



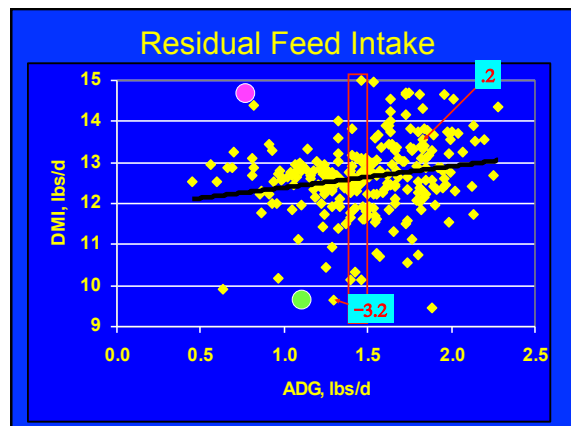
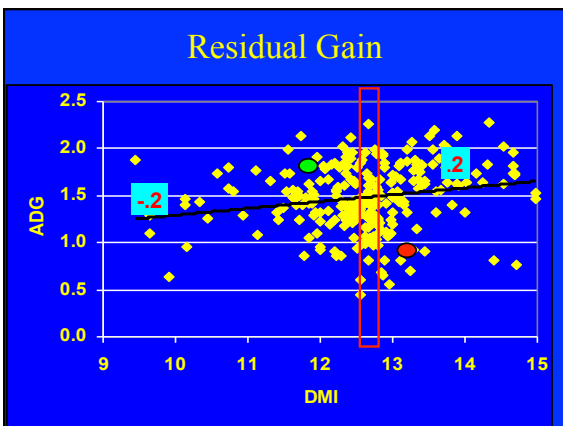
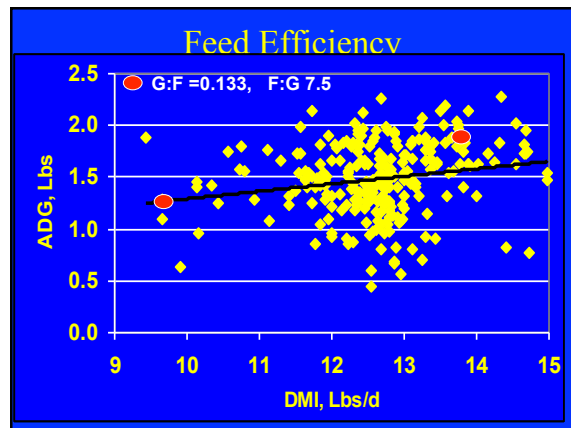
Not sure it should.

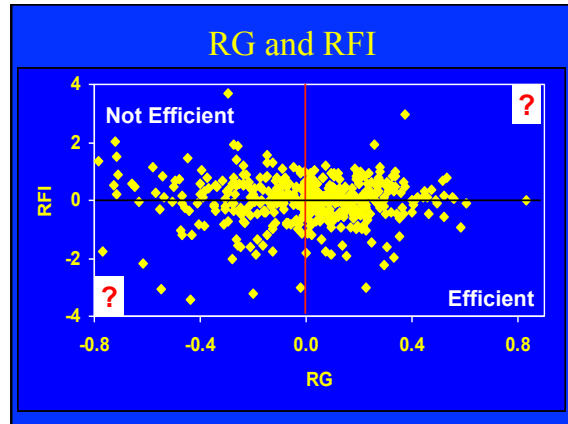
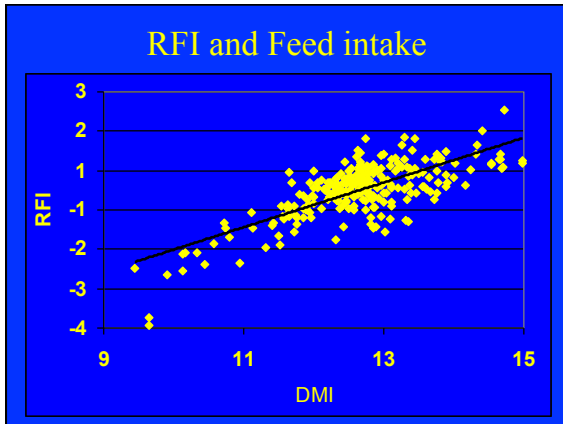
- Problems with current approaches.
- Weight gain not the critical output in cows.

Ways to Express Feed efficiency

- Feed conversion (lbs consumed/lb gained)
- Gain to Feed (lbs gained/lb consumed)
- Residual Feed intake
- Residual Gain

Are these good?



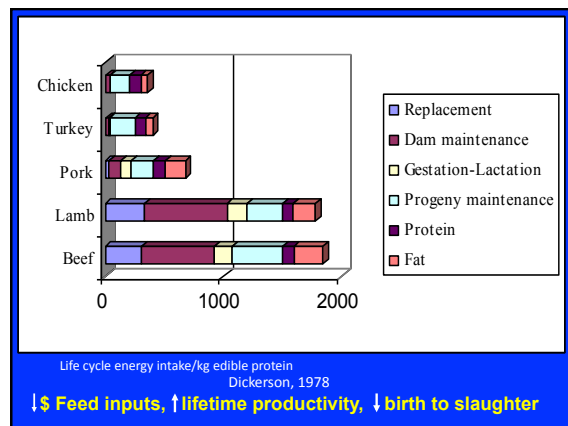


Problems with Feed Efficiency

- Using 1 number to account for variation in two traits does not work very well.

Solution
Use a selection index

Feed efficiency vs. Cow efficiency



**FACTORS
INFLUENCING
INPUTS**

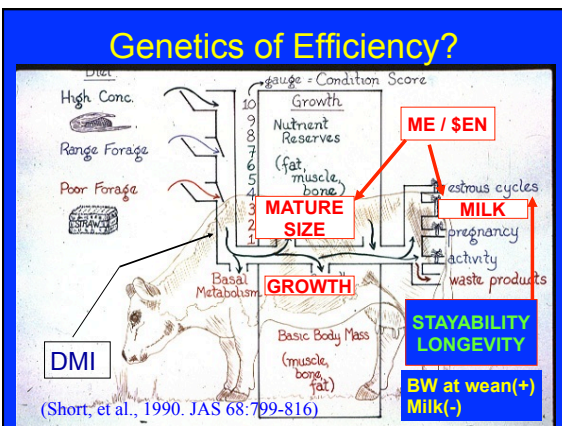
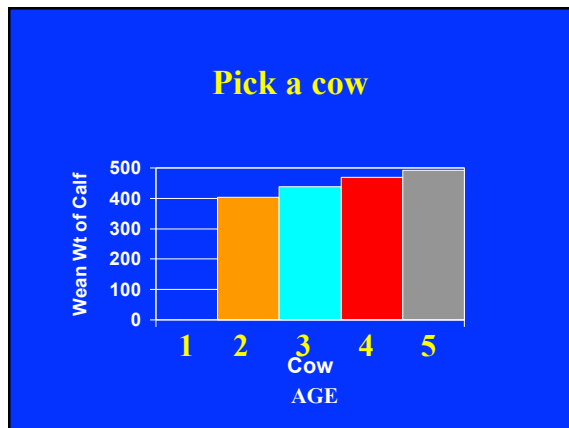




Feed Inputs for Cowherd

<p>Availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Season • Location • Management 	<p>Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetics • Stage of production • Environment
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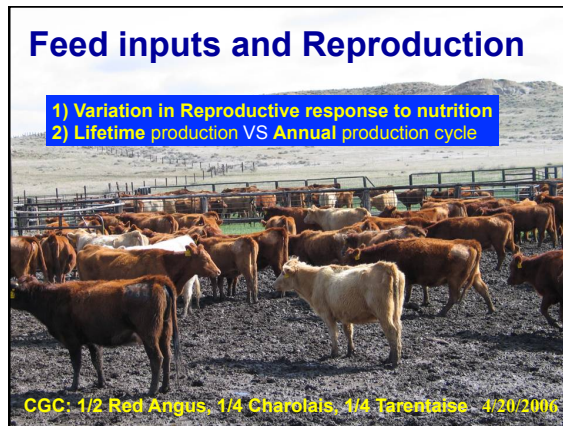
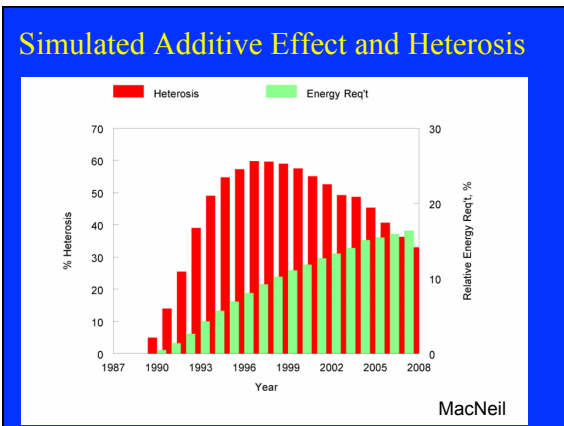
MATCH GENOTYPE & CALVING TO ENVIRONMENT !



CROSBREEDING IMPACT

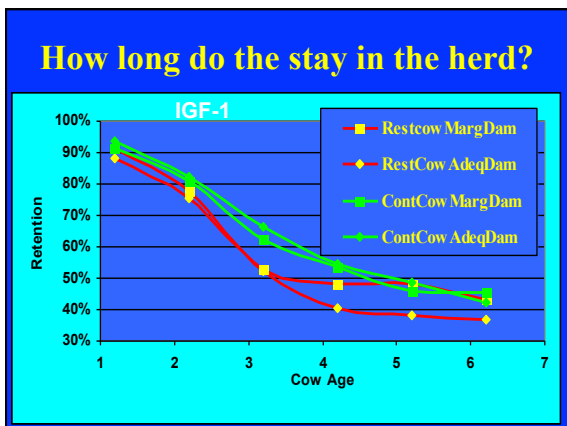
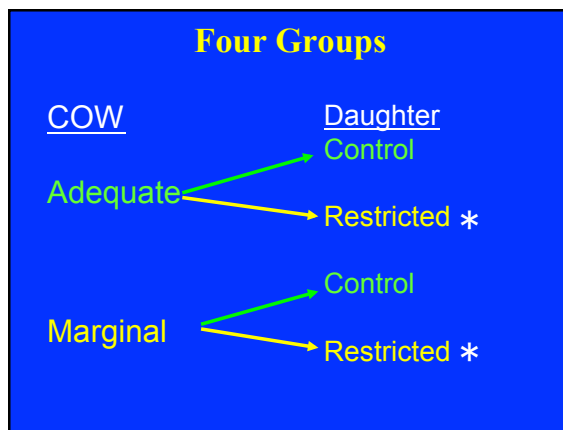
CROSBRED COWS HAVE.....

25% GREATER LIFETIME PRODUCTION



Dec 2001: CGC Composites split into 2 winter management groups

“Adequate” supplement	Dec - March	“Marginal” supplement
4 lbs alfalfa/d	~ 85 days	2.4 lbs alfalfa/d
100% hay if necessary (22 lbs/d)	March -April	80% hay, if necessary (18 lb/d)



- ### Restricted heifer development & conservative winter feeding:
- Improved efficiency.
 - Reduced feed/pregnant heifer (\$24 savings) 200 to 300 lb less feed/winter (\$9-12/yr)
 - Offspring from marginal supplemented cows have Greater BCS (Improved drought resistance?) Improved longevity (5 & older) \$\$\$
 - Restricted Cows from marginal supplemented dams have lighter calves at birth and weaning Match genotype & environment (less milk) ?

Conclusions

Feed efficiency

- Market animal: Final end point
- Cow: Management more important?

Cow efficiency

- Longevity (genetics/crossbreeding & management).

