

Calving Intervals – enhanced conditionality for reducing greenhouse gas emissions

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2nd Environment, Natural Resources
and Agriculture (ENRA) Science,
Evidence and Policy Conference



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Science supporting SSBSS policy reform



John Armour – Head of Livestock Production Policy (Scottish Government)

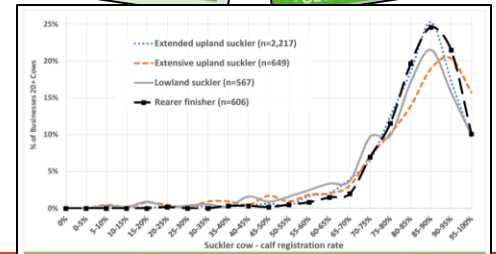


Steven Thomson – Professor of Agricultural Economics and Policy (SRUC)

- The Scottish Government have announced that from 2025 coupled support for beef calves will have a new 410-day calving interval condition on mothers (excluding heifers)
- This session provides an opportunity to hear how SRP research has supported & underpinned the evidence behind policy decisions

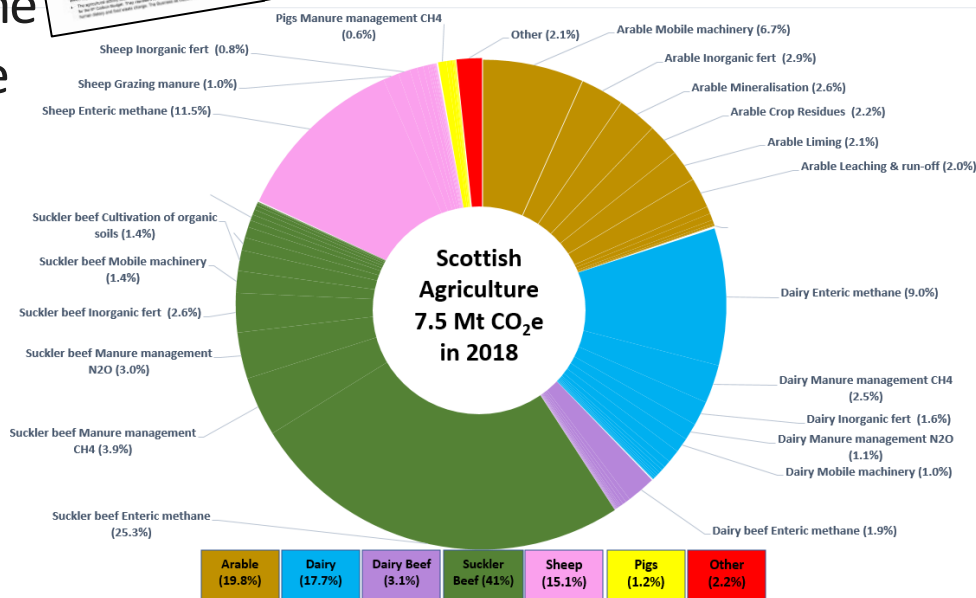
The net-zero climate challenge

- Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019
 - **legally binding net zero target by 2045**
- Climate Change Plan Update (2020)
 - ambitious **24% emissions reduction from agriculture** by 2020-32
- **Policy challenge** – how to meet CCPU target using incentive / regulation / knowledge exchange
 - **Farmer-led groups** established
 - Engage **RESAS / SRP / commissioned research**

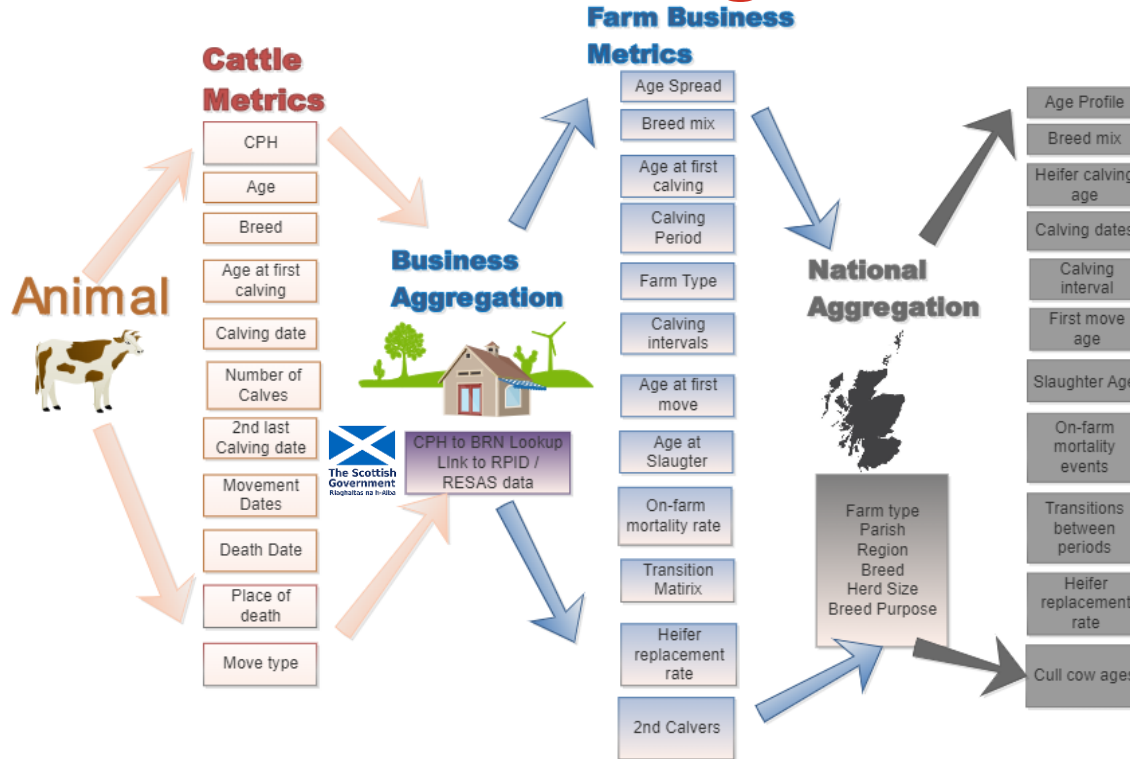


Identifying the opportunities

- Scottish Government is committed to **maintaining direct agricultural support** in new ARP support framework
 - SSBSS c.£40m p.a. till 2028 but some question scheme given GHG profile
 - A tool for enhanced conditionality?
 - What measures would influence GHG inventory?



Get data moooving!

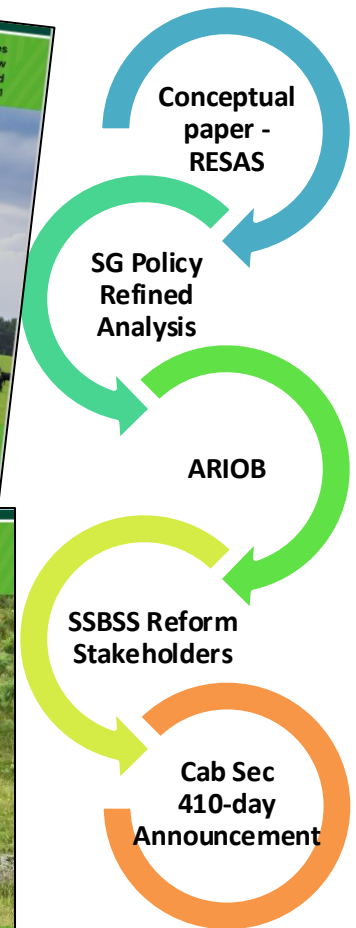
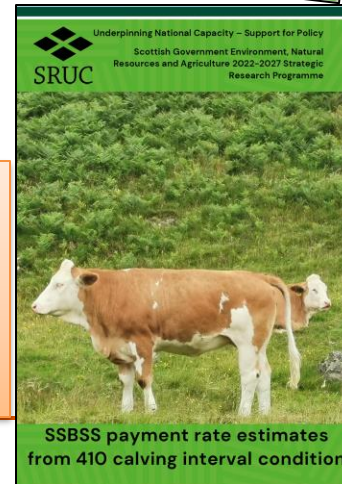


- Support has used data & outputs from last 2 SRPs
- Data sharing agreements with APHA & Scot Govt (RPID and RESAS) underpin analysis
- Draws on Coffey and Archibald databases, Dr Moxey expertise & SAC Consulting ground-truthing
- Blends commissioned research, SRP projects, SRP underpinning support for policy & SEFARI gateway knowledge broker resources

Analysis - multi-year process

- Researchers co-designed report requests with policy: 410-day conceptual paper
- Trusted to undertake analysis & present options / findings
- Create the narrative that SG no longer willing to pay for excess emissions

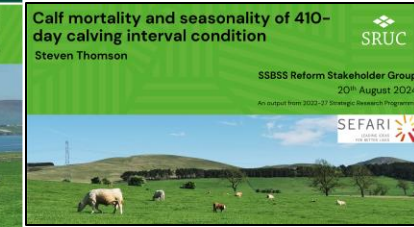
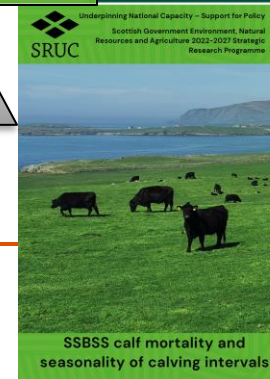
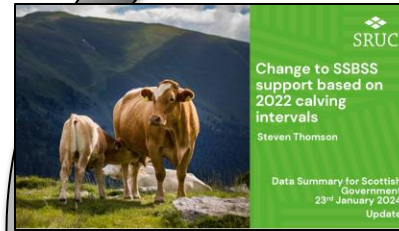
- c.60k dams have CI > 410 days
- Calves >410 days have 8.6m excess cow days
- Calves >410 days have c.23k excess FTE cow years
- C.66.4k tonnes CO₂e emissions not supporting through SSBSS



Support stakeholder engagement

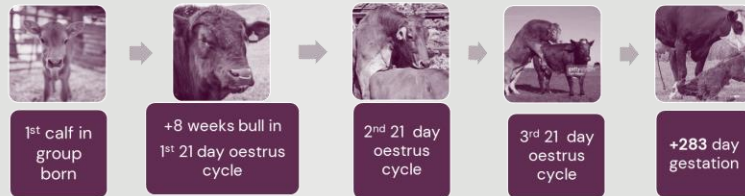
- SSBSS Reform **Stakeholder Group**
 - Bespoke analysis based on group requests
- Estimated Business level impacts proactively provided
- Supported advice to Scottish Ministers
- Further report on payment rate / mortality in response to industry concerns

Potential SSBSS Reform Options



Scotland: New calving interval of 410 days added to SSBSS

THANK YOU



Cycle Cow conceives	Calf Born	Bull in	Cow conceives	Calf born (CI)
1 st	Day 0	Day 56	Day 56-77	Day 339-360
2 nd	Day 0	Day 56	Day 77-98	Day 360-381
3 rd	Day 0	Day 56	Day 98-119	Day 381-402
4 th	Day 0	Day 56	Day 119-140	Day 402-423
5 th	Day 0	Day 56	Day 140-161	Day 423-444
6 th	Day 0	Day 56	Day 161-182	Day 444-465



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