

# We Live in the Genetics Era

**James Rohl**

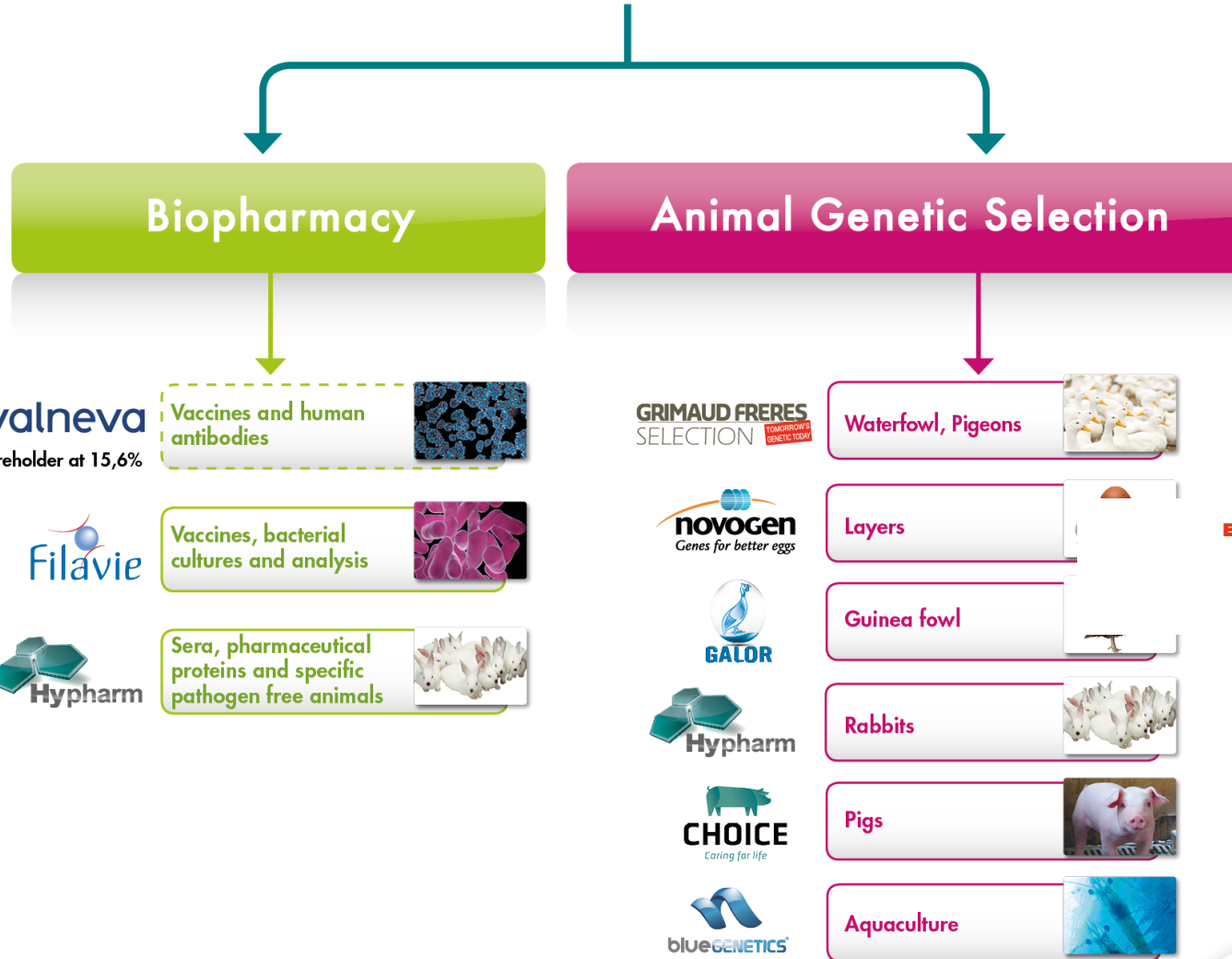
**Field Genetics Manager, Choice Genetics**



GRIMAUD Families  
- Majority -



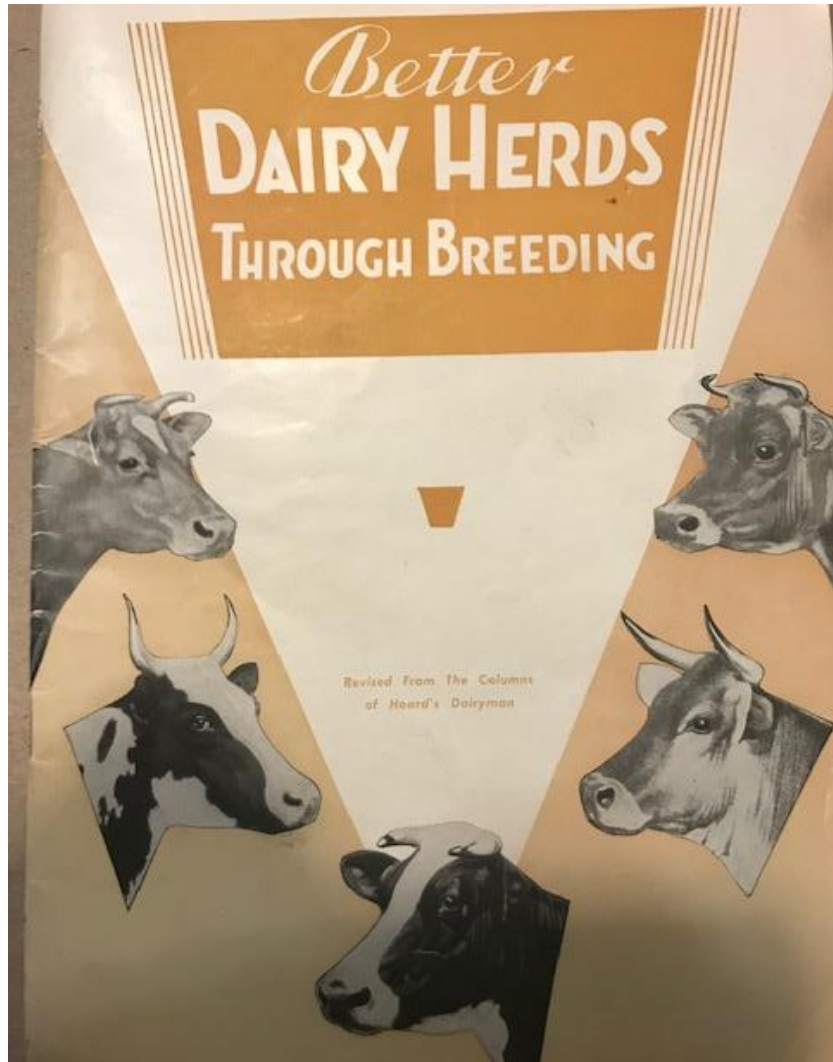
Financial  
Partners



# Dairy Industry

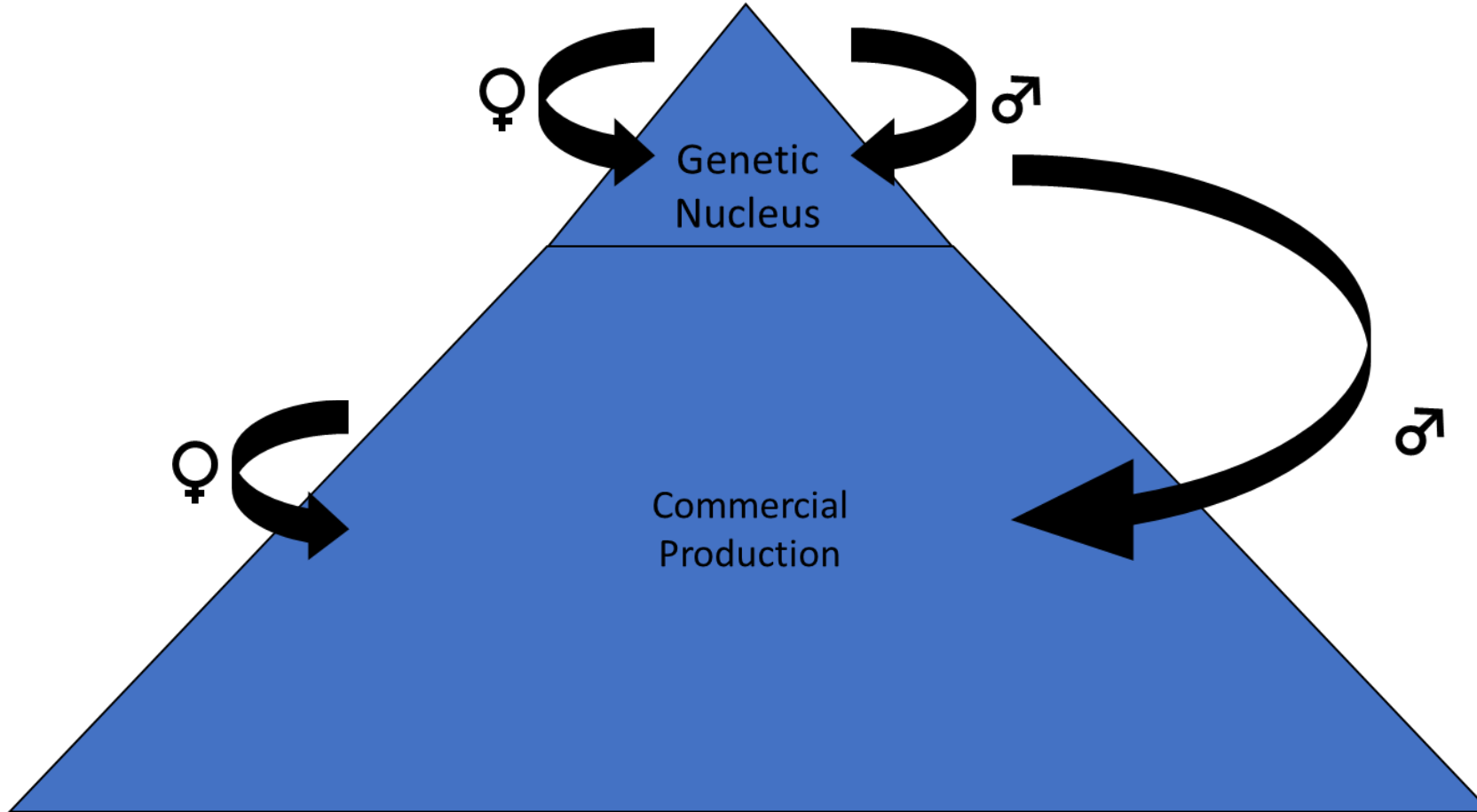
- Use of Field Data
  - ✓ Large amount of data
  - ✓ Lack of bias
  - ✓ Commercial conditions
- Identification and Management of Genetic Defects
- Industry Wide Use of Selection Index
  - ✓ Training of Commercial customers
  - ✓ Inclusion of Type as well as Production traits
  - ✓ Lowly heritable traits
- Genomics

# Dairy Industry

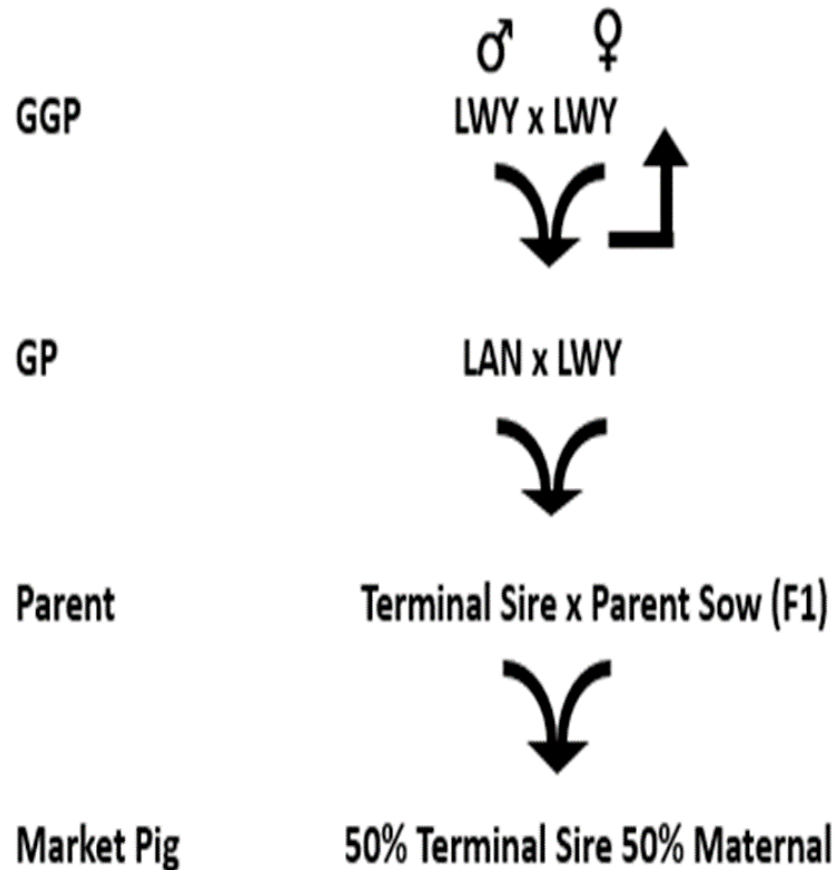


- 1946
  - ✓ Economic value of good cattle
  - ✓ Mendelian Genetics
  - ✓ What is a good pedigree
  - ✓ Importance of tested bulls
  - ✓ AI

# Genetic Pyramid



# Typical Swine Breeding Pyramid



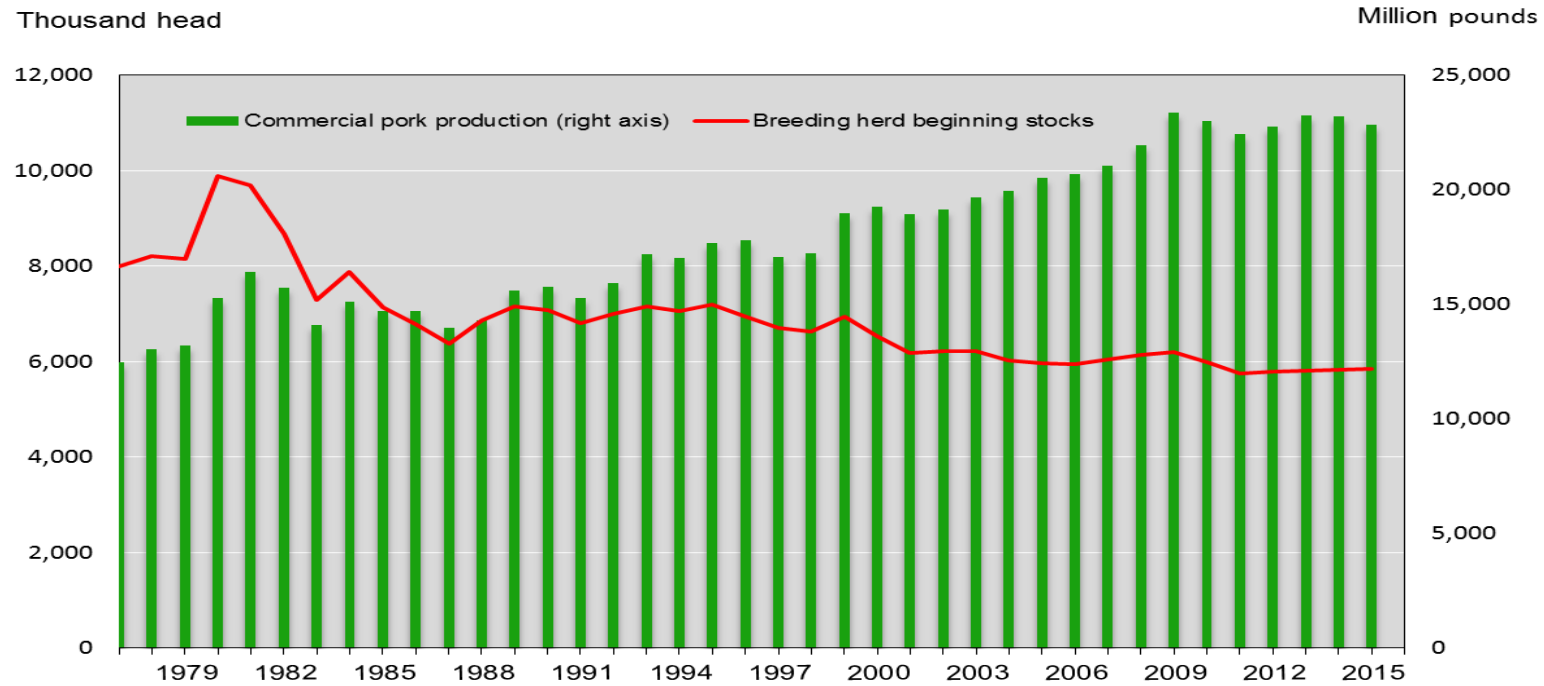
- **Driven by biosecurity**
- Specialized Maternal and Terminal lines
- Heterosis in Parent female
- Farm stocked with females from Breeding Stock multiplier
- Replacement females generated internally
- Multiplication may be embedded in commercial herd
- Semen from sires produced in genetic nucleus herd
  - Single sire matings at GGP and GP
  - Pooled semen at Parent Level

# US Swine Breeding Business

- Each Breeding Stock company has its own closed lines, even if the breeds are the same
  - ✓ No outside introduction
- Each line has a specific index designed to maximize the desired traits
- Little interaction with the “purebred” pig world
  - ✓ Breed type
  - ✓ Showing
- Restrictions in place

# US Sow Numbers and Pork Production

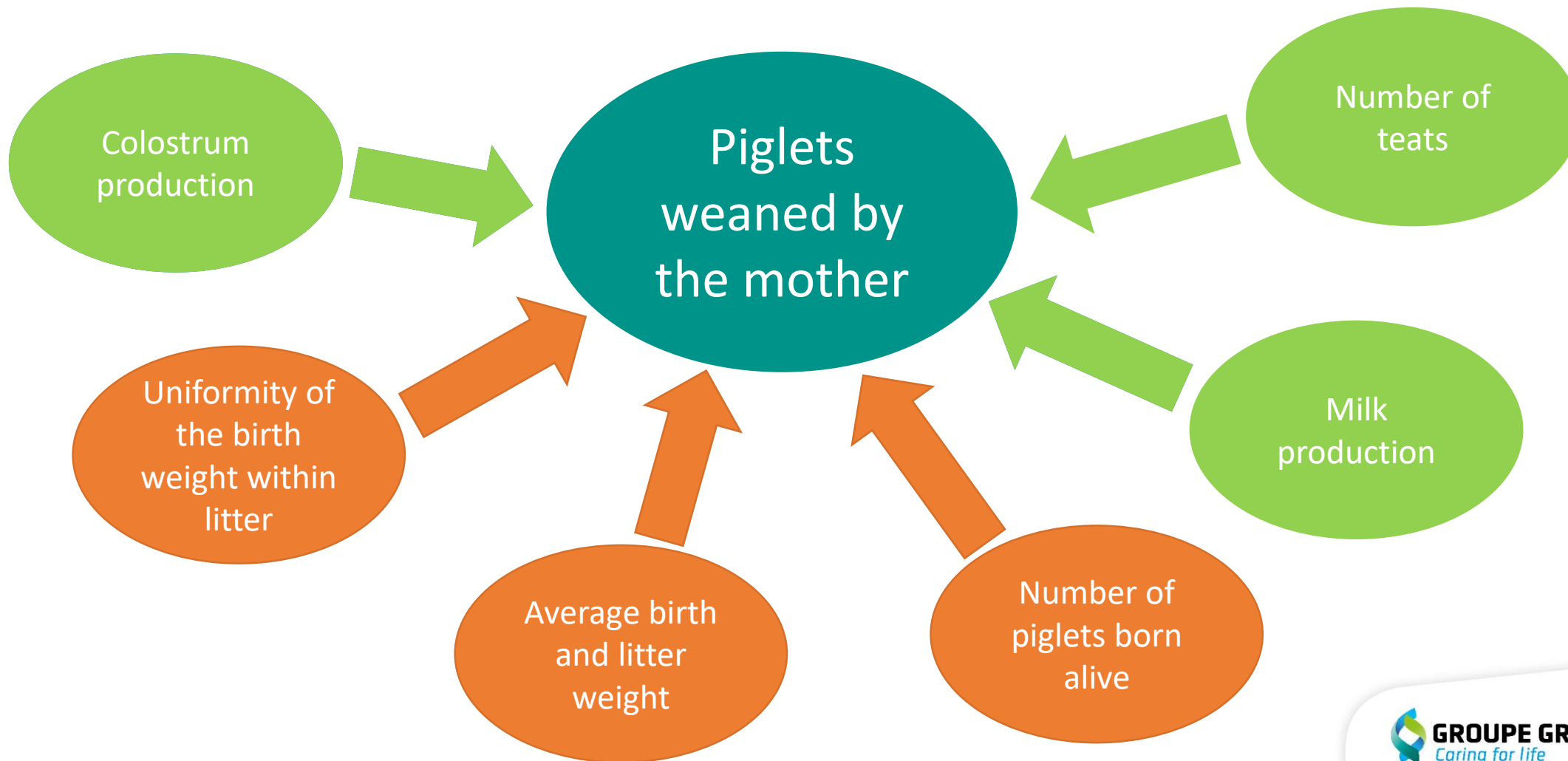
U.S. commercial pork production versus breeding herd beginning stocks, 1977-2015



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service and World Agricultural Outlook Board, "World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates."



# Our approach: piglets to be weaned by biological mother



# Genomics

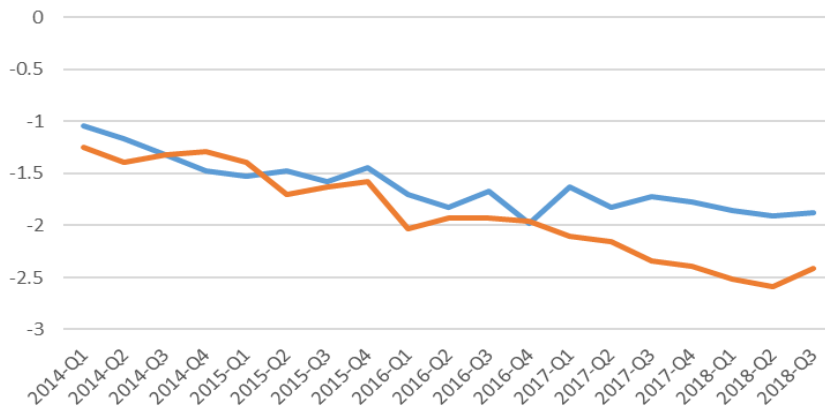
- Early Wins
  - ✓ Elimination of deleterious alleles – HAL, RN
- Production Traits
  - ✓ Difficult to quantify
  - ✓ Everyone is doing something
  - ✓ Within company research
  - ✓ Benefit of multispecies approach
- Karyotyping for Chromosomal Abnormalities

# Conformation

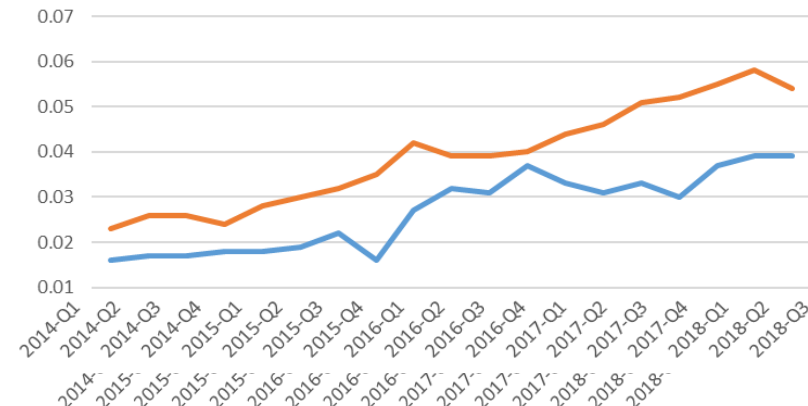
- Conformation → CT scan
- In-house developments of algorithms to evaluate content in fat, muscle and bone
- Evaluation of new traits derived from the CT-images



BF thickness



% meat



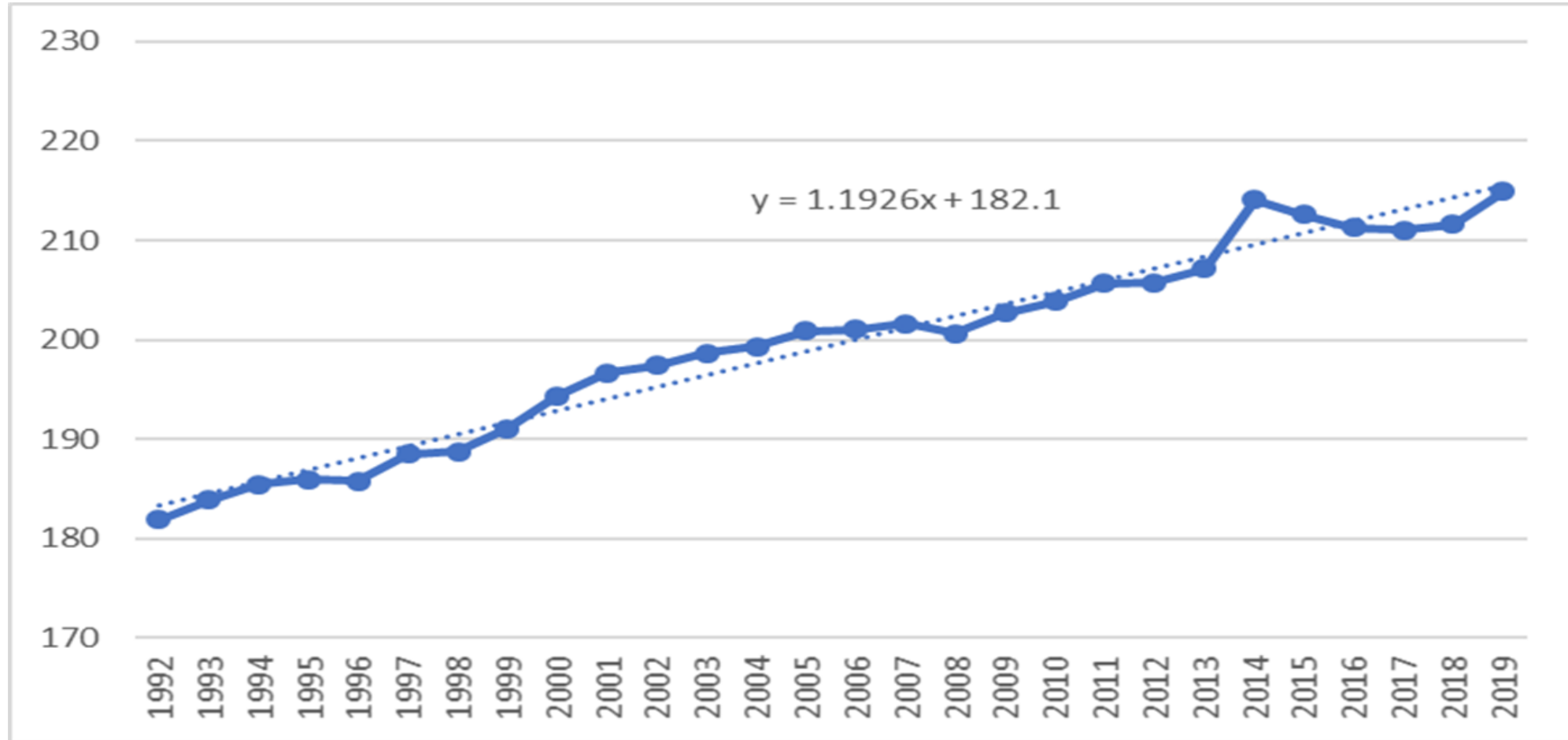
# Feed Conversion Ratio



- Data collected in numerous environments
- All lines
- Males and Females



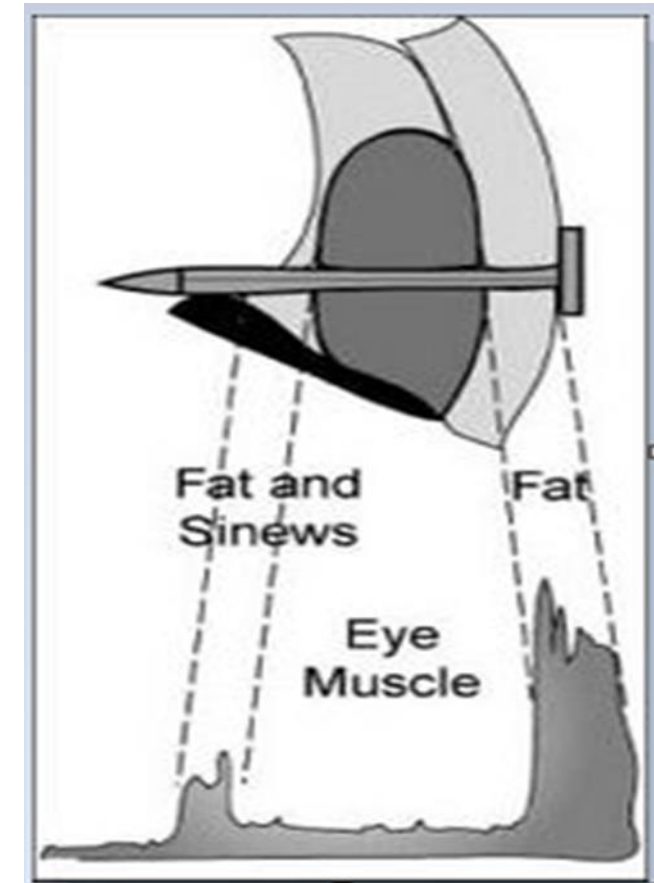
# Average US HCW, 1994 – 2019, lbs



• Source: USDA Ag Marketing Service

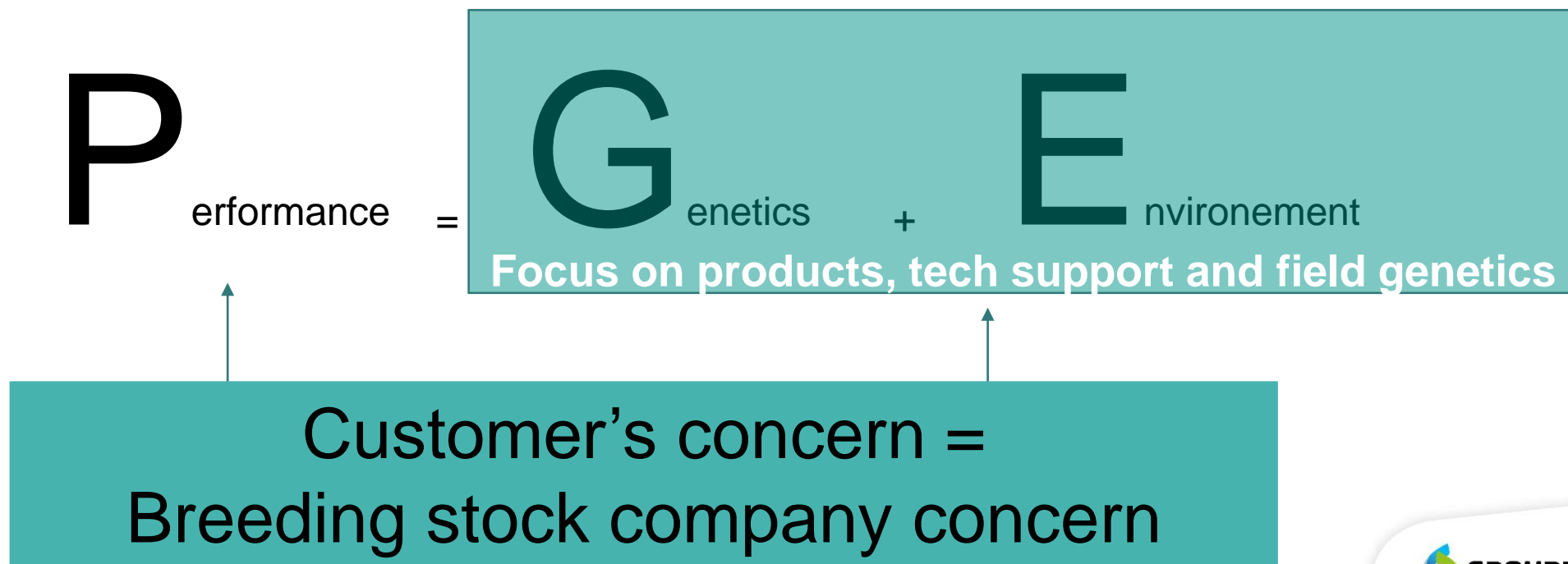
# Increase in carcass weight over time

- Decrease in backfat
  - ✓ RTU
  - ✓ BLUP
- Evaluation of carcass at line speed
  - ✓ Payment grid based on estimated lean %
- Change in grid over time to reflect value of fixed cost
- Demand for breeding stock that will produce market pigs that are lean and efficient to heavier weights
  - ✓ Test facilities



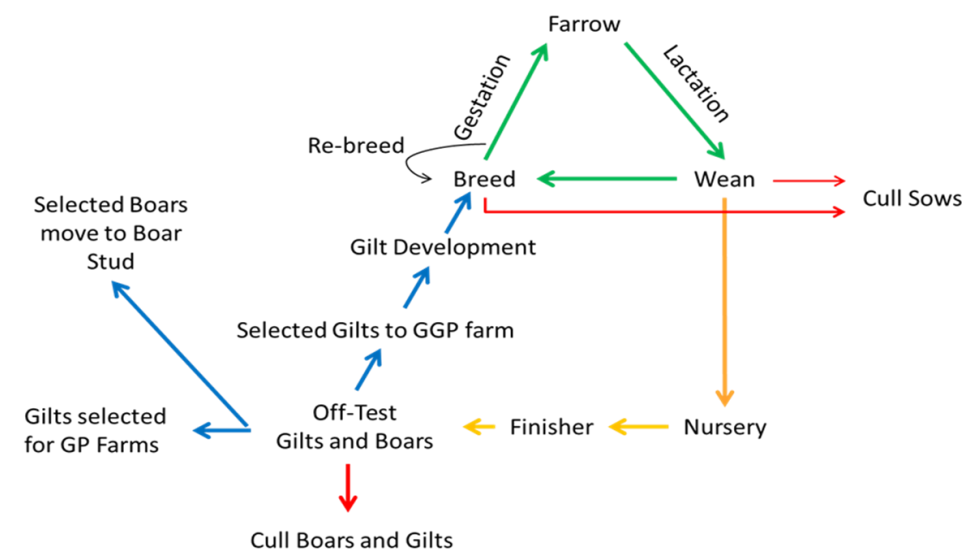
# Field Genetics/Genetic Services

## Solution provider



# Breeding Programs

- Oversight or full management of the breeding program.
  - Regular Genetic Audits
- Data integration with other global systems.
- Digital collection program with cloud based compilation and focused regional field genetics team.





# The 800 Pound Gorilla

- **Biosecurity**

- ✓ ASF

- ✓ PRRS, PEDV, etc

- ✓ Increase in sow herd size – 250 to 5000

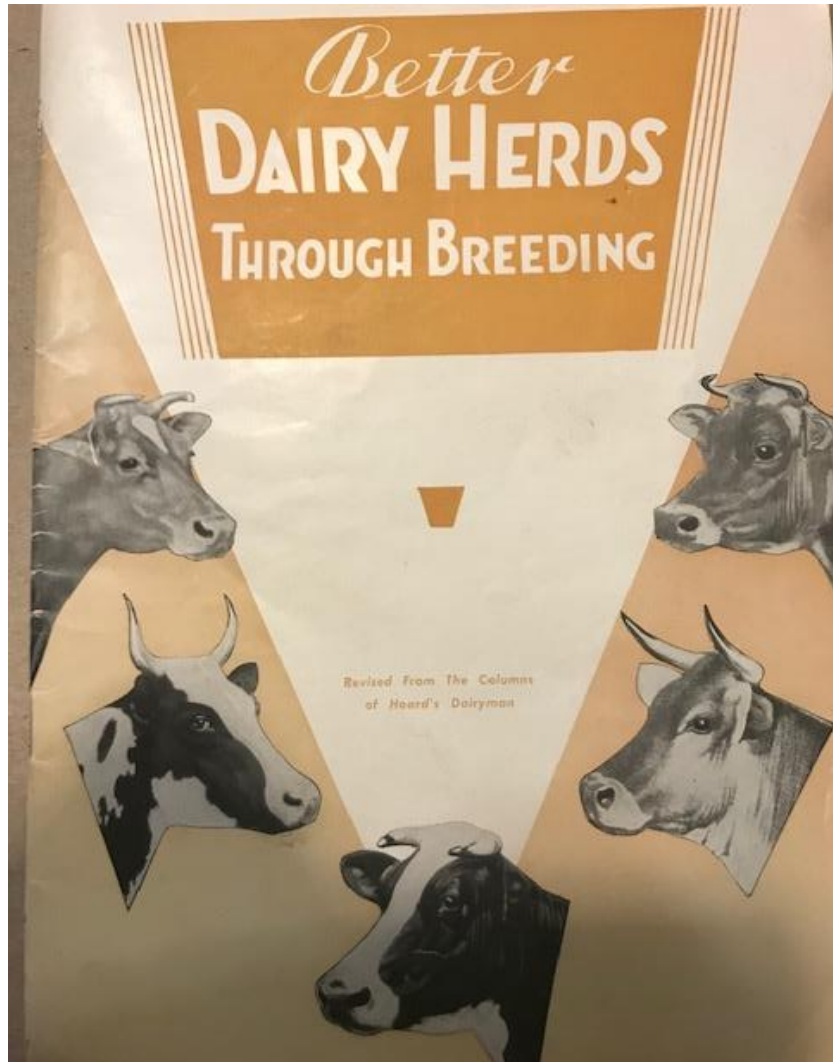
- Single sourcing

- ✓ What does it look like?

- Fences, showers, down time

- ✓ Genetics can't be good enough to overcome poor biosecurity!

# Dairy Industry



- Biosecurity
- Genetic merit and production data flow
  - ✓ Purebred system
- Adaptable breeders and Strong Breed Association
  - ✓ Diversity of goals
  - ✓ Openness to new technologies
- Genetic restrictions?



# CHOICE

*Caring for life*

## Thank You !