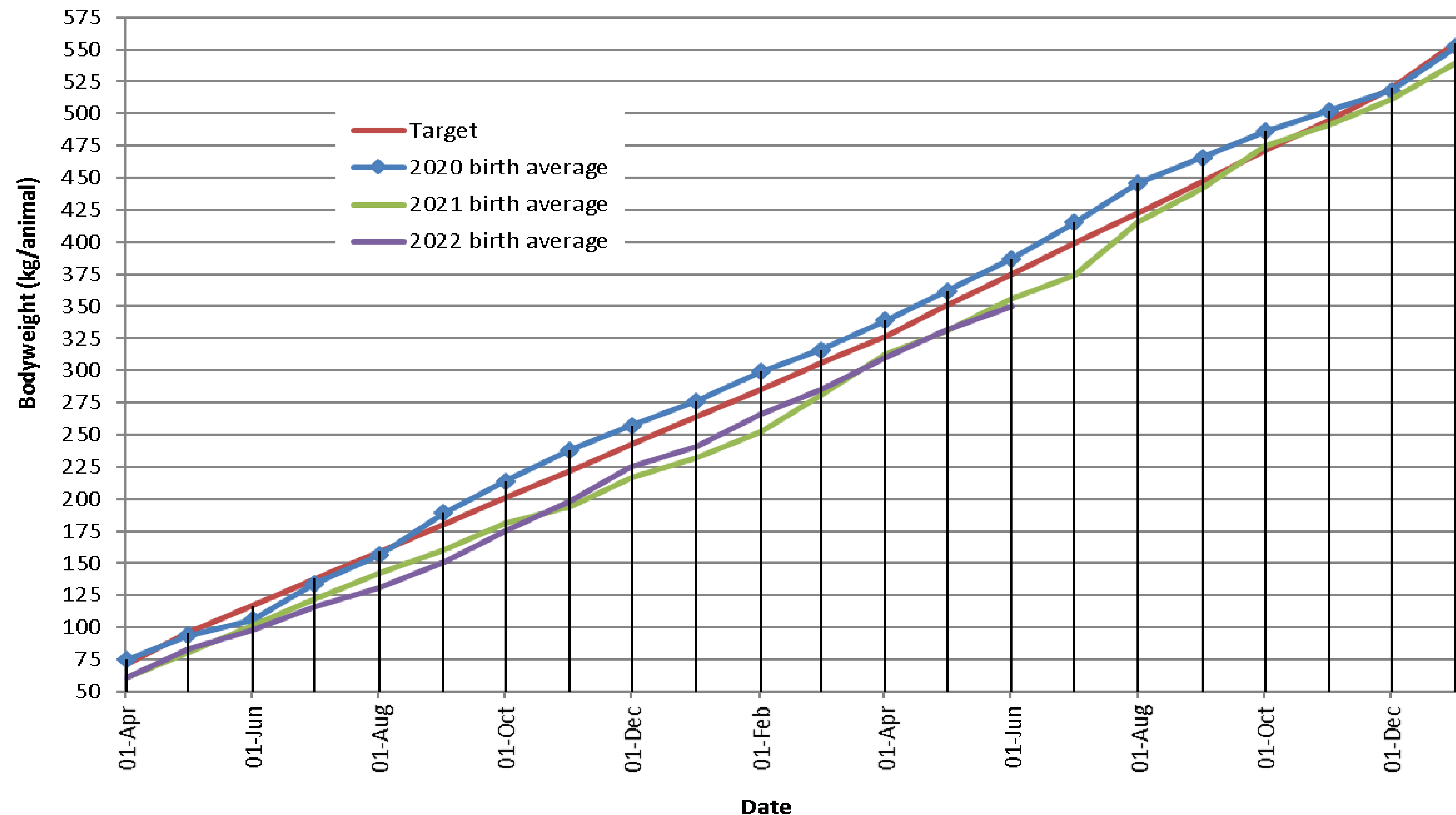


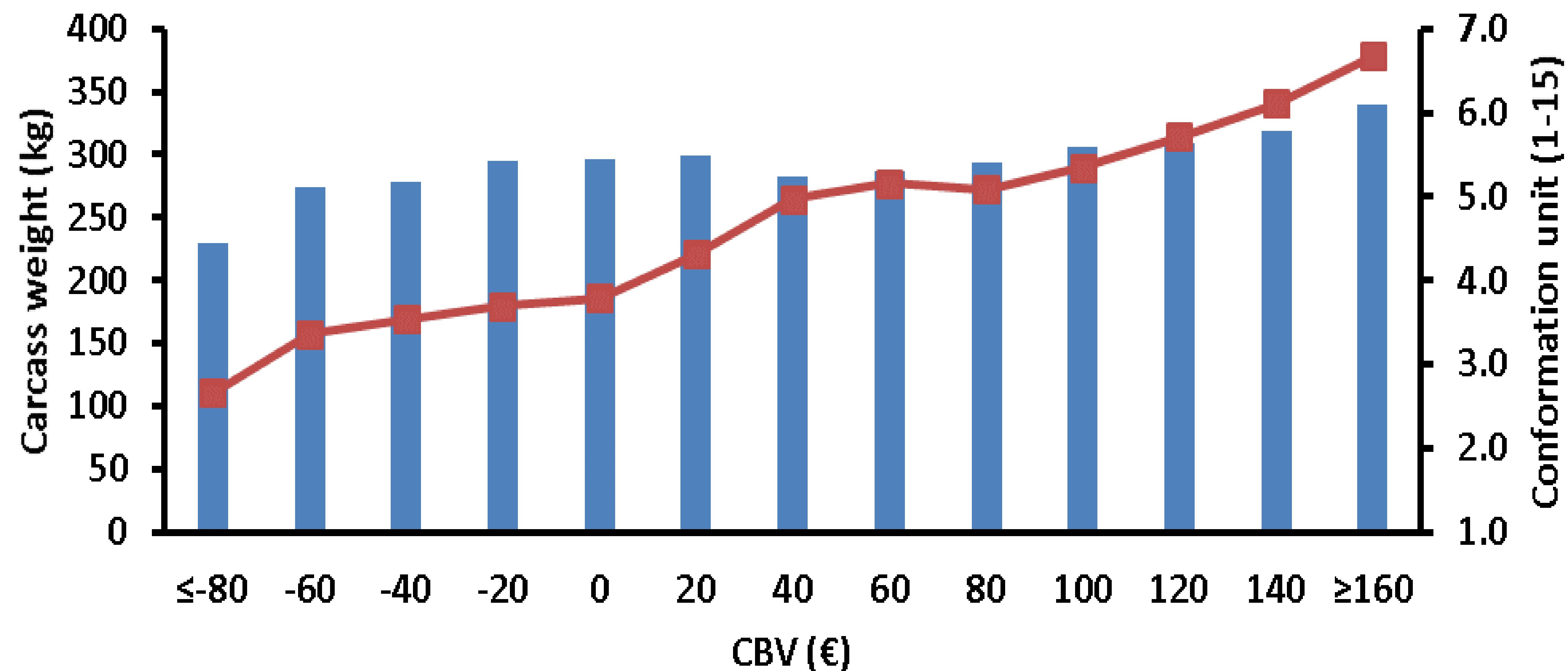
Objective: to evaluate the potential for profitable dairy calf-to-beef contract rearing systems on commercial farms

- 10 dry stock farmers; 1,050 calves; 5 Teagasc dairy research farms
- 3 wks old to slaughter
- 60% dairy (HF, FRX & JFX) & 40% beef (AA, LM, HE, CH, BB, AU)
- All animals weaned at 63 days & weighed every 6 wks
- Lifetime ADG: 0.78 kg (birth-slaughter)
- Slaughter weight: 585 kg @ 23 months (281 kg carcass, 3-, O-)



ing male dairy calves

Calf Commercial Beef Value (CBV) had a significant impact :+ €10 CBV= + 2.8 kg carcass wgt (blue bars) while also improving conformation (red line)



Rearing cost was €1,225 from movement to slaughter leaving a residual value of €66

Take home messages

- Calf CBV had a significant impact on carcass performance (weight and conformation)
- Profitability of dairy beef systems can be significantly improved by increasing the proportion of beef-cross calves (with high CBV) from dairy farms