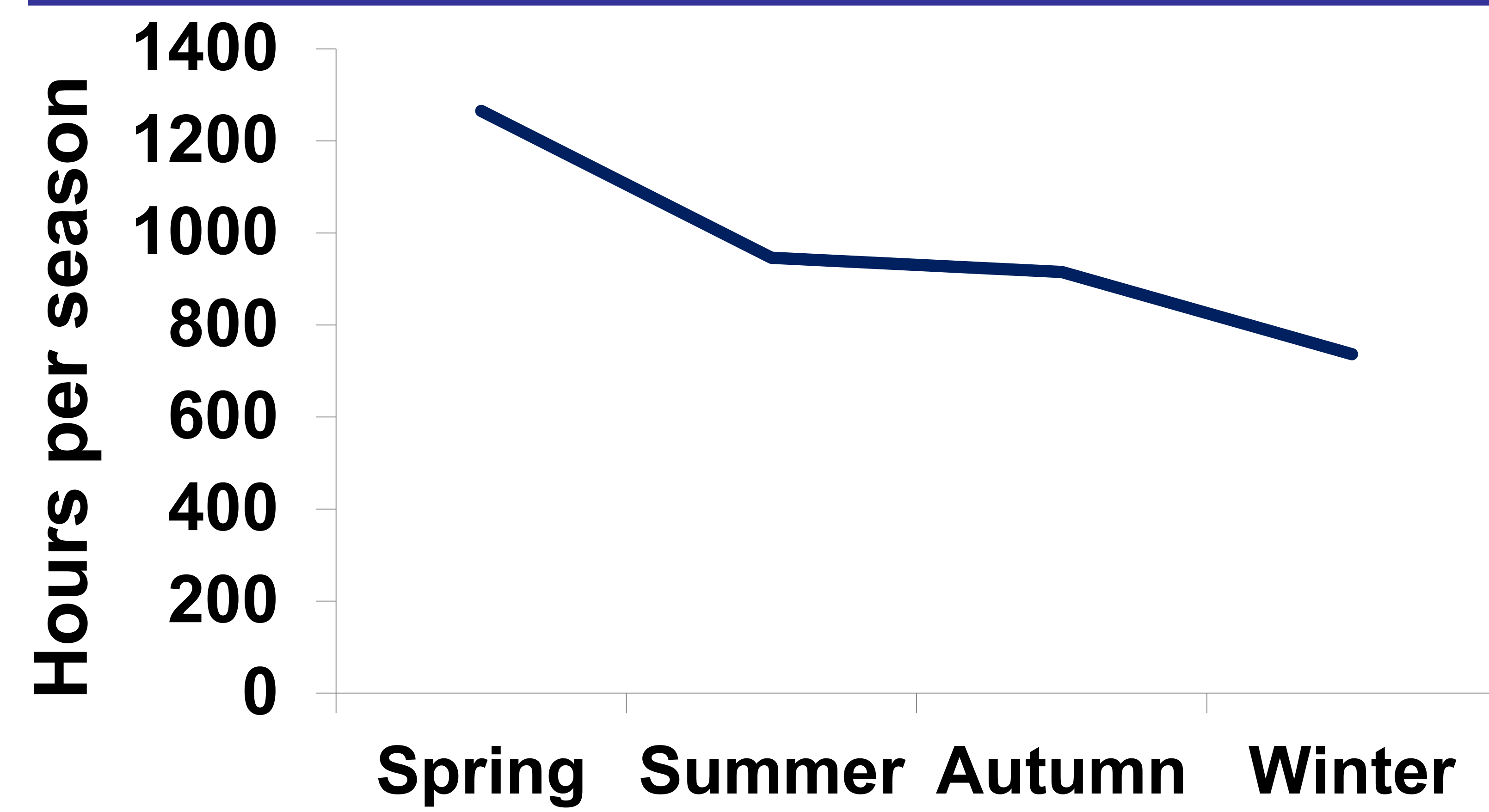


Labour demands on dairy farms

Labour input and efficiency across herd size

Herd size (cows)	79-149	150-249	250-533
Total farm labour input (hours)	3,015	4,499	6,023
Efficiency (hours/cow/yr)	23.3	23.8	17.3

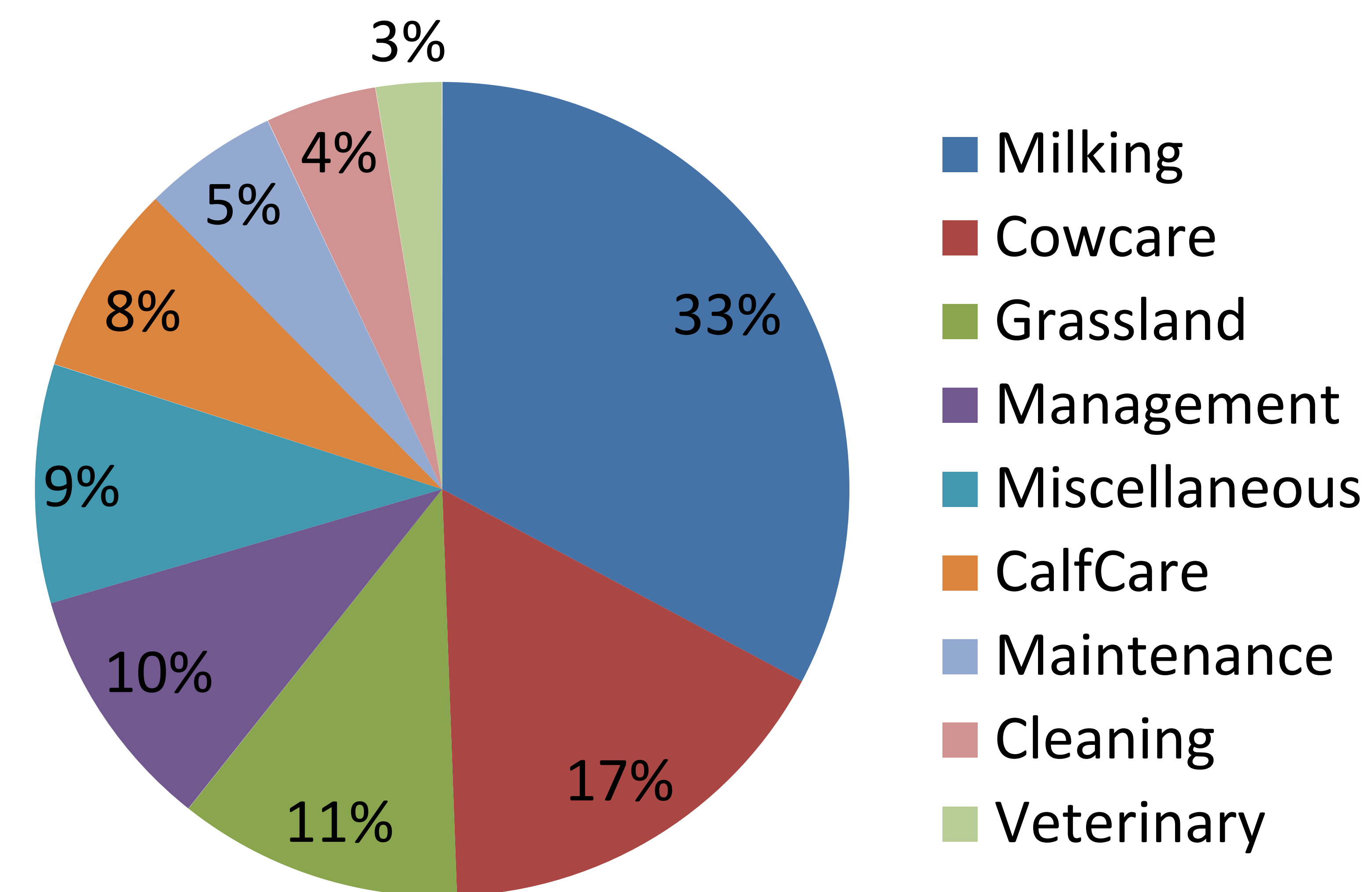
Seasonal farm labour profile



Milking management options

- Milking interval - 16:8h
- 13 times weekly milking
- Once-a-day milking

Farm tasks as a proportion of overall farm labour



Take home messages

- Overall labour demand increases with herd size
- Efficiency improves as herd size increased above 250 cows
- Distinct seasonal pattern to labour input
- Most efficient farms use contractors more than inefficient farms