

# The North West Mobility Project



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- ☪ 24 farms doing the DairyCo Healthy Feet Programme- a self recruited group
- ☪ 21 Control farms
- ☪ Whole herd mobility scores for all farms every 3 months
- ☪ 12 month duration - 2012/13
- ☪ Compared MS data + lesion quiz + a structured interview





*"helping farmers reduce lameness  
through improved management  
of cows and people"*

# The four success factors for healthy feet

Low infection  
pressure

Good hoof shape  
and horn quality

Early detection and  
prompt, effective  
treatment

Low forces on feet

- Good cow comfort
- Good cow flow

Step by step...

**Follow up and review**

**Agree actions: mobility  
contract**

**Whole herd risk appraisal**

**Diagnosis, skills review and  
training**

**Mobility score herd**

# Results

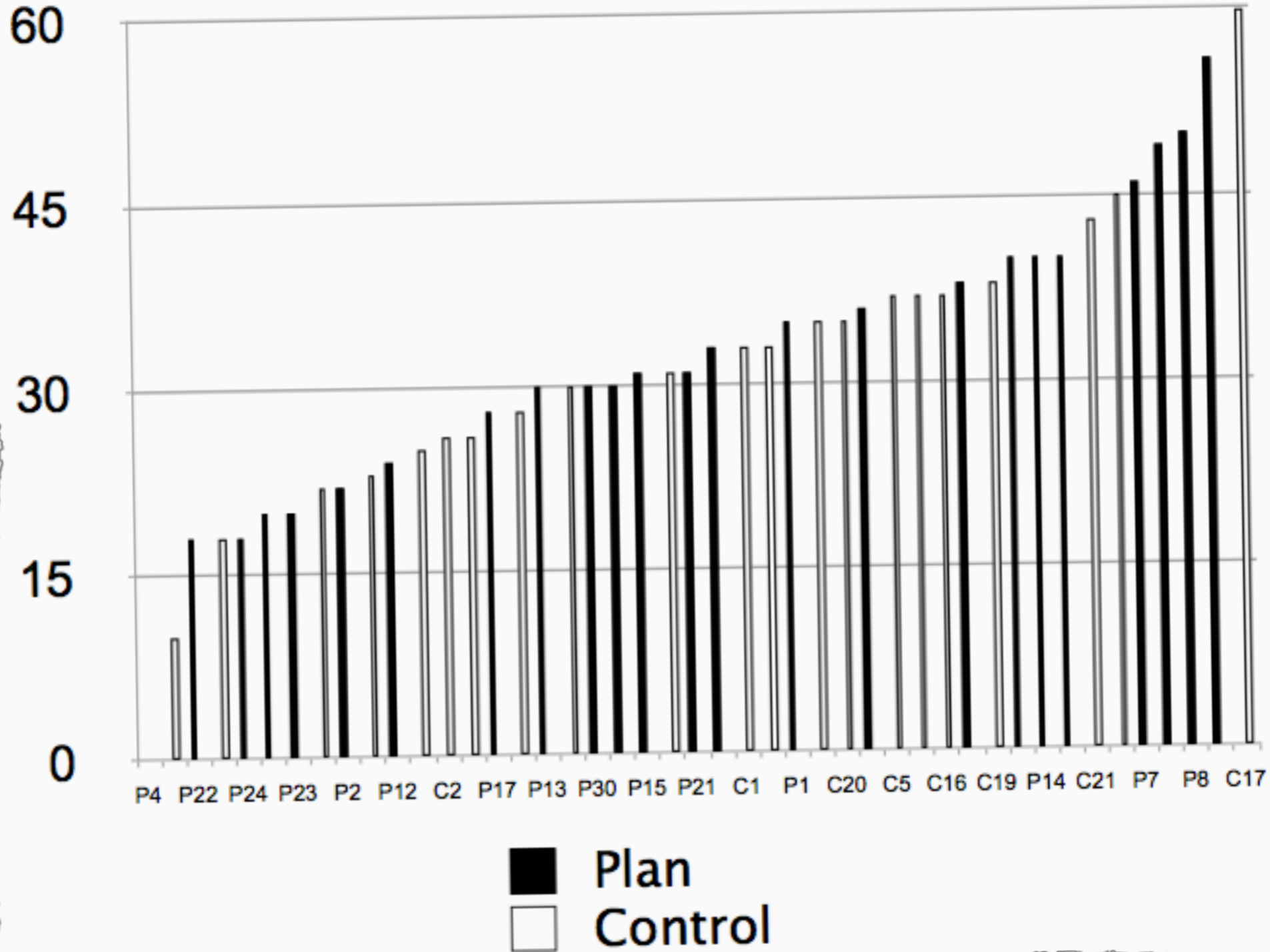


## Summary of farms:

	<b>DCHP FARMS</b>	<b>CONTROL FARMS</b>
Cow numbers (mean)	295	240
Cow numbers (range)	72 to 550	90 to 540
Yield (litres per cow per year mean)	8,863	7,917
Yield (litres per cow per year range)	5,000 to 11,000	6,500 to 9,400
Number of all year calving systems	22	17
Number of block calving systems	1	4
Total number farms in study	23	21

**Total: 11,500 cows on 44 dairy farms**

# Start Mobility Score - % lame on all farms (scores 2+3)

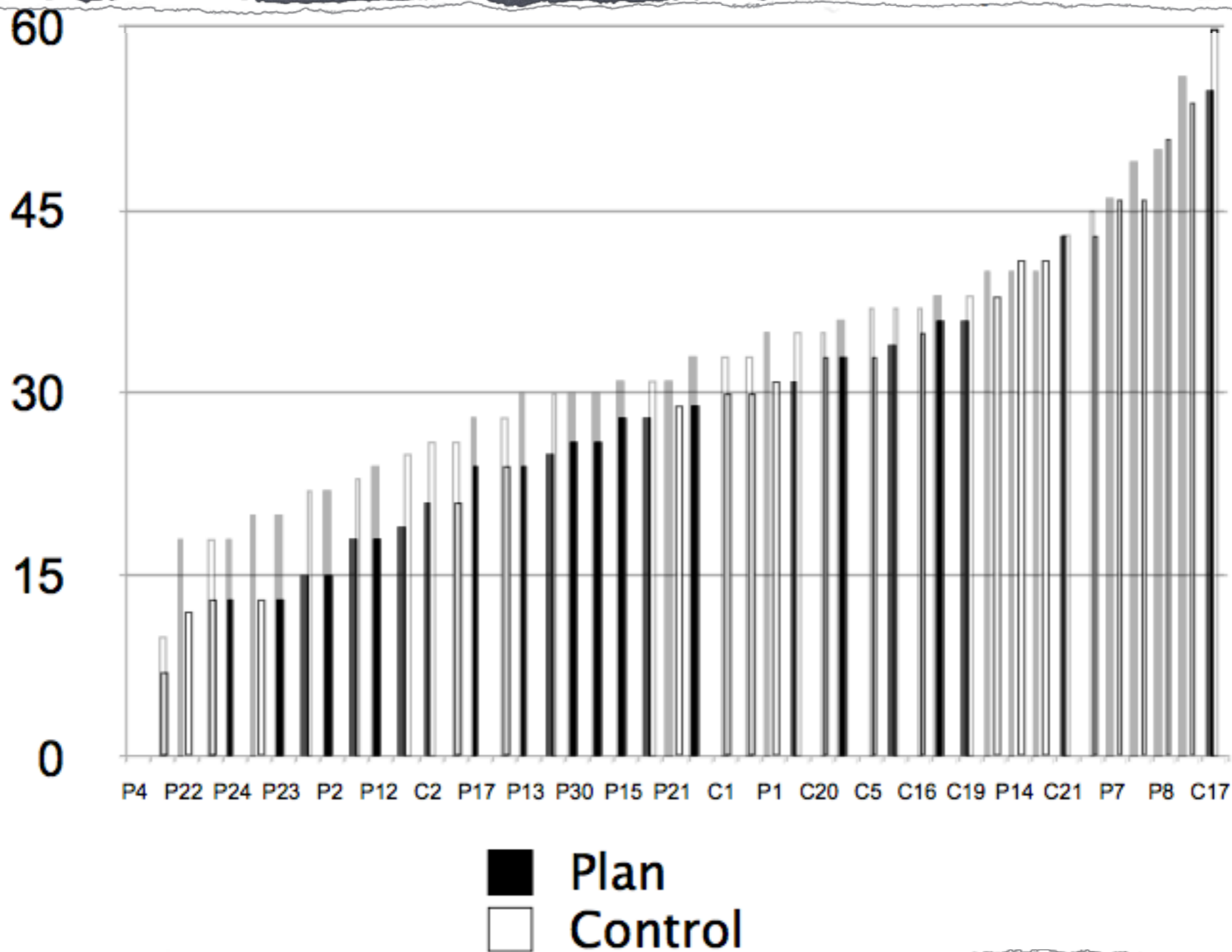


Mean: 32% prevalence lame



% Lame at Start

...and at End



60

45

30

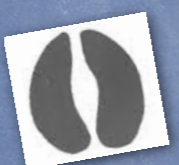
15

0

P4 P22 P24 P23



Control farms averaged 32% at start and 32% at end



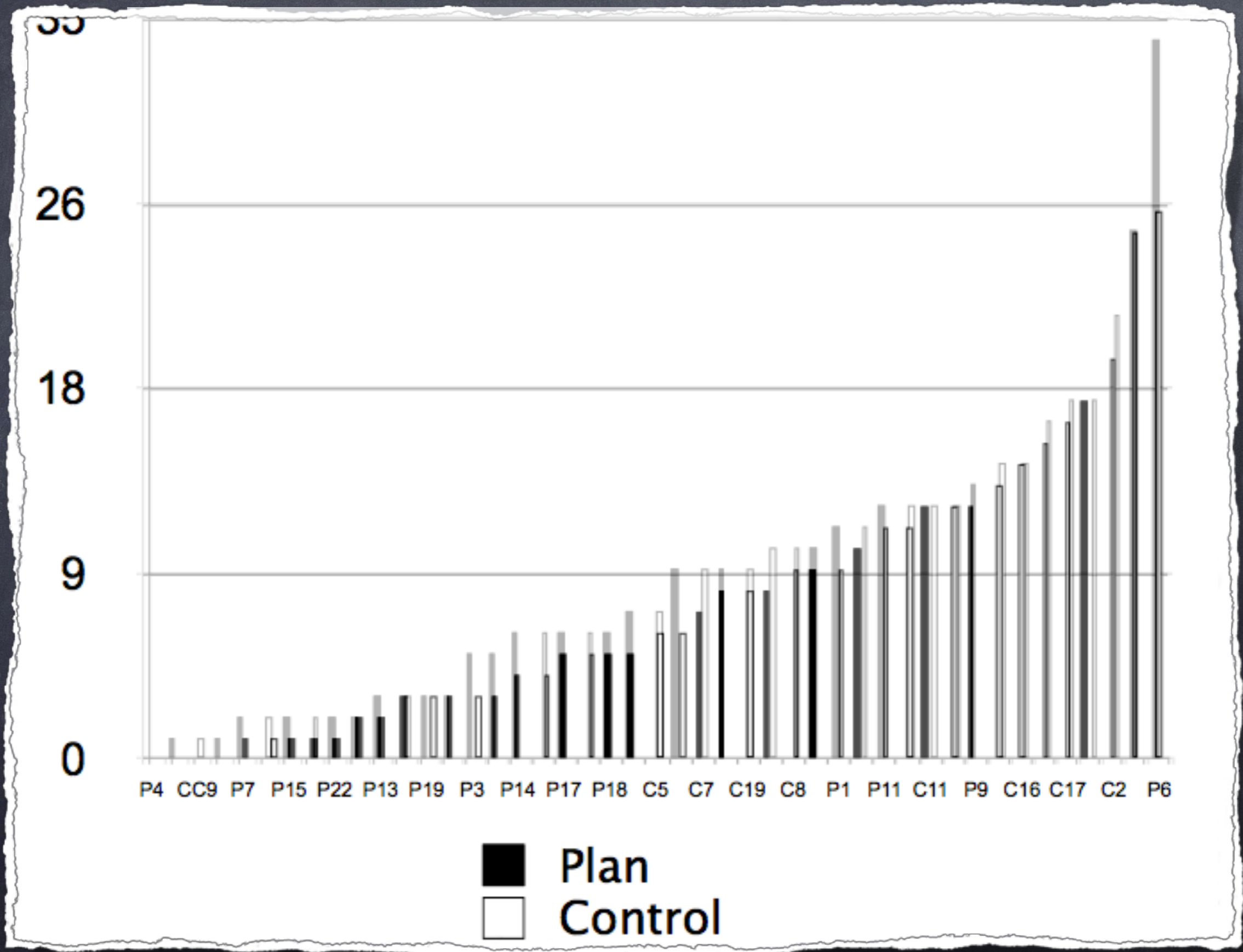
Plan farms averaged 32% at start and 25% at end



Plan farms reduced lameness, on average, by 22% during the year


control

# % Mobility score 3 cows at start ... and at end



 Control farms averaged 10.1% at start and 10.3% at end

 Plan farms averaged 7.4% at start and 4.7% at end

 Plan farms reduced score 3 COWS, on average, by 36%

# Carving up the data

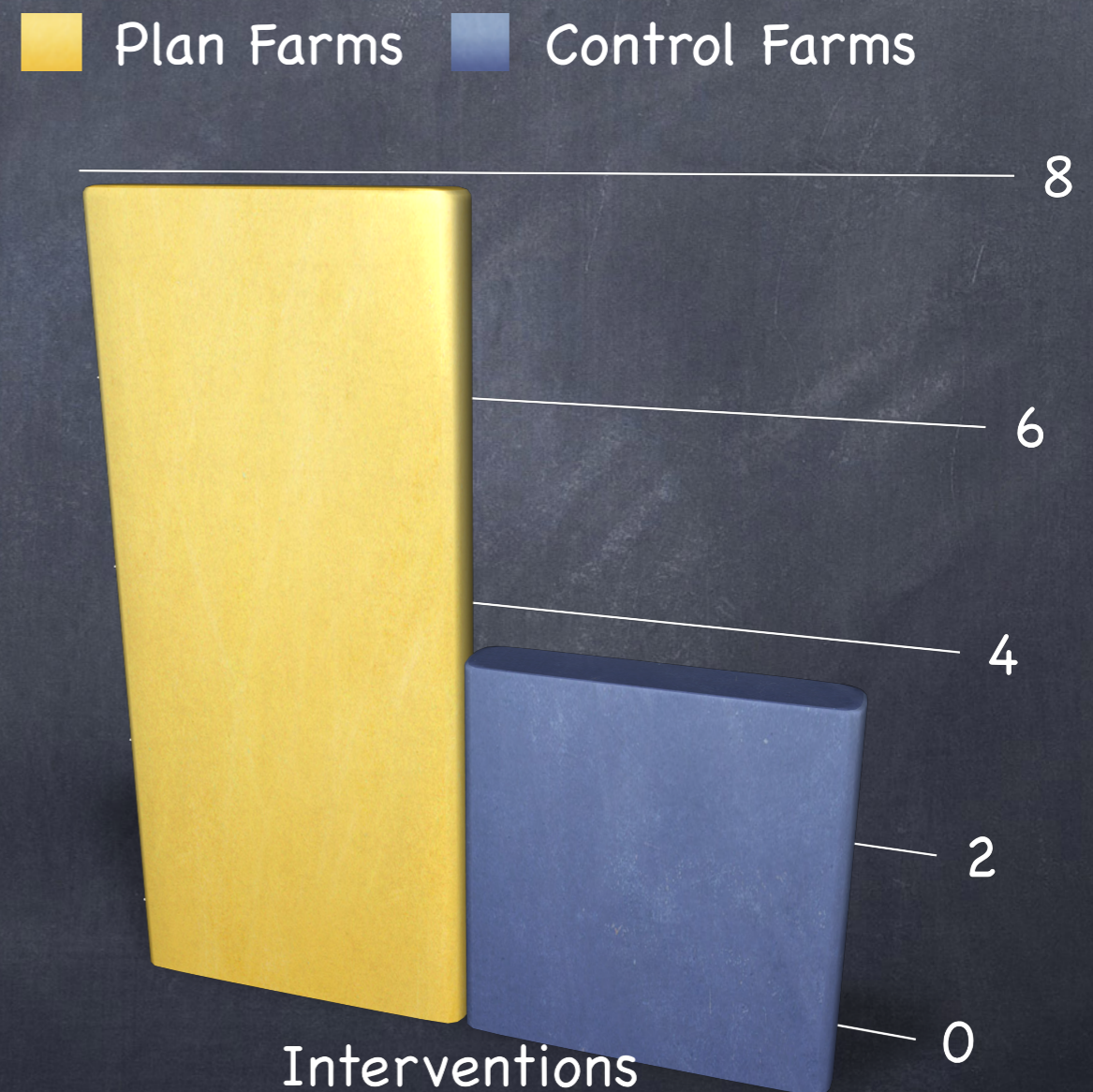
- Plan Farms vs Control Farms
- Farms with least average lameness vs farms with most average lameness
- Farms with best improvement: decreasers vs farms increasing lameness: increasers
- Seasonal variations

# What are the success factors?



# Interventions...

- Plan farms made twice the number of interventions during the year
- Previous studies found that more interventions reduced lameness



# The top 6 actions...

- Mobility scoring (early identification of lame cows)
- Foot trimming training
- Cubicle modifications/ increased lying times
- Concrete repairs/ grooving
- Improved foot bath procedure
- Improved cow flow/ stockmanship

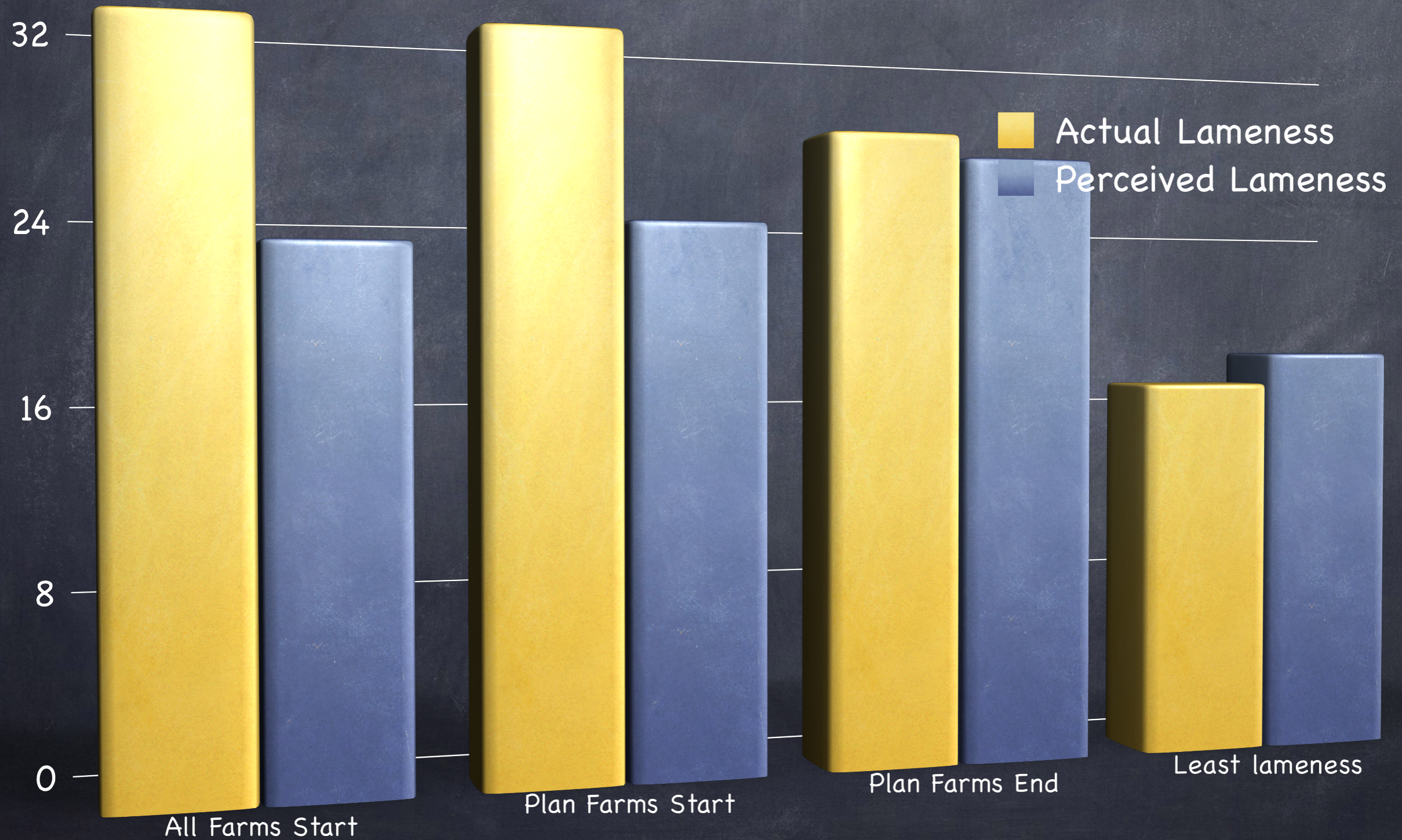




But what of awareness  
and understanding about  
lameness, and attitude  
to control?

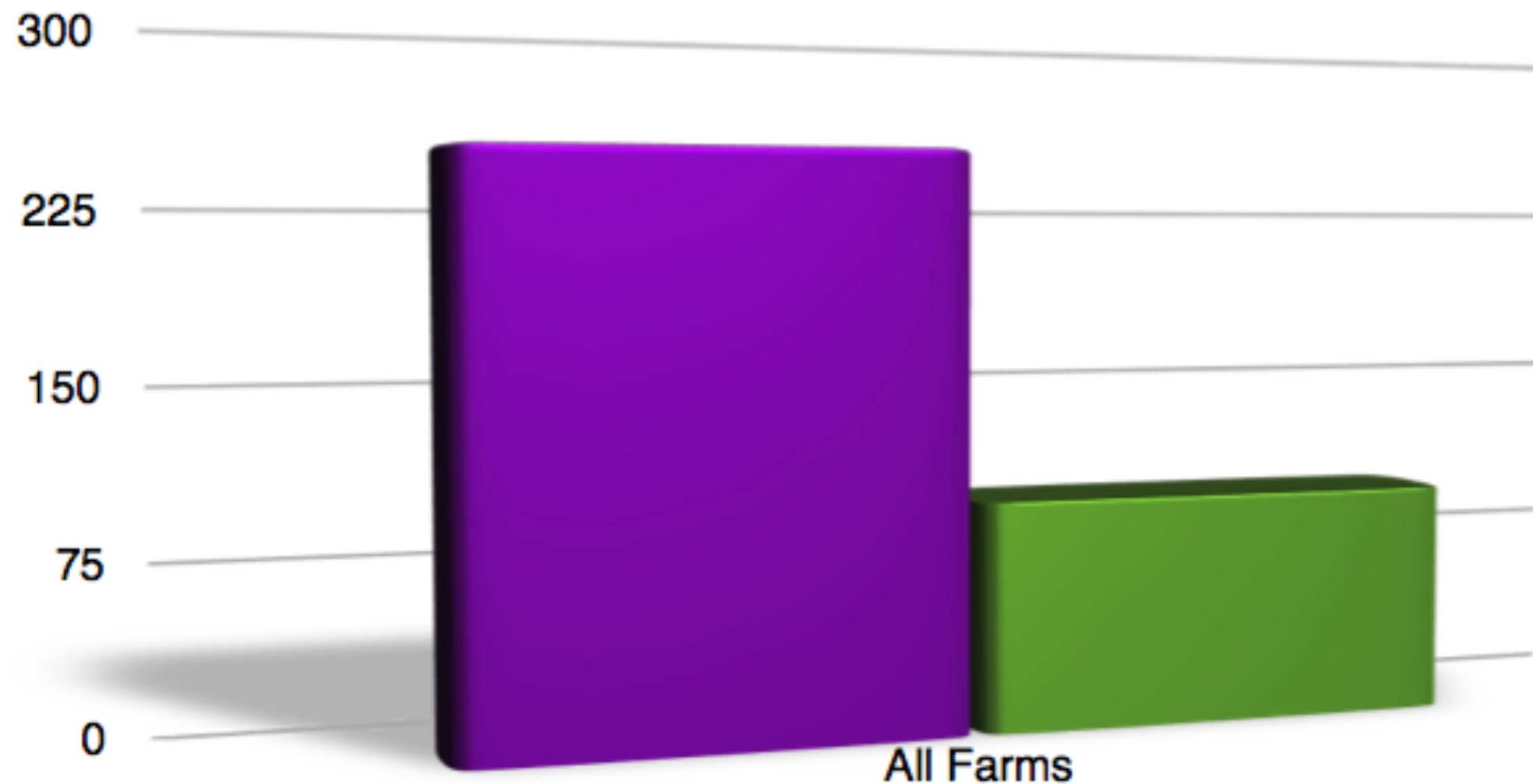
# 1: Awareness

Lameness Prevalence: accuracy of estimations




# Costs of Lameness

■ Actual Cost per cow per year      ■ Estimated cost per cow per year



# 2: Knowledge

Current understanding:  
What are the following conditions called, and briefly, what causes them?:

	name?	
	caused by?	
		
		
		
		

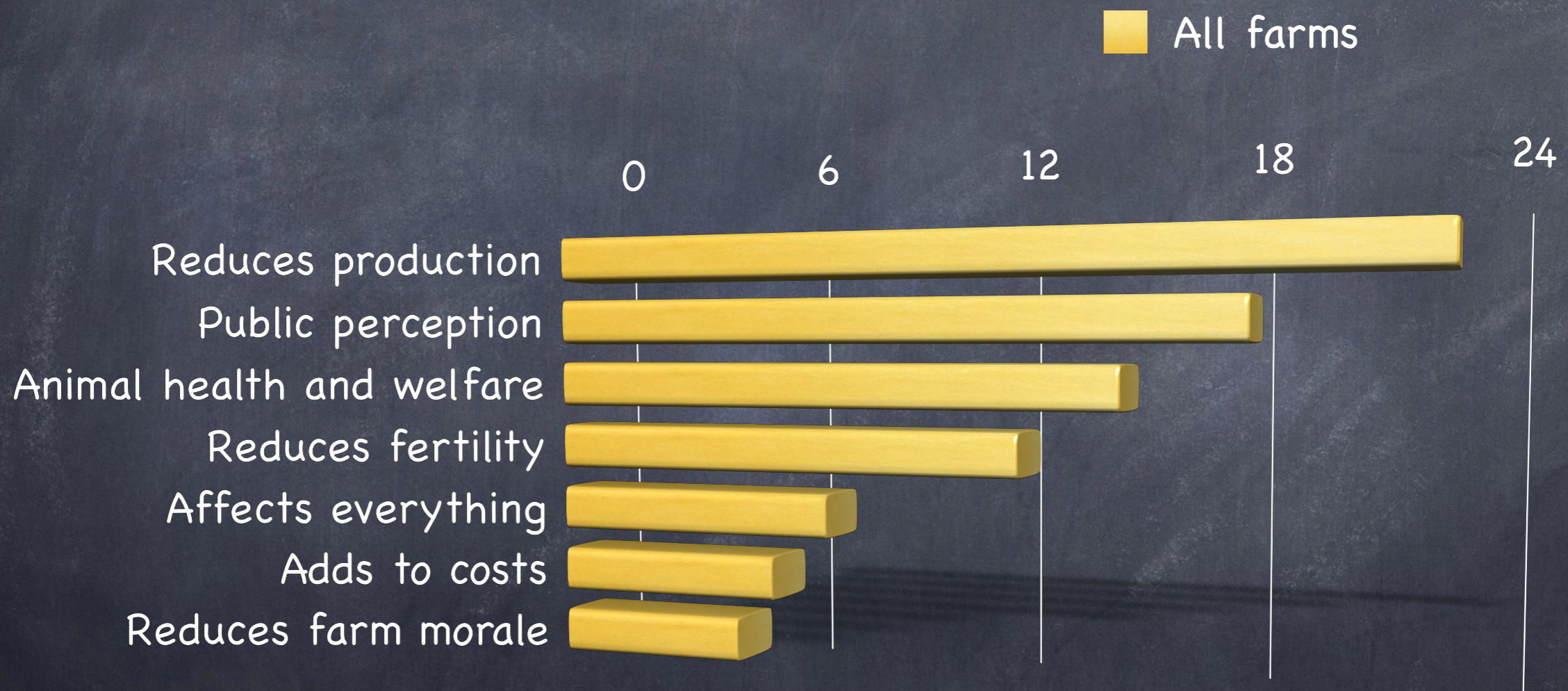
- Quiz - lesions and causes
- Asked Plan farmers at Start and End of year
- Asked Control farmers just at End of year
- Maximum possible score = 14
- Average score was

# The Lesion Quiz...

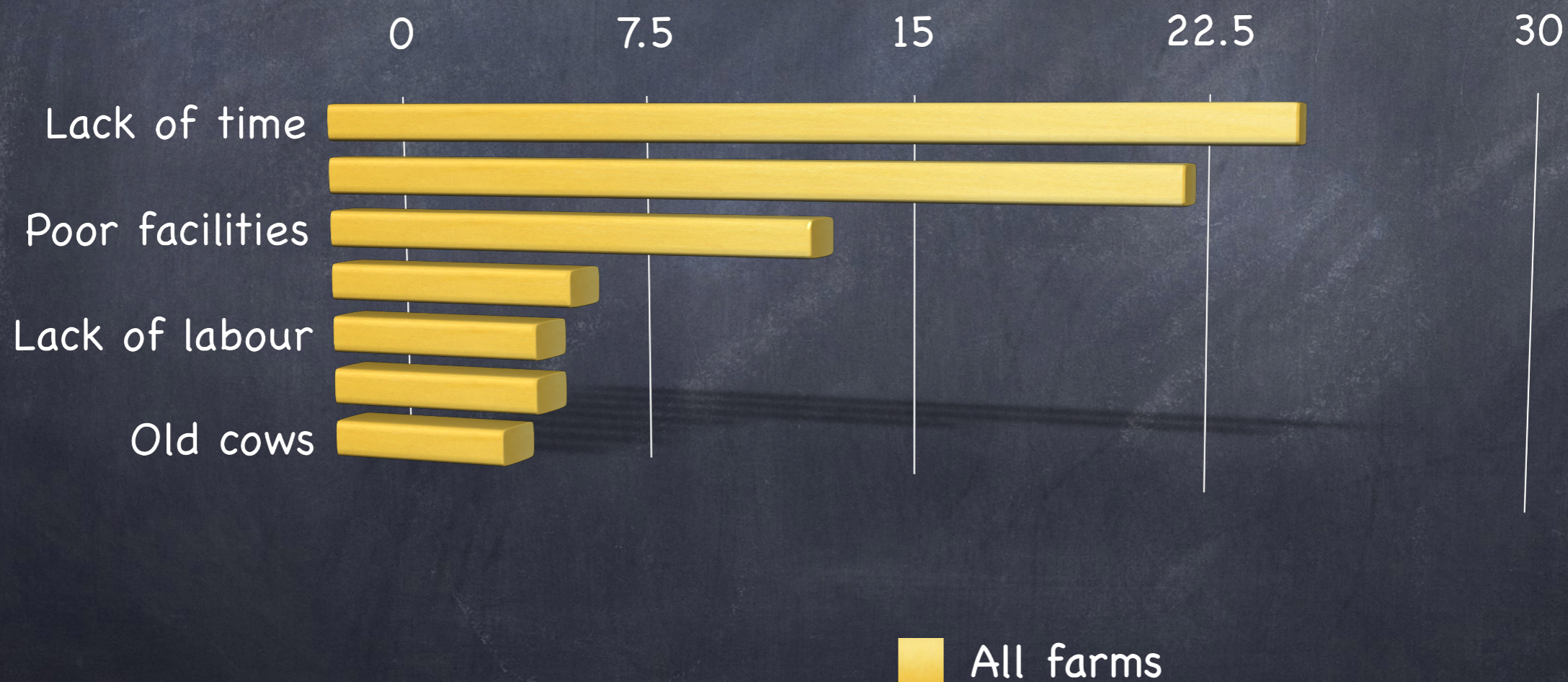


# 3: Beliefs and attitudes

# In what ways is lameness an issue?

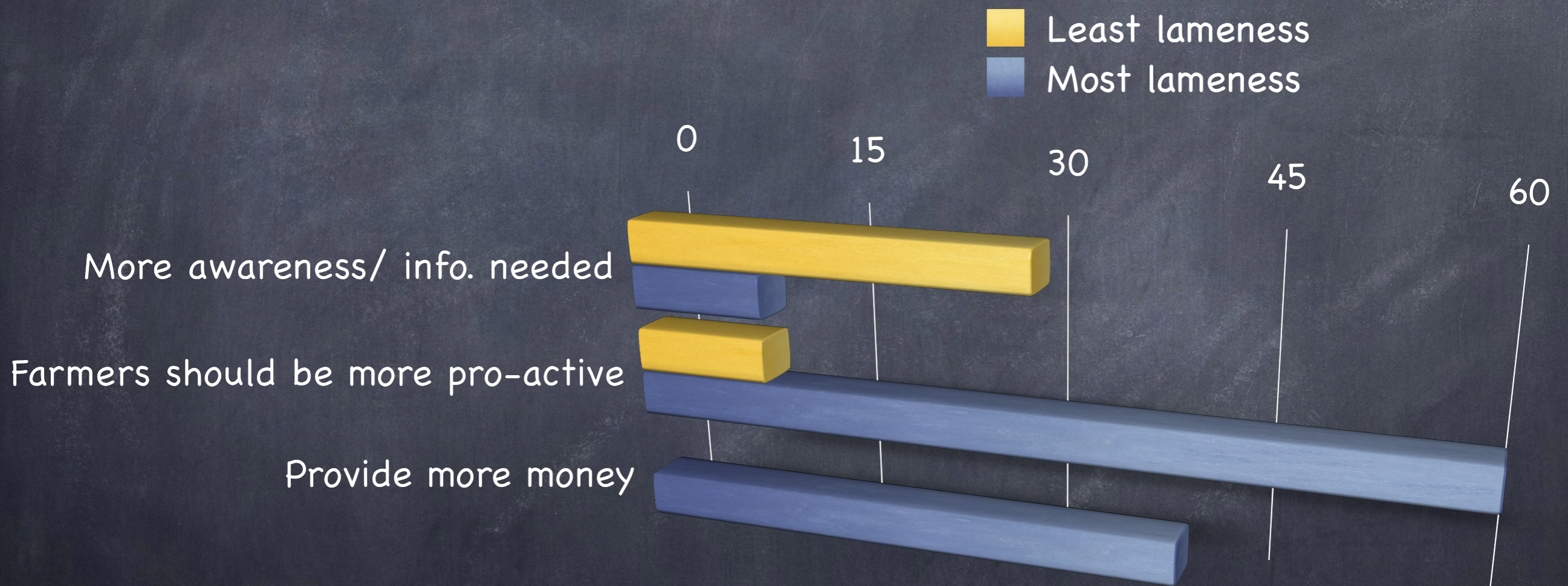


# What prevents your farm achieving the low lameness levels you aspire towards?





# What could the industry do better?



# Personal barriers

■ Least lameness  
■ Most lameness



There was a clear difference between those farms with the least lameness and the most.

Total Personal Barrier Scores:

Least lameness:	4.9/24	20%
Most lameness:	14.7/24	61%
Mean for all farms:	7.15/24	30%

👉 Producers with a more "can-do" attitude have less lameness

6: Habitual behaviour

5: Experimental behaviour

4: Making a choice

3: Perceptions of options

2: Accepting responsibility

1: Awareness of problem

I am going to make this work

I really intend to make some changes now

What options have I got? What can I do?

I am in control of this

What is my herd mobility score?

# Summary

- Acknowledgements
- The DairyCo Healthy Feet Programme has been shown to increase the odds of reducing lameness on dairy farms within 12 months
- Working with producers to raise awareness and understanding of lameness within their own herds is likely to be beneficial.

# Thank you!



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