

Animal Health Ireland

# CellCheck CONFERENCE

FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

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**SESSION 3**  
Progress from here and abroad

***‘Learnings from the  
TASAH Dry Cow  
Consults 2018-2023  
and recent trends in  
antibiotic use in Ireland’***



SUPPORTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE

# TASAH Dry Cow Consults:

- Piloted in 2018, in preparation for implementation of the new medicine regulation (2022)
- Funded as part of the Rural Development Programme (2014-2022)
- Objectives:
  - Maximise drying off and dry period success
  - Start the move away from blanket DCT
  - Facilitate engagement of farmers and their prescribing vet, to develop farm-specific selective dry cow treatment (SDCT) plans, where appropriate

# TASAH Dry Cow Consults:

- PVP training (n=546)
- Farmer applications assessed against eligibility criteria:
  - 12-month average bulk tank SCC 200,000 cells/mL or less
  - Min 4 milk recordings
- Arrange & prepare for consult



**ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND**  
Contributing to a profitable and sustainable farming and agri-food sector through improved animal health

**NATIONAL MASTITIS CONTROL PROGRAMME**

**FREE DRY COW CONSULT**

- ✓ Are you milk recording?
- ✓ Is your bulk tank SCC consistently below 200,000 cells/mL?
- ✓ Are you ready to reduce antibiotic use at drying off?

If so, then your herd may be suitable for a selective dry cow therapy strategy this winter. With the right hygiene, management and support, many herds are successfully reducing their antibiotic use at drying off, by developing selective dry cow strategies in consultation with their veterinary practitioners. A free Dry Cow Consult is available again this year for eligible herds, delivered through the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health, funded by the Rural Development Programme and coordinated by Animal Health Ireland.

This 3-hour consultation is carried out with your selected trained veterinary practitioner and is an opportunity to assess the current drying off process and dry period performance and identify additional gains that can be made. Milk recording results and farm records will also be analysed to identify individual animals that may be suitable for a 'non-antibiotic' dry off, and the best way of implementing this.

It is important to remember that a selective dry cow strategy is not without risk and is not something to embark on without seeking professional support and advice.

**INFORMATION/APPLICATION**  
For more information, and to submit an application for a Dry Cow Consult, see

[www.animalhealthireland.ie](http://www.animalhealthireland.ie) AHI office on 071 9671928

# TASAH Dry Cow Consults

## Consult outline:

- ✓ Observing the current drying off routine or process
- ✓ Discussing the dry cow management.
- ✓ Discussing the ICBF and farm records, and overall udder health
- ✓ Drawing up an “Agreed Treatment Plan”, if appropriate

# TASAH Dry Cow Consults-data

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
22	284	398	494	646	655

**1359 herds:**

710 x 1  
 365 x 2  
 144 x 3  
 90 x 4  
 52 x 5  
 5 x 6

**Individual animal data,  
 available from ICBF:**

- Last SCC before drying off
- Date of dry off
- Treatment given (*incomplete*)
- Date of calving
- Parity
- First SCC after calving
- Days in milk

*Acknowledgement to Liam Doyle, AHI*

# TASAH Dry Cow Consults-data

**1356 herds**

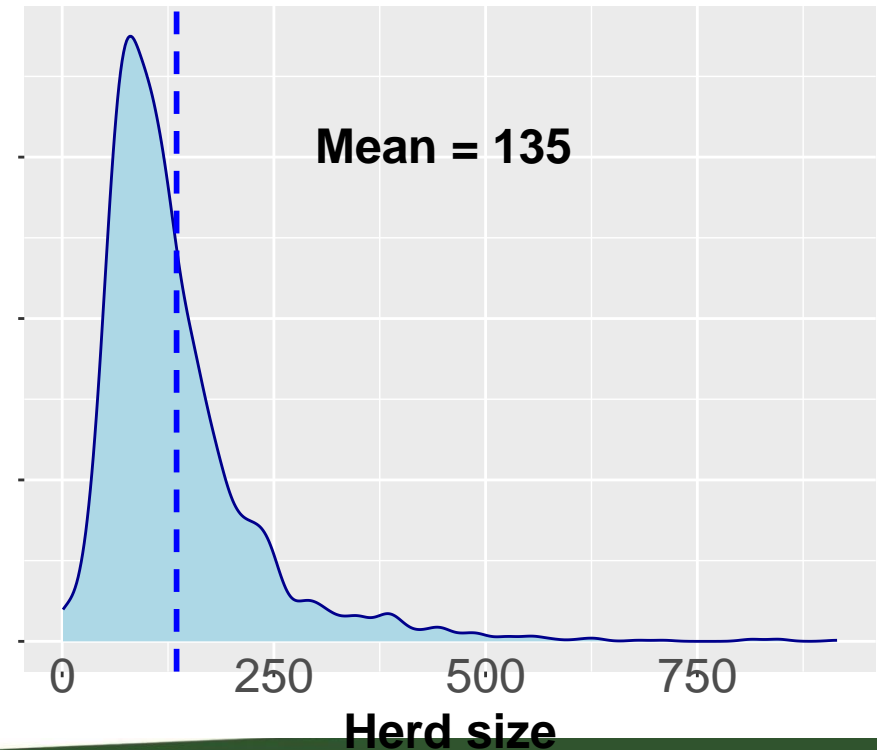


**337,608 animals**

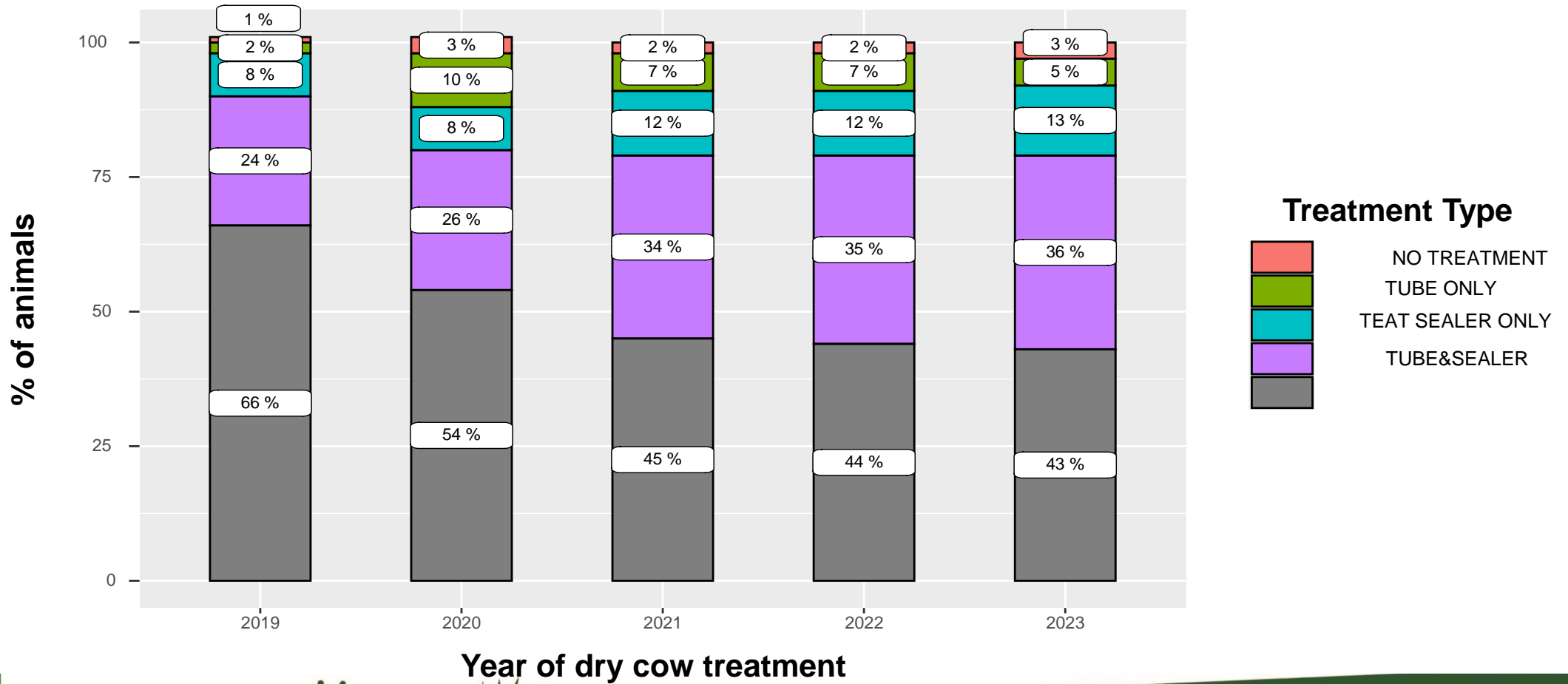


**202,351 animals had a last recording before drying off, as well as a 1st recording within 60 days of calving**

**78% of 1<sup>st</sup> recordings of the year were within 60 days of calving**



# What treatment decisions were made?

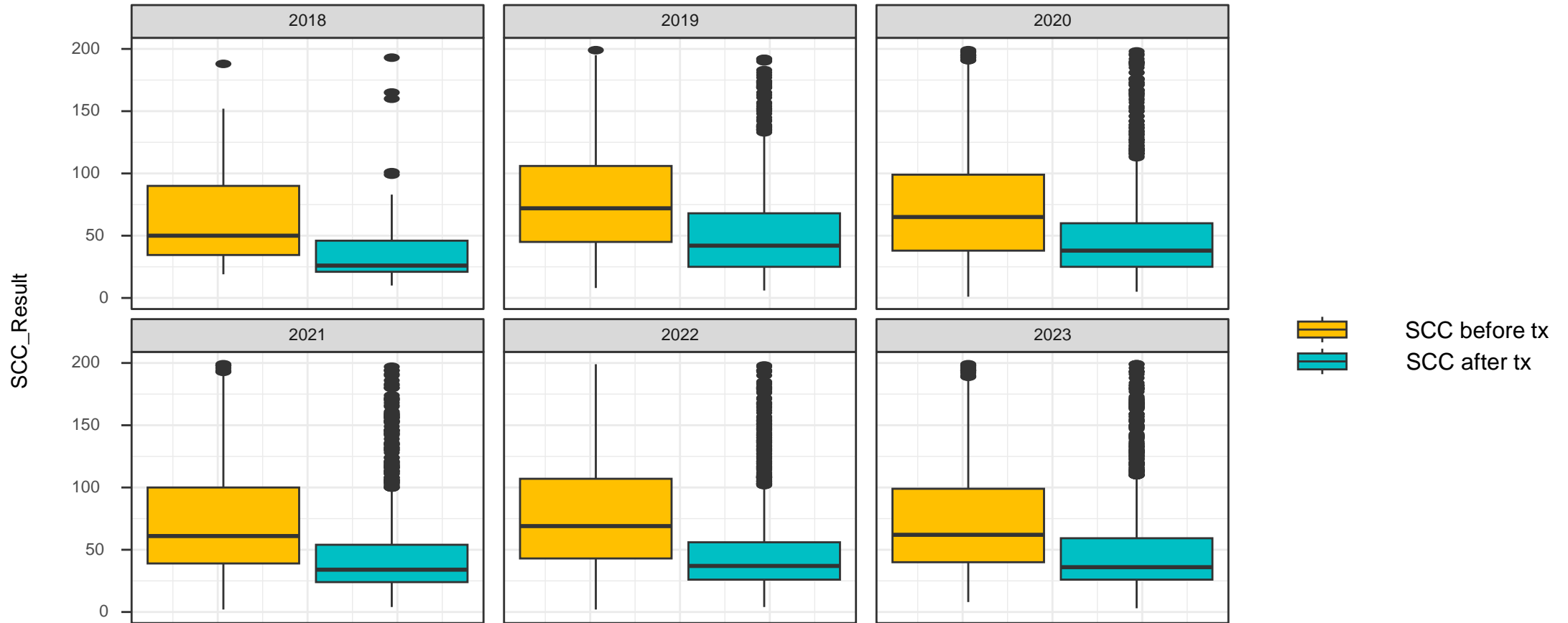


# Cows that didn't require antibiotic DCT?

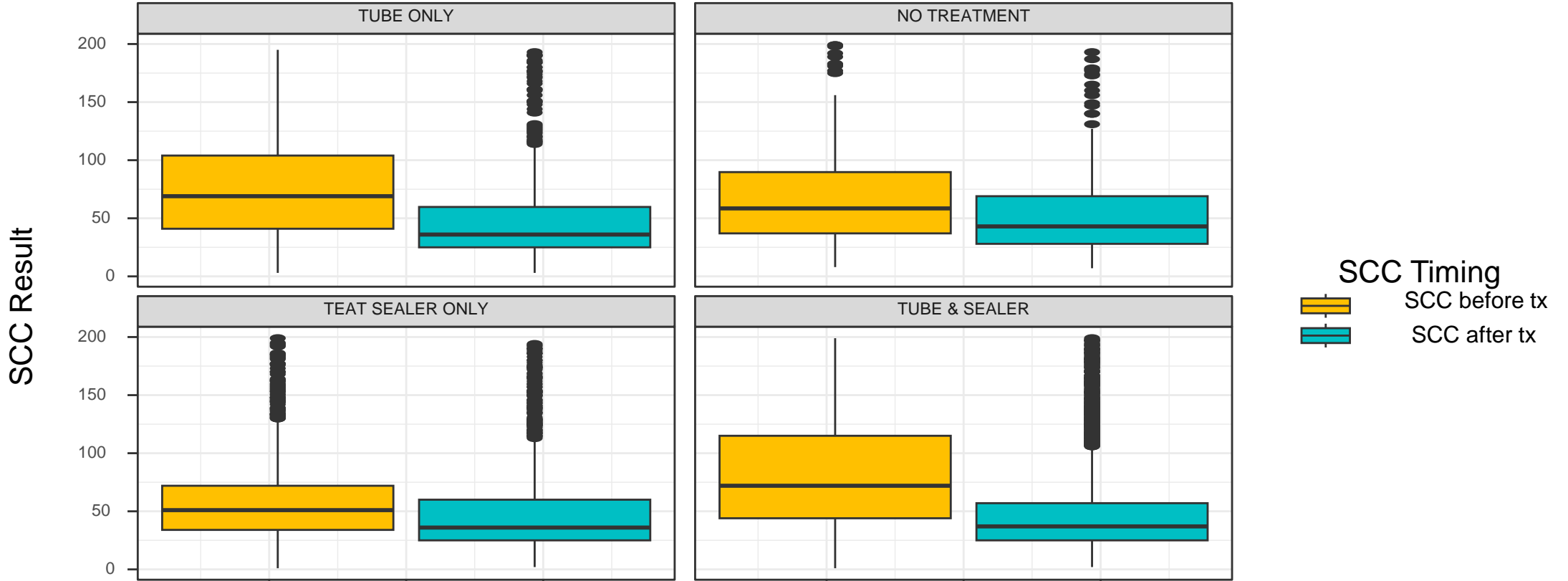
Year of consult	Number of cows milk recorded	SCC <100k	% Potentially eligible	Teat Sealer only	% Potentially eligible & Teat Sealer only
2018	2817	1398	50	206	15
2019	37091	16962	46	2548	15
2020	56982	26997	47	4079	15
2021	71510	33203	46	7317	22
2022	86871	39350	45	9149	23
2023	82337	37521	46	8839	24



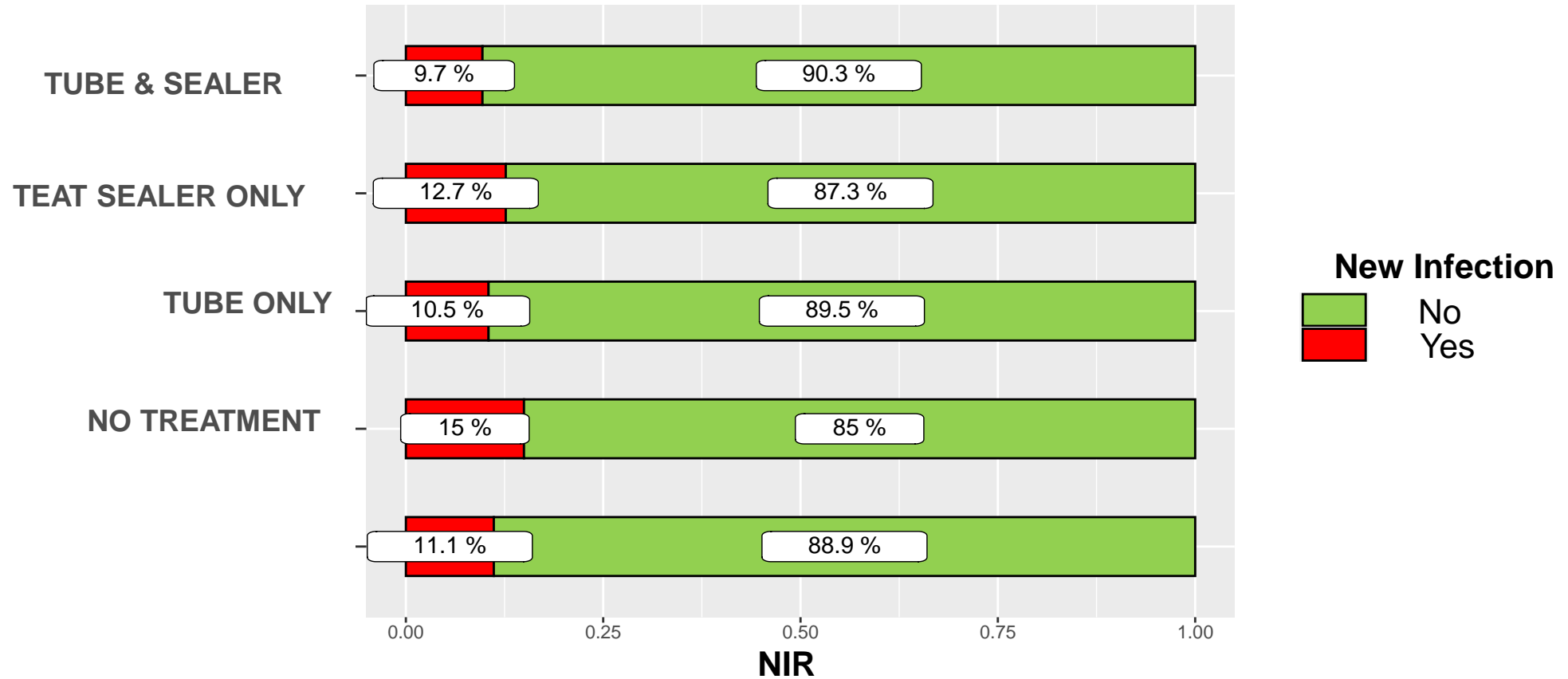
# What were the udder health outcomes over the dry period?



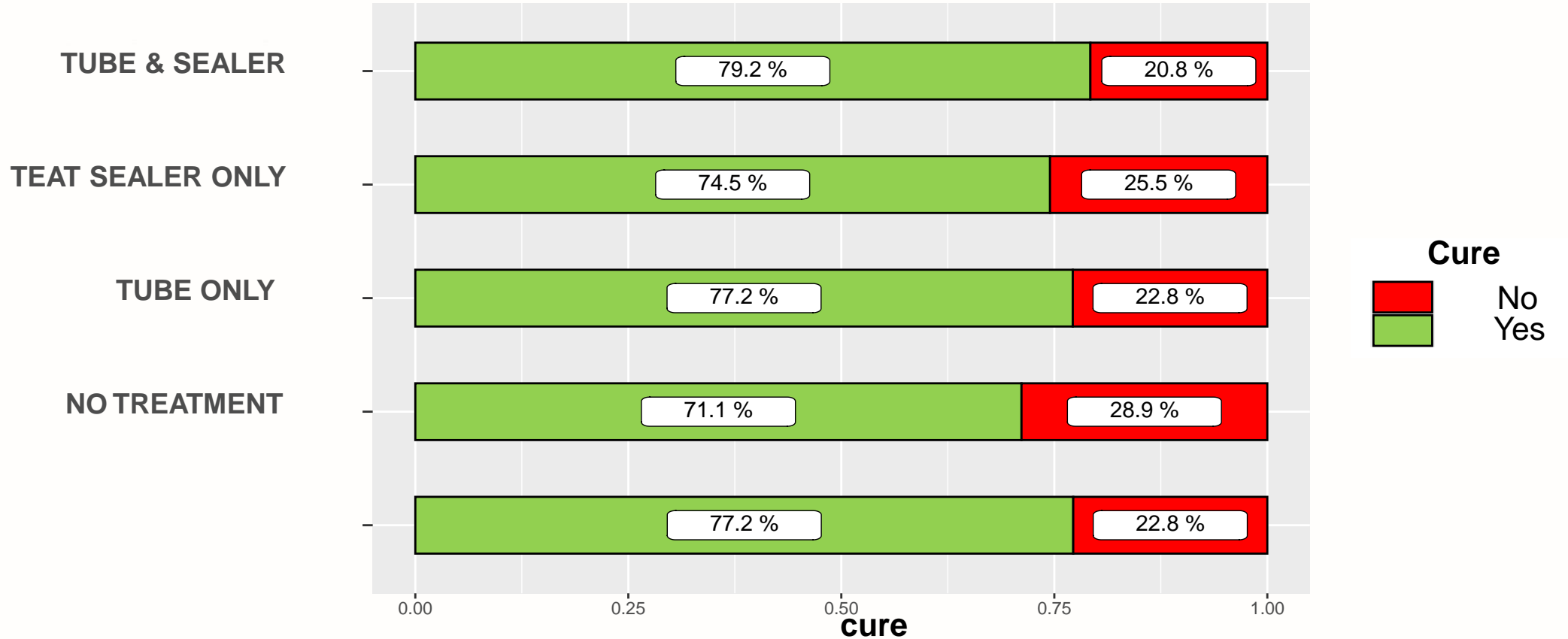
# Udder health outcomes, by treatment group:



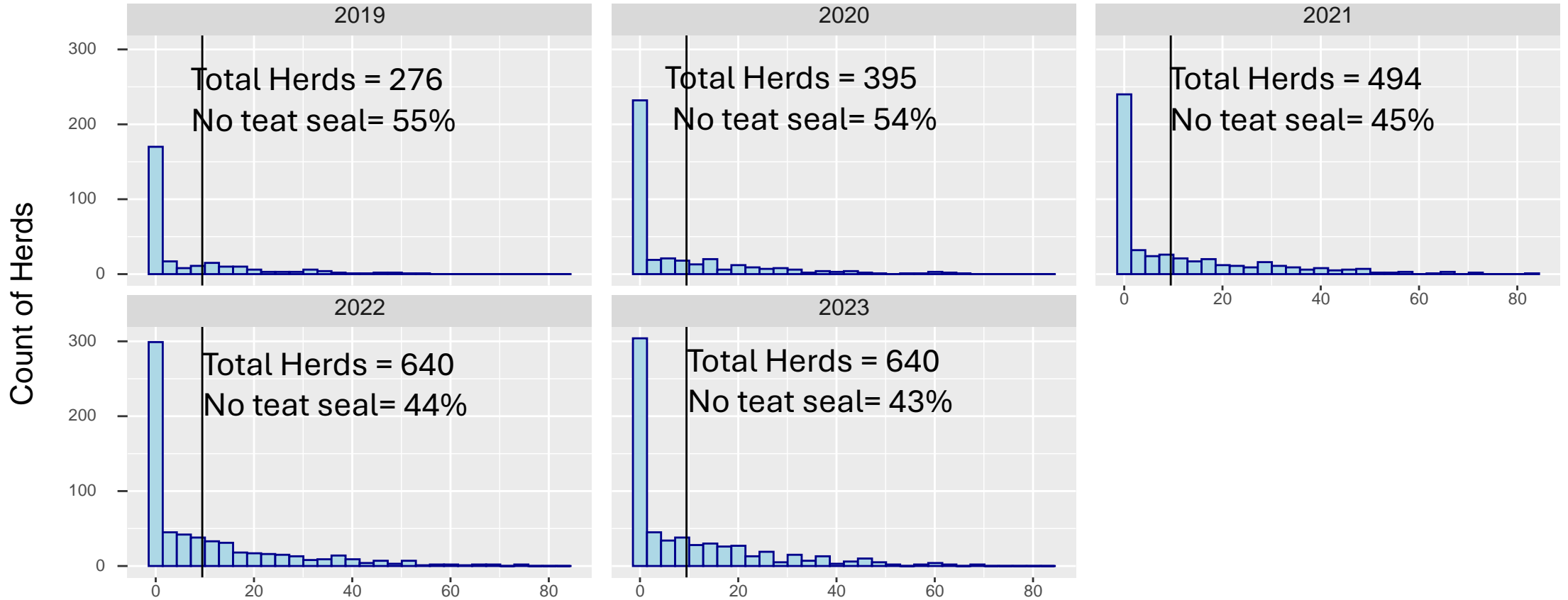
# What was the new infection rate over the dry period?



# What was the cure rate over the dry period?



# What was the uptake of SDCT in participating herds?



# Next steps of analysis to include:

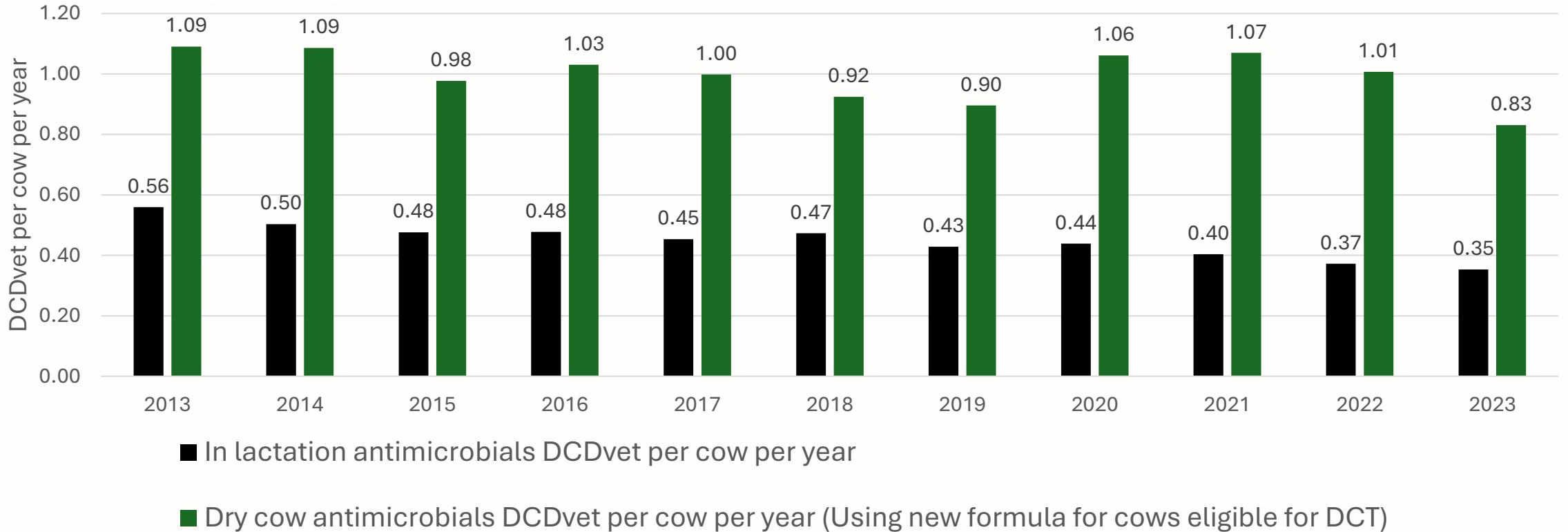
- Analysis at herd level e.g. herd level new infection rate, by treatment group?
- Does sustained engagement offered any additional/measurable benefits i.e. Consult Vs Review?
- Explore the ‘self-cure’ finding and associated factors e.g. parity, dry period duration etc.
- Explore association between management factors/practices and udder health outcomes

# Recent trends in intramammary antimicrobial usage:

- Sales data provided by Kynetec (2013-2023)
  - Product name
  - Sales per pack size
- Supplemented by additional data not captured by Kynetec, collected directly from manufacturers/distributors

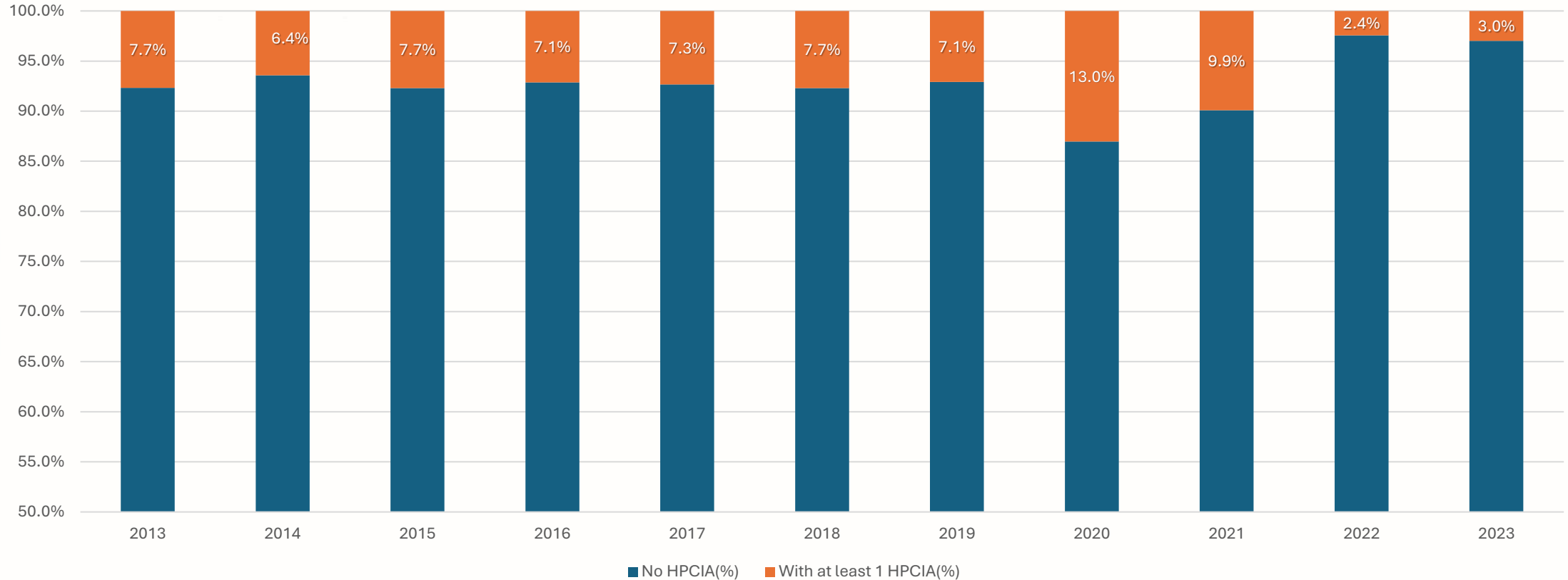
*Acknowledgement to Carla Gomes, AHI*

# Estimated treatment rates

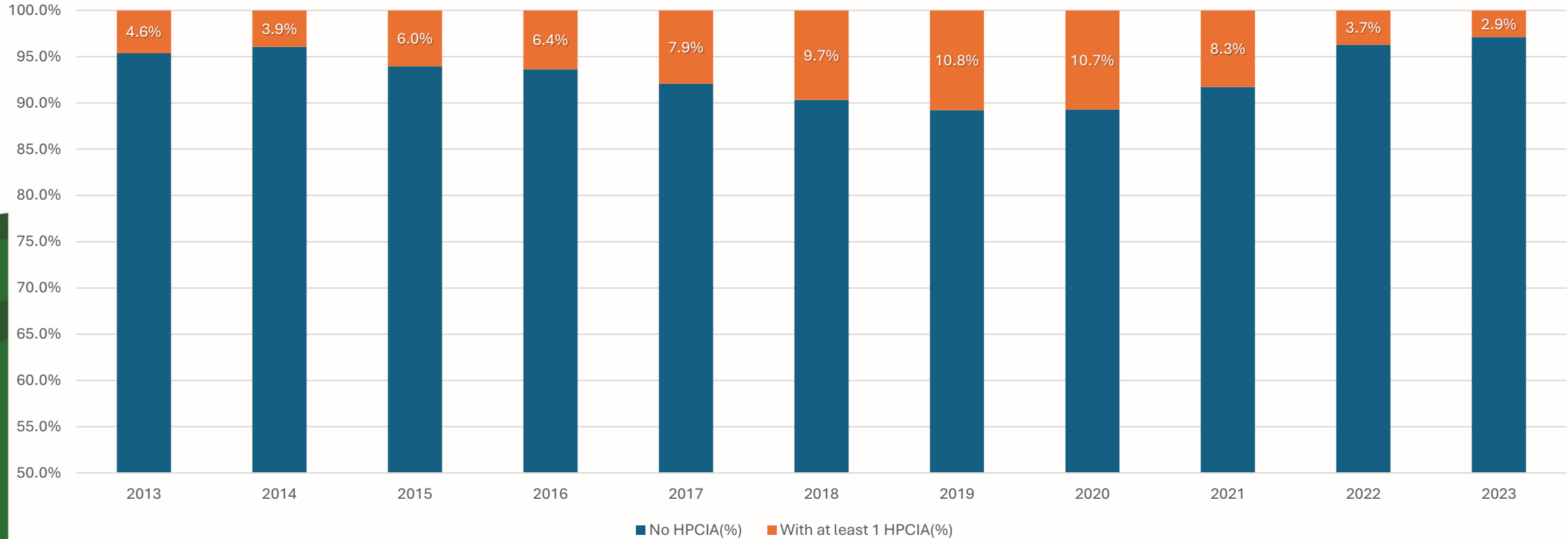




# % of LC tubes sold containing HPCIA (2013-2023)



# % of DC tubes sold containing HPCIA (2013-2023)



# Conclusions

- SCC reduced over the dry period, regardless of treatment.
- At cow level, NIR slightly higher in animals dried off with teat sealant alone, compared to antibiotic & sealer. Likely to be significant herd variation.
- Sales data indicates that the proportion of cow receiving antibiotic DCT is decreasing.