

# Spread of infection with BoHV-1 within Irish beef breeding herds



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## Introduction

During 2023, through the national Beef Welfare Scheme (NBWS), Irish beef breeding farmers carried out testing to investigate the presence of antibodies to Bovine herpesvirus 1 (BoHV-1) in their herd.

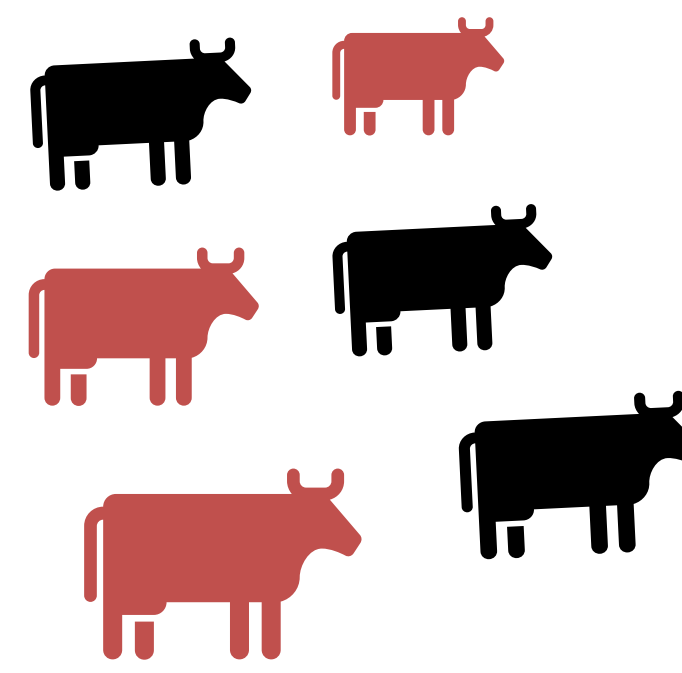
## Sampling

- Blood sample up to **20 animals** per herd (For BoHV-1 gE antibodies)
- Full herd test in small herds (<20 animals)
- Ideally animals **>9 months** of age (if not enough, sample younger)
- Destined to **breeding herds**



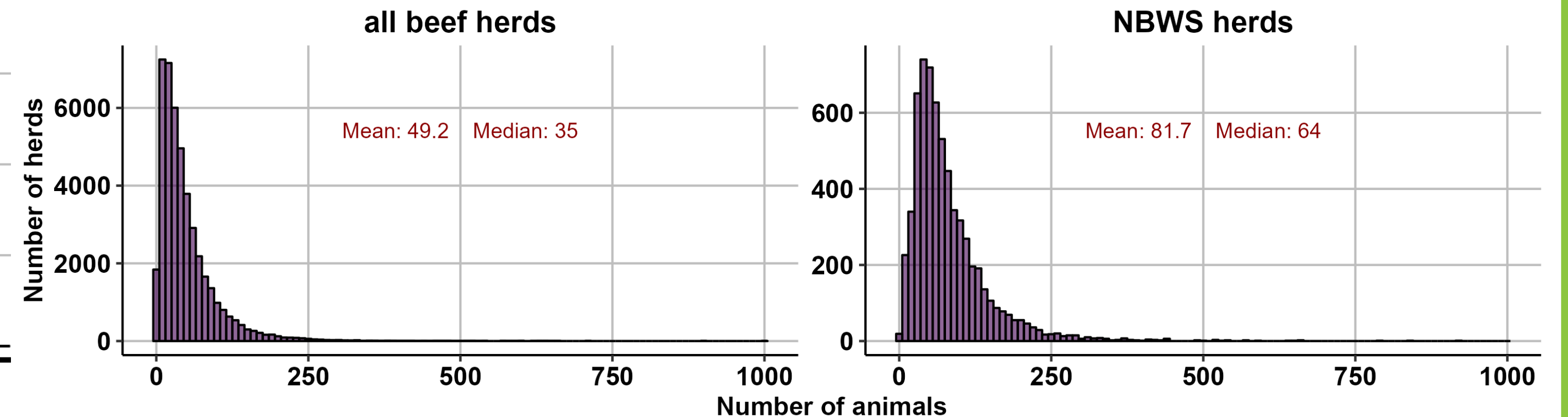
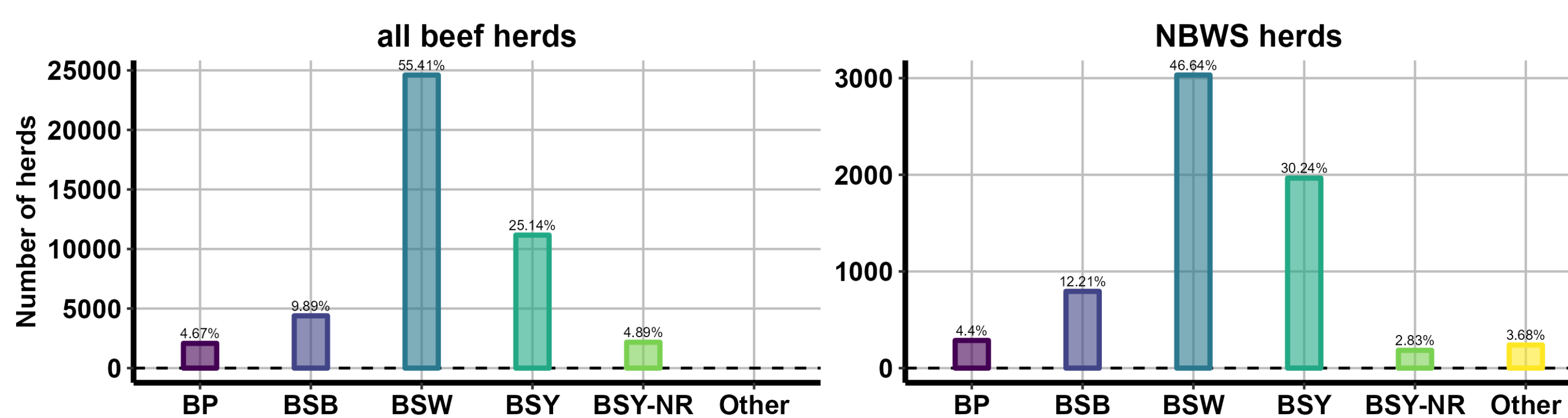
## Samples

- 10,500 herds submitted samples
- Circa 200k individual animal tested



- Results for 6,500 herds received so far
- 126k individual animal tested

## Representativeness of the samples – Herd type distribution and Herd size

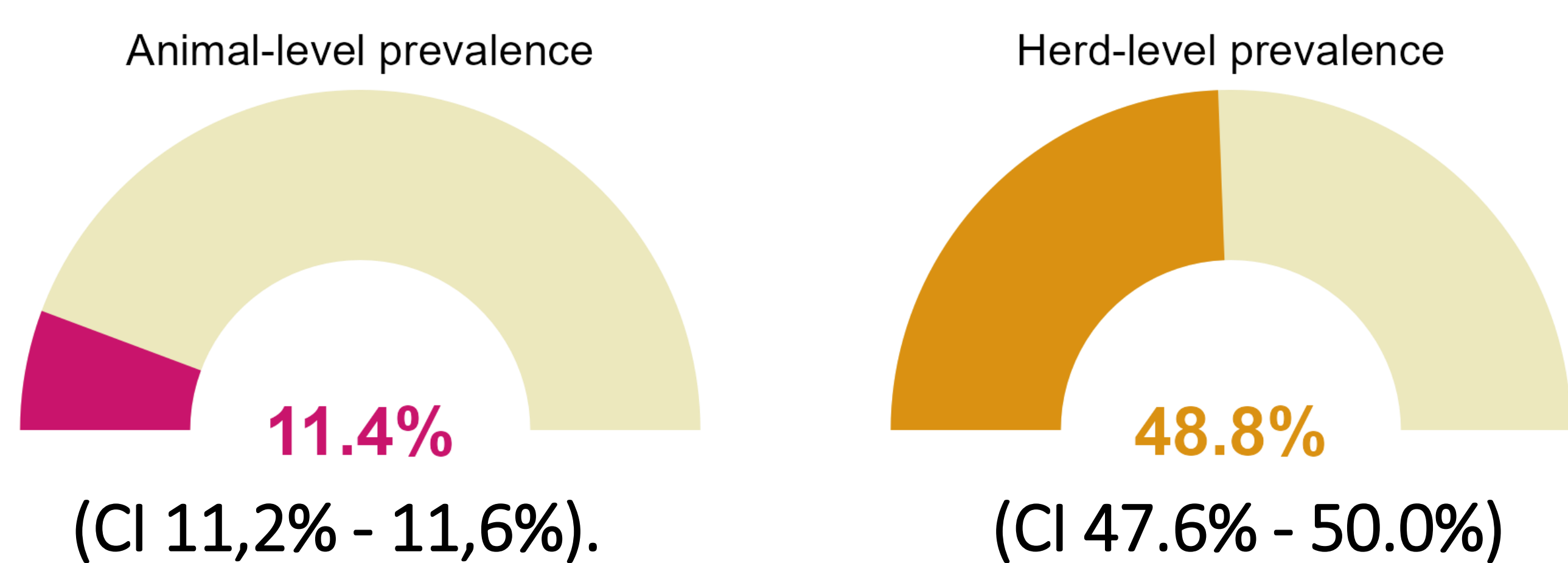


BP: beef pedigree; BSB: beef suckling to beef; BSW: beef suckling to weanling; BSY: beef suckling to youngstock; BSY-NR: Non-rearing beef suckling to youngstock

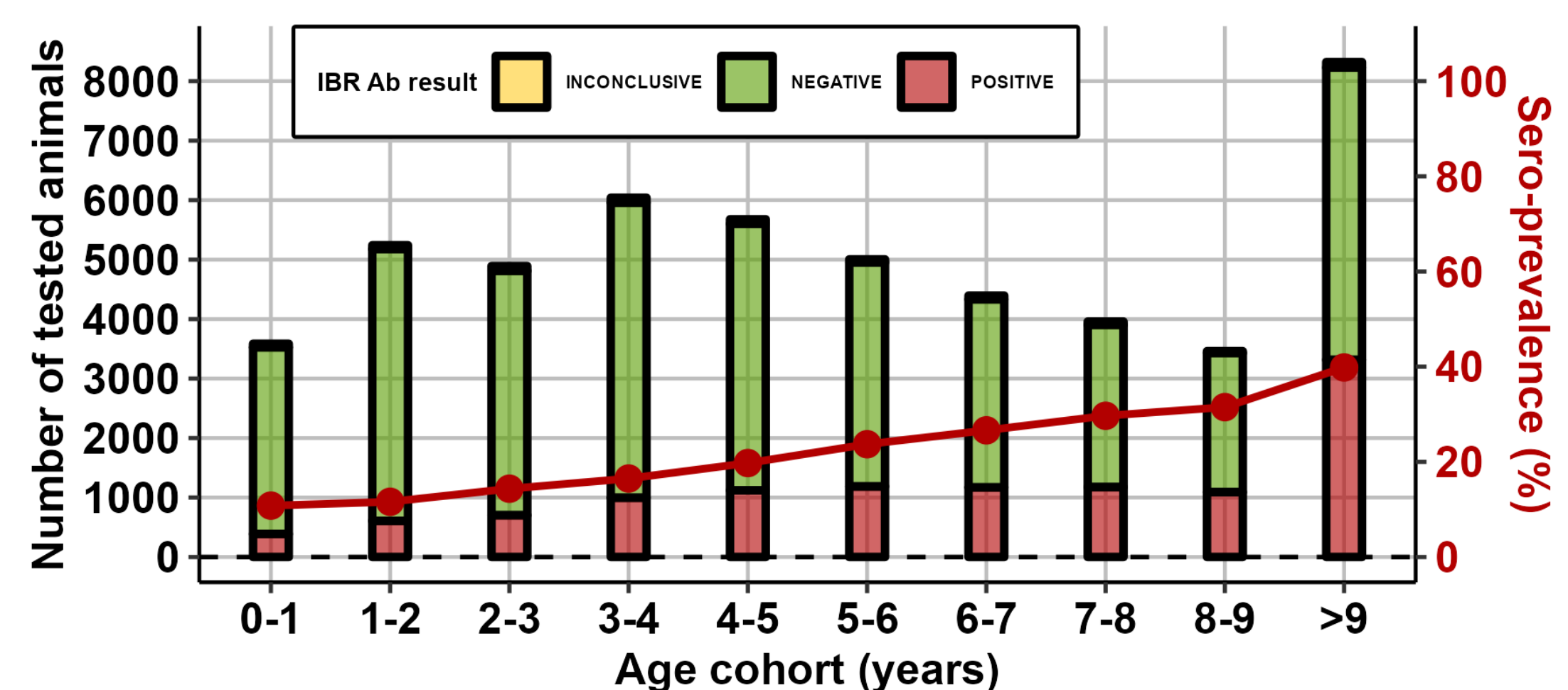
Herds participating in the NBWS 2023 were larger than the average Irish beef breeding herds

Although larger, in terms of herd type composition sampled herds were representative

## Results



## Age-related prevalence



**Conclusions:** Prevalence to BoHV-1 gE antibodies in Irish suckler herds is lower than previously thought. Full analysis of all herds and a risk factor study will follow.



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