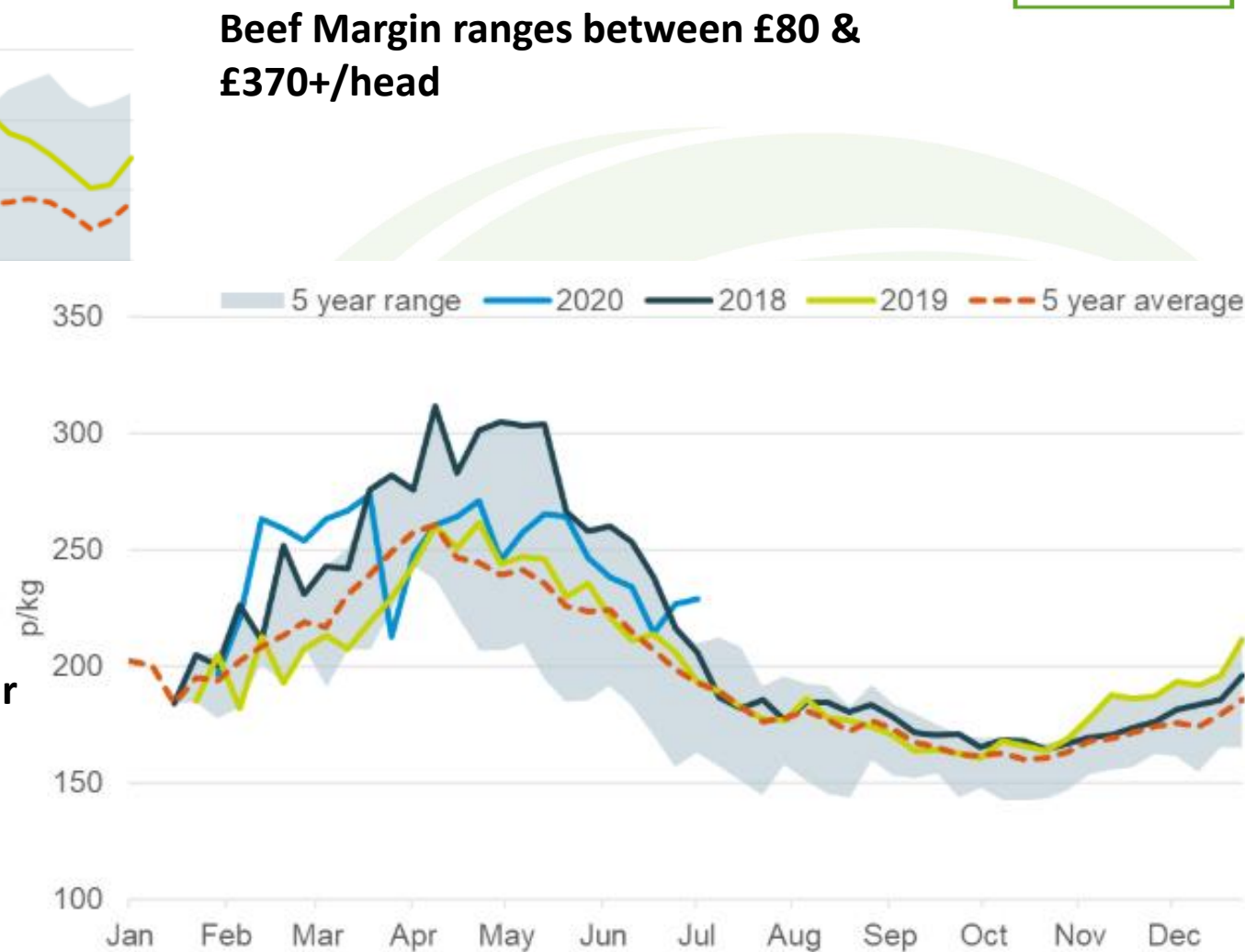
Dafydd Jones - Llys Dinmael
&

Andy Dodd – The Farm Consultancy Group

Background to reviewing system



Sheep Margin ranges between £45 & £105 per head



Beef Margin ranges between £80 & £370+ /head

Farm and System Pre Heifers



Production Potential of Rotational Grazing

Grazing 'on time' (Days)	Annual Yield (Tonnes DM Ha)	Utilisation	Total Utilised DM (Tonnes DM Ha)	Production Increase
Set Stocking	6	70%	4.2	-
3 - 7	8	80%	6.4	50%
2 - 3	10	85%	8.5	100%
1	12	90%	10.8	150%

Cae Dan Groesffordd – Set Stocked

Farm DAFYDD JONES
Reference ERW LAS
Material Type R. DAVIES
Variety FRESH GRASS
Additive
Date Received 17/10/18
Lab Report No. L946085



Analysis (Dry Matter)

		Result	Low	High
Dry Matter	%	23.4	<16	>22
Crude Protein	%	18.8	<16	>24
ME	MJ/kg	10.2	<11	>12
Sugars	%	4.8	<10	>15
NDF	%	63.4	<40	>45
ADF	%	32.3	<20	>30
Oil A	%	4.7	<4	>5
Free Nitrates - Fresh	mg/kg	100.0	<500	>999



Ffridd Serth – Paddock 1 (Rotational)

Farm DAFYDD JONES
Reference ERW LAS
Material Type R. DAVIES
Variety FRESH GRASS
Additive
Date Received 17/10/18
Lab Report No. L946083



Analysis (Dry Matter)		Result	Low	High
Dry Matter	%	15.9	<div><div></div></div>	28
Crude Protein	%	25.1	<div><div></div></div>	32
ME	MJ/kg	12.2	<div><div></div></div>	13
Sugars	%	7.8	<div><div></div></div>	20
NDF	%	43.8	<div><div></div></div>	50
ADF	%	21.2	<div><div></div></div>	40
Oil A	%	6.6	<div><div></div></div>	6
Free Nitrates - Fresh	mg/kg	250.0	<div><div></div></div>	1500



33 day rest



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1. Grass grows grass
2. Grazing 'on time' – 1 to 7 days
3. Appropriate rest period– 16 to 120 days


The General Rule: Grow in 3 weeks – Graze in 3 days



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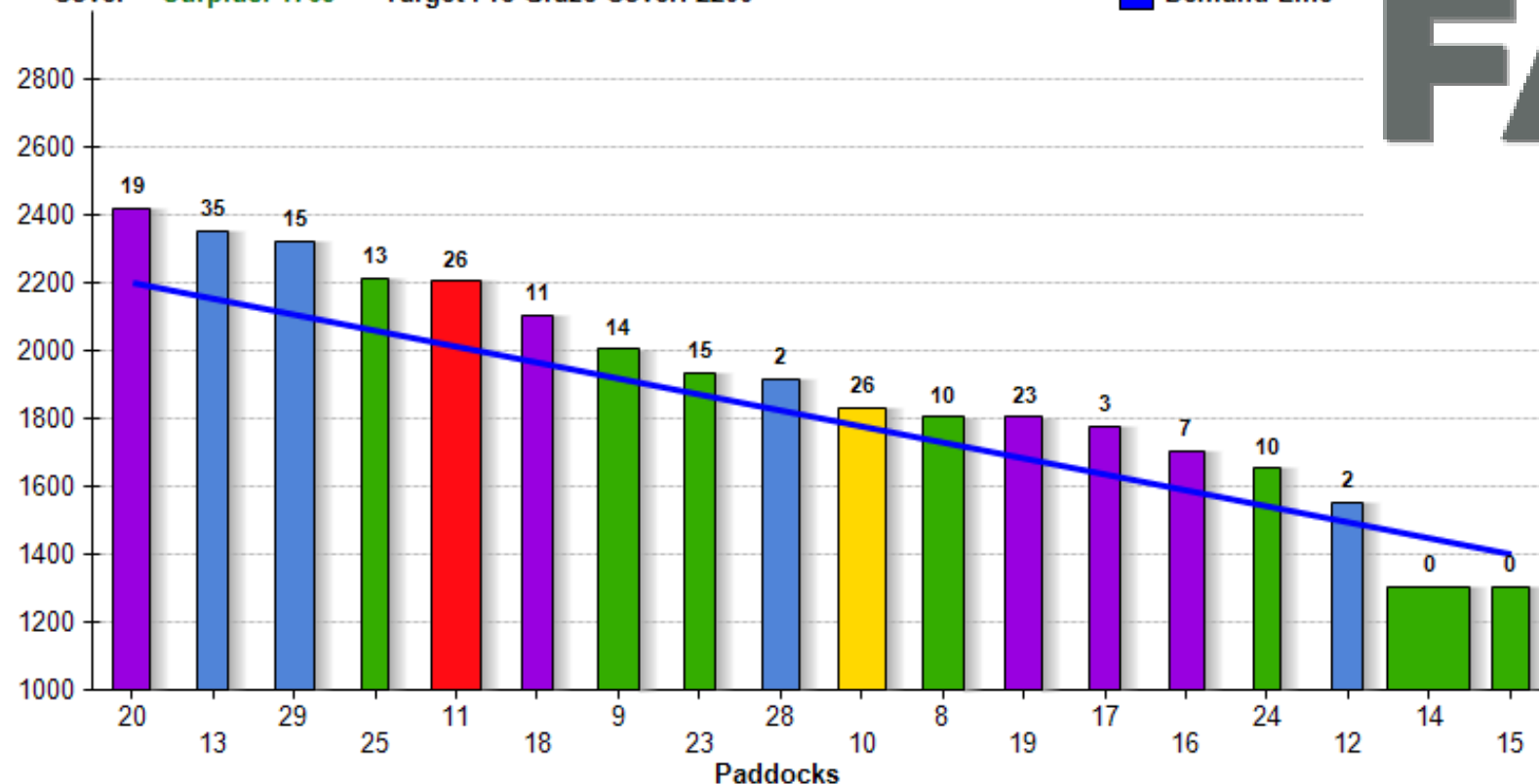
Graph Type

Cover **Surplus: 1769** Target Pre-Graze Cover: 2200

 Demand Line

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YOUR ADVANTAGE



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Heifer Rearing



Cost

- £1,800 Average
- £1,000 - £3,000!
- £2.87/day over 24 m
- 22 – 24 months

Demand

- Location?
- Contract rearing?
- Systems/breeds?

The Dairy Heifer Enterprise

Increase KG LW/Ha
Increase GM/Ha
But doing it off grass!



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Feeding to Weaning

- 3L / feed – AM and PM
- Creep ad lib
- 90kg (8-9 weeks) target weaning
- Half rate for 7 days
- Creep at 3kg/head/day



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Transition to Grass

- Start at 3kg/hd/day
- Drop creep gradually to 0kg by end of August
- Offer straw to aid with transition to grass
- Set stocked for a month with training fence on one side of field
- Use clean pastures



Fodder beet

- Yield 27tDM/Ha
- Budget £1000/Ha to grow (including rental value)
- Transition VERY carefully!
- Always have a plan B if weather gets extreme





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Forage Analysis Report

Farming Connect

Farm Dafydd Jones

Material Type Fresh Grass

Variety

Lab Report No. L067020

Contact Rhys Davies

Llys Dinmael Isaf

Additive

Received Date 18/02/20



Analysis (Dry Matter)	Unit	Result	Low	High
Dry Matter	%	15.6	<div></div>	<div></div>
Protein	%	30.9	<div></div>	<div></div>
ME	%	12.5	<div></div>	<div></div>
Sugars	%	5.2	<div></div>	<div></div>
NDF	%	45.0	<div></div>	<div></div>
ADF	%	19.9	<div></div>	<div></div>
Oil A	%	6.8	<div></div>	<div></div>
Free Nitrates - Fresh	mg/kg	100	<div></div>	<div></div>

If cutting for silage seek advice from your advisor

Comments: Ffridd Canol Isaf-B



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Cost of System

- GM - £1100/Hd
- My time - £350/Hd
- Biggest cost – Silage and concentrates - 460kg of cake/head from purchase to sale

Bull or AI



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Sexed Genetics

Fast Forward your Genetic Progress™



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Things to consider

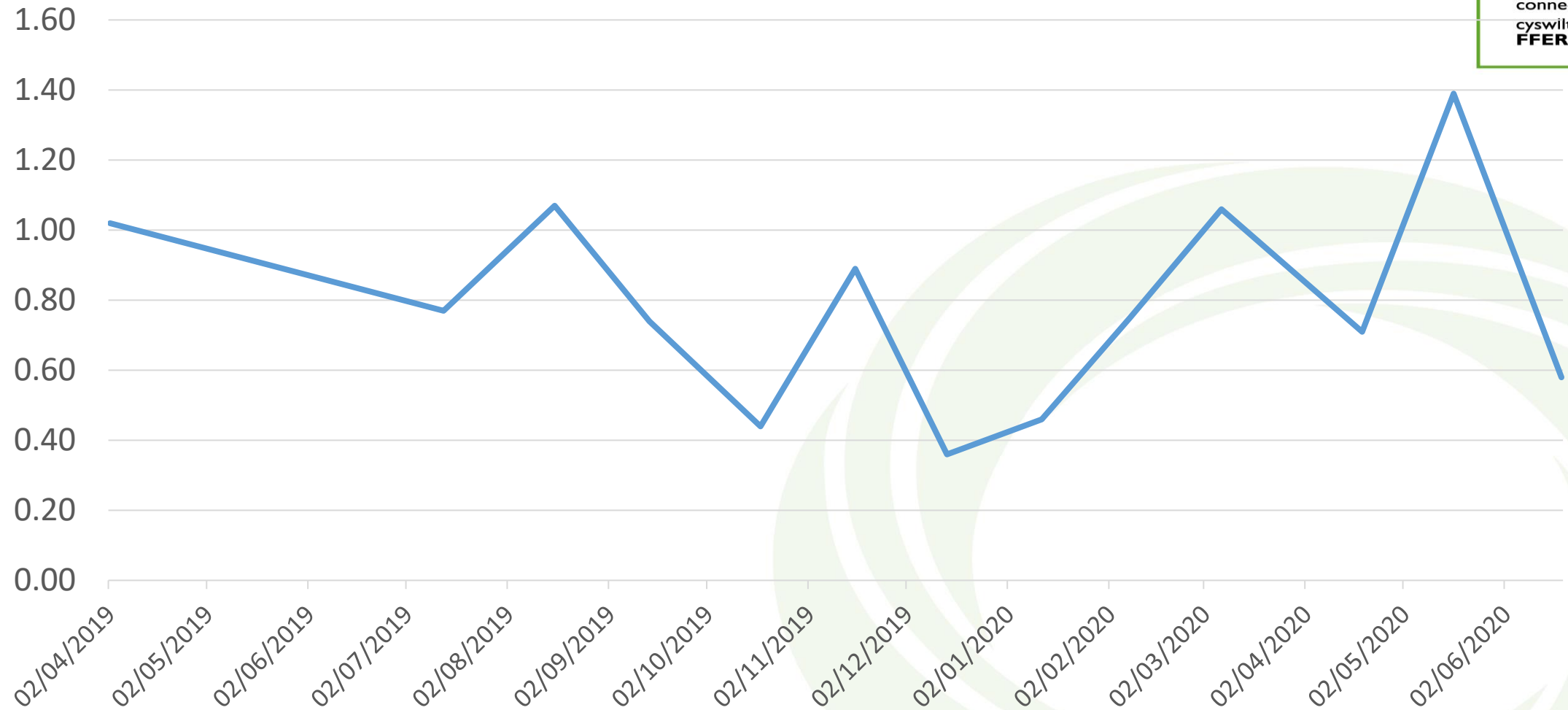
- Sourcing heifers
- Colostrum management
- Health history
- Genetic potential
- Infrastructure
- Slurry/FYM management
- End market
- **Measure to manage!**



Average Daily Liveweight Gain



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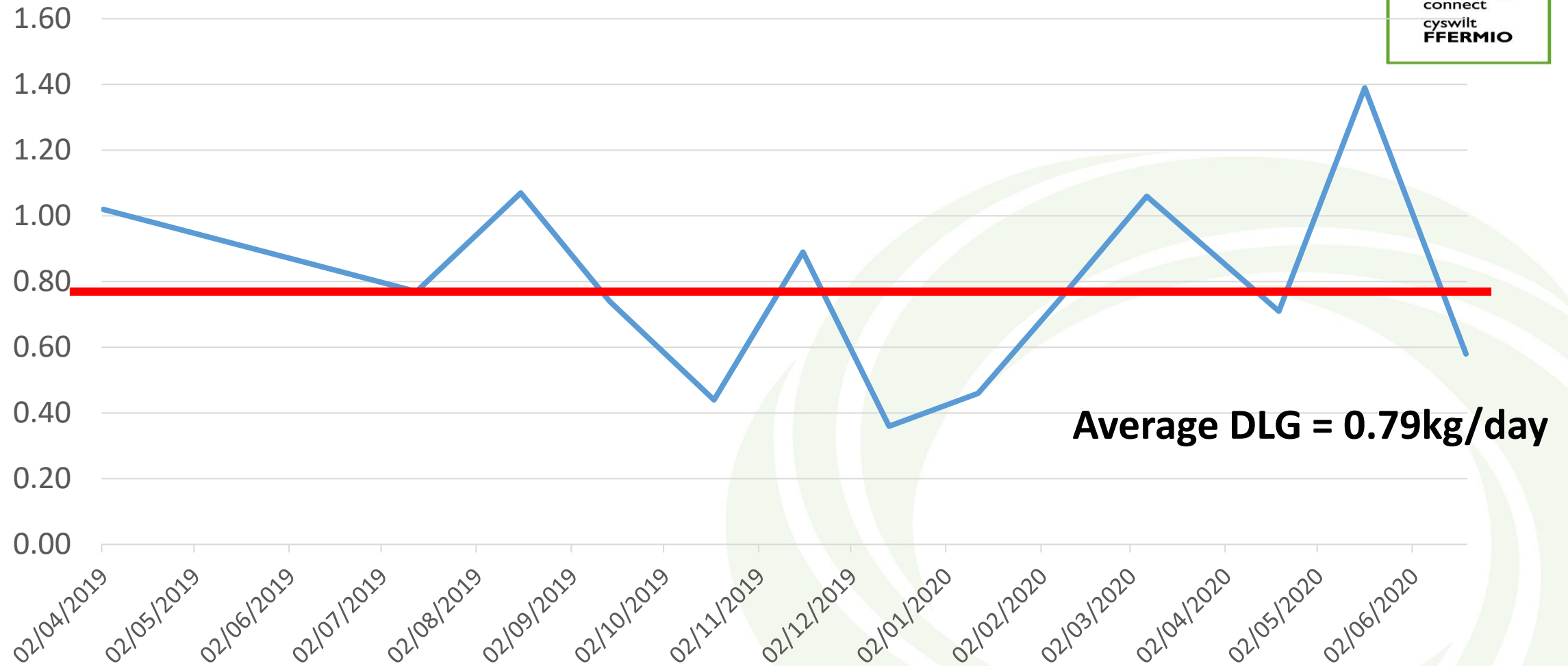
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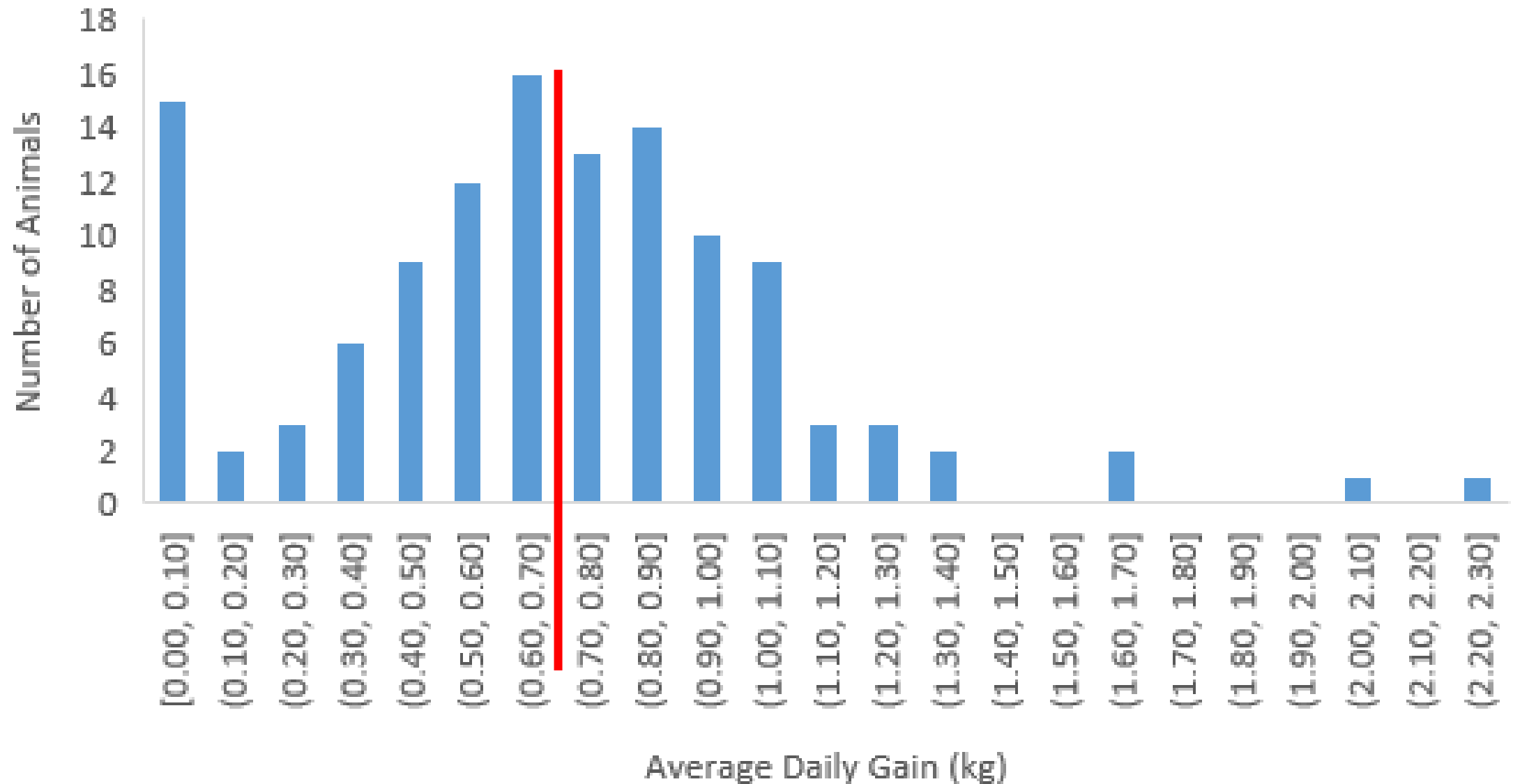
Average Daily Liveweight Gain



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Average Daily Gain 12 - 15 Months





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