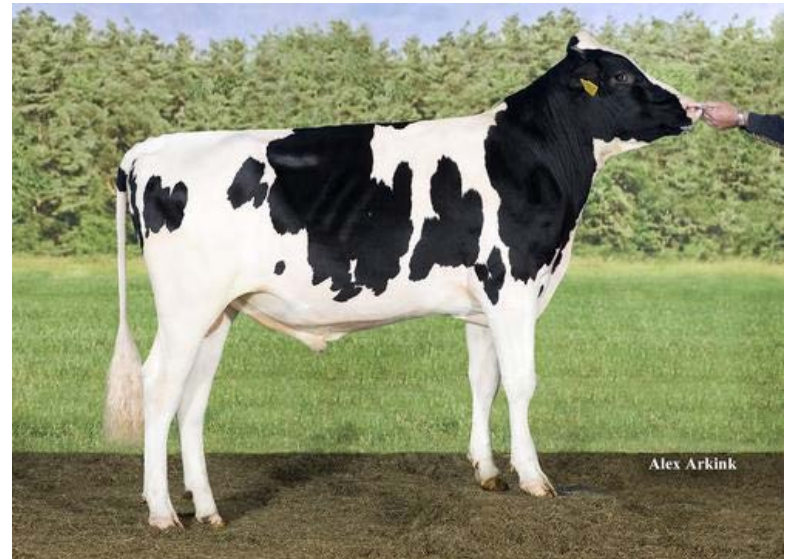




# Use of genomic versus daughter proven bulls

# Introduction

- Optimal % young bulls?
- What mating strategy?
- How managing risks?



Delta Cupido

# Introduction

- Geneticists' point of view

$$\Delta G_{\text{year}} = \frac{i r_{AI} \sigma_A}{L}$$

$i$  = Selection intensity

$r_{AI}$  = Accuracy

$\sigma_A$  = Genetic standard deviation

$L$  = Generation interval

- Farmers' point of view



- Breeding company's point of view



# Geneticists' point of view

Maximum • G per year

$$\Delta G_{\text{year}} = \frac{i r_{AI} \sigma_A}{L}$$

$i$  = Selection intensity

$r_{AI}$  = Accuracy

$\sigma_A$  = Genetic standard deviation

$L$  = Generation interval

## Use bulls with highest index

- index must match your breeding goal
- breeding company : restrict • F
- farmer : avoid high F matings

## Don't look at reliability

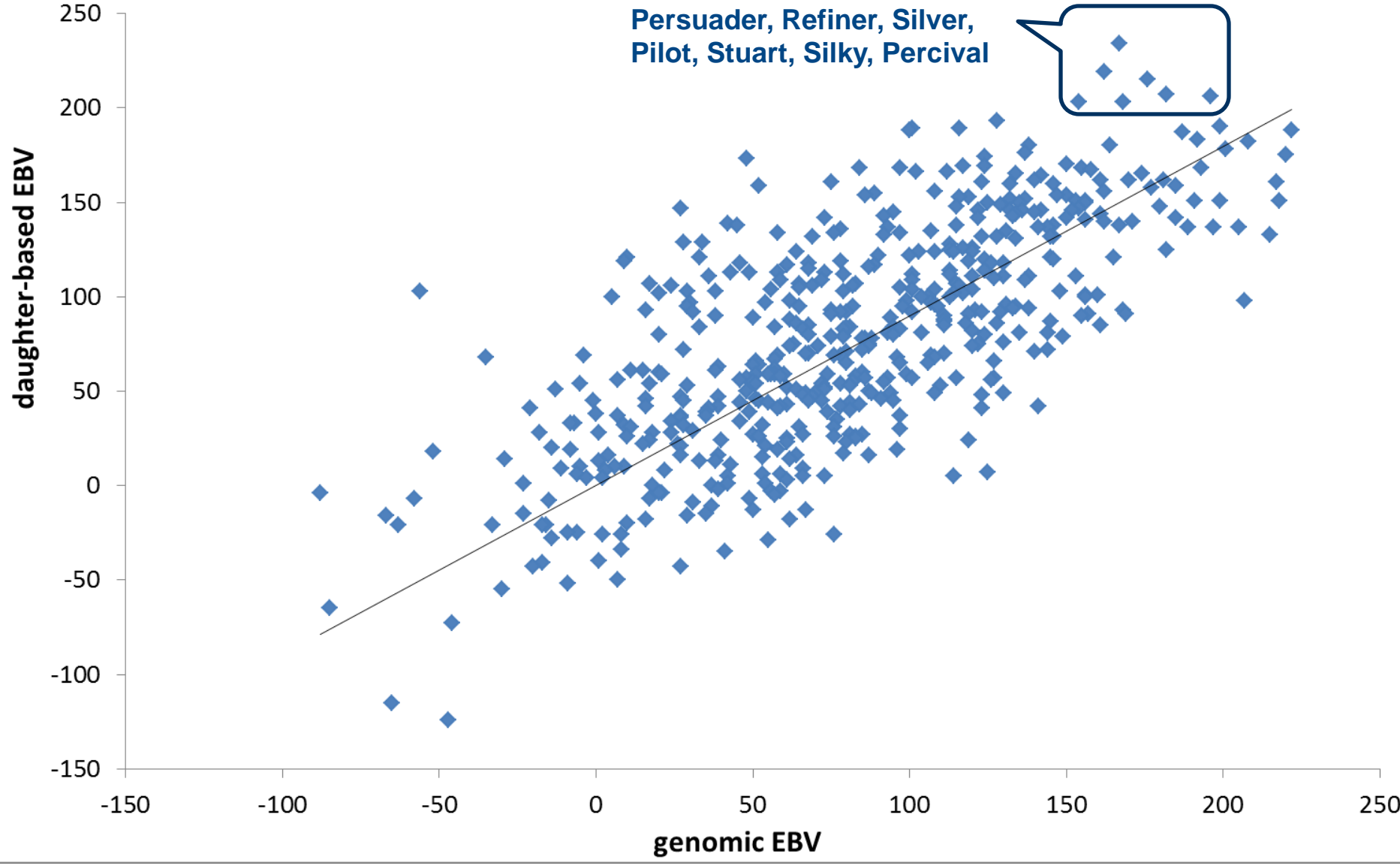
- BLUP methods take account of amount of info



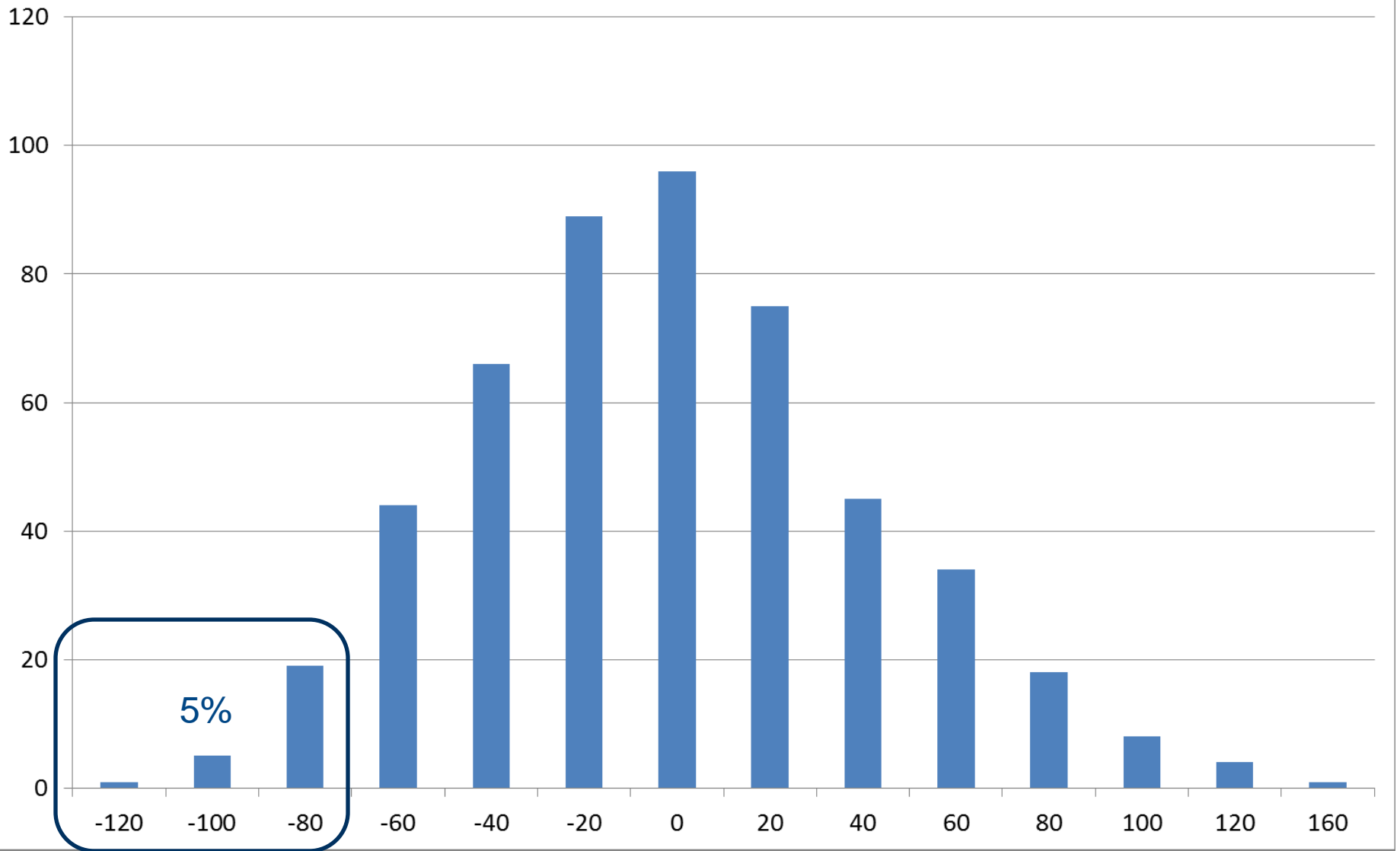
# Geneticists' point of view

Are genomic EBVs overestimated?

What % proven bulls in top 100 can you expect?



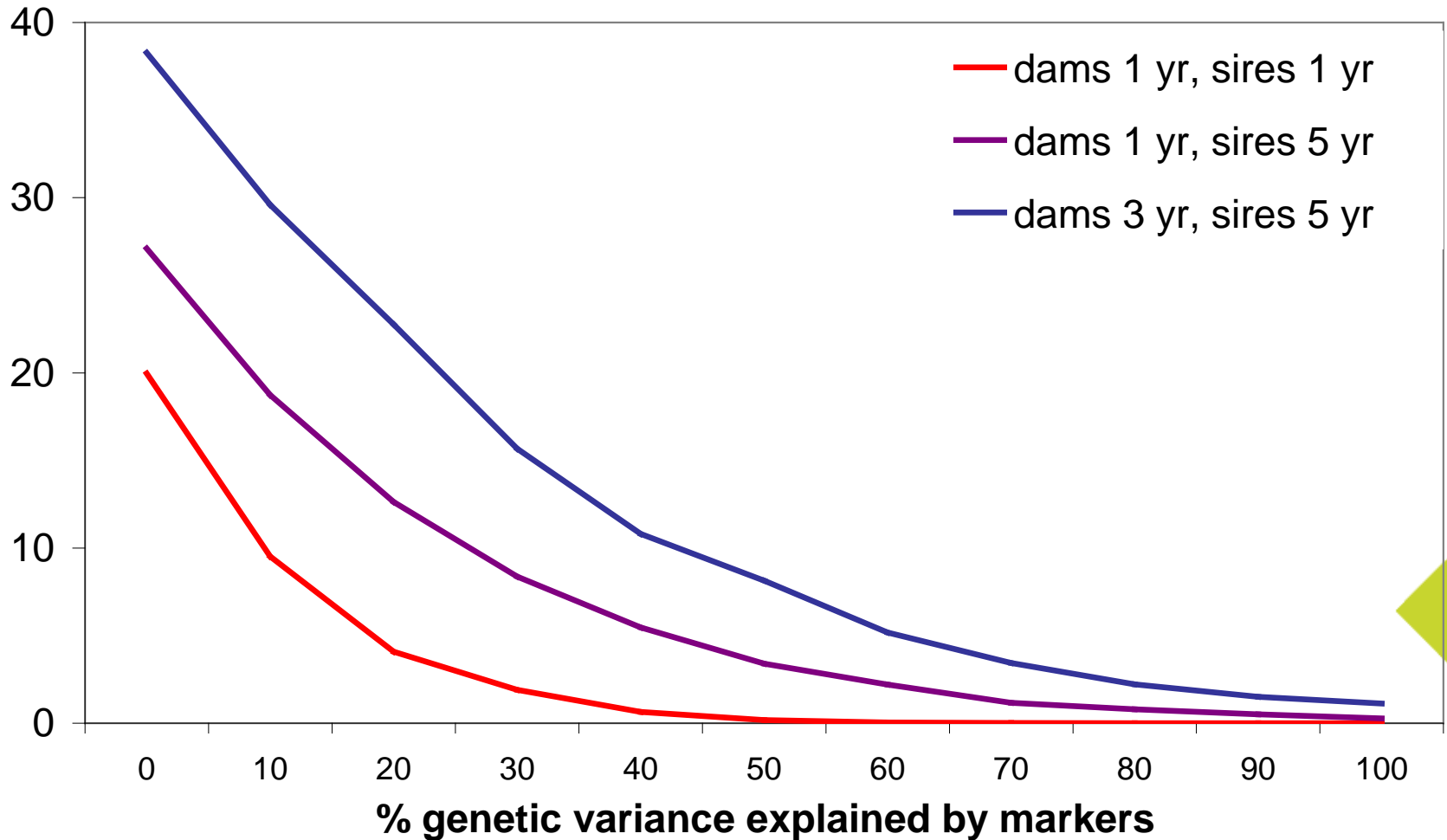
# Verandering in NVI





# % proven bulls in top 100

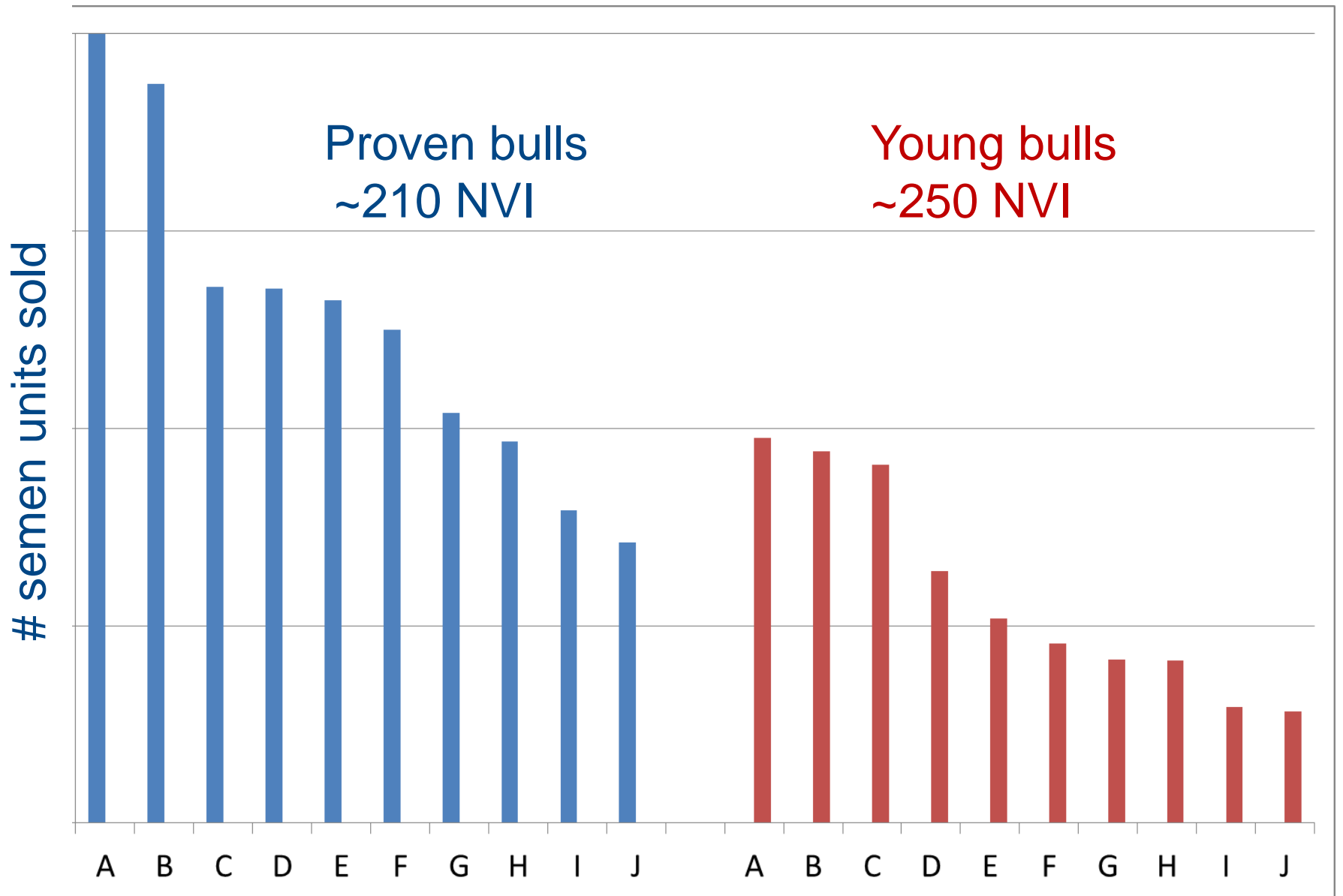
Simulation study by  
De Roos et al. 2011  
J Dairy Sci 94:1559



If young bulls are so great,  
farmers probably use  
>80% young bulls?

No, it is about 40%

Why?



# Our customers



# Farmers' point of view

Many farmers are primarily focused on continuity and progress for their herd, their farm and their way of life



Performance of the herd is very important

Breeding is important, but daily management even more

Knowledge and opinions about breeding are variable

# Criteria for purchasing semen

Genetic merit (NVI, underlying traits)



Semen fertility



Price



Performance of daughters on own herd





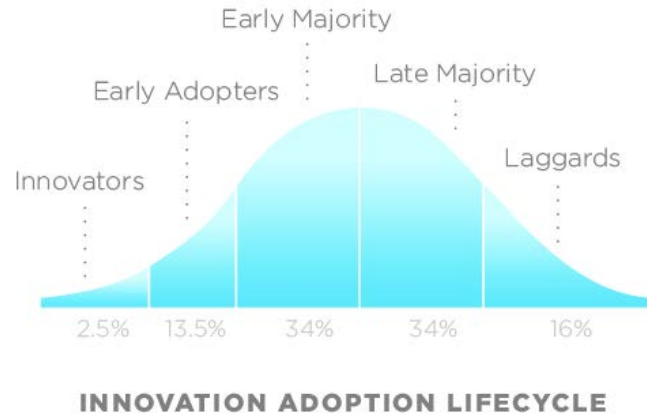
# Farmers' point of view

Reasons why not to use young bulls (by some farmers):

- the genomic EBVs are overestimated
- it gives more variation, so more poor cows too
- there is no real daughter information, so I don't trust it
- it is just a number game, that's not breeding
- don't know how they breed so you can't do good mating
- I have good daughters of bulls X so I keep using him
- I will wait until the technology is proven



# Technology adoption lifecycle



## Innovators

–larger farms, more educated, and more risk-oriented

## Early adopters

– younger, more educated, community leaders

## Early majority

– more conservative but open to new ideas, active in community, influence to neighbors

## Late majority

– older, less educated, fairly conservative and less socially active

## Laggards

– very conservative, had small farms and capital, oldest and least educated

purchase patterns  
of hybrid seed corn  
by farmers

# Breeding company's point of view

We are market driven,  
so we follow customers



Neutral in marketing, no push towards young bulls

No advertisements for individual young bulls

Variable knowledge and opinions among staff

# Our advise

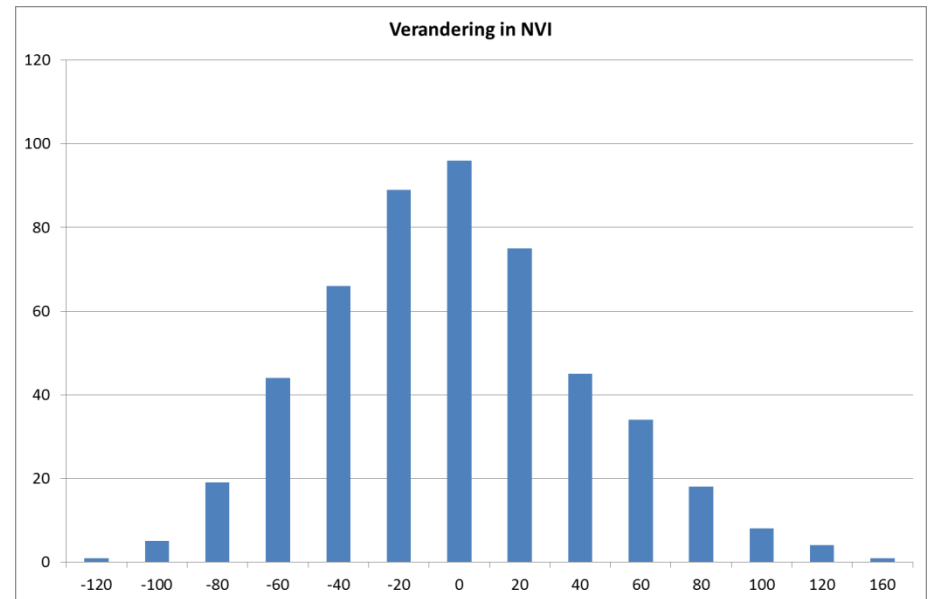
Our young bulls are our best bulls

Lower reliability, so can go up or down

Only few big drops

After big drop still comparable to proven bull

Use multiple bulls



# Which bull is best?

Bull	# dau	rel	NVI	milk	%p	udd	f&l	fert
Direct	0	61	247	706	+.27	108	111	99
Fidelity	13573	97	221	839	+.21	108	116	92
Kian	108353	99	140	37	+.27	102	110	95



3 Kian daughters

# Implications for breeding program

Major changes have been implemented:

use of 1-year-old sires & dams, intense selection among candidates,  
heavy reproductive programs, cow reference populations

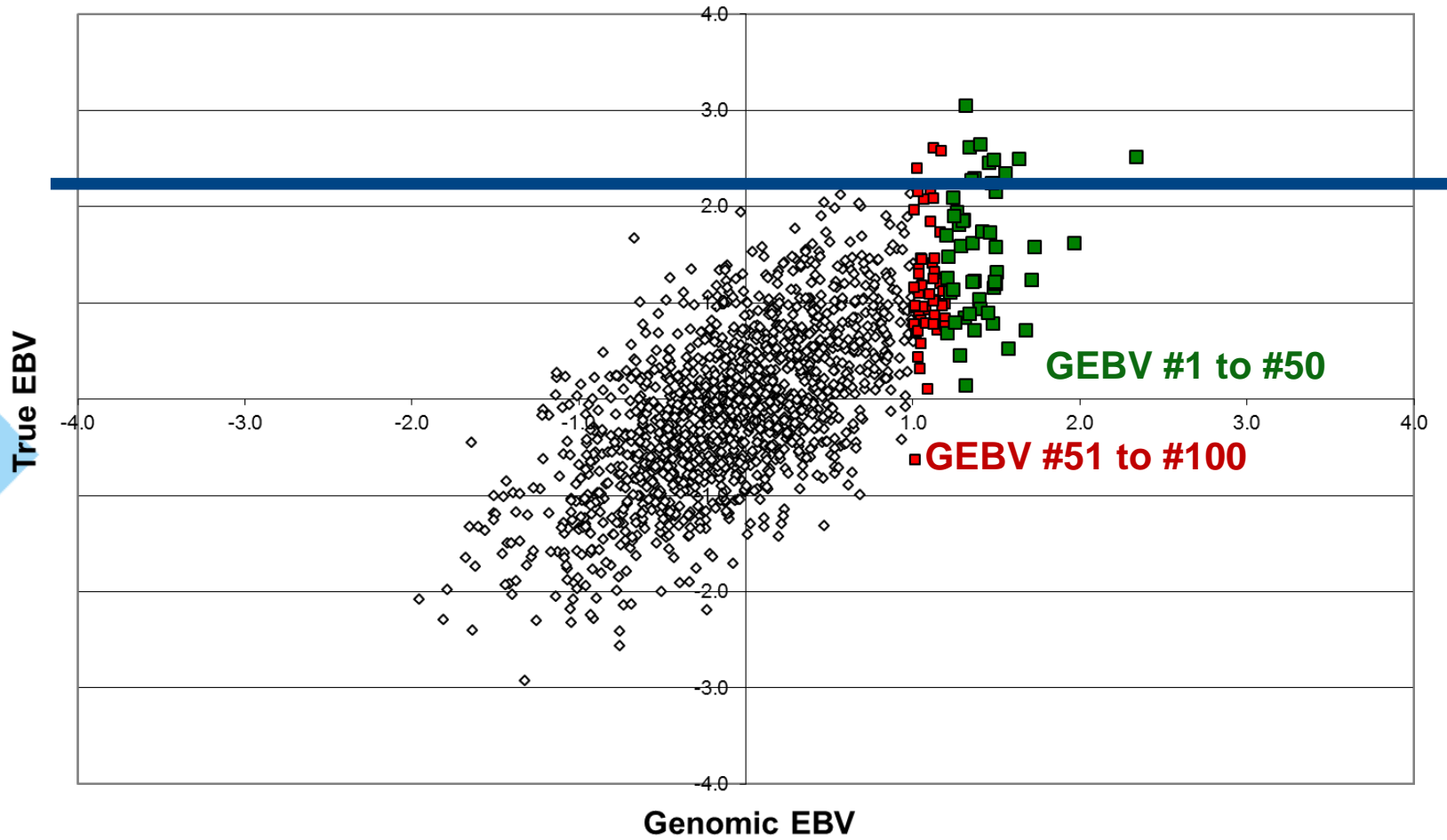
% use of young bulls important for # bulls per year

More test bulls in 2013 = better proven bull portfolio in 2017

Additional costs are 4 years x 365 d x € 9 = € 13k / bull

' How many bulls is cost effective?

In future, all bulls will be culled after they produced enough semen to fulfill their demand as young bull



# Conclusions

Young bulls dominate top list as they are better

Use of young bulls is growing and will continue to grow

Use multiple bulls to avoid bad luck

Breeding programs have changed enormously and will make keep changing