

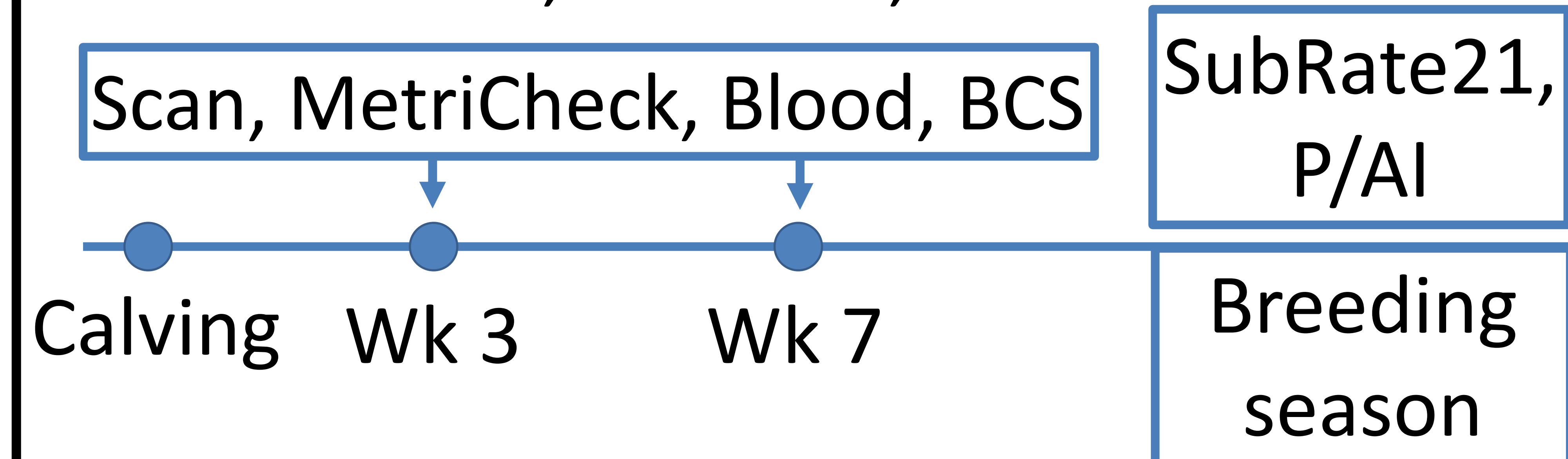
Introduction

EBI Fertility Sub-Index:

- 25% weighting
 - ✓ Calving Interval (19%)
 - ✓ Survival (6%)
- What phenotypes are affected?

Experiment design

2,600 cows; 35 herds



Results

Cows with better PTA for fertility sub-index traits:

- Earlier postpartum resumption of cyclicity
- Better uterine health
- Better BCS
- Better blood indicators of energy status
- Better submission rates
- Better pregnancy rates

Take home messages

- Selection for fertility ➔ major gains for dairy farmers
 - Improved herd fertility performance
 - Fewer problem cows, easier management
 - Improved calving pattern, more efficient system