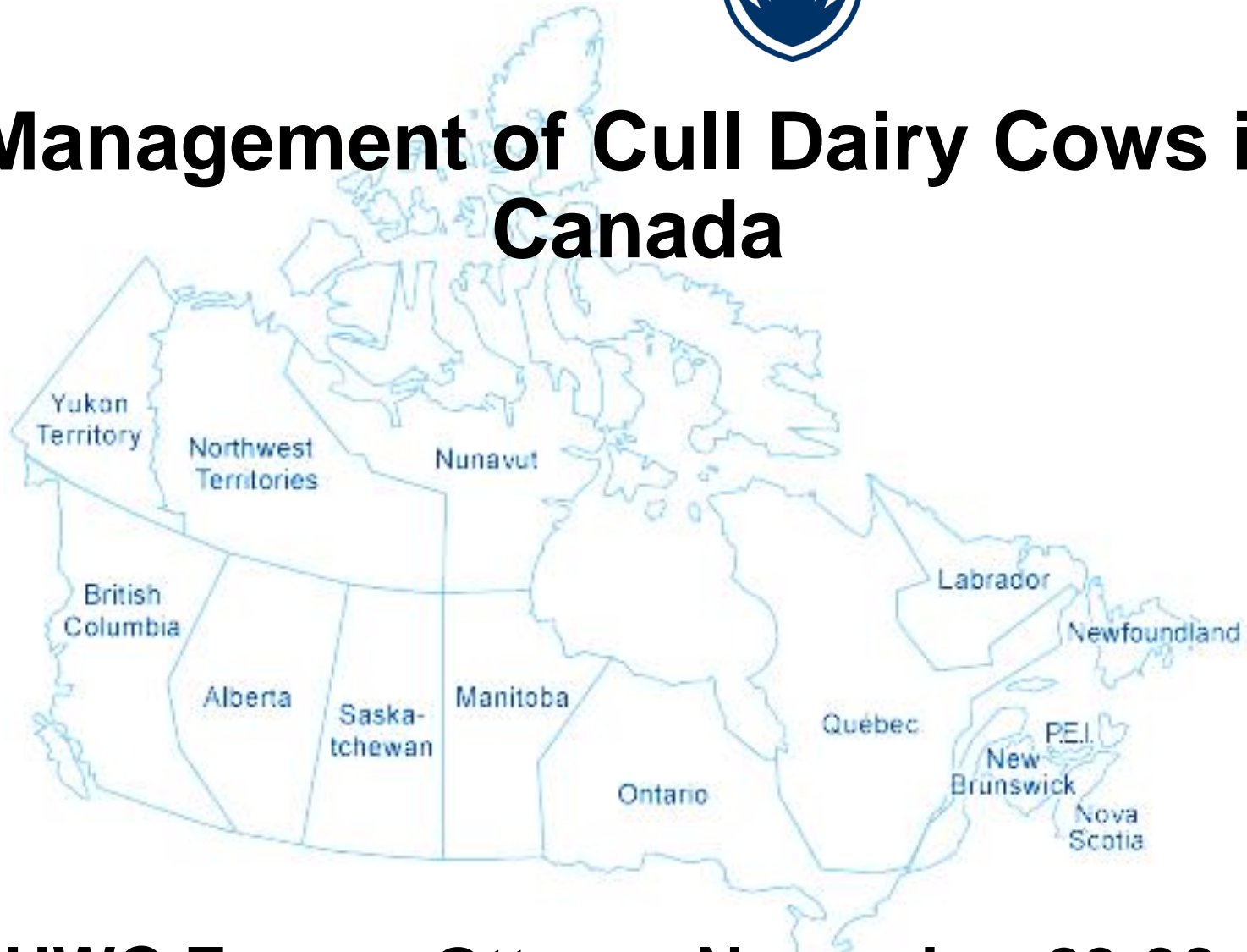




animal welfare  
program

# Management of Cull Dairy Cows in Canada



**NFAHWC Forum, Ottawa, November 29-30, 2016**

# Chronological changes in Management of compromised cattle



**Upton  
Sinclair**

**The Jungle**

**1905**



Upton  
Sinclair  
The  
Jungle

**Term “downer  
cow” in vet  
journals “la  
vache  
couchee” &  
“Festliegen”**

1905

1955



Upton  
Sinclair  
The  
Jungle

Term “downer  
cow” in vet  
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“Festliegen”

### Developments in US:

- **CPC 599F 1994**
- **Burger King etc 2002**
- **BSE 2003**
- **AVMA 2006**

### Regulations in Canada:

- **Health of Animal  
Reg. amended 2005**

1905

1955

1994-2005

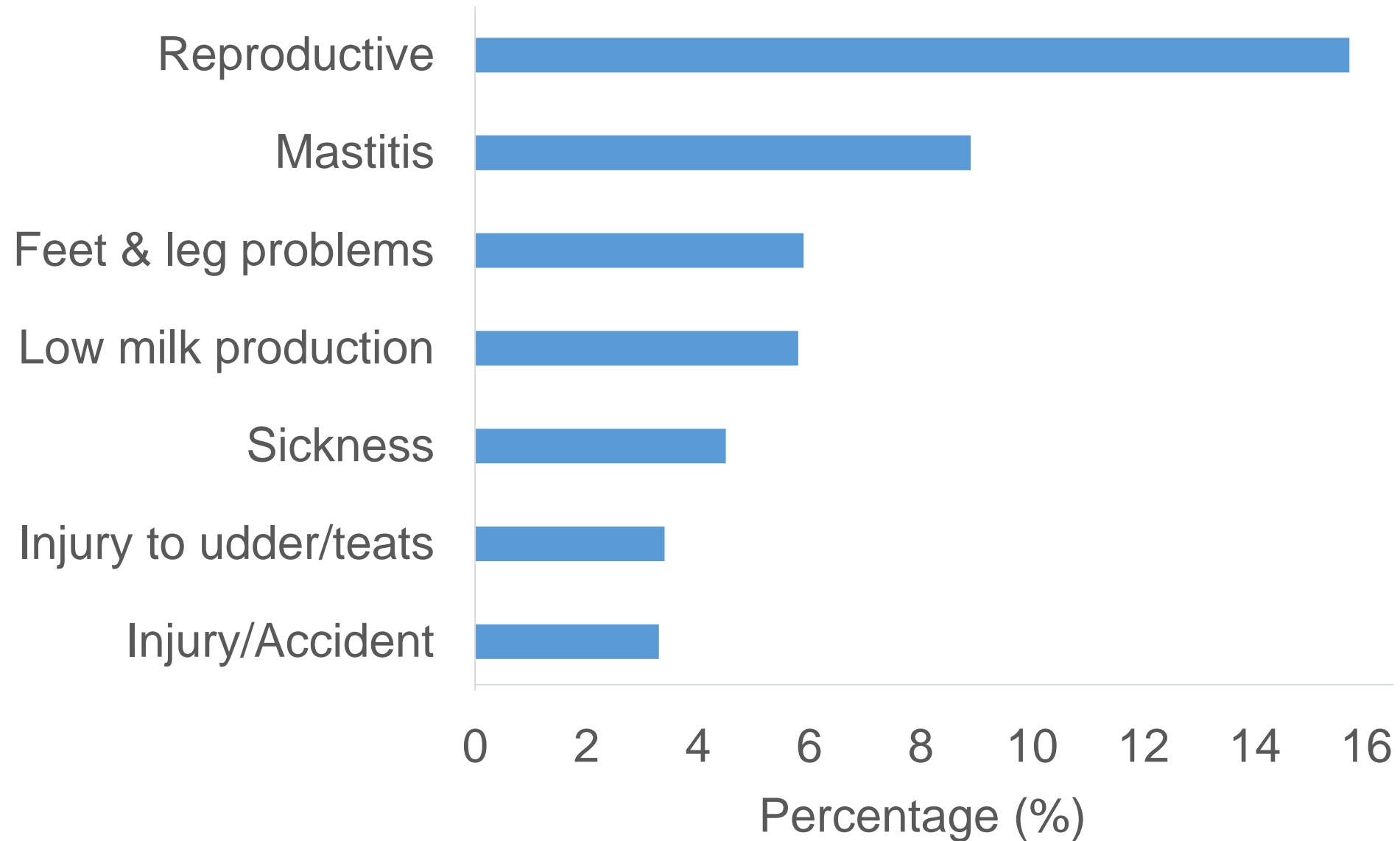


# Current Management Practices

- **~ 40% of dairy cows (350,000)**
- **Many cull dairy cows have compromised health**

- **Cull dairy cows are specialized segment in the market**
- **Geographical constrains**

# Culling Reasons



# Current Management Practices

- ~ 40% of dairy cows (350,000)
- Many cull dairy cows have compromised health

- **Cull dairy cows are specialized segment in the market**
- **Geographical constrains**



# NFAHWC Expert Consultation

- 
- Key informants
  - Diverse experience
  - All regions of Canada
  - Nine consensus points

- **Need for information and analysis of management of cull dairy cows**

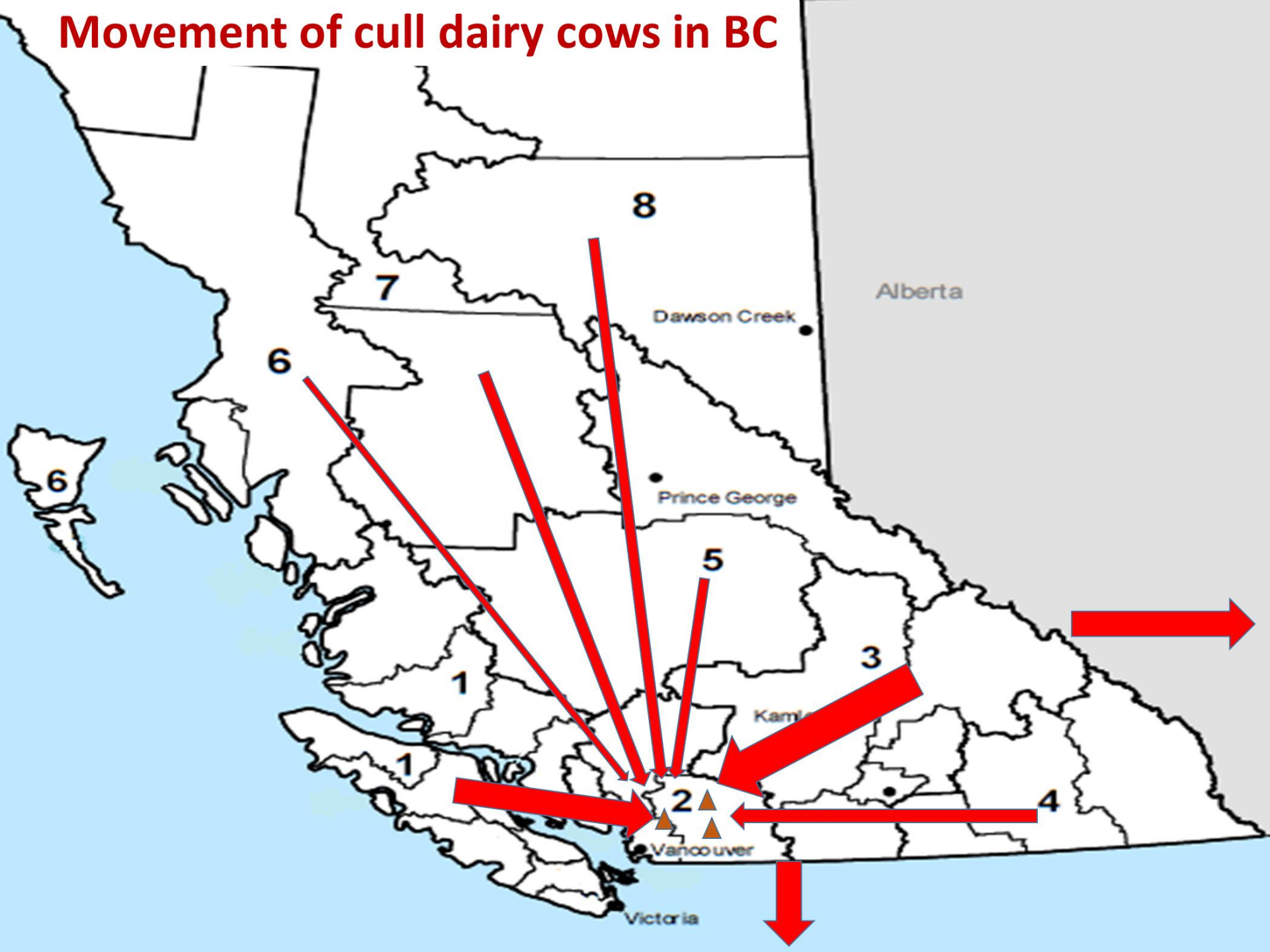


## Consensus:

- Research is needed, to better characterize cull cow management and movement from farm to slaughter, and the factors that lead to long delays before slaughter

- **Need for awareness of cull dairy cows movement**

# Movement of cull dairy cows in BC



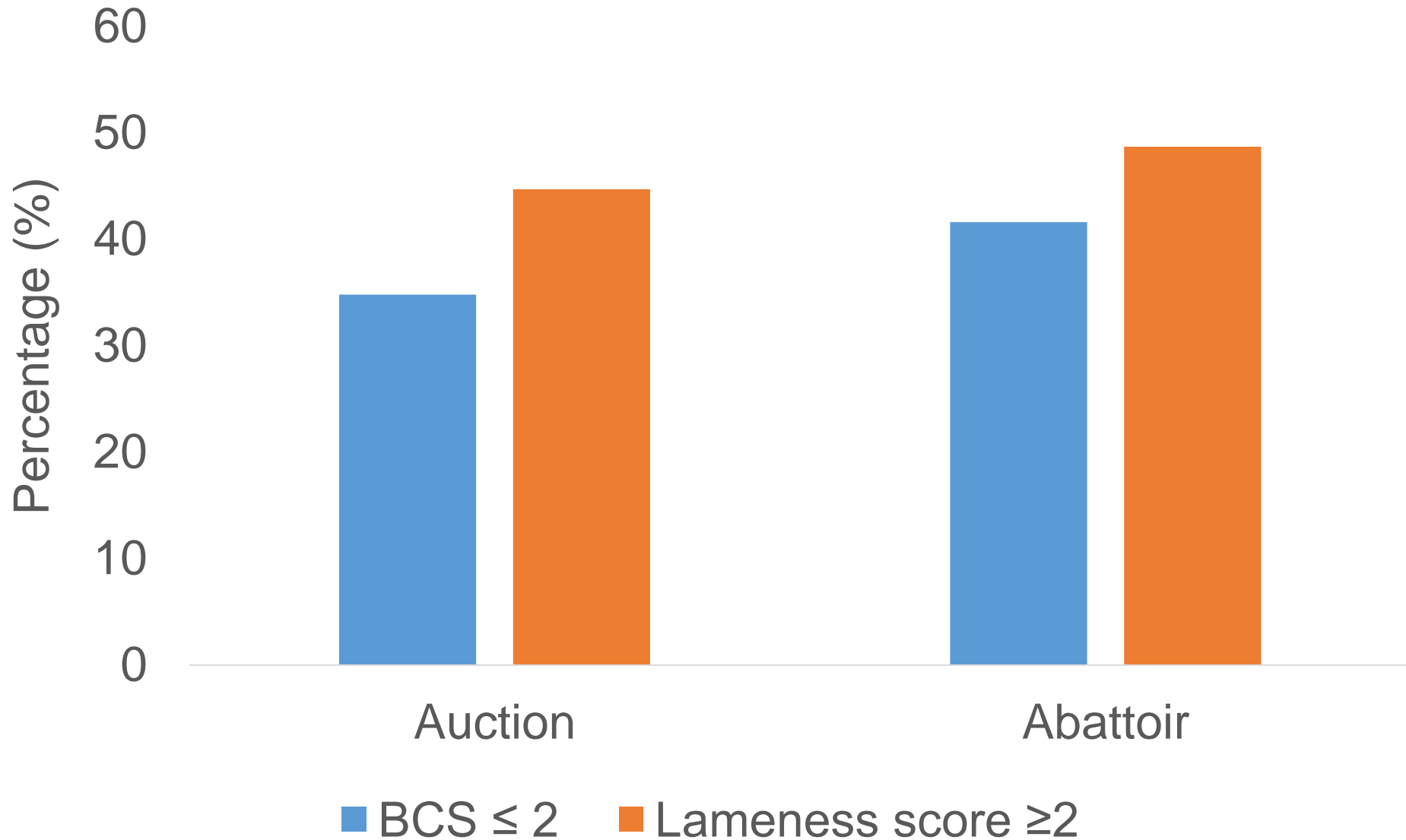
## Consensus:

- Communication is needed to make producers and herd veterinarians aware of the potential long travel distances and delays, and take this into account when reaching culling decisions.

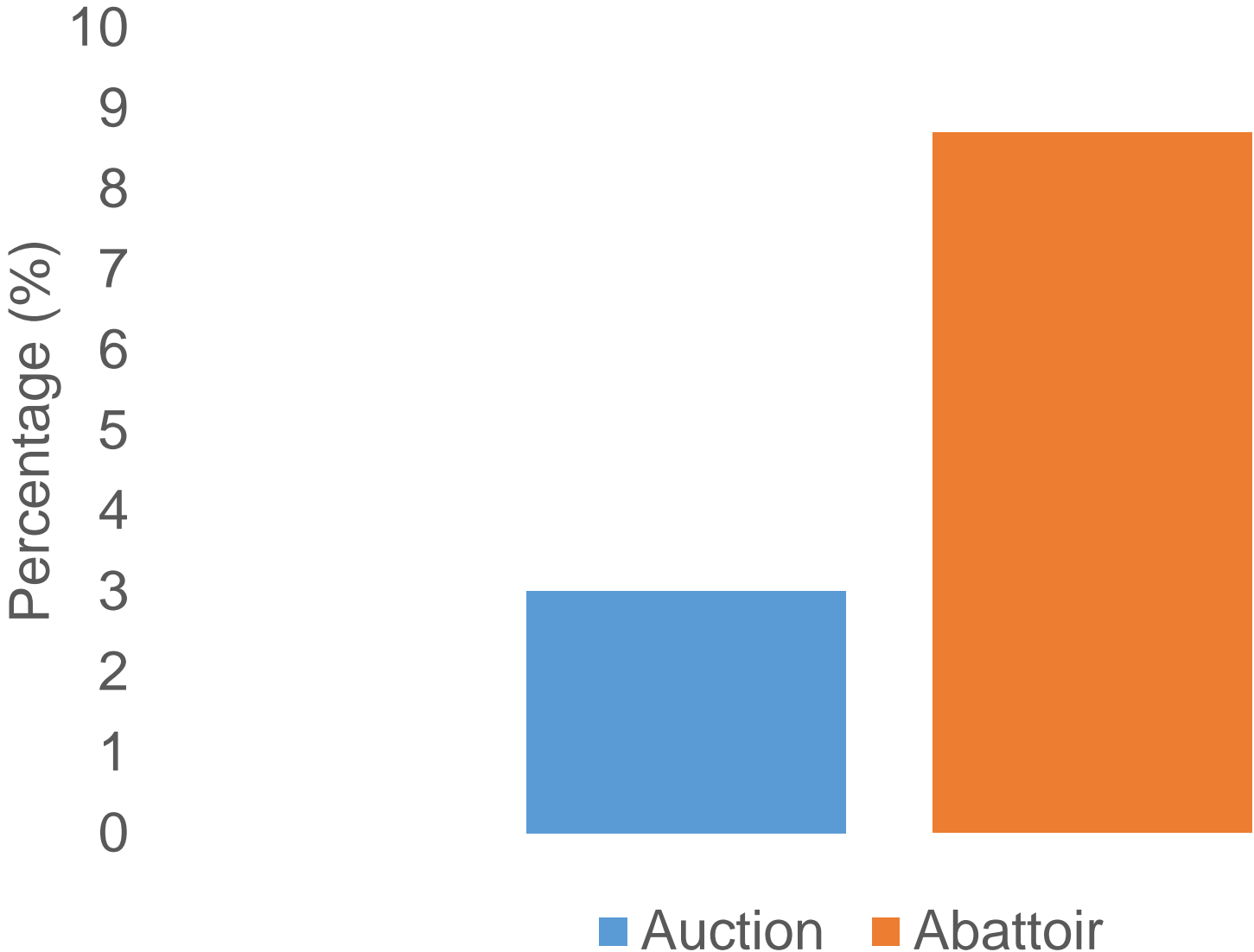
- **Conditions of cull dairy cows**



# Conditions of Dairy Cows at Auction and Abattoirs in US



# Cows with Mastitis at Auctions and Abattoirs

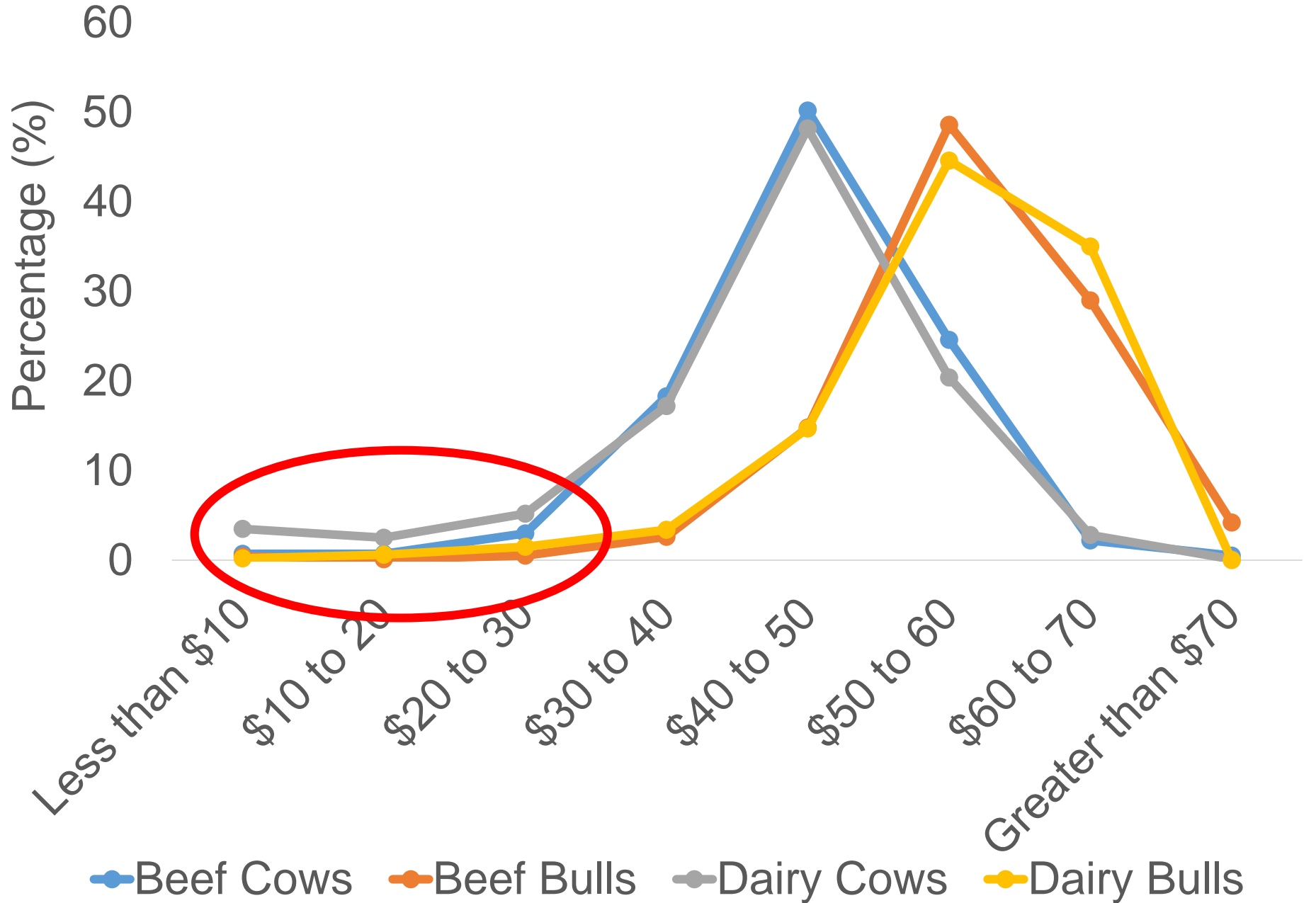


## Consensus:

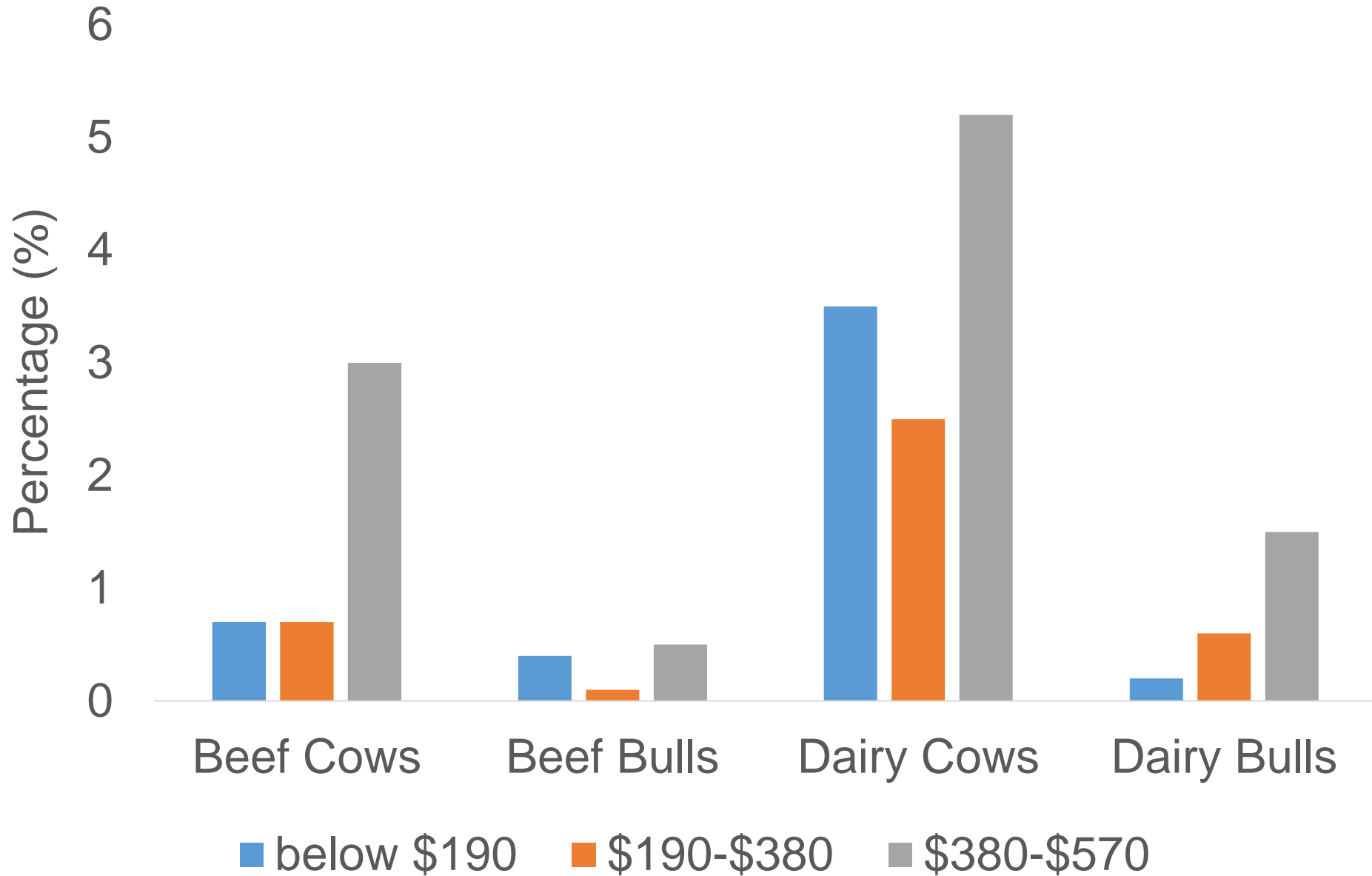
- Decision tree including animal's condition and potential delay to slaughter needs to be available across the country
- Herd veterinarian play active role in guiding producers on determining fitness for transport
- Training personnel involved in transport and auctions to recognize and handle compromised cattle

- **Timely or Pro-active culling**

# Sale Price \$US/45.5kg



# Sale Price per Head in \$CAD



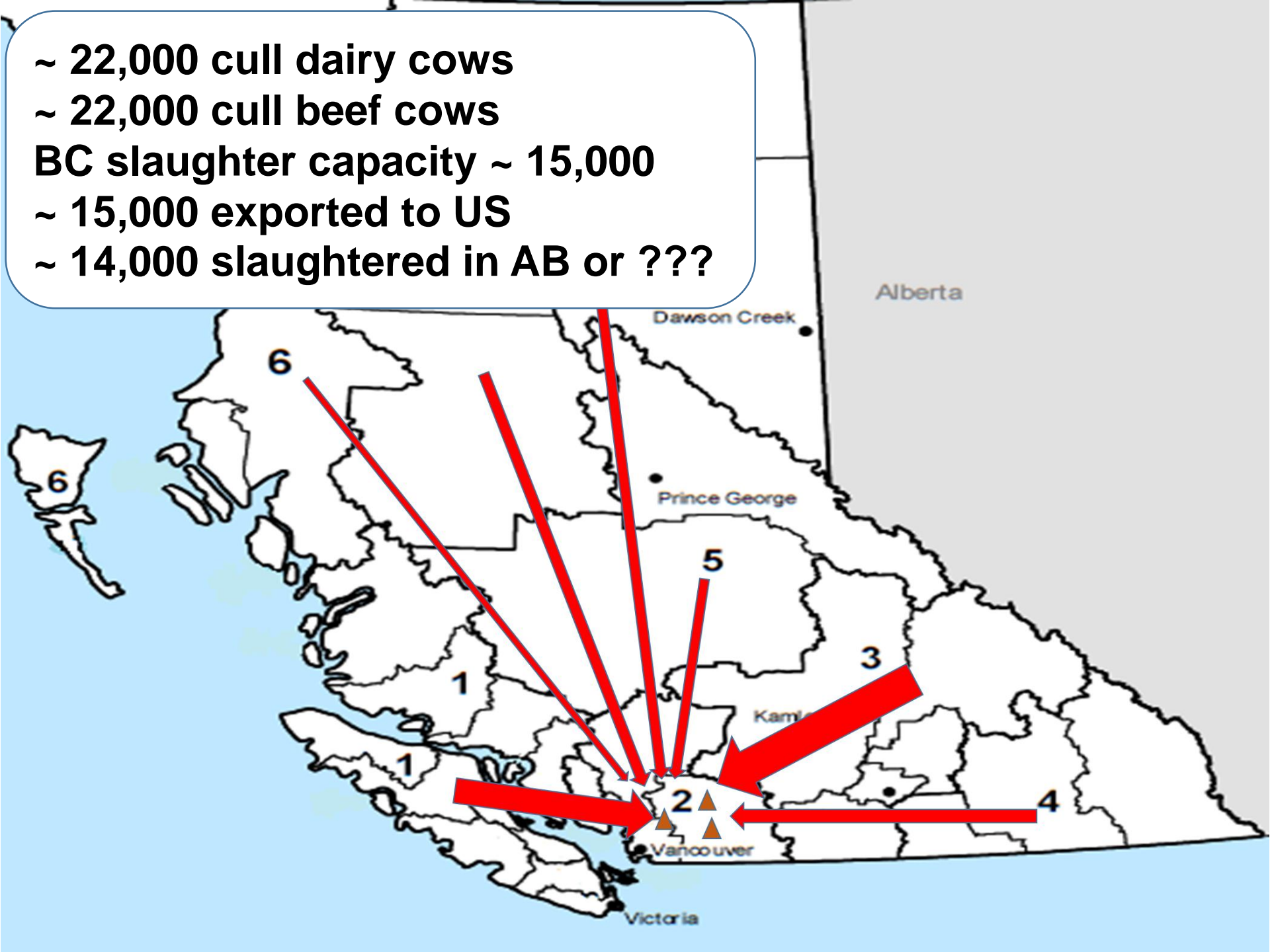
## Consensus:

- Early culling criteria should be part of every herd health program, and producers should consider including the herd veterinarian in culling decisions

- **Opportunities for local slaughter**



- ~ 22,000 cull dairy cows
- ~ 22,000 cull beef cows
- BC slaughter capacity ~ 15,000
- ~ 15,000 exported to US
- ~ 14,000 slaughtered in AB or ???



- ~ 106,000 cull dairy cows
- ~ 21,000 cull beef cows
- QC slaughter capacity ~ 15,000
- ~ 35,000 exported to US
- ~ ??,000 slaughtered in ON, or ???



## Consensus:

- Efforts must be made to identify local options for slaughter of cull dairy cows, through agreements between producer organizations and slaughter plants, to reduce transport distances, with priority for animals at risk of animal welfare

- **Options for management of compromised animals**

# Auctions in ON

- **Euthanasia**
- **“Direct to slaughter”**
- **Slaughter in 48h**

# Other options for producers

- **Emergency Slaughter Program**
- **Mobile Slaughter Program**

## Consensus:

- The various management options for cull dairy cows need to be investigated thoroughly so that they can be considered for possible adoption in all provinces and jurisdictions

- **Euthanasia**

## Consensus:

- Dairy farms and auctions should have the training and tools needed for prompt, effective euthanasia, or access to euthanasia services, and euthanasia protocol should be part of every herd health program.



- **Enforcement of relevant regulations**

# Enforcement

- **CFIA - periodical checks**
- **Provincial enforcement:**
  - a) **ON - inspectors must be present at auction**
  - b) **BC SPCA - present on complaint basis**

# Collaboration

- **Authorization of provincial inspectors**
- **Dairy associations involvement in corrective actions**

## Consensus:

- Different models of enforcement should be examined to recommend the widespread and harmonized adoption of practices deemed best for animal welfare
- authorities should consider a memorandum of understanding to facilitate inter-jurisdictional sharing of information related to non-compliance

- **Age verification for USA export**

## Consensus:

- Federal authorities should negotiate with their US counterparts to allow other means of age verification, for example from health records, and to negotiate a date when additional age verification can be discontinued

# Next steps

- Action needed on the 9 consensus points will be pursued by NFAHWC with other stakeholders
- Research and investigation of current management and movement of cull dairy cows in Canada
- Strengthen the collaboration (and possible harmonization) between stakeholders

# Acknowledgements



National Farmed Animal  
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le bien-être des animaux d'élevage



animal welfare  
program



Dairy Farmers  
of Canada



Les Producteurs laitiers  
du Canada