

**Weaning- whys and
wherefores**
&
**What happens at
The Steyning**

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Including...

“Show of hands, then (HB) Best Practice”

Timing

Method

Drenching

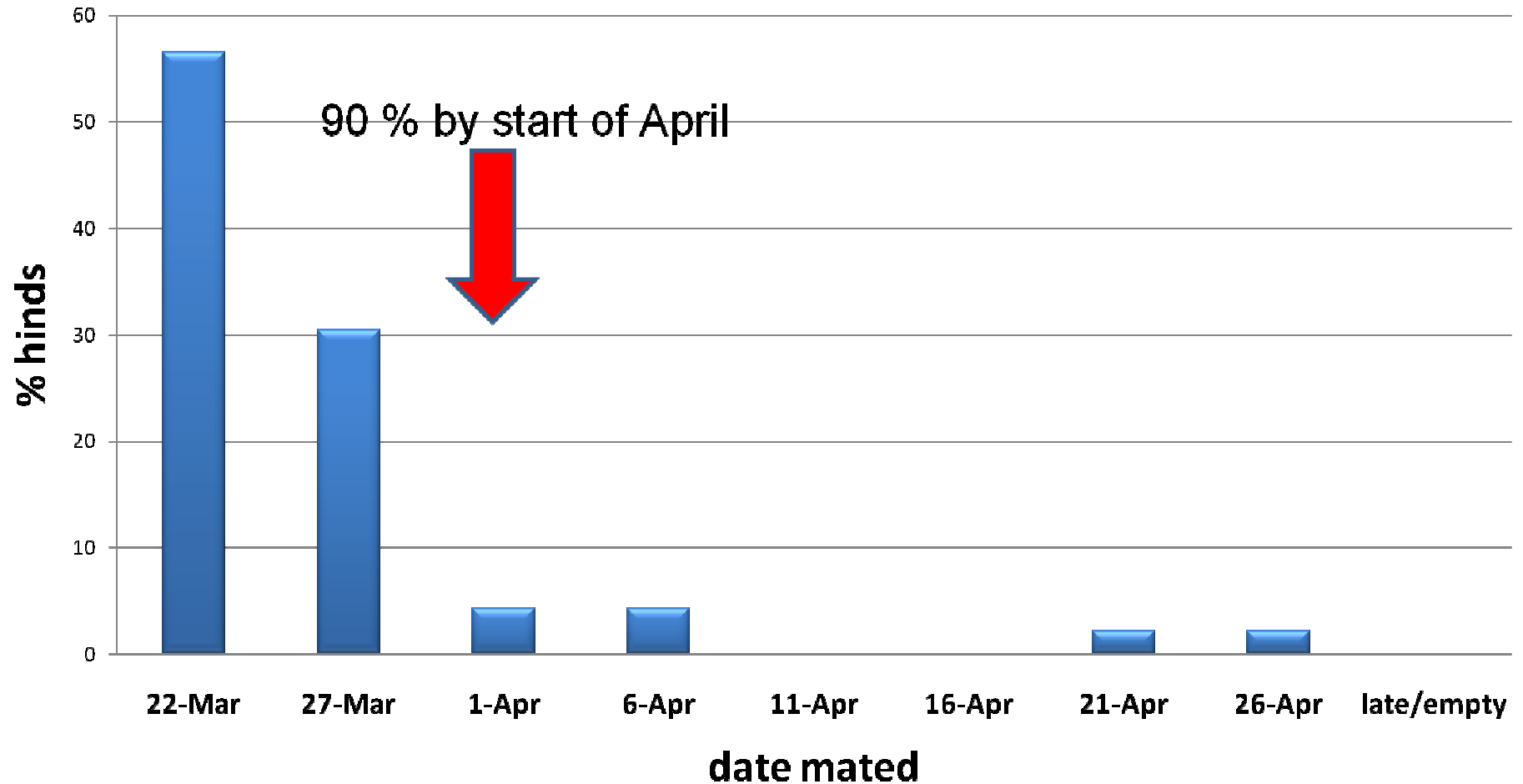
Vaccinations

Post-wean deer health issues

Timing –pre-rut or later?

- Best Practice is pre-rut wean in dry environment
- Early: heavier fatter hinds
early pregnancies, less empties
early fawns (early November)
slightly smaller fawns post-winter
- Late: hinds > 0.5 CS lighter pre-winter
virtually no March matings
higher empty rates
later fawns (December)

The Steyning: MA Red hinds to Red Stag 2009



Timing –pre-rut or not

- Not recommended:
 - weaning during the rut!
- Put stag out early March:
 - first matings possible by 10 March
- Stag removal:
 - can be early if early weaned (25.4?)
 - at least 7 May if late weaned

Method

Each to their own but be prepared to change...

- Lead hinds- old hinds, cull hinds (not R2 hinds)
- Hard v. soft- next door or miles apart
- Visual barriers- shelter belts, hills
- Wean small mob early as leaders
- Move to weaning paddocks 48 hrs pre-wean
- Feed out pre-wean and have feed in wean paddock before weaning starts

Drenching

Incredibly diverse systems- somehow!

- Recommended:

at or just before (early)weaning
oxfendazole or ML family
oral or pour-on?

- Not recommended:

albendazole
levamisole

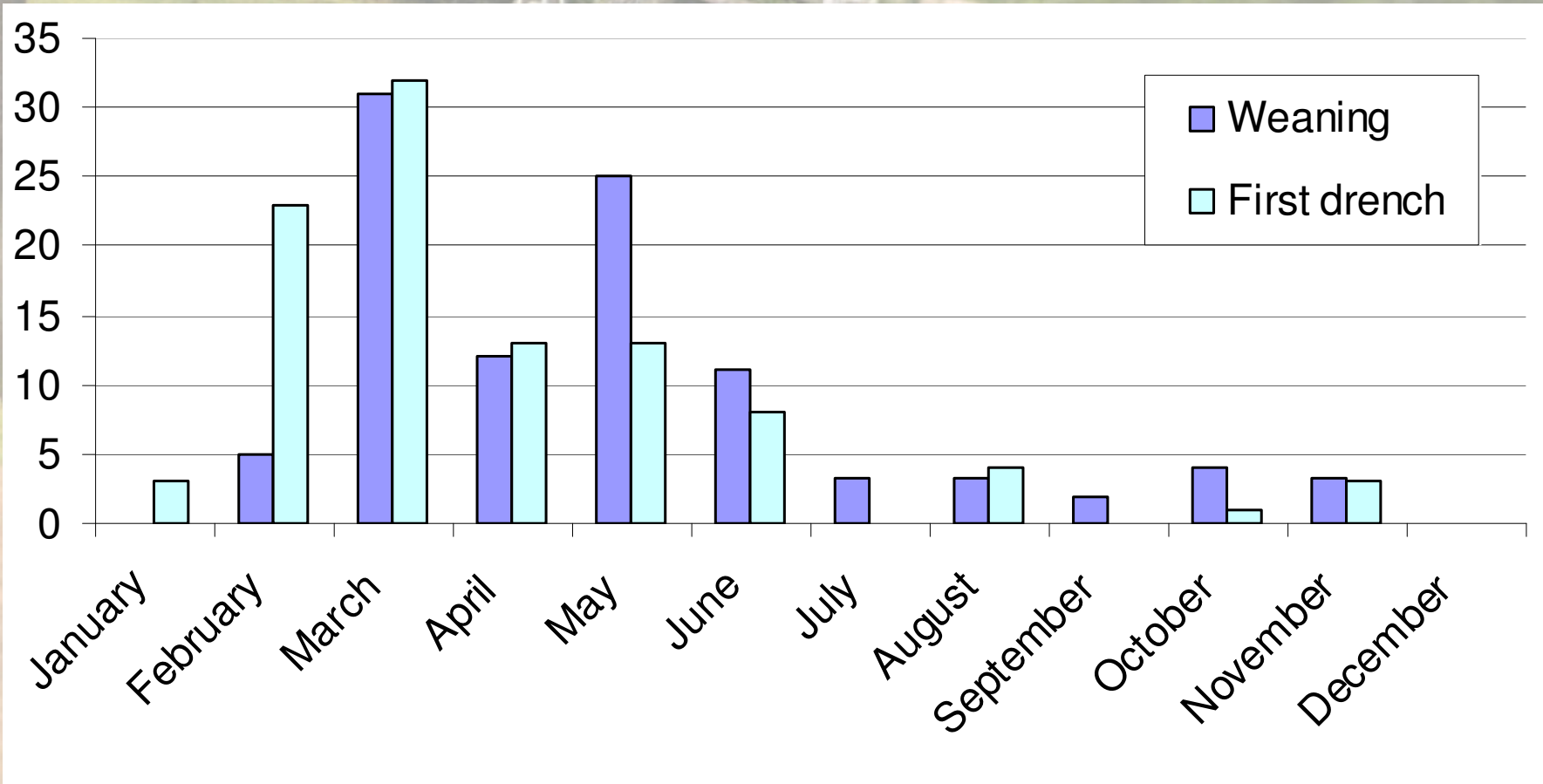
- Dairy date for re-drench through autumn

Simone Hoskin 2009

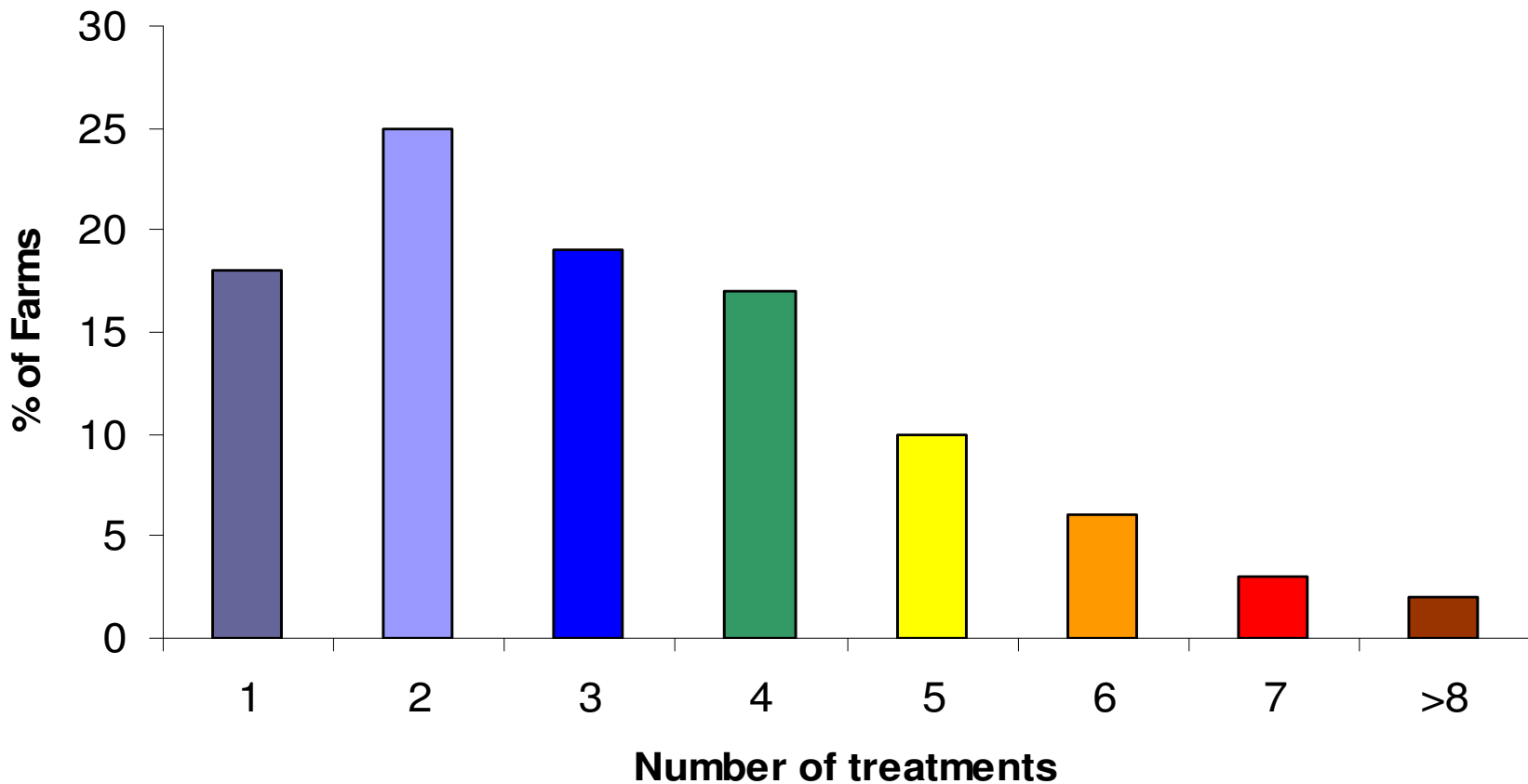
- Anthelmintic use in last 12 months
 - 94% \geq once
 - 53% all stock classes
 - 22% weaners only
- 74% dosed to the heaviest weight
 - 36% used a weigh scale
- Selective treatment
 - 5% treated only “poor” animals

Start of treatment: weaners

Simone Hoskin 2009



Annual no. weaner treatments Simone Hoskin 2009



Vaccinations

- Yersiniavax
- Leptospirosis
- Clostridial (5-in-1, 10-in-1)
- Lepto and Clostridial combined

all two shot regimes

minimum 4 weeks apart

What do you need cover for on your farm????

NB: Johnes vaccine “Silirum” available 2010

Vaccines: HB situation...

- Generally recommend:
 - two shots yersiniavax in autumn
 - no lepto unless a recurrent issue (or high risk) in deer or human risk
 - rarely Clostridial- little evidence of blood poisoning in deer.
- Revisit lepto at a later field day? Evidence of improved fawning, better growth rates.

Post-wean health issues

- Yersinia- weaners
- Leptospirosis- weaners
- Suicide, injuries and euthanasia- weaners
- Lameness- weaners especially but also hinds
don't wean in wet/mud
avoid foot and leg injury at all cost
get lame stags attended to promptly

Tim's weaning 2010...

- All fawns tagged in January
- Weaned 15 February onwards- hard weaning
- Move to weaning paddocks 4+ days before
- All fawns weighed at weaning
- Genesis Pour-on and first Yersiniavax
- No lepto or clostridial vaccine
- Fresh paddock next to each weaning paddock for shift in 3-4 days
- Stags out at weaning
- Move mating mobs apart as soon as possible
- Back up stags in second week April- probably
- Stags removed last week of April

Take home message...

- There are lots of ways to “skin the cat”
- Don’t be afraid to change your system- think laterally
- Talk to other breeders about their methods and even go to have a look for yourself
- If you have health issues in weaner deer, get advice and input immediately. Please!