



Characterization of certified organic Wisconsin dairy farms: Management practices, feeding regimes, and milk production

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Organic Pasture Rule

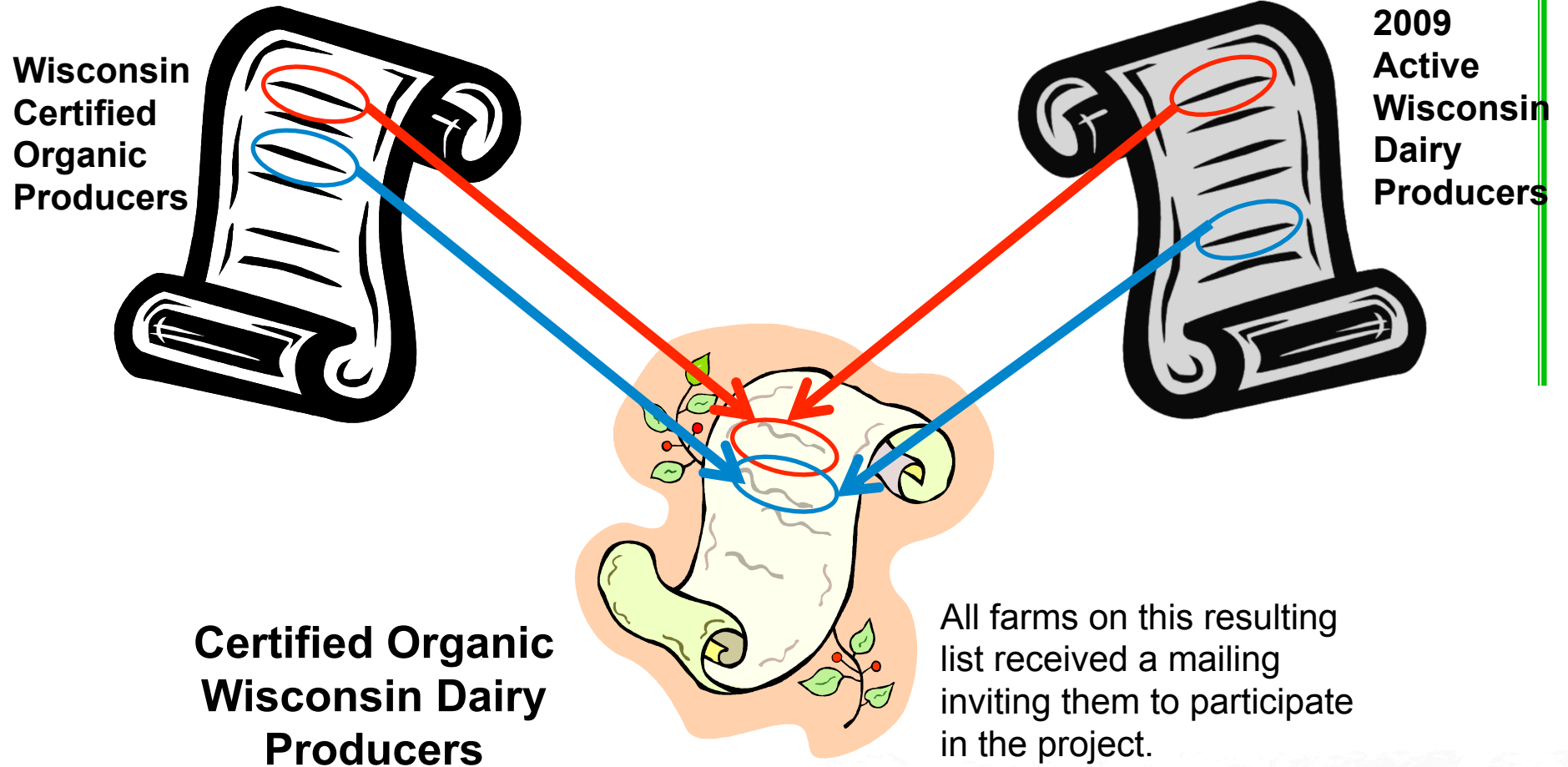
- Animals must graze pasture during the grazing season, which must be at least 120 days per year.
- Animals must obtain at least 30% of their dry matter from pasture during the grazing season.

Rule became effective on June 17, 2010. Operations which are already certified organic will have 1 year to implement the provisions. Operations which obtain organic certification after the effective date will be expected to demonstrate full compliance at the time of initial certification.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP)



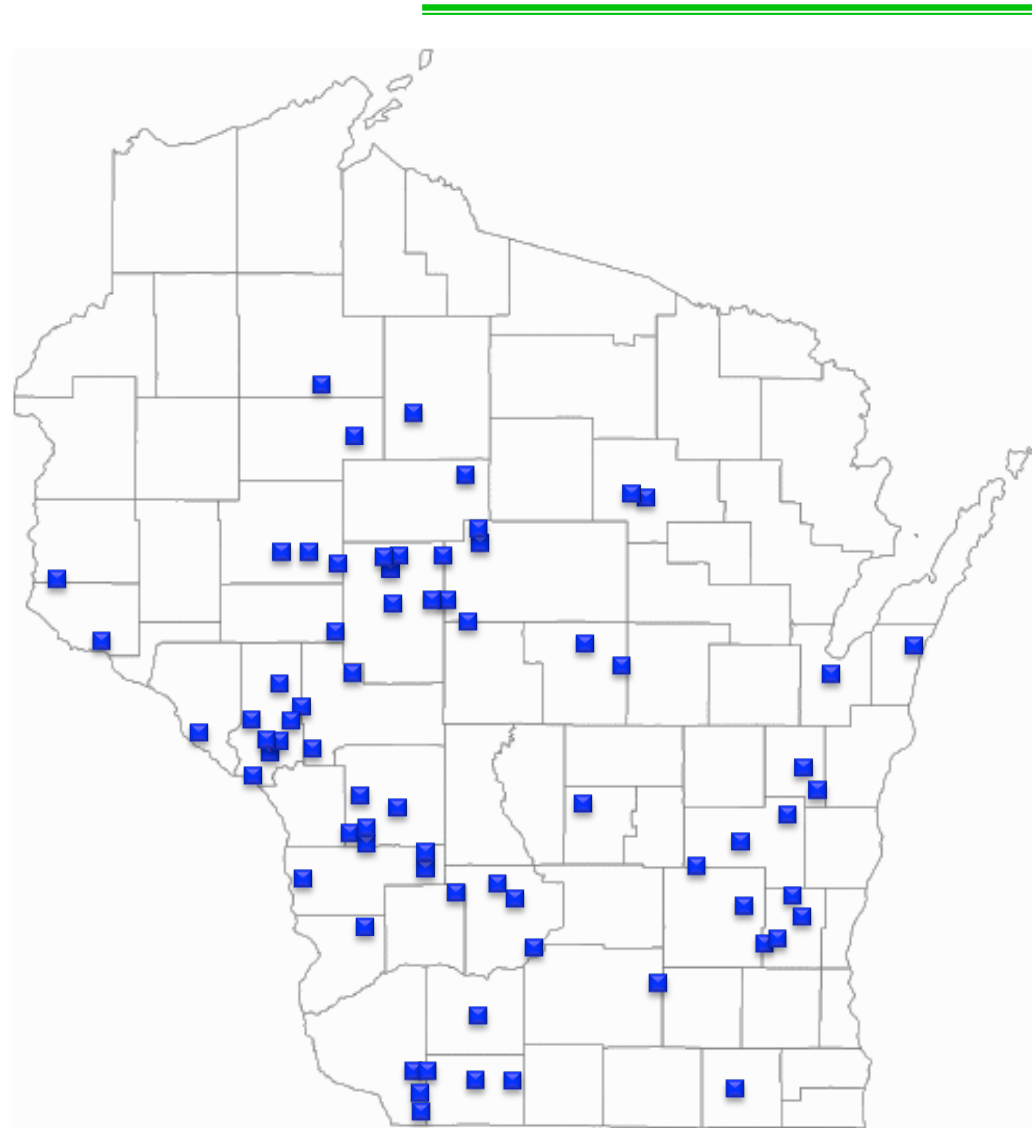
Establishing the Sampling Frame



The Farms

70 organic farms were surveyed between October 2010 and January 2012.

Results from 66 of the farms are displayed in the following slides.



The Survey

- The survey was 44 pages long and contained nine sections:
 - A. Farm Business Structure
 - B. People on the Farm
 - C. Dairy Herd
 - D. Feeding
 - E. Pasture
 - F. Crops
 - G. Manure and Nutrient Management
 - H. (removed from survey)
 - I. Economic
 - J. Farm Satisfaction

- Surveys were conducted on-farm, face-to-face by 1 of the project's 2 graduate students

**Feeding Strategies on Wisconsin Dairy Farms:
Economic, Production, and Environmental Outcomes**





Participation in the study is **voluntary**. All answers to questions in this survey will be kept **strictly confidential** and the results will only be used in statistical summaries. Individual farm information will not be identified in any publication. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Social and Behavioral Sciences, IRB Protocol Number SE-2009-0401.

Consent forms need to be signed prior to the start of the interview

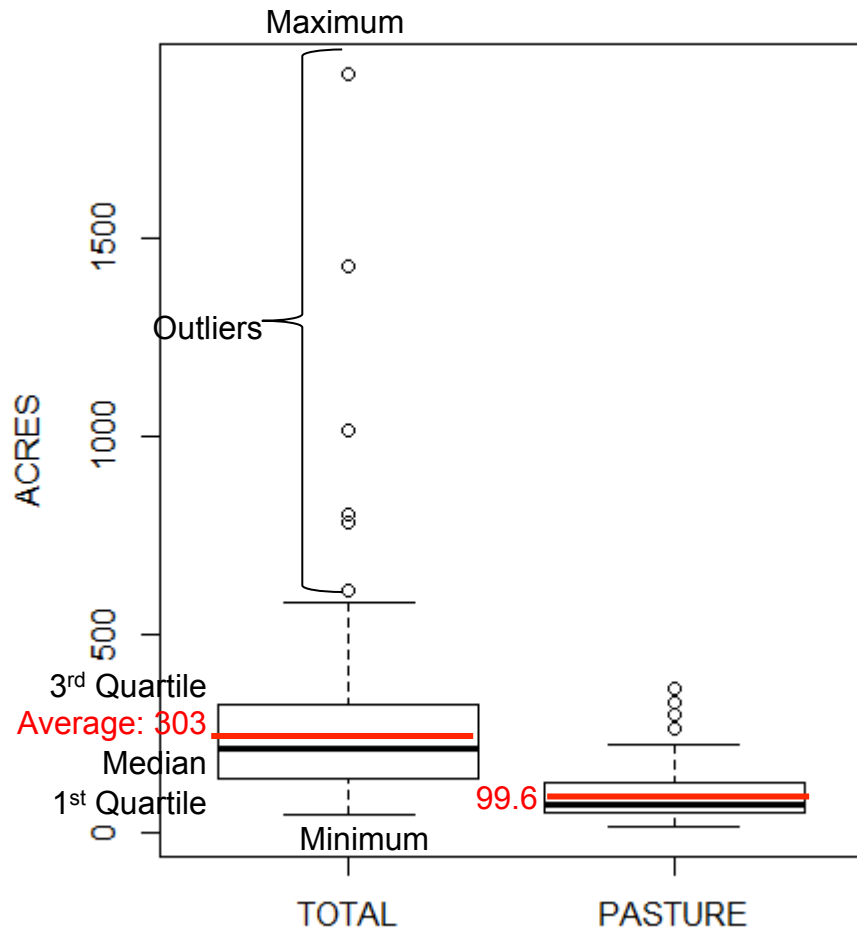
We welcome your comments and suggestions
Contact: Victor E. Cabrera 608-265-8506 vcabrera@wisc.edu
Contact: Brad Barham 608-265-3090 barham@aae.wisc.edu

ENUMERATOR: _____
DATE OF SURVEY: _____
SURVEY STARTING TIME: _____ SURVEY ENDING TIME: _____
FARMER ID#: _____

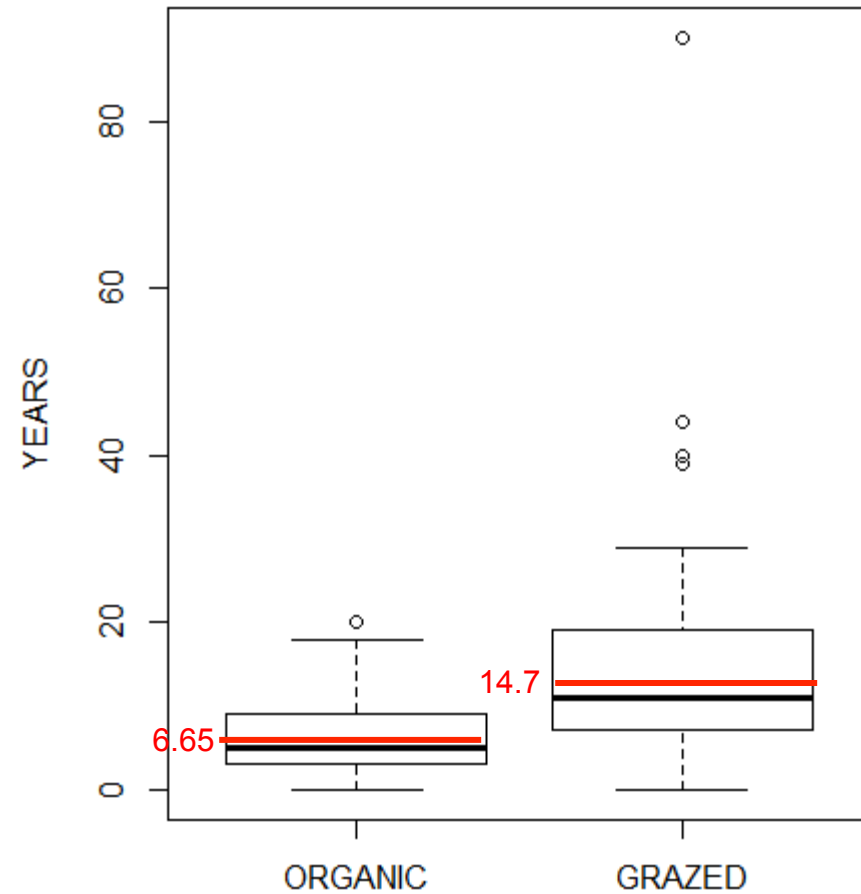


Farm Characteristics - General

LAND OPERATED



NUMBER OF YEARS...

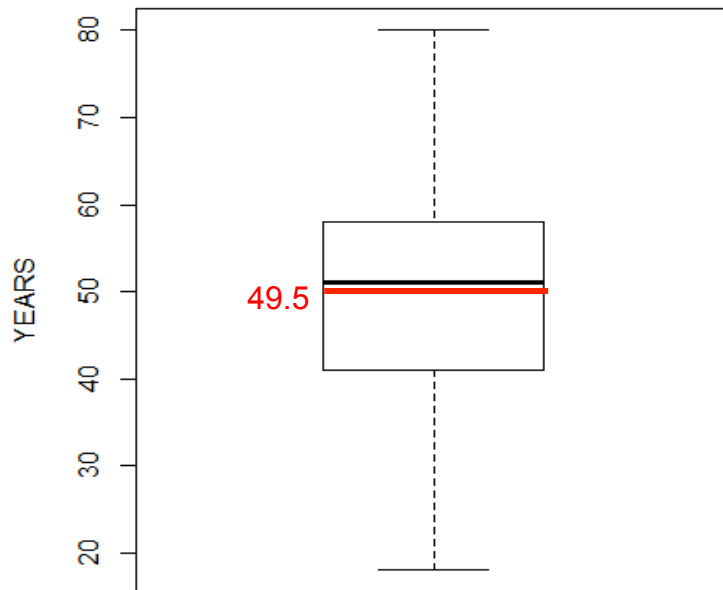


Farm Characteristics - People

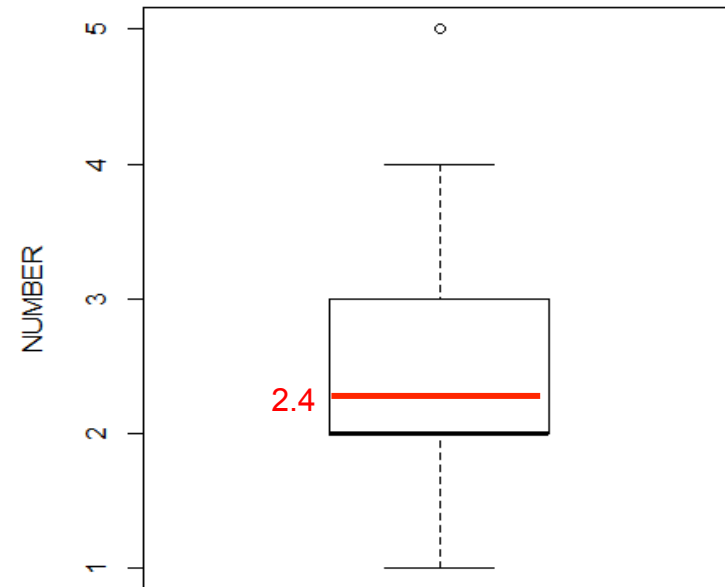
Table 1: Characteristics of the people on the surveyed organic Wisconsin dairy farms.

Trait	%
Raised on farm (% of respondents)	84.8
Relied entirely on family labor (% of farms)	43.9

RESPONDENTS' AGES

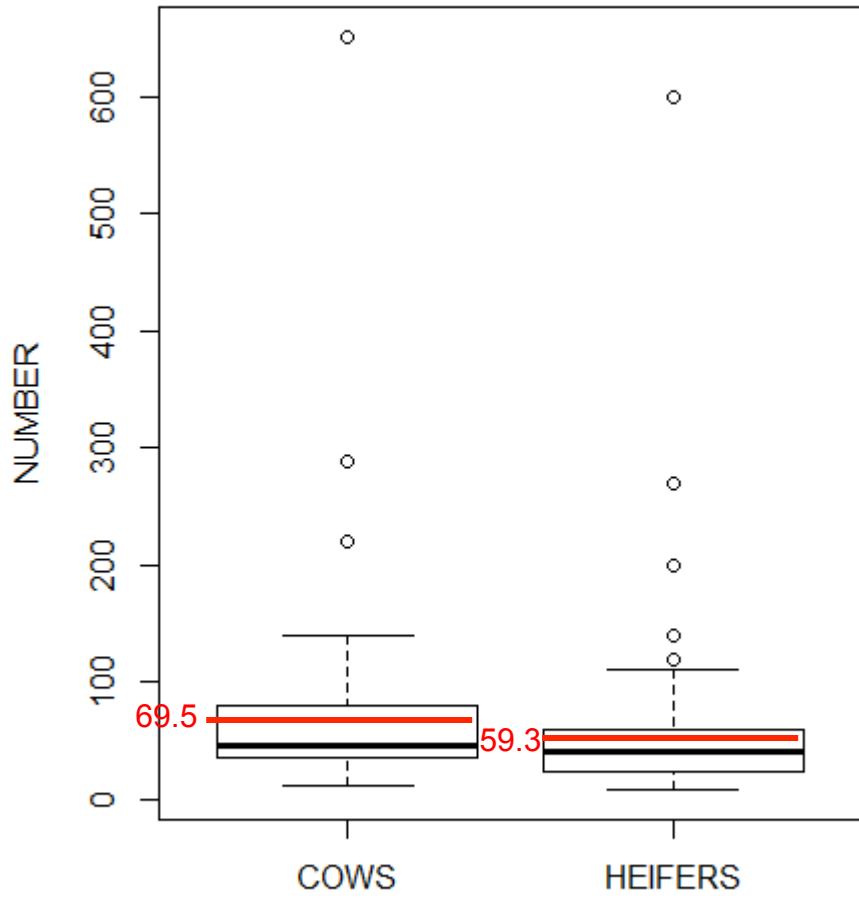


NUMBER OF DECISION MAKERS



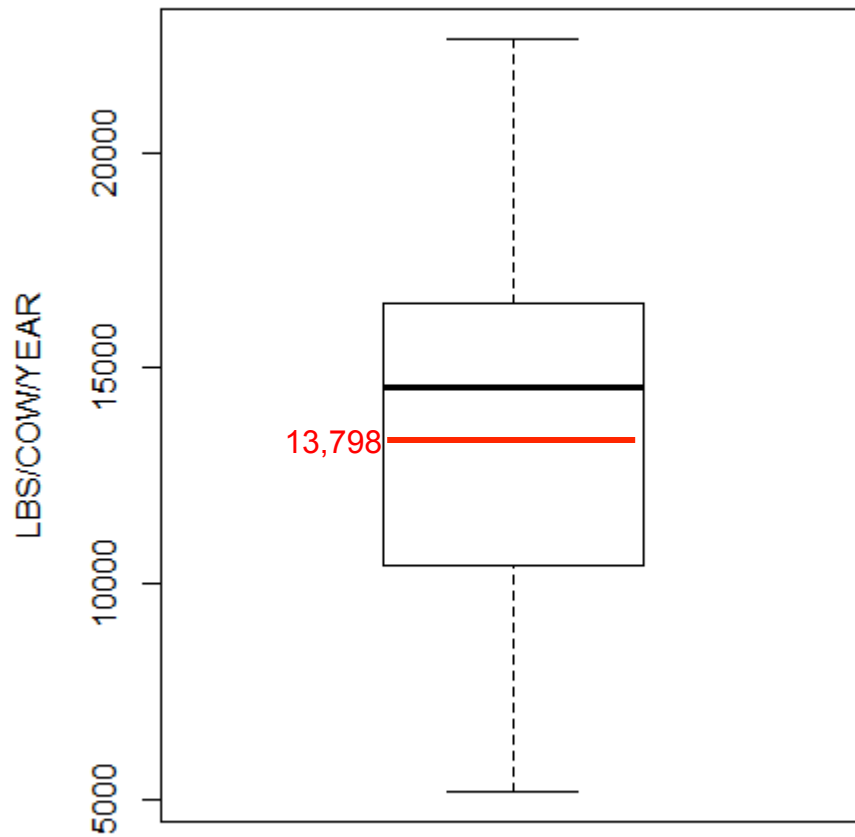
Farm Characteristics - Livestock

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK

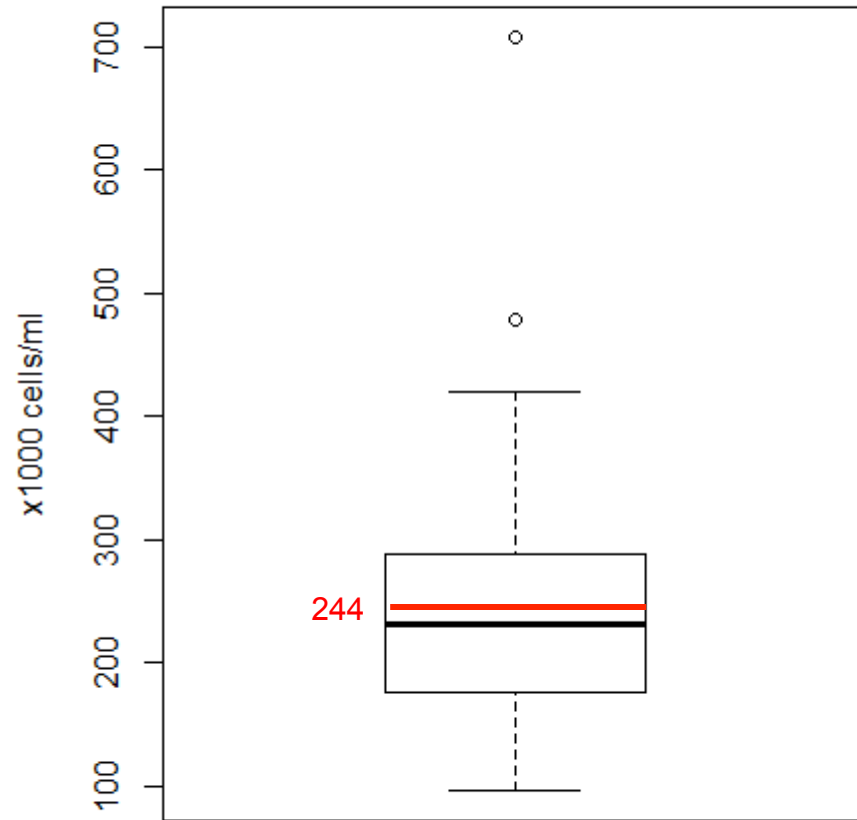


Farm Characteristics - Production

ROLLING HERD AVERAGE

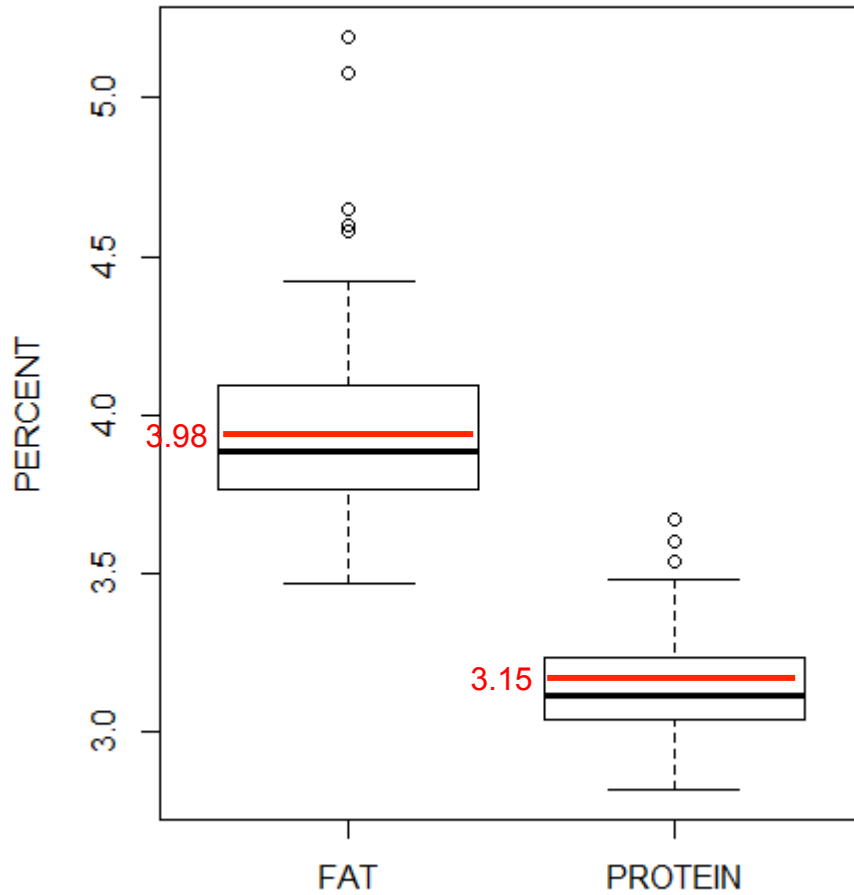


SOMATIC CELL COUNT



Farm Characteristics - Milk

MILK COMPONENTS



Farm Characteristics – Breeding

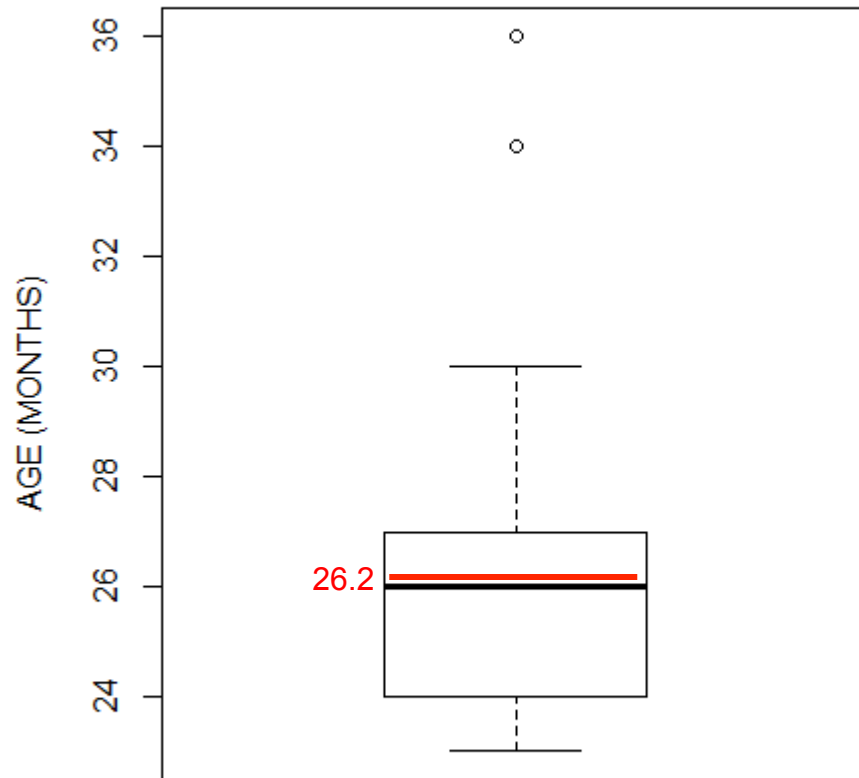
Table 2: Breeding characteristics of the surveyed organic Wisconsin dairy farms.

Trait	%
Purchased dairy replacements (% of farms)	10.6
Used bulls (% of farms)	60.6
Used AI (% of farms)	72.3
Predominant breed was Holstein or Holstein +Holstein crossbreds (% of farms)	57.6

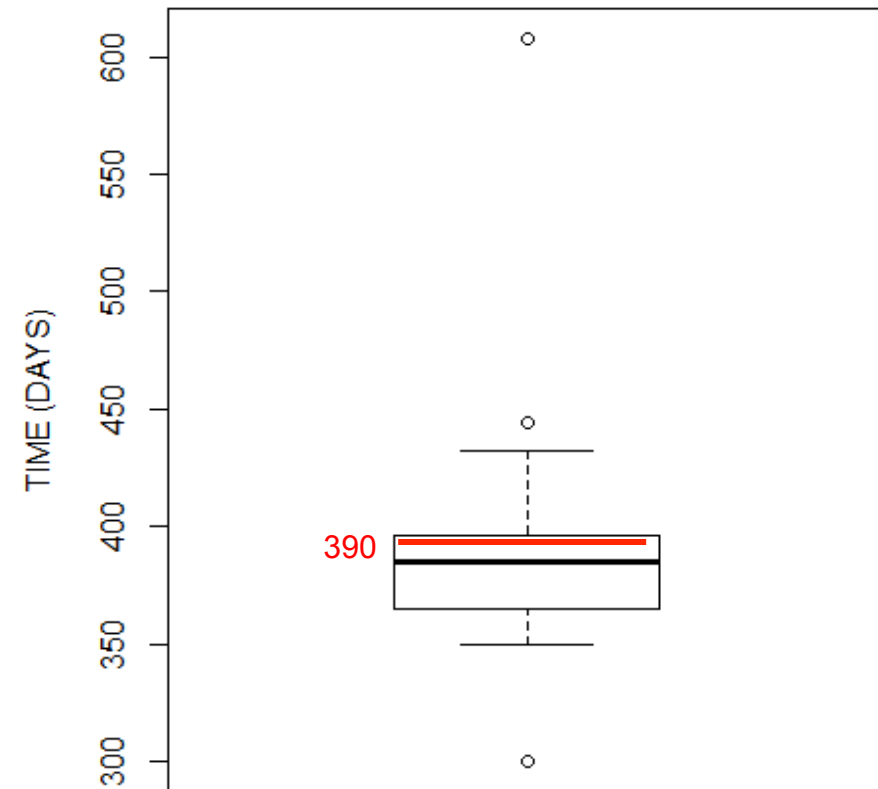


Farm Characteristics – Reproduction

AGE AT FIRST CALVING

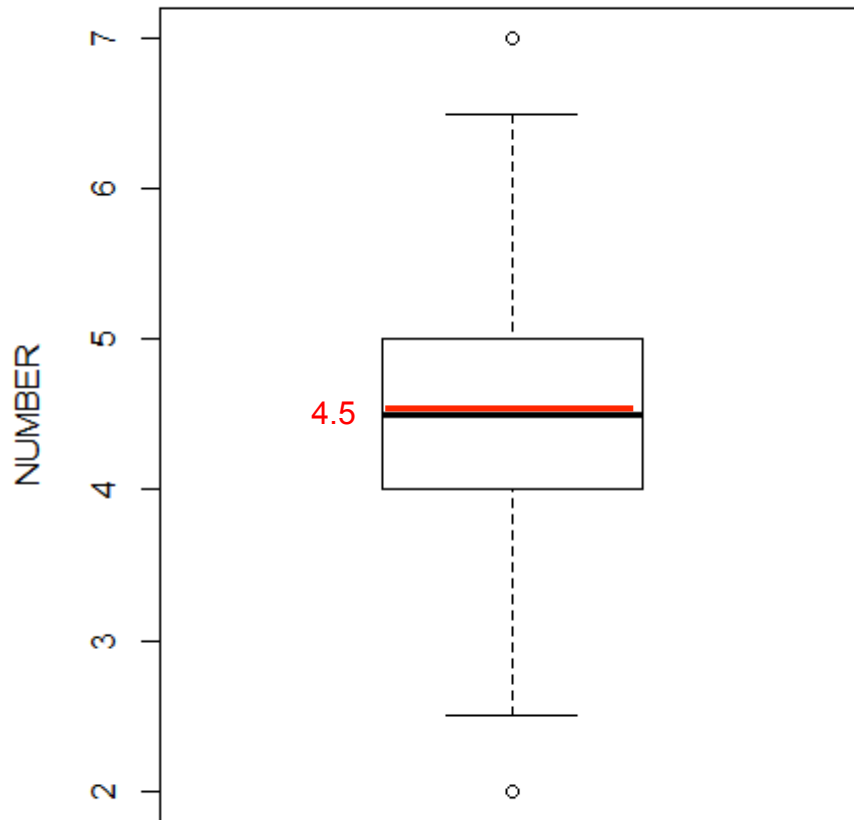


CALVING INTERVAL



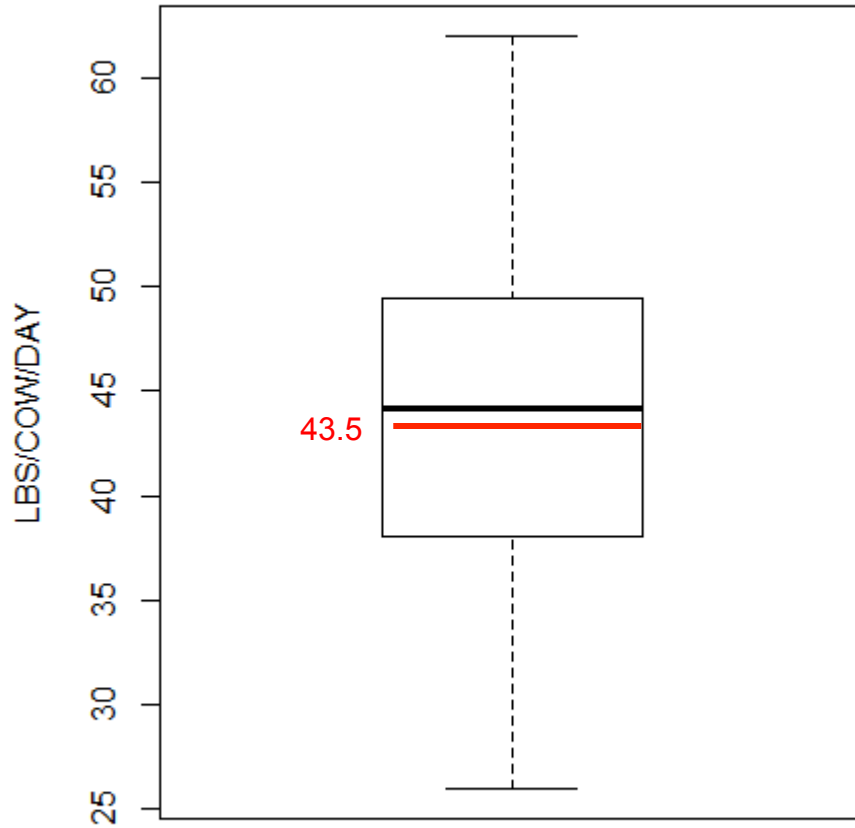
Farm Characteristics – Productive Life

NUMBER OF LACTATIONS BEFORE CULLING

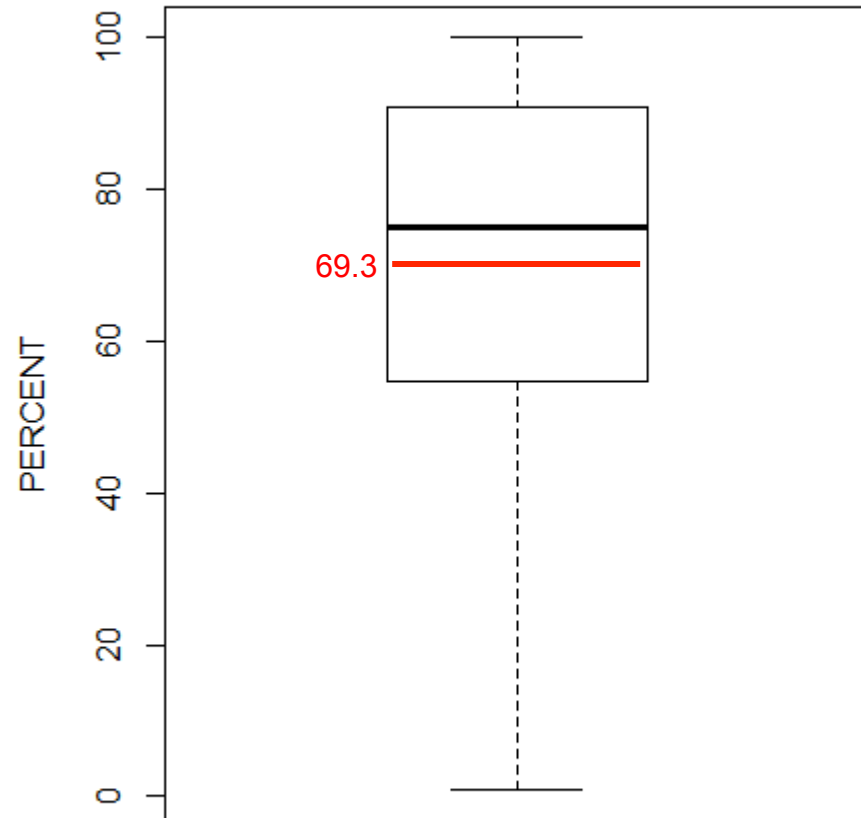


Farm Characteristics – Intakes

DRY MATTER INTAKE



PEAK PASTURE INTAKE



Farm Characteristics – Supplementation

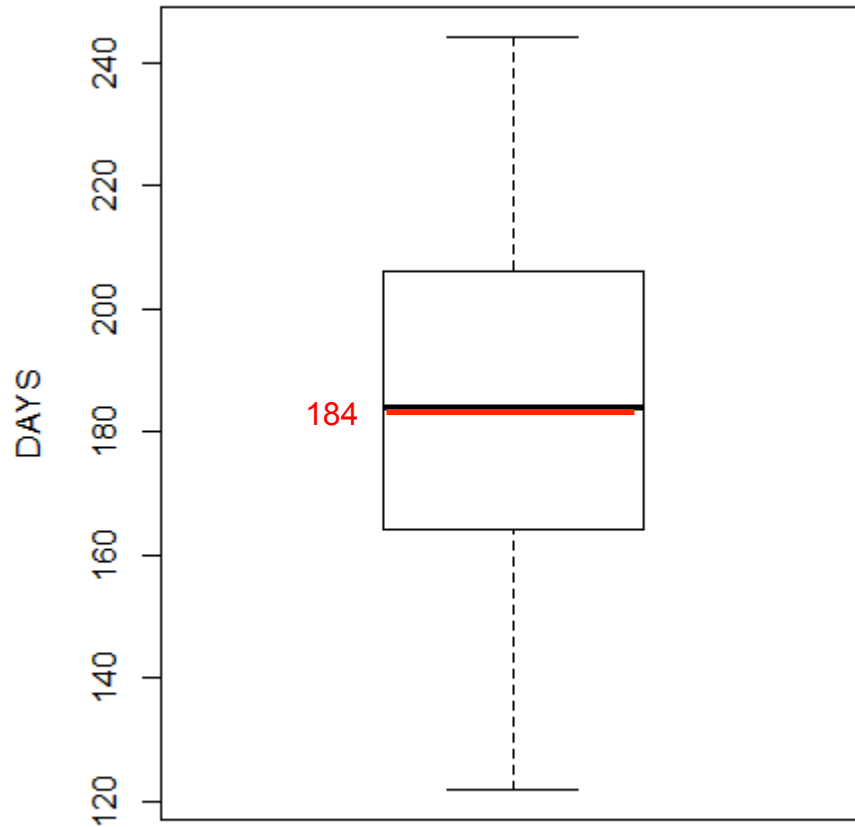
Table 3: Grazing supplementation on the surveyed organic Wisconsin dairy farms.

Trait	%
Supplemented grain (% of farms)	81.8
Supplemented protein (% of farms)	12.3
Supplemented corn silage (% of farms)	35.4

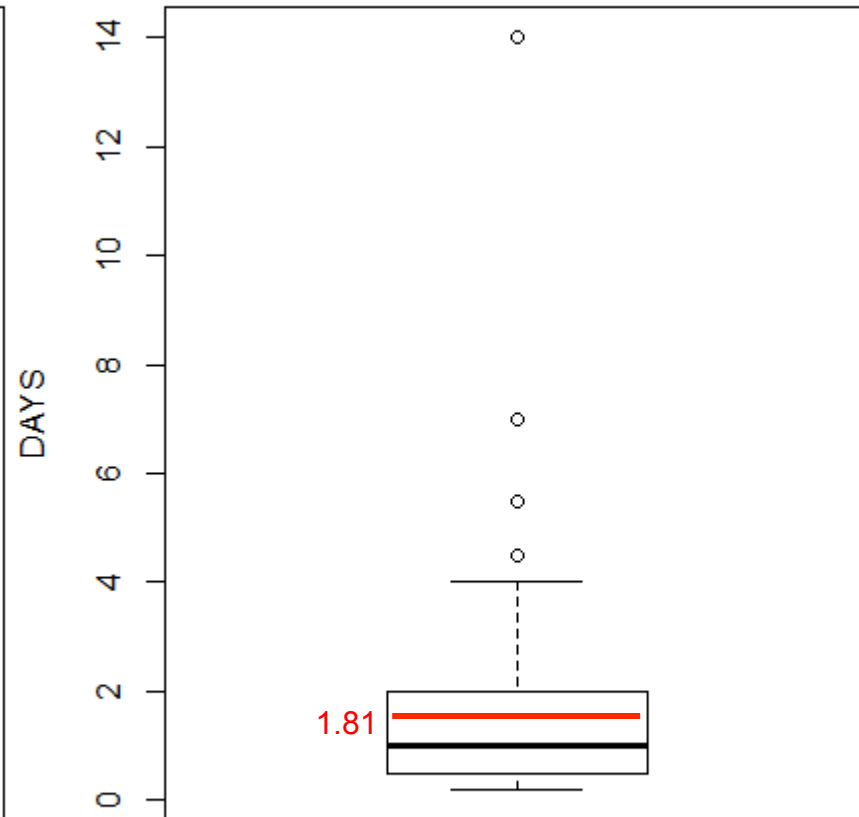


Farm Characteristics – Grazing

LENGTH OF GRAZING SEASON

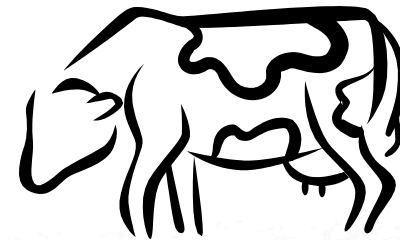


GRAZING ROTATION FREQUENCY

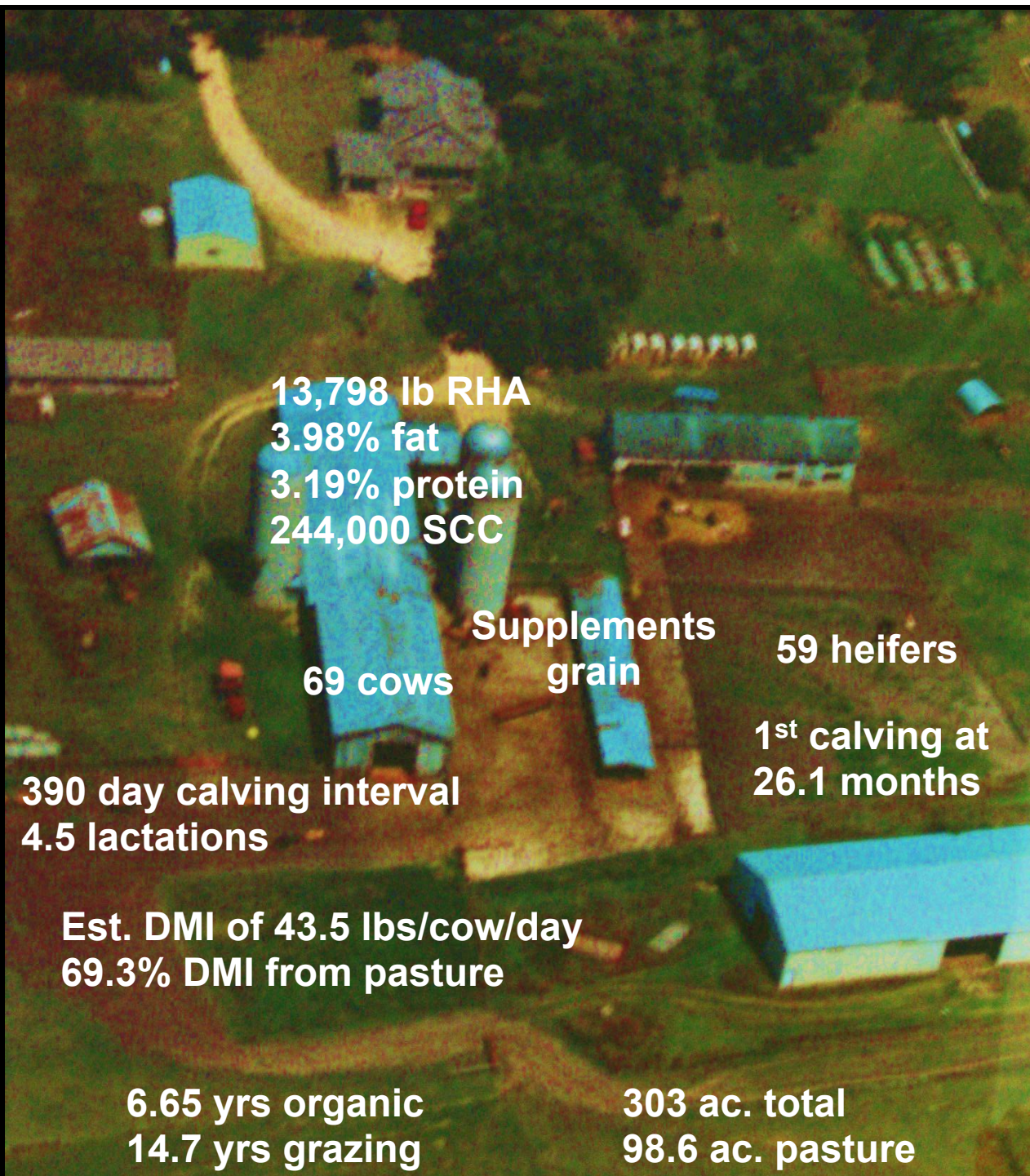


Grazing

- Wide variety of plants
 - Orchard grass
 - Kentucky bluegrass
 - Brome grass
 - Rye grass
 - Alfalfa
 - Clover (red, white)
 - New fescue
 - Plantain
 - Quack grass



The “average” organic farm



13,798 lb RHA
3.98% fat
3.19% protein
244,000 SCC

69 cows

Supplements
grain

59 heifers

390 day calving interval
4.5 lactations

1st calving at
26.1 months

Est. DMI of 43.5 lbs/cow/day
69.3% DMI from pasture

6.65 yrs organic
14.7 yrs grazing

303 ac. total
98.6 ac. pasture

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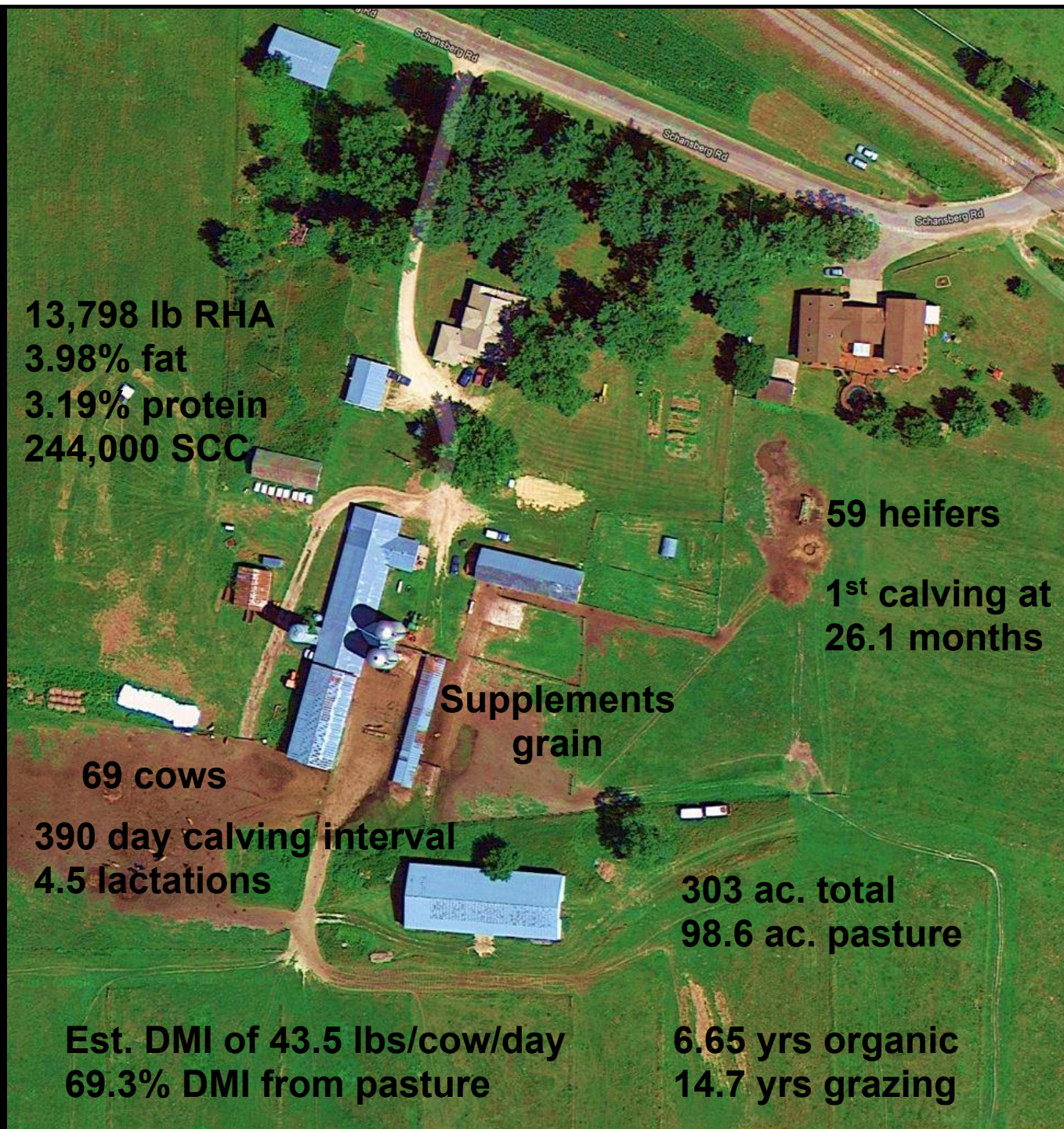
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Any
Questions?

