

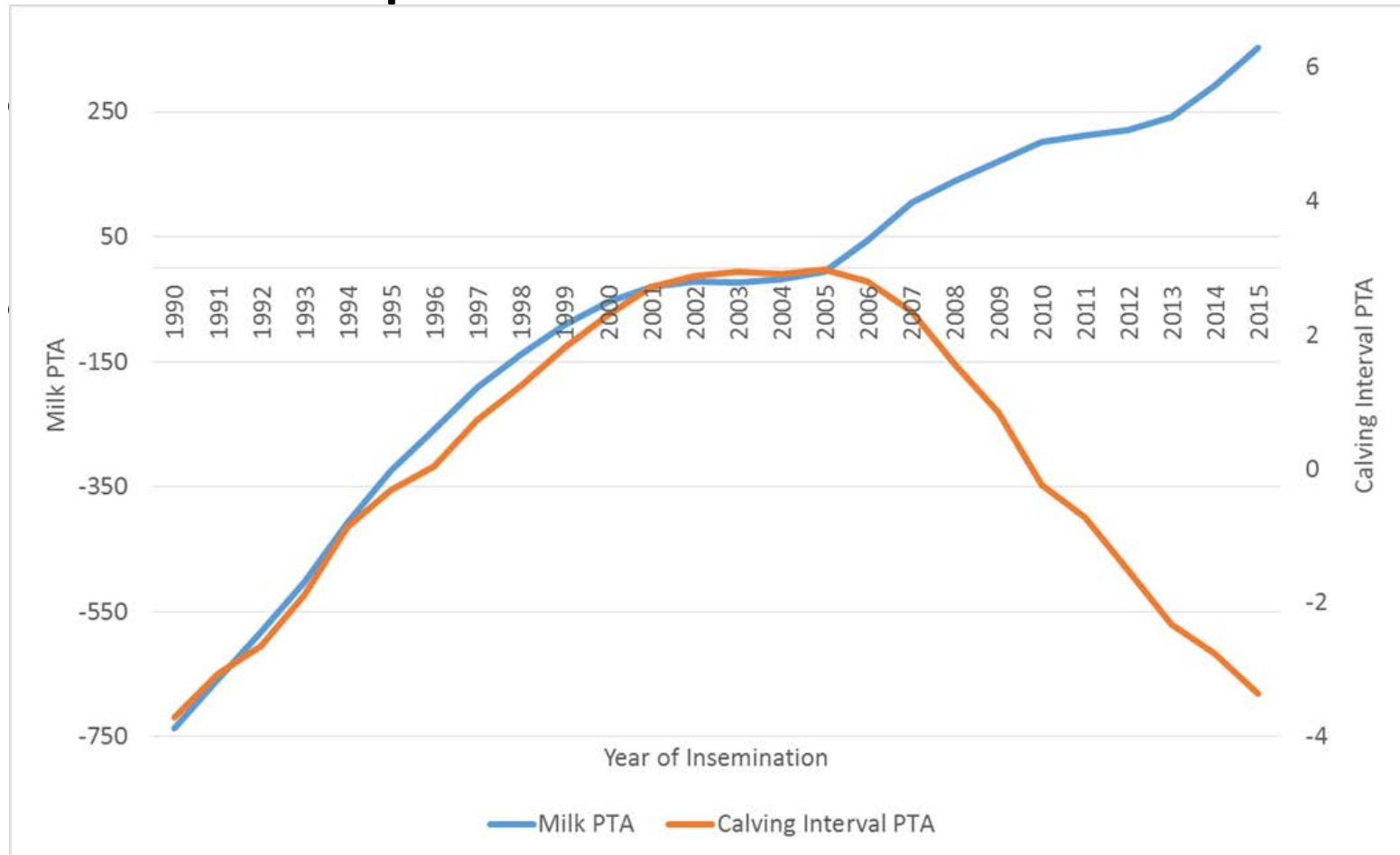


Investigating the impact of research.  
A case study: the dairy Fertility Index

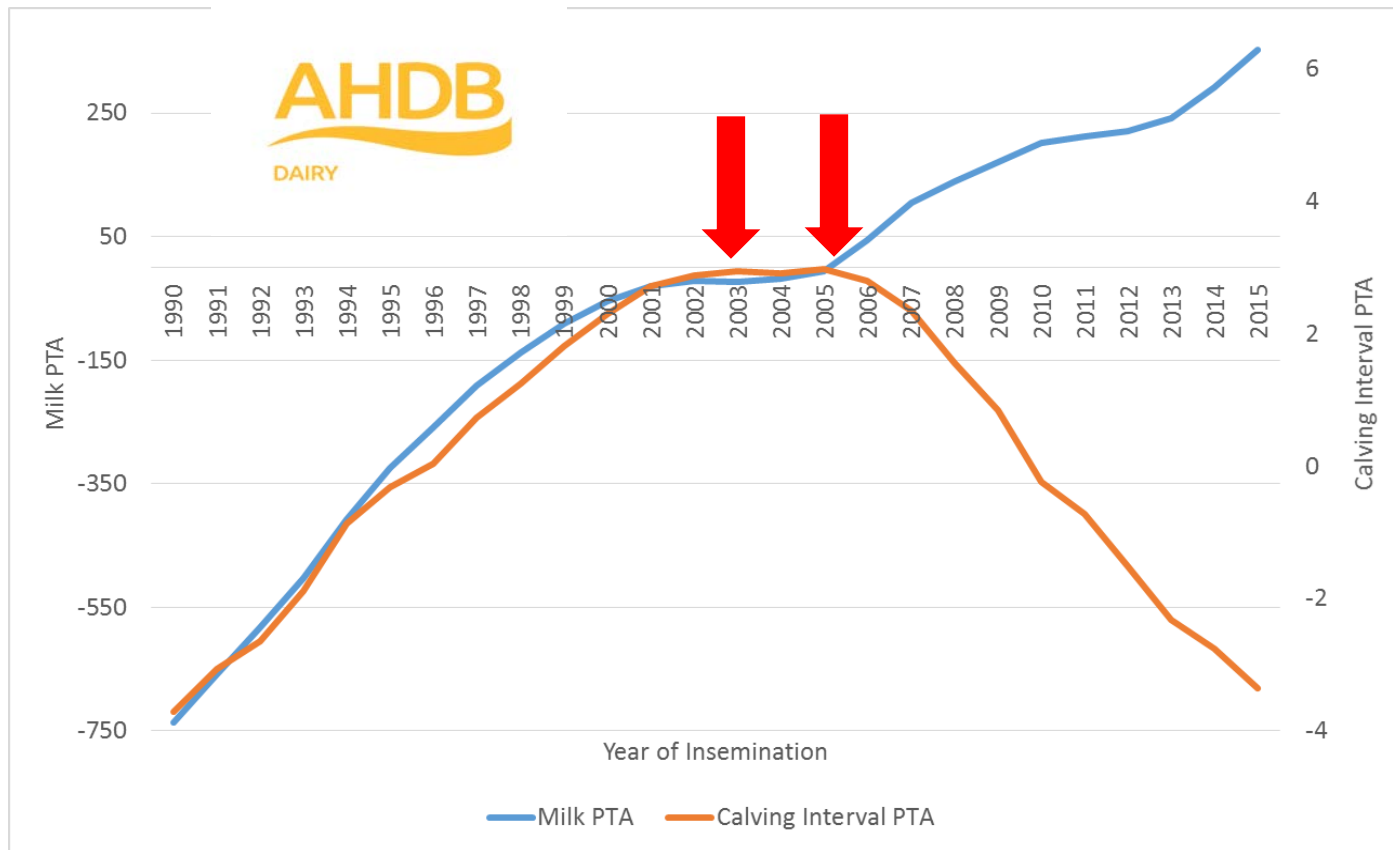
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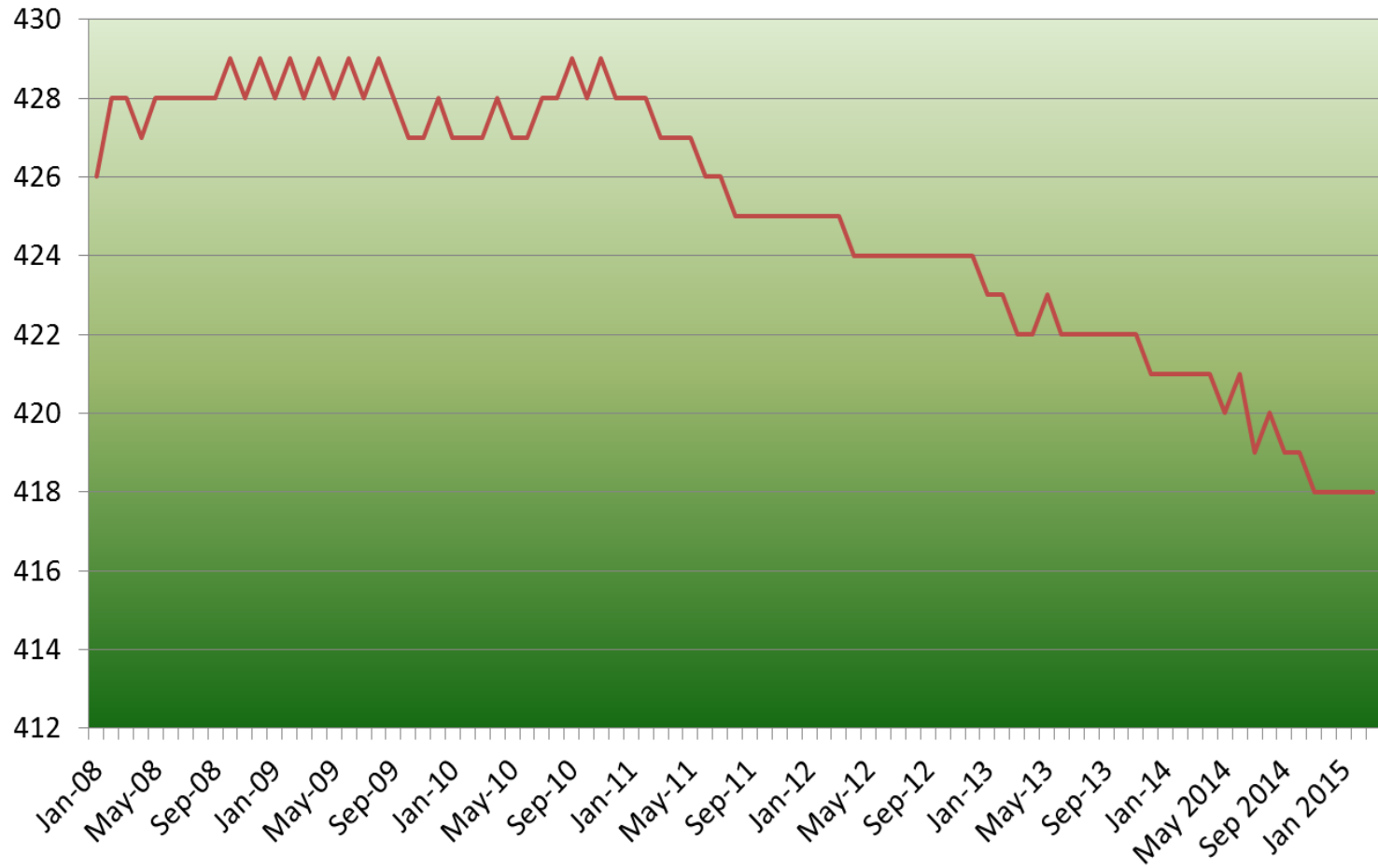
# Aim: to understand the mechanism and scale of impact of research



# Predicted Transmitting Abilities for milk production and Calving Interval for AI sires used on British farms over 25 years



# NMR average calving interval



Aim: to understand the mechanism and scale of impact of research

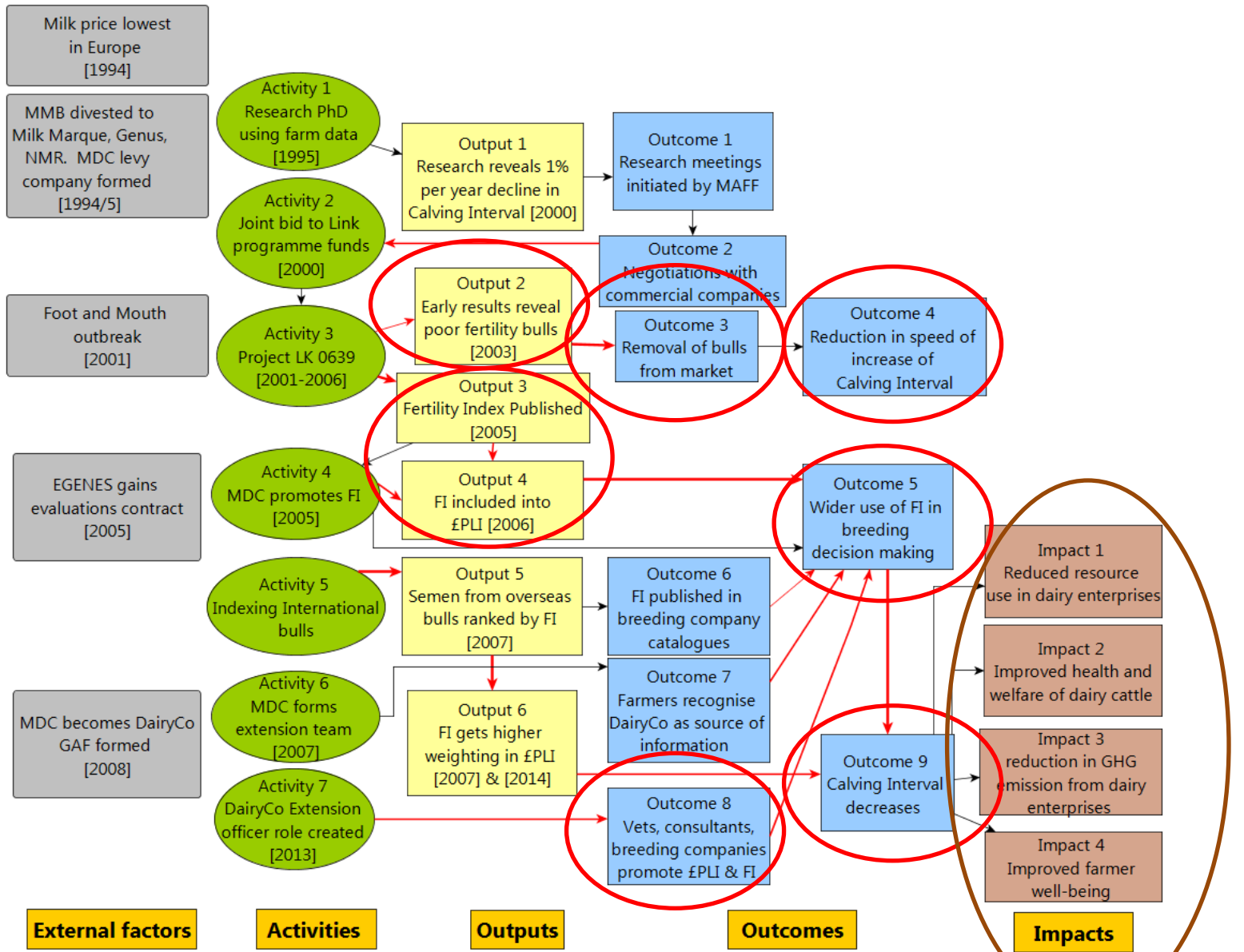
- What we 'knew' when we began
  - Successful initiation
  - Successful adoption
- How and why did they happen?

# Methodology

- To create an impact pathway
  - Records
    - Project documentation (sparse)
  - People
    - Stakeholder interviews
    - Stakeholder workshops  
(recorded and transcribed)

# Successful initiation:

- Positive Research funding environment:
  - MAFF; funding stream; awareness of problem
  - MAFF established research meetings - involving industry and other stakeholders
- However there was a major barrier –  
Lack of interest from key stakeholders (vets, farmers and the MDC) and opposition by breeding companies





# Assessing the impacts

- Economic
- Environmental
- Social

All challenging to monitor.

Other impact: establishment of infrastructure and **proof of concept** (now indices produced for mastitis, lameness, longevity and resistance to bTB).

# Comments:

- No involvement of farmers
- Weak role of usual extension agents and research farms
- Importance of trust in adopting innovation
- Importance of infrastructure changes in explaining behaviours.

# Conclusions on the process

## Assessing impact:

- Confidentiality issues in public/private projects
- Conflicts: time needed to allow for dissemination and adoption, and loss of information:
  - data retention periods
  - key stakeholders – researchers changing roles, retirements, lack of interest
  - learning for policy and funding cycles.

# Conclusions

- Policy

Need for an honest broker

- Researcher

Consider the impact pathway, and how to monitor it, at the start

- Data use and ownership

Many things that are industry relevant can only be done using industry data. BUT currently fragmented and privately owned and therefore vulnerable.

Thank you for your attention.

Any questions or comments?

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