



Milk feeding and calf housing practices on British Columbia dairy farms



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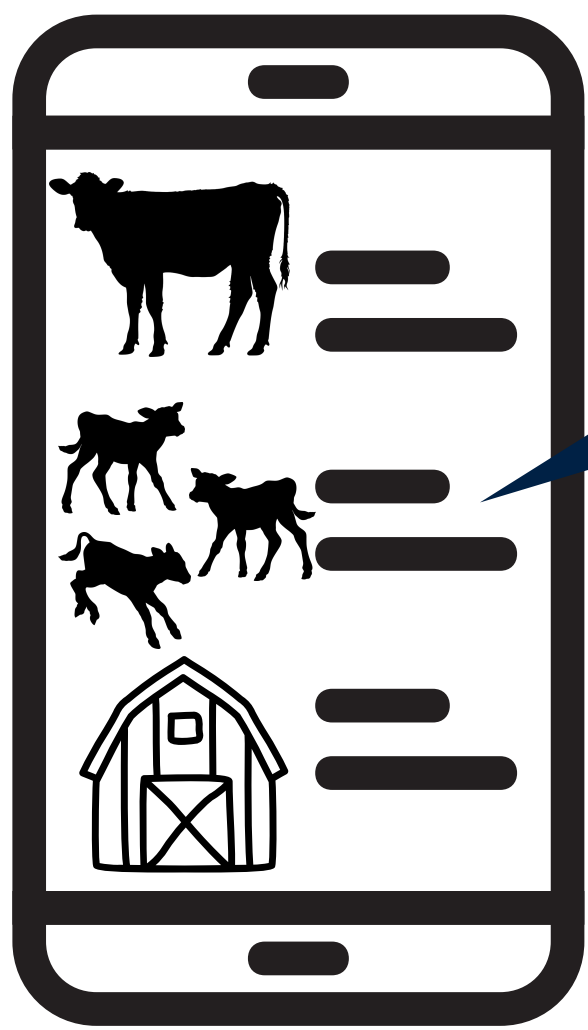
Introduction

- Historically, dairy calves have been fed restricted milk allowances, abruptly weaned, and individually housed
- Evidence shows benefits of feeding more milk (e.g., 20 % BW/d), weaning gradually, and socially housing
- Little is known about how these practices are adopted on commercial farms

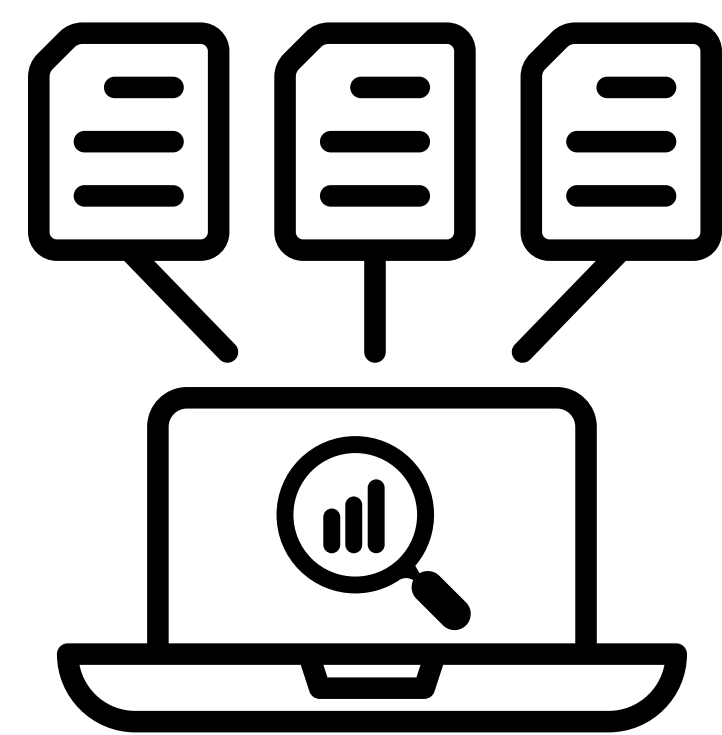
The aims of this study were to describe the rearing practices of dairy calves and the methods used to assess calf growth on farms in British Columbia (BC), Canada.

Materials and Methods

An online survey was sent to
437 dairy farmers



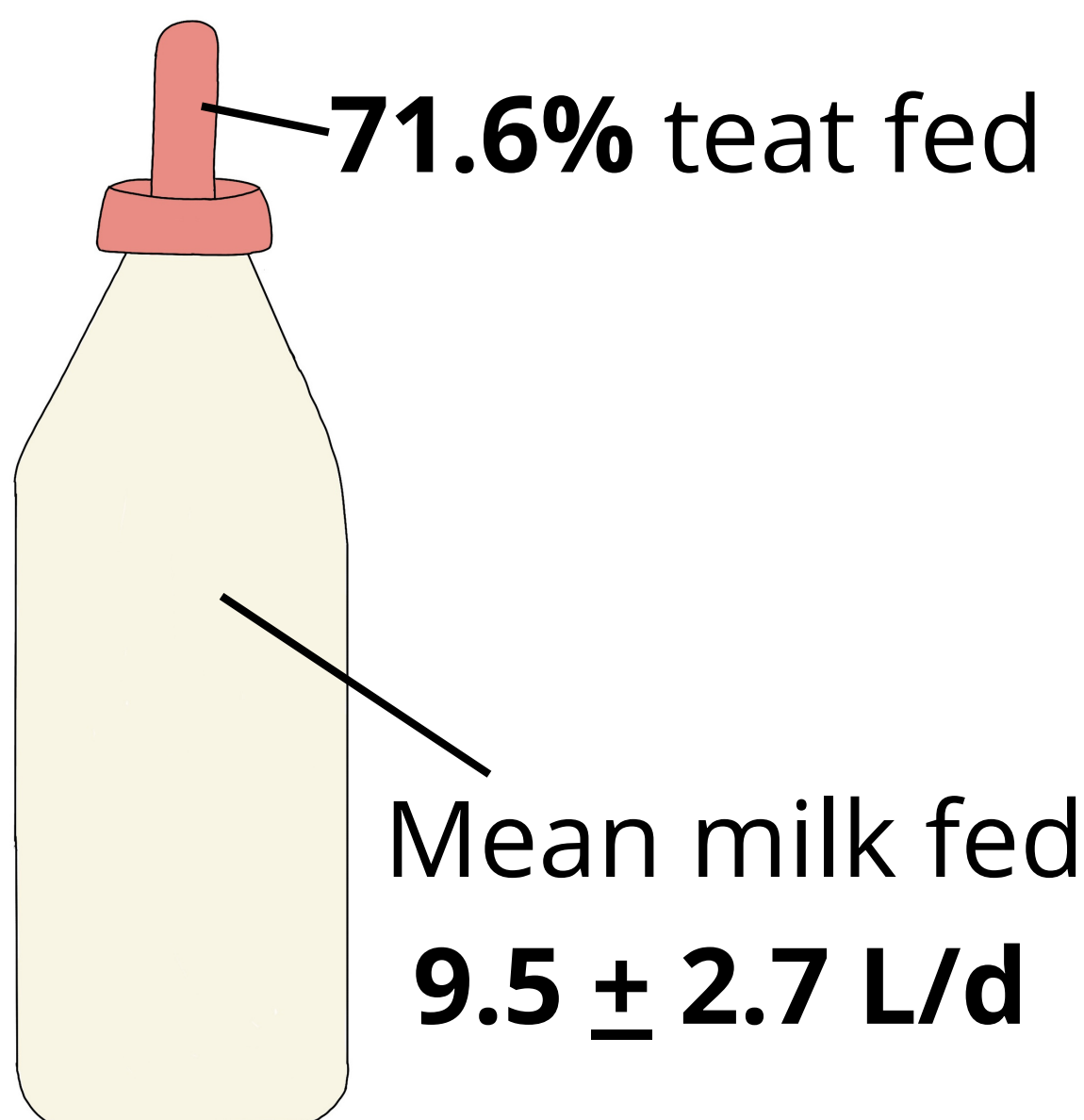
Farmers were asked close-ended and open-ended questions about their calf management practices before and after weaning



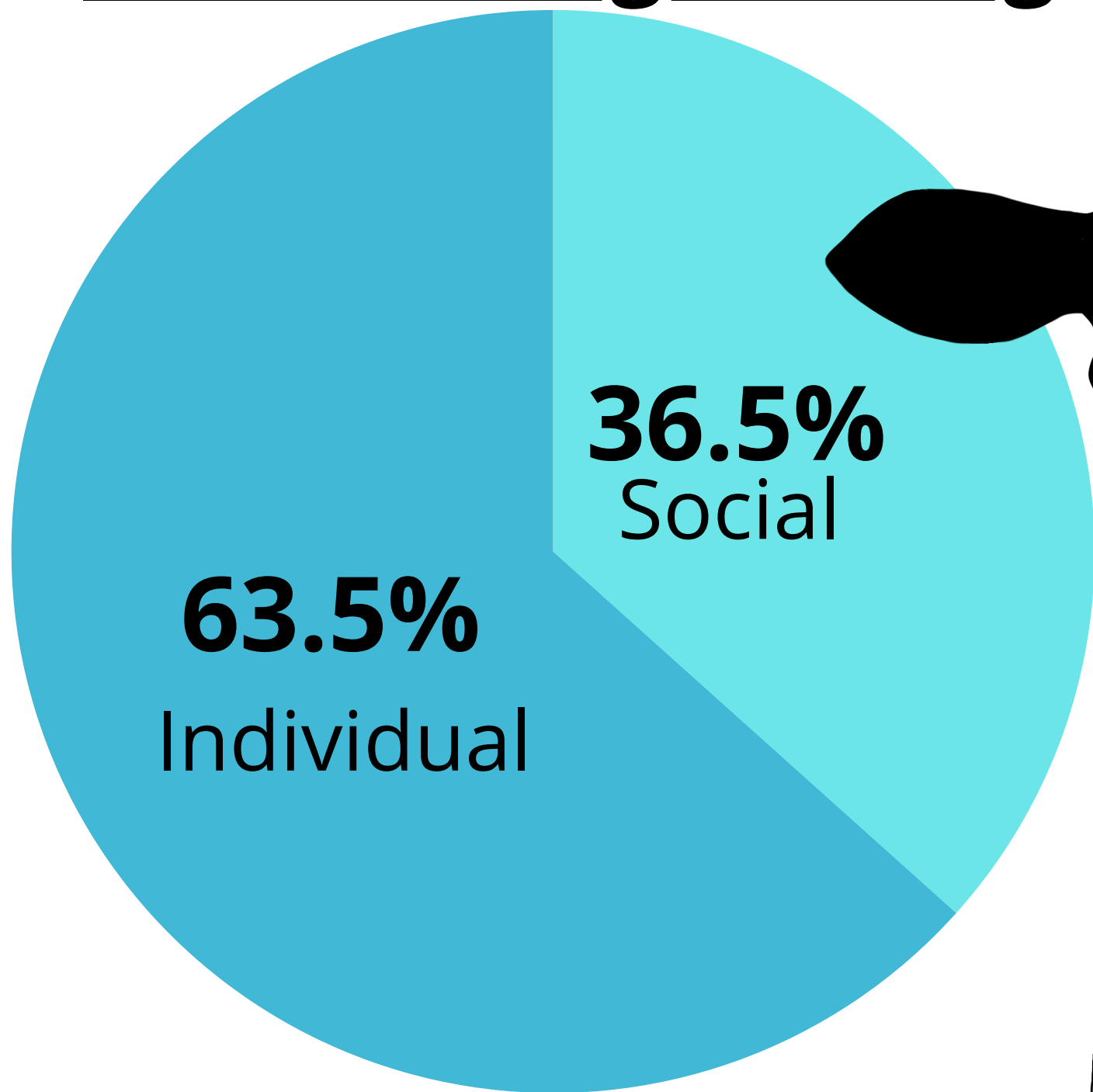
Responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis.

Results

Milk feeding



Pre-weaning housing



Performance

52.4% monitor growth

31.7% had a target growth rate

Conclusions

Calves are being offered higher milk allowances, showing a shift in milk feeding practices. However, individually housing pre-weaned calves remains common. Although farmers monitor calf growth, the methods for monitoring and recording growth rates varied and remain unclear.