

# The role of the veterinarian in the productive sector of pork

Specific case of Ramaderia Siscart (Alcarràs)

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## OBJECTIVE

Elaborate a proposal for the improvement of weaknesses detected after a thorough analysis of the productive and reproductive parameters.

## OVERVIEW OF THE FARM

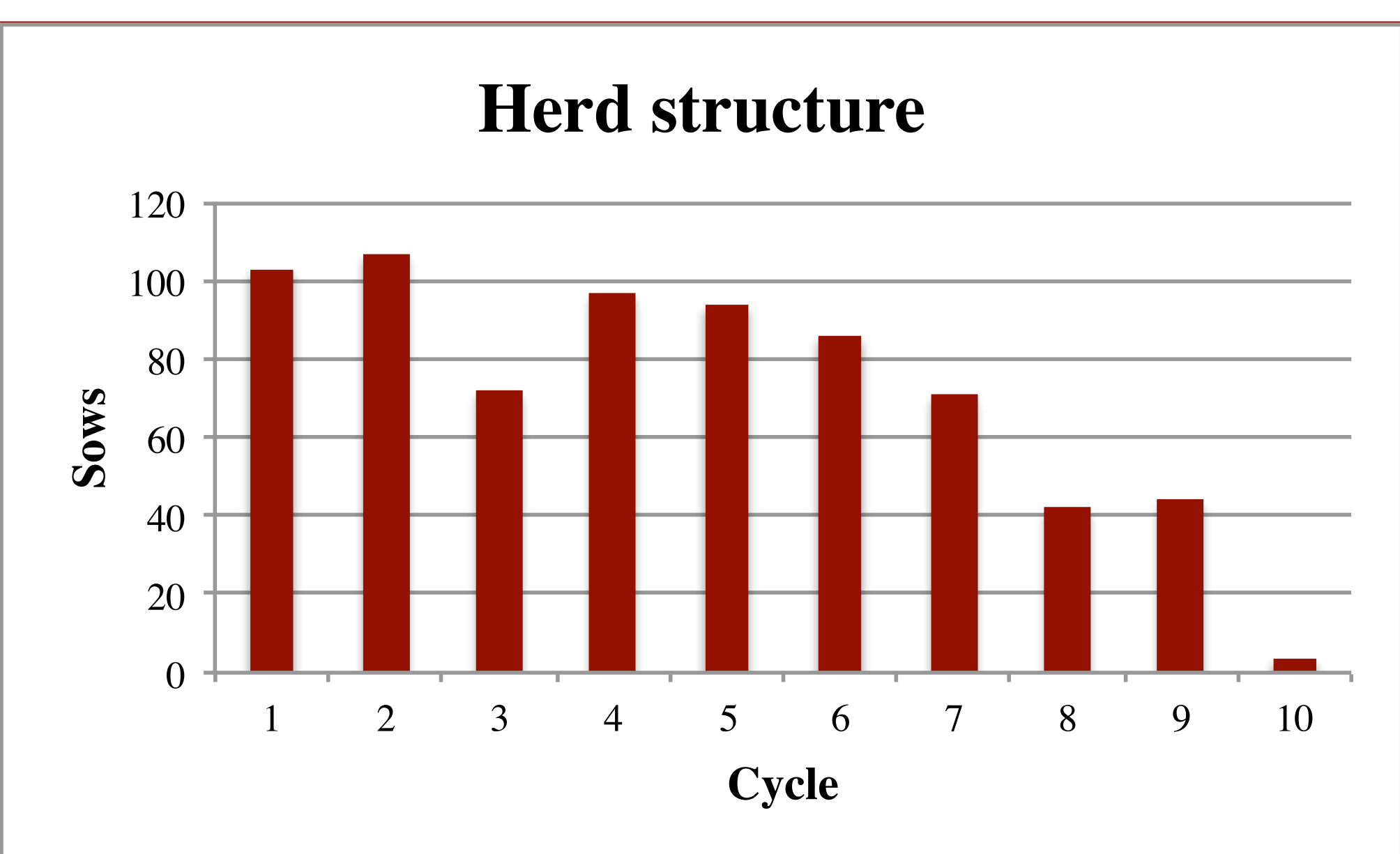


Figure 1: Herd structure. Source: Prepared by the author.

- ✓ Founded in 1970
- ✓ 730 productive sows
- ✓ S1 + S2
- ✓ 28 days of lactation
- ✓ 4 weeks of nursery
- ✓ External replacement gilts
- ✓ Genetics: Large White x Landrace; Pietrain
- ✓ Weekly lots management
- ✓ 3 employees, one of whom is the owner

	2016	2015
Replacement rate (%)	27,6	31,2
Age of sow at 1st breeding (days)	253,3	288,4
Weaning to breeding interval (days)	5	4,9
Weaning to successful breeding interval (days)	9,2	9,2
Fertilization at ultrasound diagnosis (%)	84	82,3
Repetition rate (%)	16,2	17,8
Farrowing rate (%)	78,4	75,4
Litters per sow per year	2,14	2,16
Litter size at birth	13,64	13,14
Weaned per litter	11	10,81
Weaned per sow per year	26,03	25,65

Figure 2: Production and reproduction parameters of 2015 and 2016. Source: Prepared by the author.



## STRENGTHS

- \* Experience
- \* Dimensioning
- \* Maternity



## WEAKNESSES



- \* No. of employees
- \* Fertility & Repetitions
- \* Replacement gilts
- \* Nursery

## ANALYSIS OF WEAKNESSES

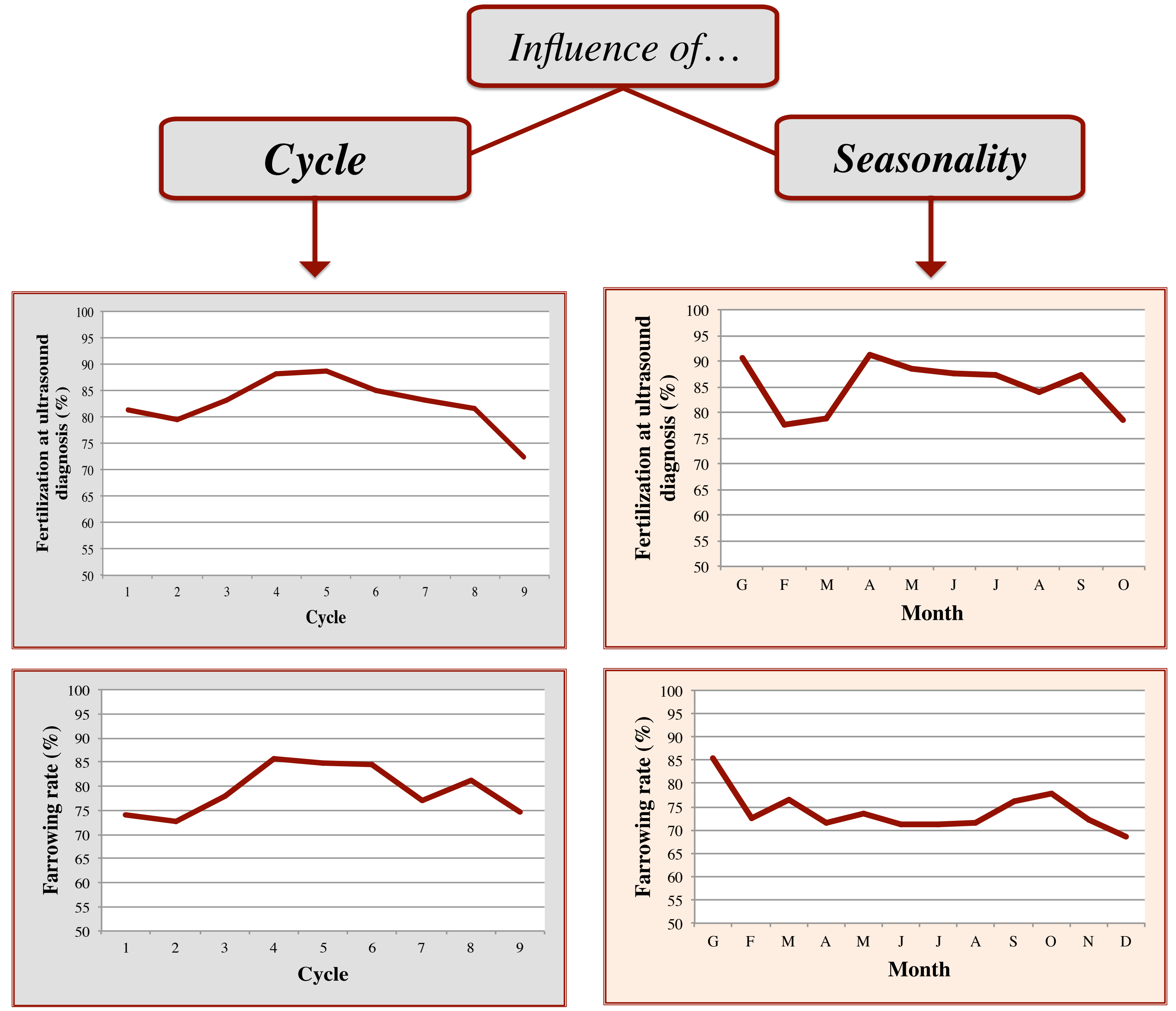
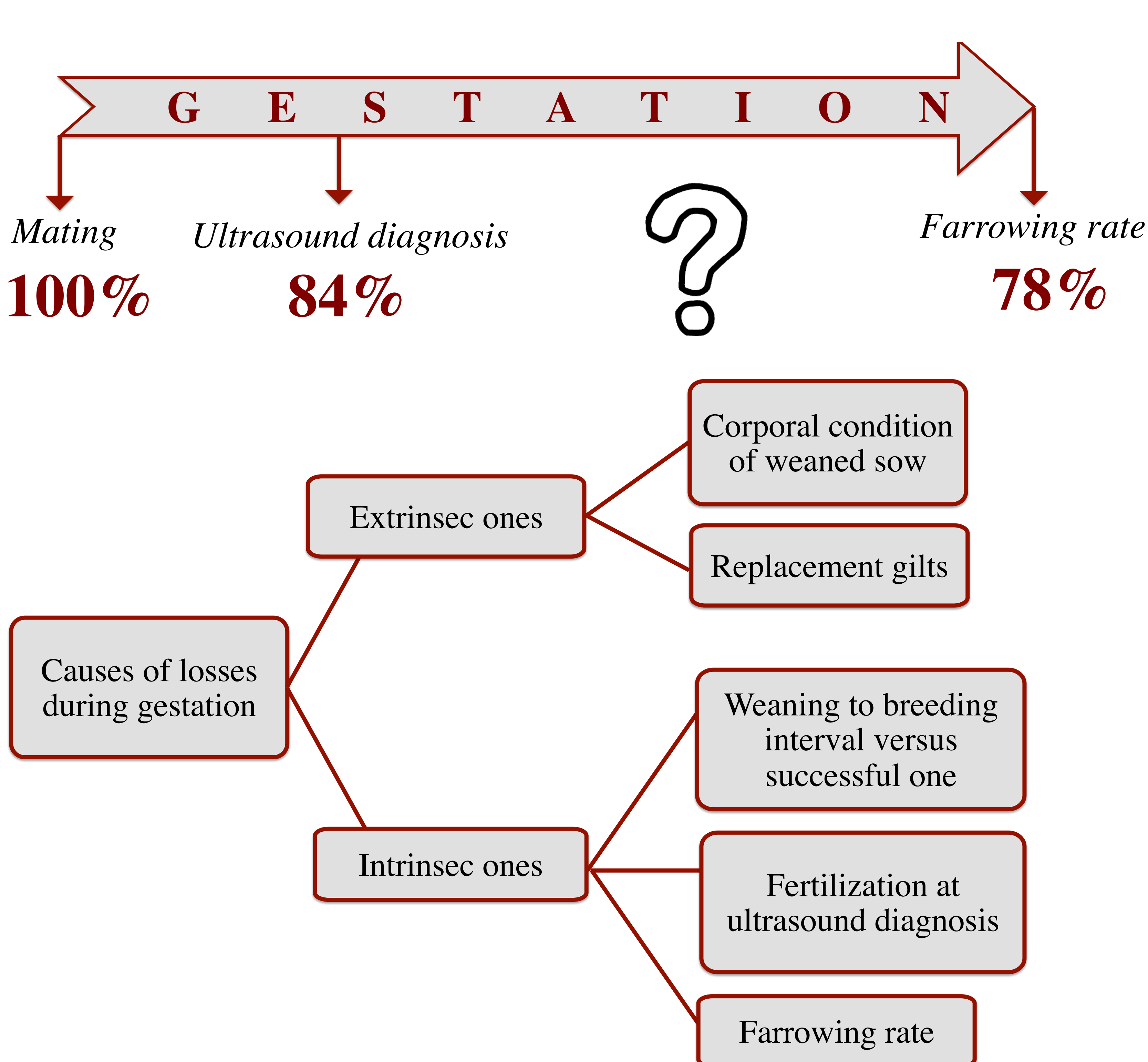


Figure 3 and 4: Effect of cycle on fertilization at ultrasound diagnosis and farrowing rate. Source: Prepared by the author

Figure 5 and 6: Effect of seasonality on fertilization at ultrasound diagnosis (year 2016) and farrowing rate (year 2014). Source: Prepared by the author

## CONCLUSIONS

- \* It is strong recommended to increase work force to 3 full – time employees. This change must be connected to a division of tasks in which replacement gilts and mating gain importance.
- \* It is mandatory to implement a strict protocol for replacement gilts which includes individual identification, boar exposure and heat checking, with the aim of optimize the introduction to productive cycle.
- \* Once these two requirements are followed, the cull of inefficient sows (>8 cycles and >2 repetitions) can be done.