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Implementation of sustainable parasite control strategies on extensive sheep farms

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Extensive sheep farming in the UK



Semi-intensive
(lowland) farm

- ▷ Improved pastures
- ▷ Early lambing
- ▷ Sheep more accessible for handling
- ▷ More economically viable

Well established data on parasite challenge + anthelmintic resistance



Extensive
(hill) farm

- ▷ Rough grazing (minimal improved)
- ▷ Late lambing
- ▷ Difficult to gather sheep
- ▷ Economically fragile

**Little known about parasite challenge
& anthelmintic resistance**

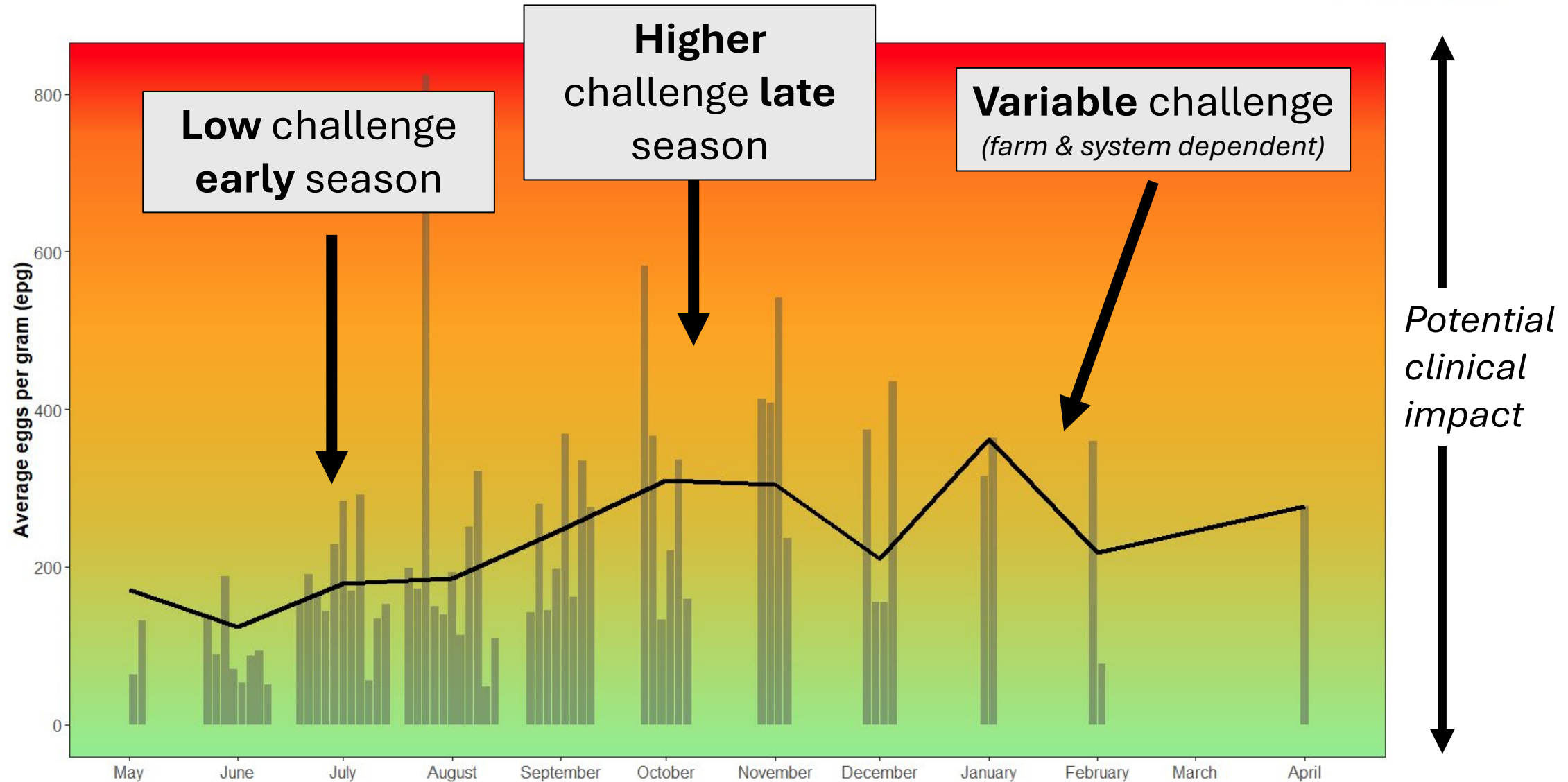
Is there a parasite challenge on extensive farms?



If no production-limiting challenge or resistance...

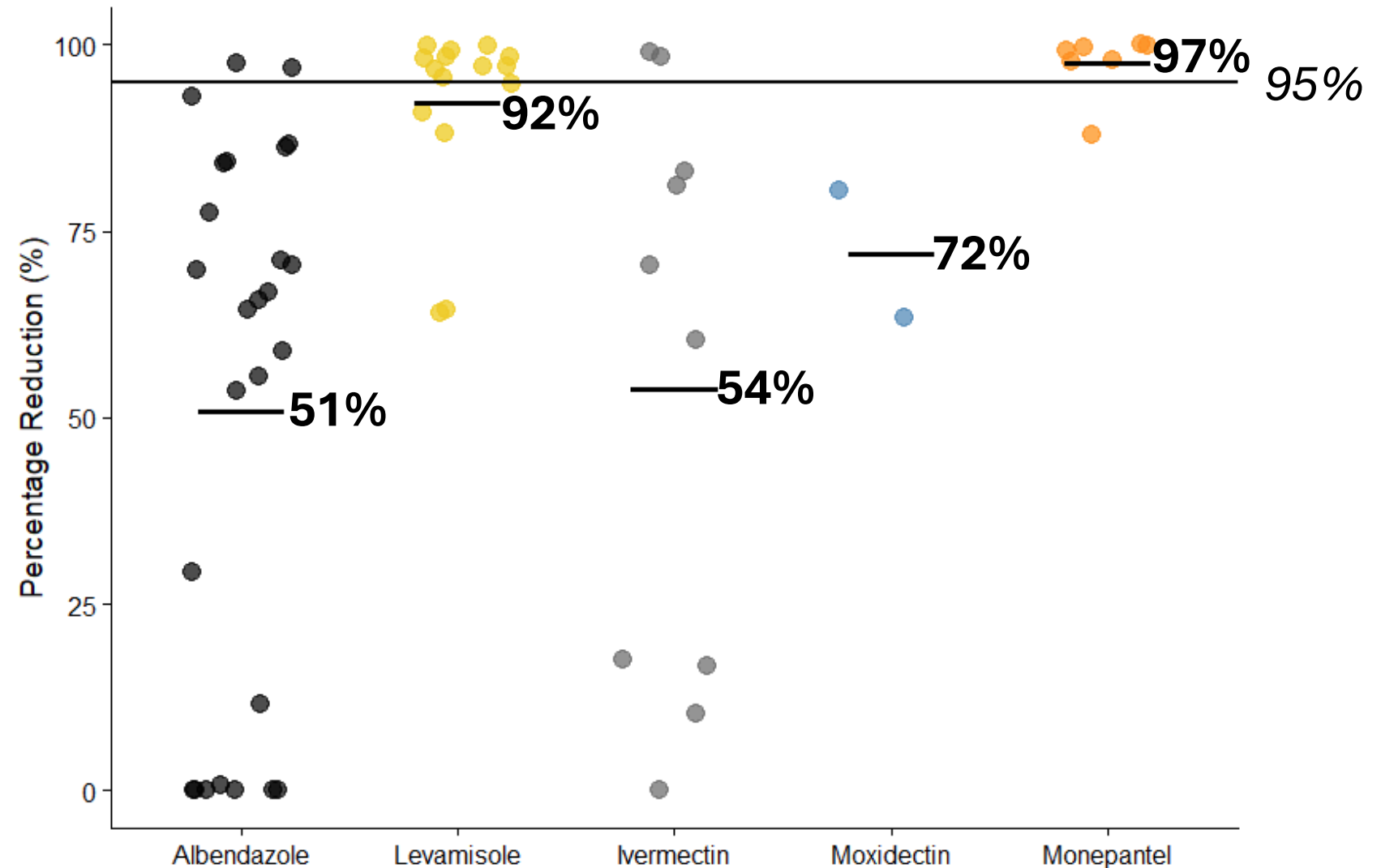
- ▷ Less need for treatments
- ▷ Less need to implement sustainable control strategies

Extensive farms **do** face a **production impacting** parasite challenge



Anthelmintic resistance on extensive farms

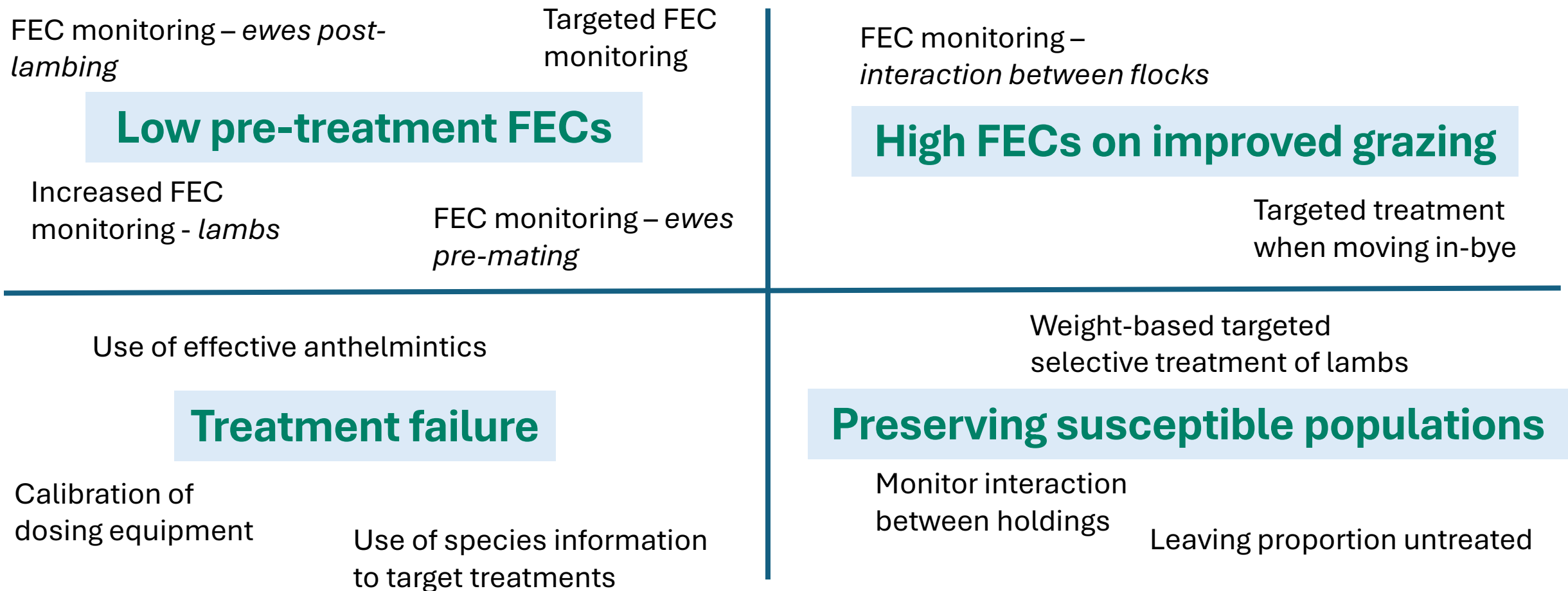
- ▷ 75 efficacy tests
- ▷ All farms had resistance to **one or more** anthelmintics



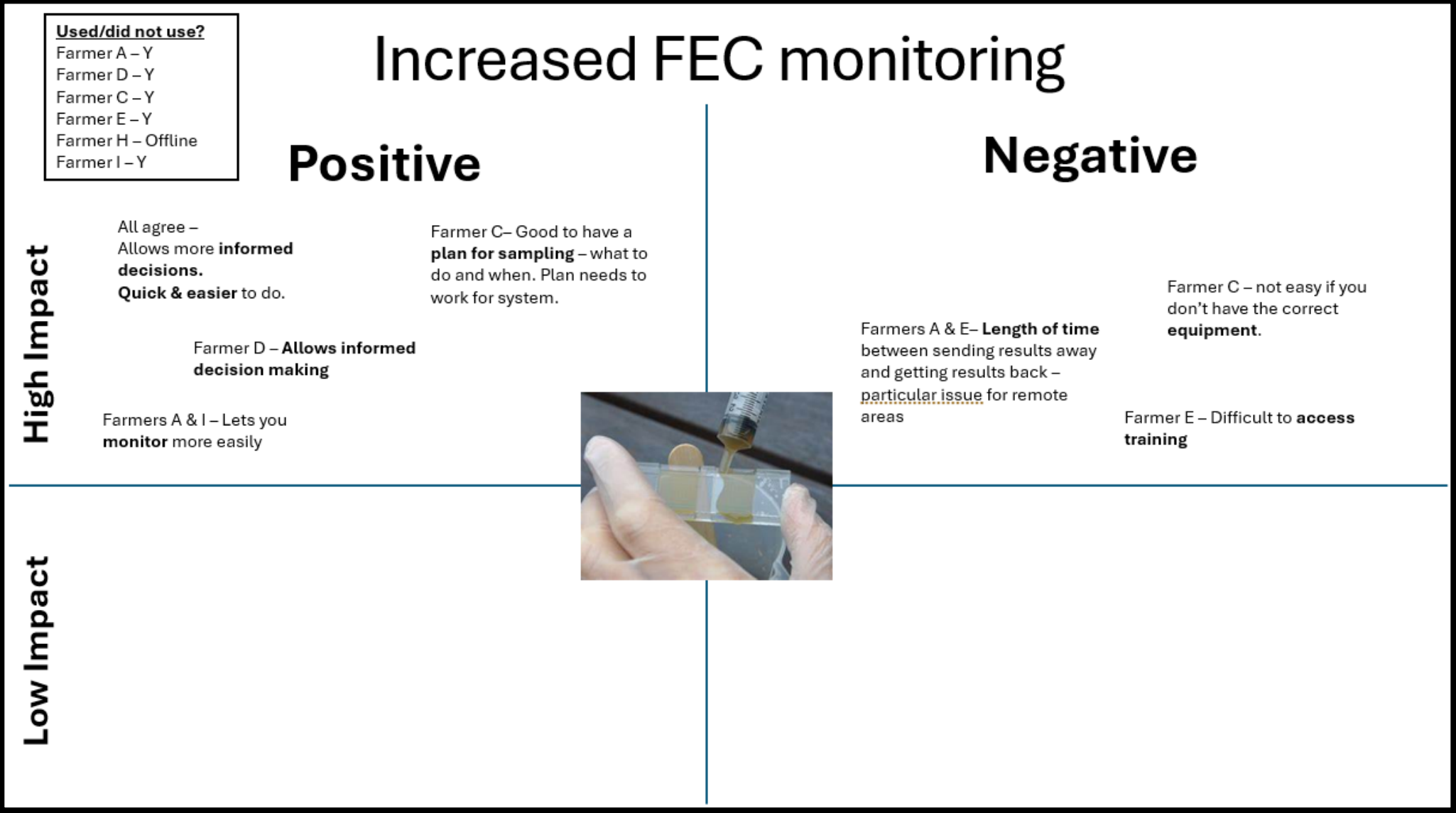
*Can we improve parasite
management on extensive farms?*

Design of individual solutions

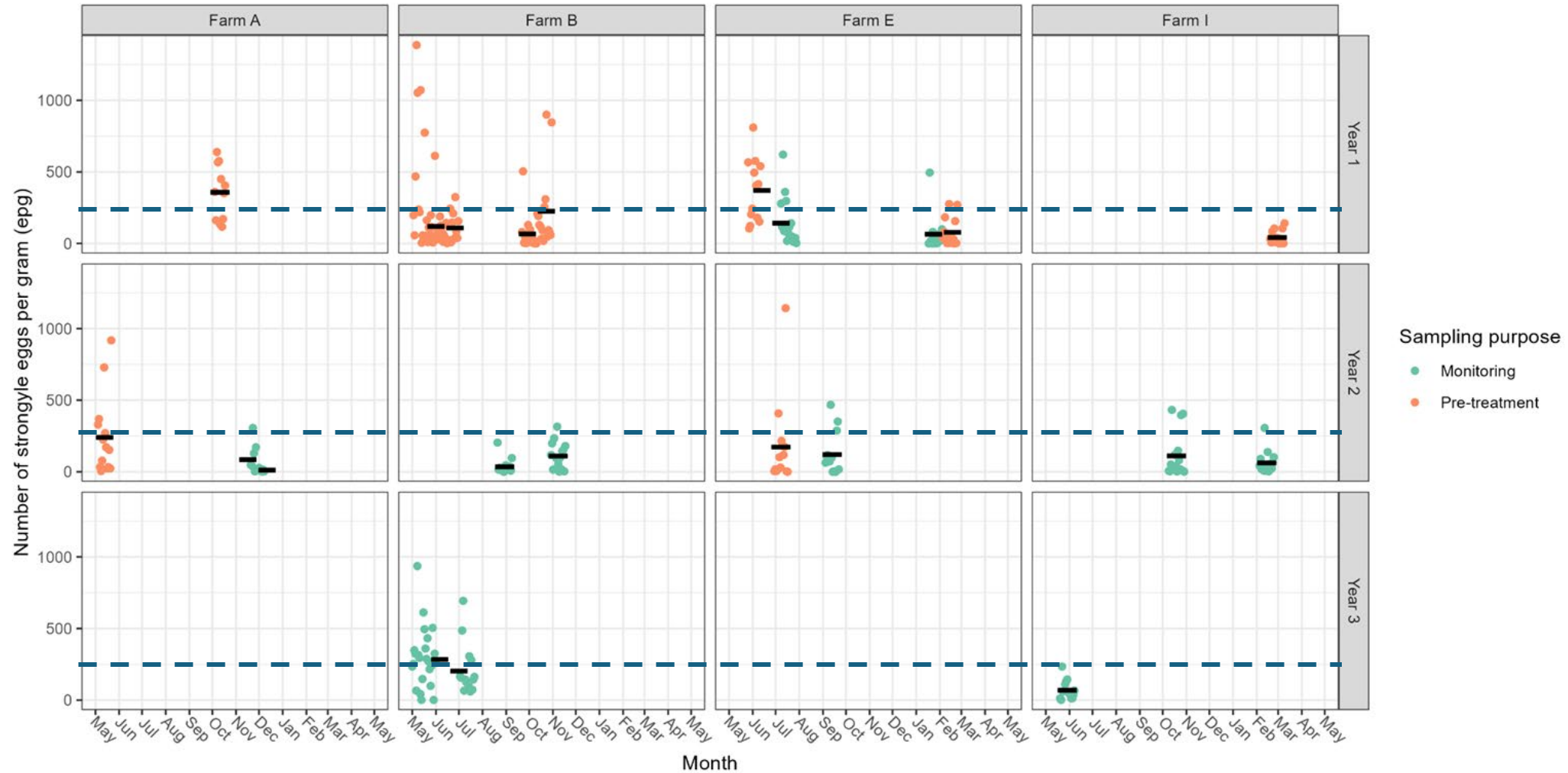
- ▶ Workshop to review each farm's FEC, efficacy & management data to develop individual solutions based on **existing** control strategies



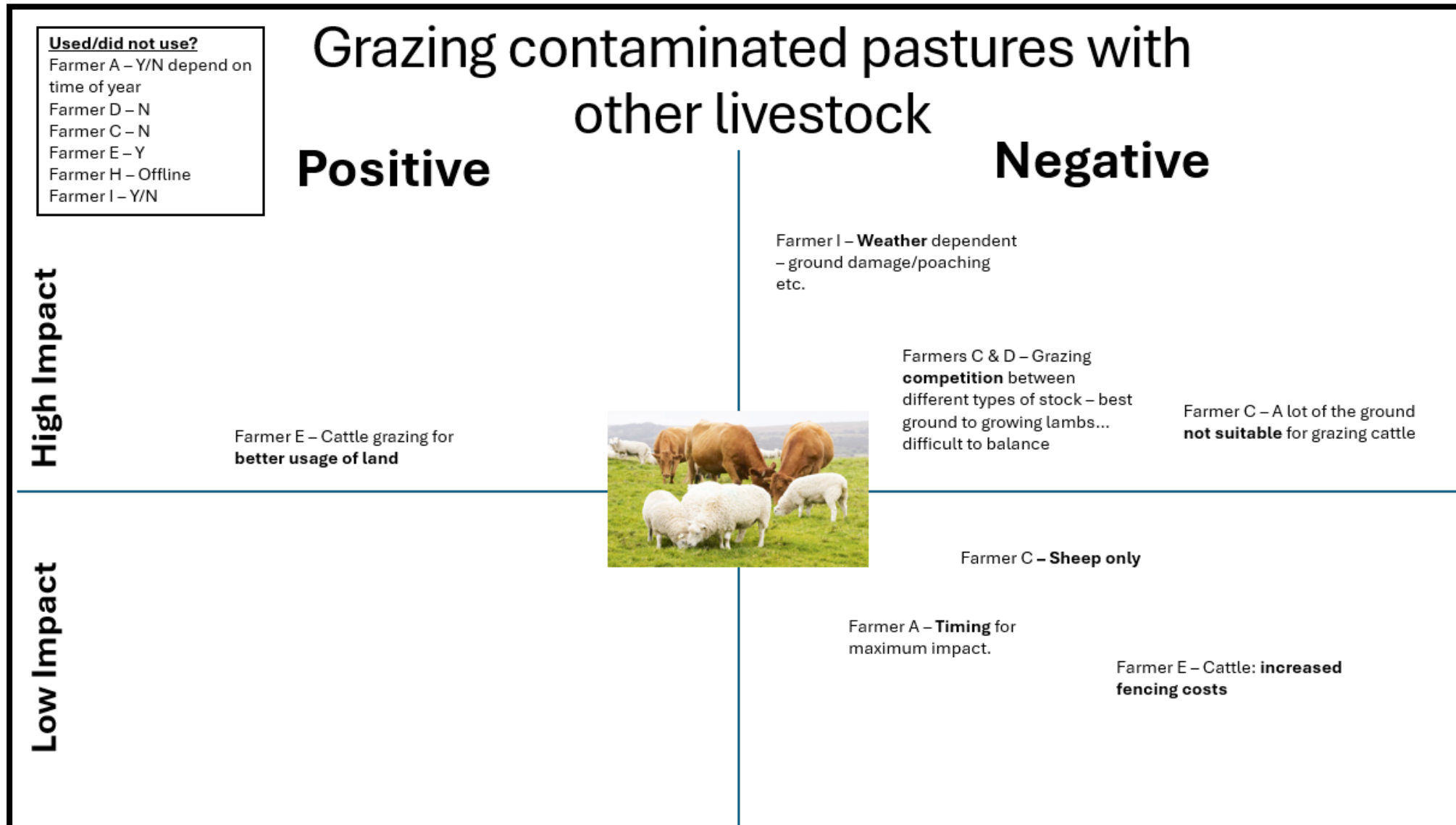
FECs viewed as practical solution



Increased FEC monitoring in ewes



Grazing-based strategies less practical



Grazing structure on extensive farms



Summary

- ▷ Implementation of sustainable control practices on nine farms for two years
- ▷ There **is** a need for sustainable control on extensive farms
- ▷ Good uptake of FEC monitoring on extensive farms
- ▷ Accessibility of solutions dependent on farm structure



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