

# Update on \$Fescue

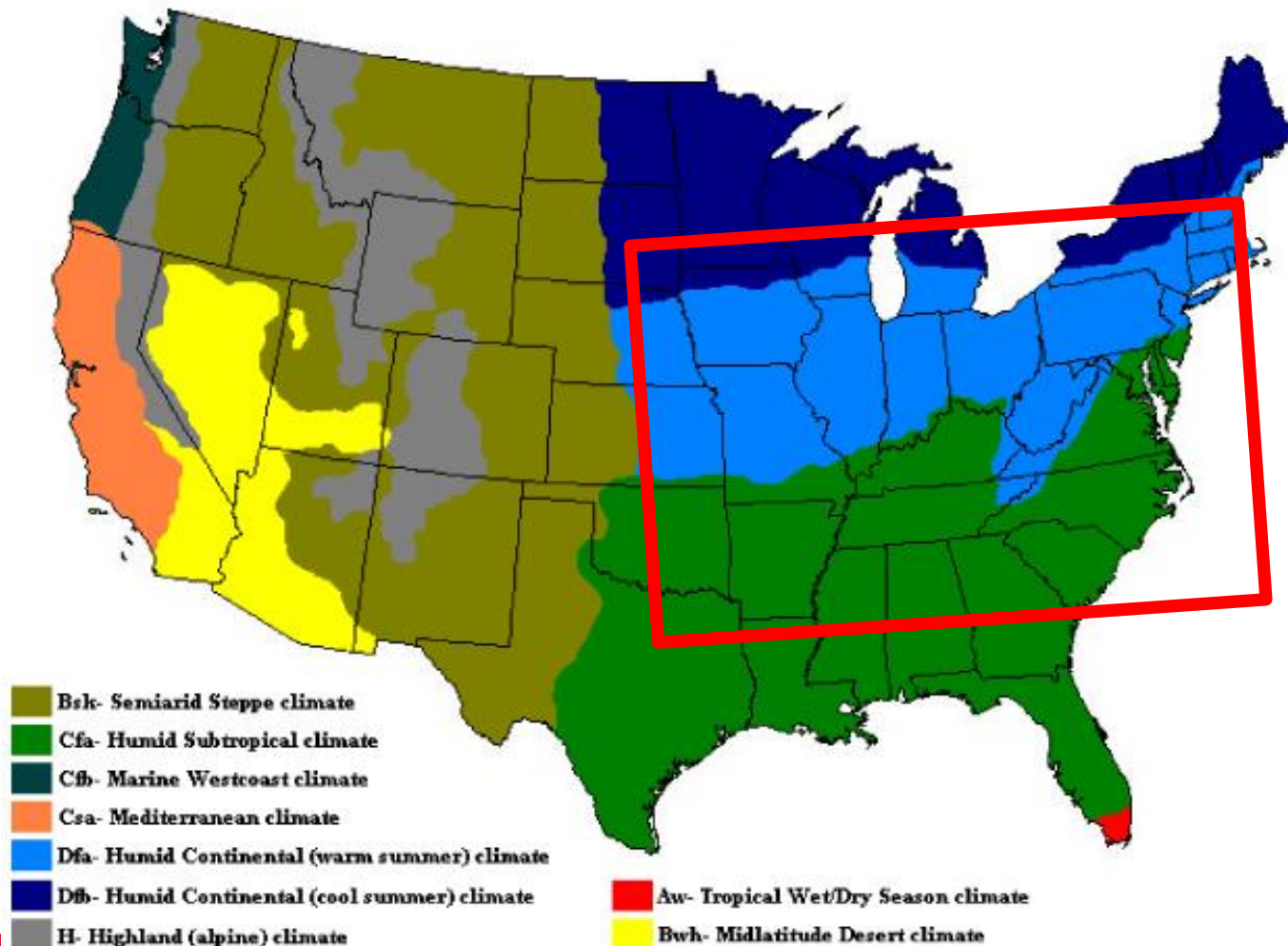
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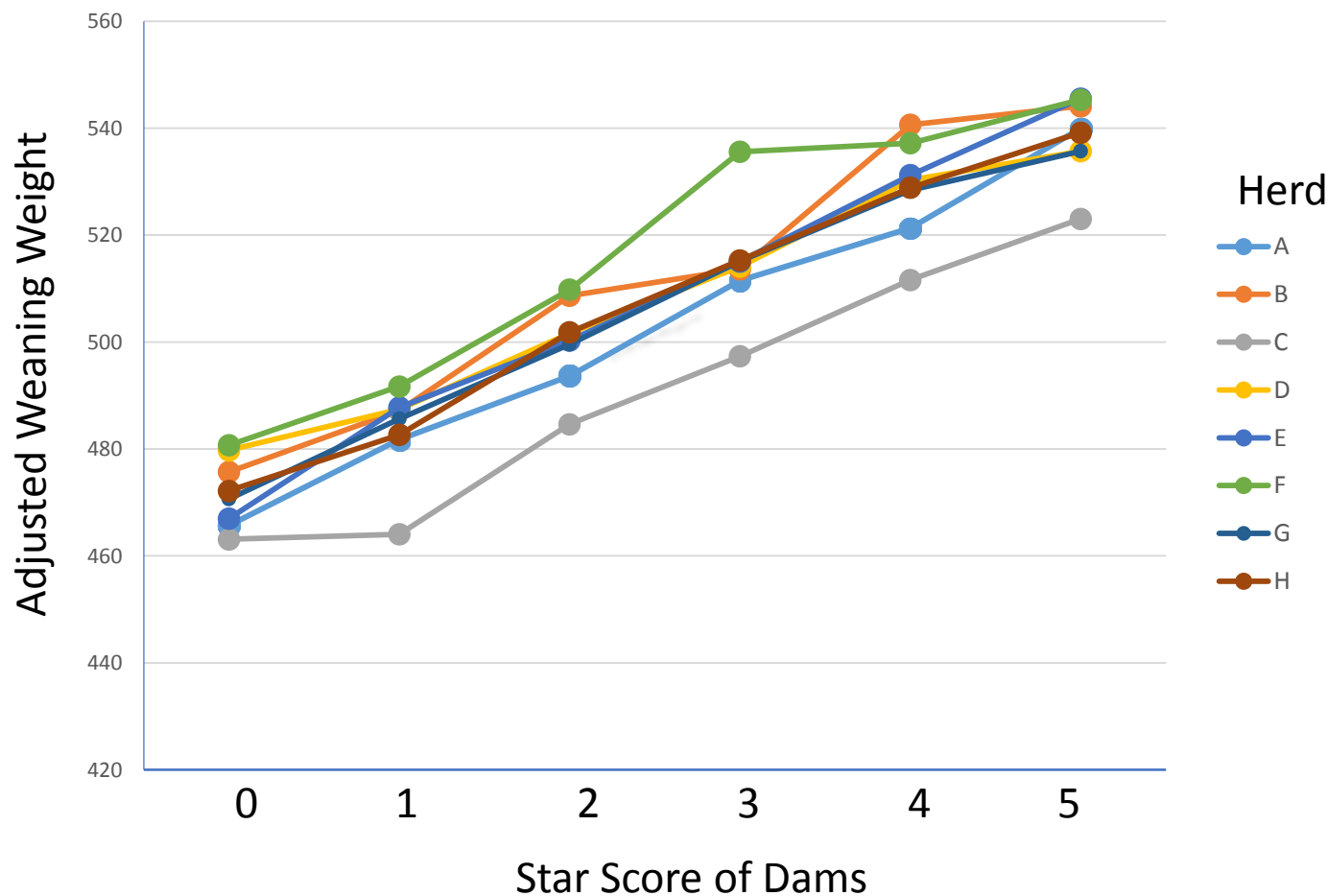
Patrick Wall  
ISU Extension Beef Specialist

# The Fescue Belt?

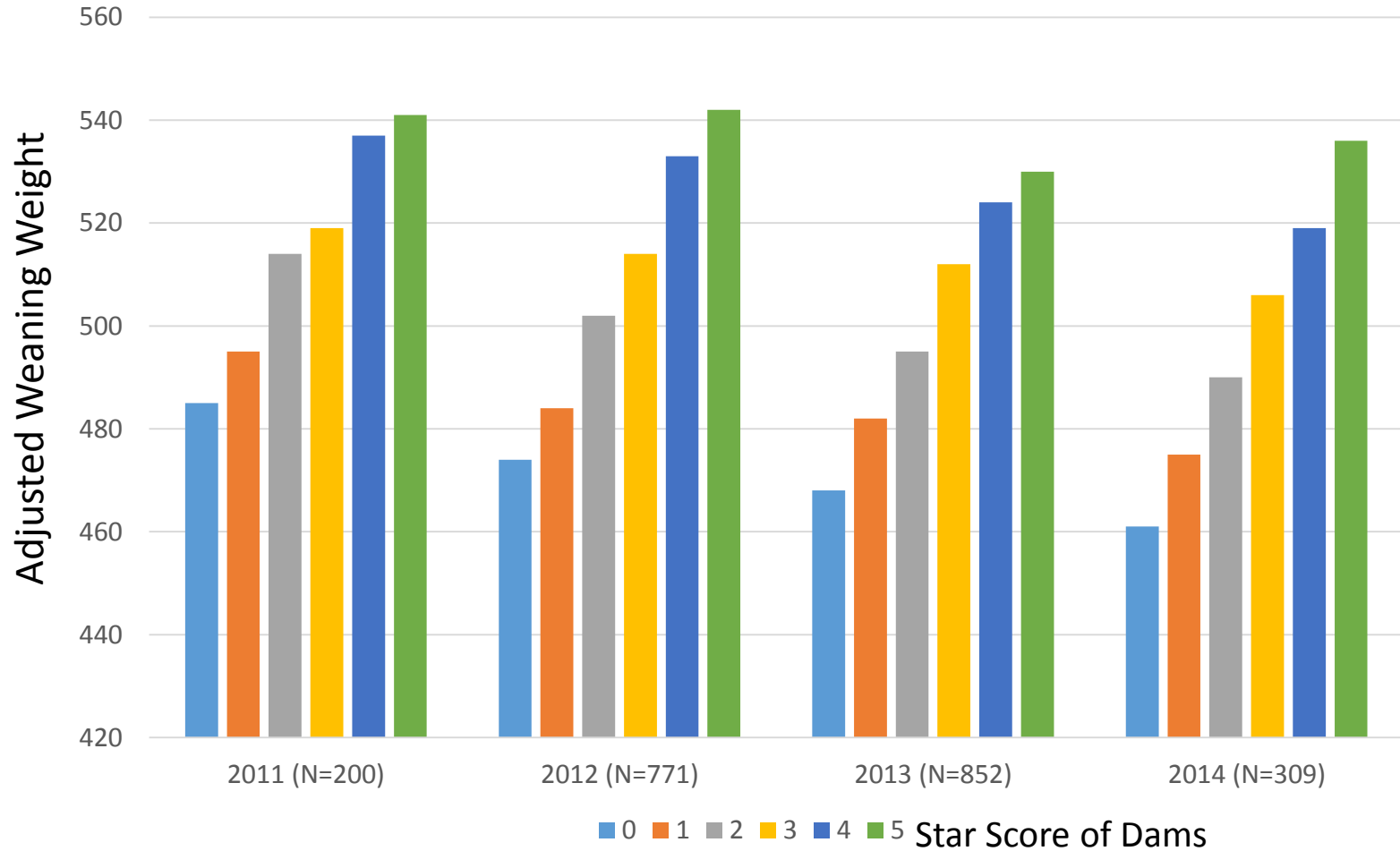
## Climate Zones of the Continental United States



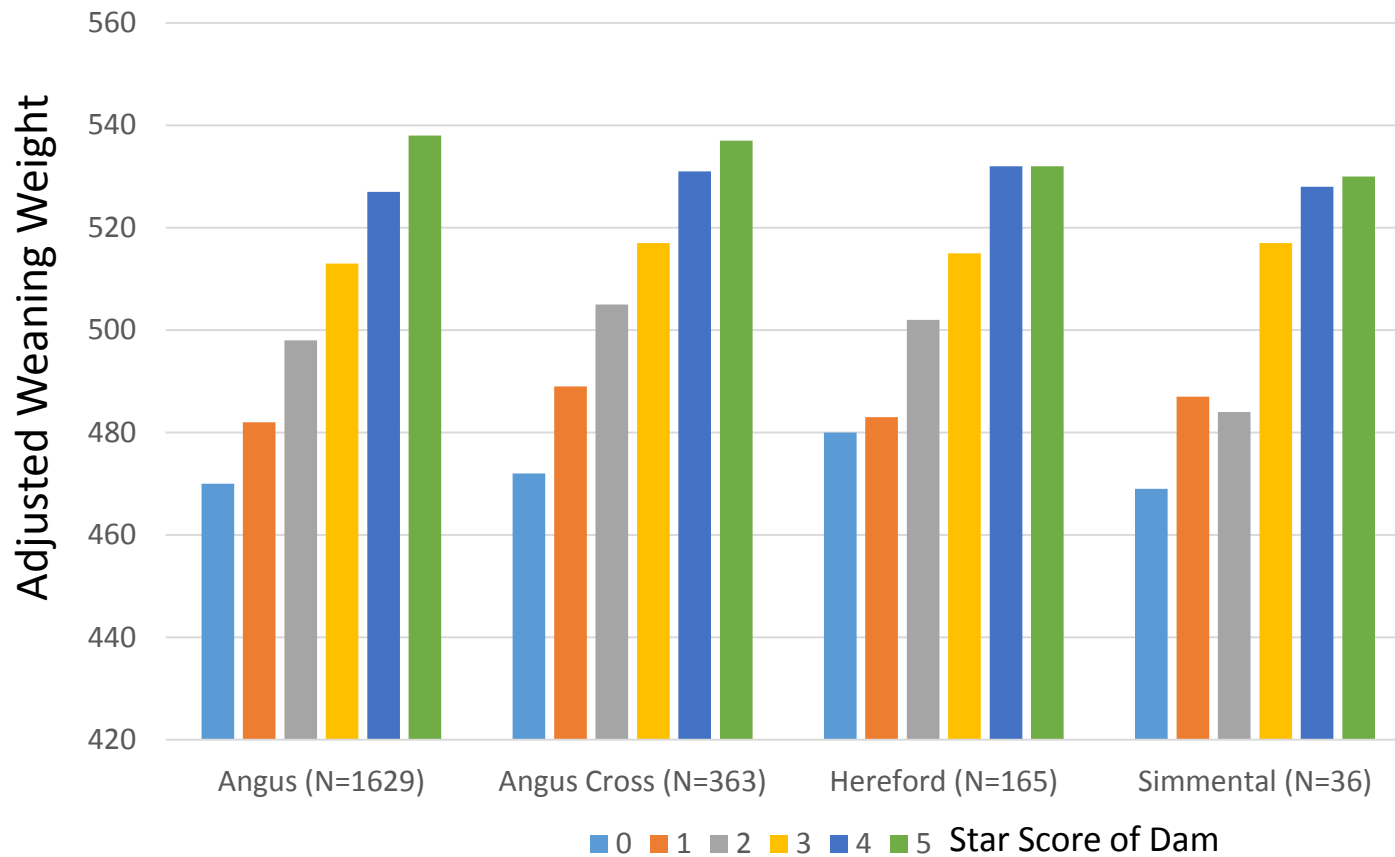
This Relationship is Consistent Across *Herds*  
(80-700 cows per herd)



## This Relationship is Consistent Across Years



## This Relationship is Consistent Across Breeds\*



*\*Breed as defined by owner; cows were not registered*



# How did we get \$Fescue?



- Assumed Fescue Score as a permanent progeny record
  - Treated like WW EPD
- The effect of Fescue Score (T-Snip<sup>TM</sup>) is linear
  - Across breed, year, and location
- Assigned a monetary value to each point of Fescue Score
  - (pounds of WW X price \$/lbs.)
- Used \$BMI as the base
  - Backed out a portion of WW to minimize double-counting
- $\$Fescue = \$BMI + \$\$\$*T-Snip^{TM} - x*WW$ 
  - Remember, you won't see \$Fescue unless you test for T-Snip<sup>TM</sup>

# How do we use \$Fescue?

- Treat this like \$BMI in a toxic fescue environment
- Marketing tool for cattle moving zip codes
- Nothing in the test selects for hair shedding
- Assume the heritability of the trait is “0” until we find out otherwise
  - Don’t bet the farm just yet.
- Acclimation periods, legumes, management, etc. are still important
- Like other genomic tests, expect updates/improvements

# What can we infer from the data we have, if anything at all?

- Deerpark Leader 18<sup>th</sup> – T-Snip<sup>TM</sup> Score of 38
  - “Easily the most maternal bull of the Irish imports.”
  - Recorded progeny EVERY SINGLE YEAR from 1976-2001





# What can we infer from the data we have, if anything at all?

- Saskvalley Imerative 33x– T-Snip™ Score of 4
  - We don't know everything!
  - Eats only toxic fescue, stays fat, daughters perform well







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# T-Snip™ Testing

*for*

# Fescue Tolerance

[Submit a Sample](#)

## *Find out More*

To find out more, view the video or click [here](#) to learn more about Fescue Toxicosis

# Sample Results:



www.agbotanica.com

## T-Snip™ Test Results

Joe Customer

June 11, 2016

111 Route BB

Your Town, MO 12345

(573) 555-5555

JoeCustomer@email.net

Barcode	Animal ID	Tolerance Index	Rating
AG100744235	415118142864	4	
AG100744236	411318098597	10	★
AG100744237	410918038643	22	★★
AG100744238	414918212372	32	★★★
AG100744239	410118098594	44	★★★★
AG100744246	4G9218038638	48	★★★★★

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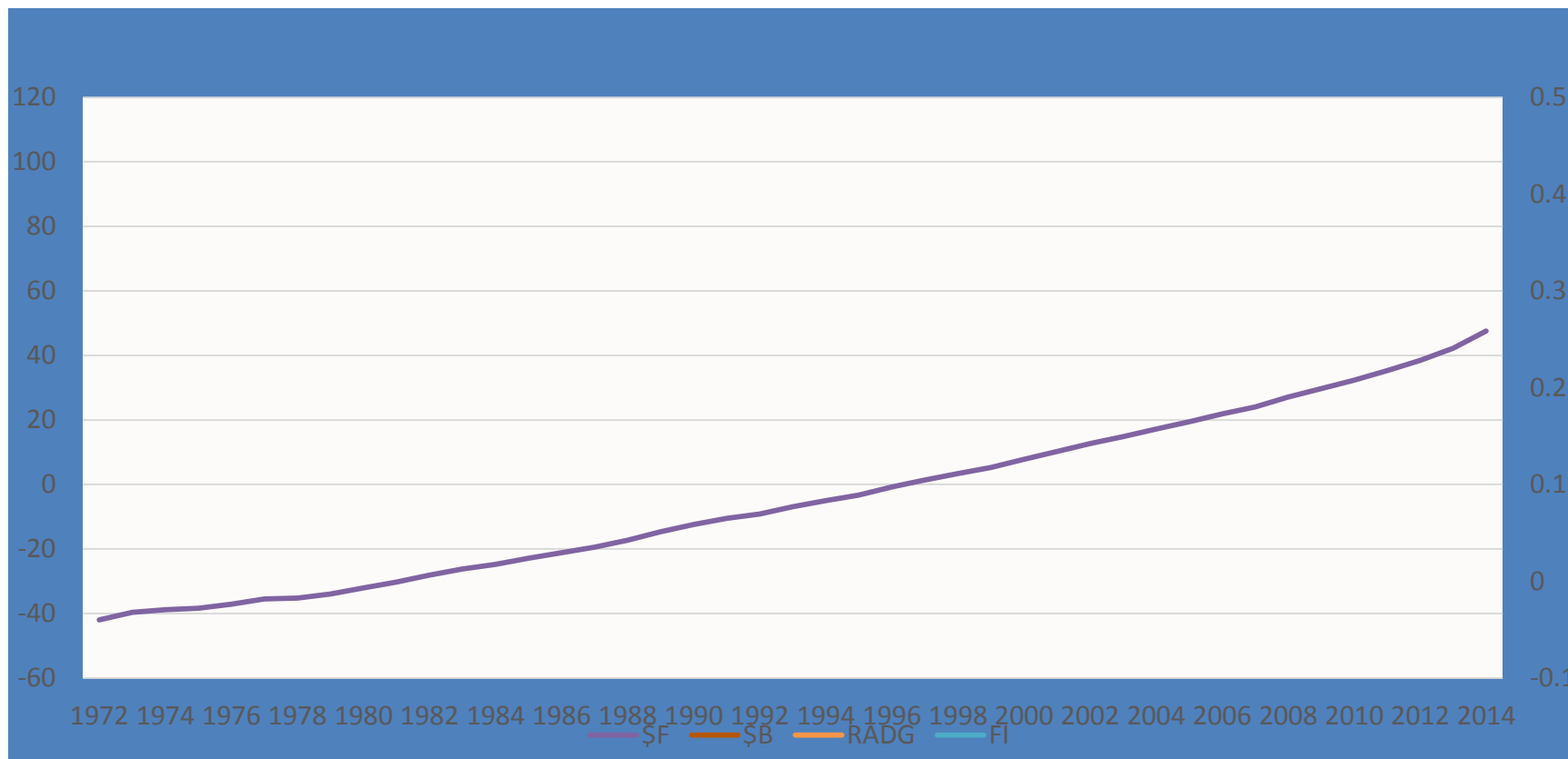
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# What's Next?

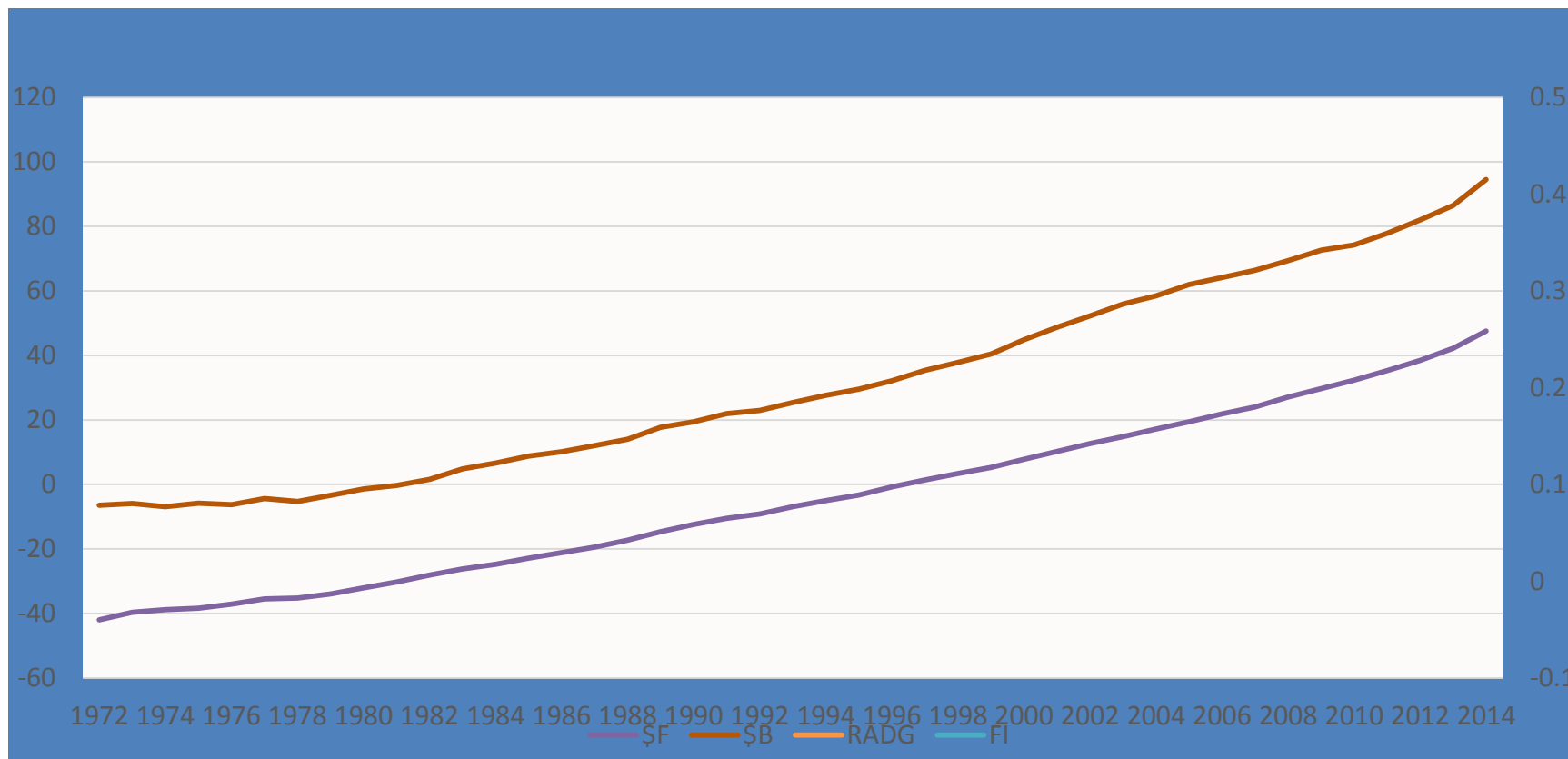
- Feed Intake
  - Dry Matter Intake EPD, NO RFI or RADG!
  - Incorporate into \$Feedlot
- Chicken: <1:1
- Swine: <2.6:1 (wean to finish)
- Beef: <4:1 (90-day post-weaning test)
- Our advantages: Cows eat grass!
  - Beef doesn't taste like chicken.



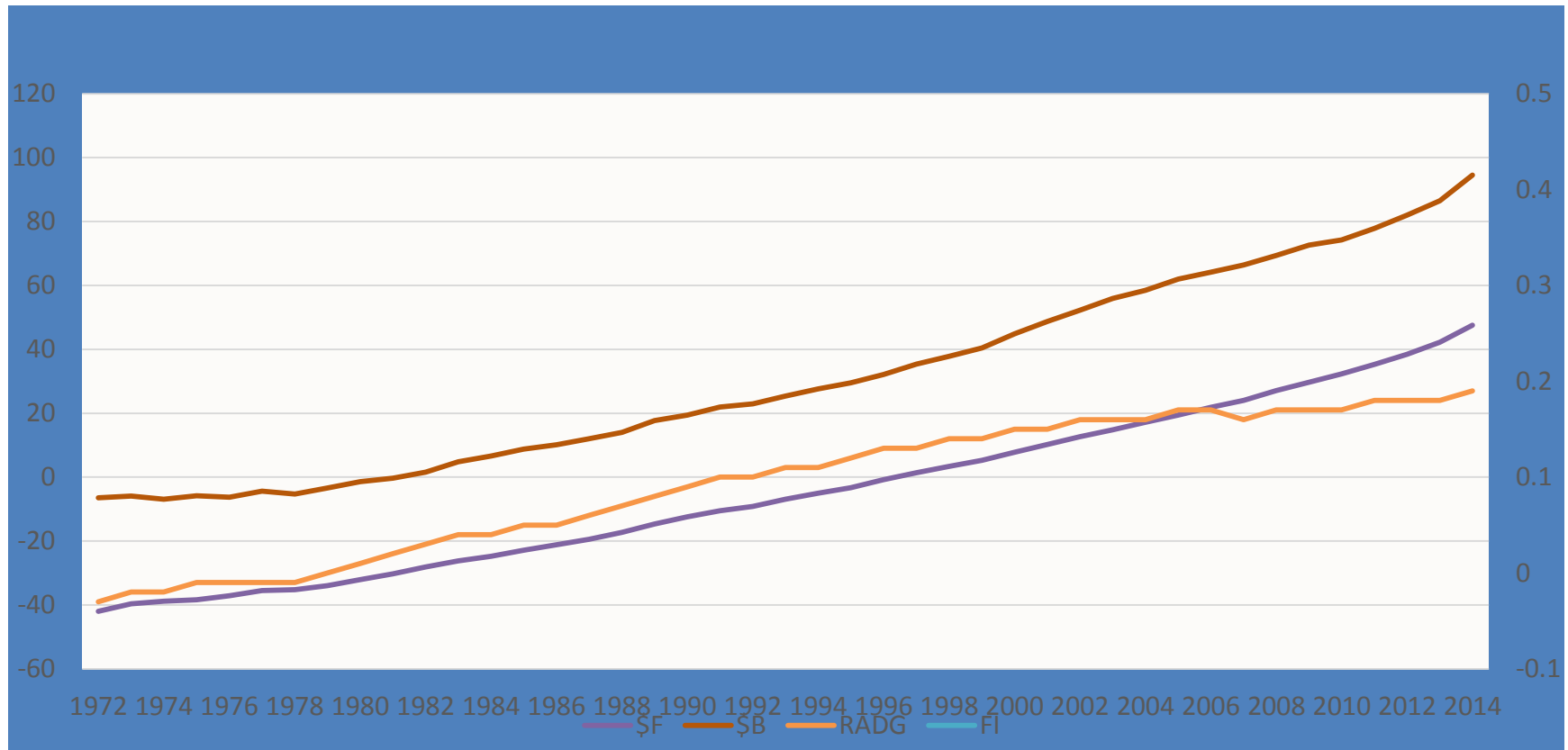
# Breed Genetic Trends: \$F



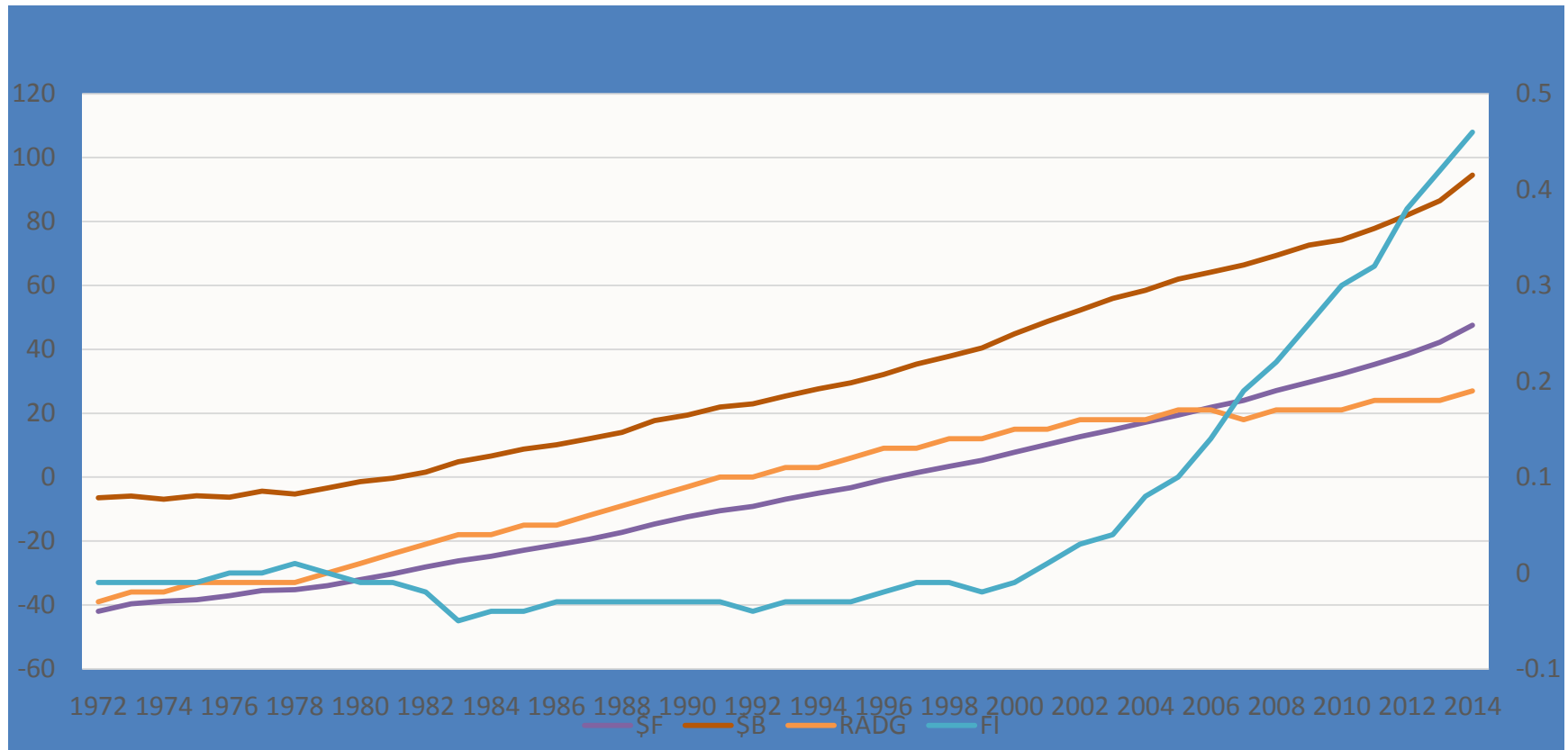
# Breed Genetic Trends: \$B



# Breed Genetic Trends: RADG



# Breed Genetic Trends: F.I.



# Feed Efficiency Testing

- Werner Feed Efficiency Testing Center – Diagonal, IA
  - Roughly 10 years of selection (not intense)
  - Angus Bulls turning 3.5-4.0:1 consistently
  - Do their dams have a “look?”*
  - “I hate to even say this out loud, but their mothers are BIG.”
  - Are there any indicators on paper to help you find them?*
  - “Not really, \$B or \$F sure won’t help you locate them.”
- At 8.0:1, 600lbs. of gain costs \$570
- At 3.5:1, 600lbs. of gain costs \$250
- That’s \$5,600 in your pocket on every semi load.
  - (35 head X \$160)



# MARC Cycle VII Post-weaning Growth and Carcass Traits



	Mature Cow weight	ADG	Slaughter Weight	Carcass Weight
Hereford	1417 #	3.32	1322 #	803 #
Angus	1408 #	3.32	1365 #	836 #
Red Angus	1406 #	3.26	1333 #	811 #
Simmental	1401 #	3.26	1362 #	829 #
Gelbvieh	1320 #	3.12	1312 #	800 #
Limousin	1388 #	3.12	1285 #	795 #
Charolais	1368 #	3.21	1348 #	826 #

# Thank You



## Are there any questions?



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