

Optimizing Supplemental Feed

How and when to supplement
and economics of supplementation

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Options during drought

Buy feed

Sell animals

Monitor water (drinking and/or irrigation)

Transport to better grazing

How to decide

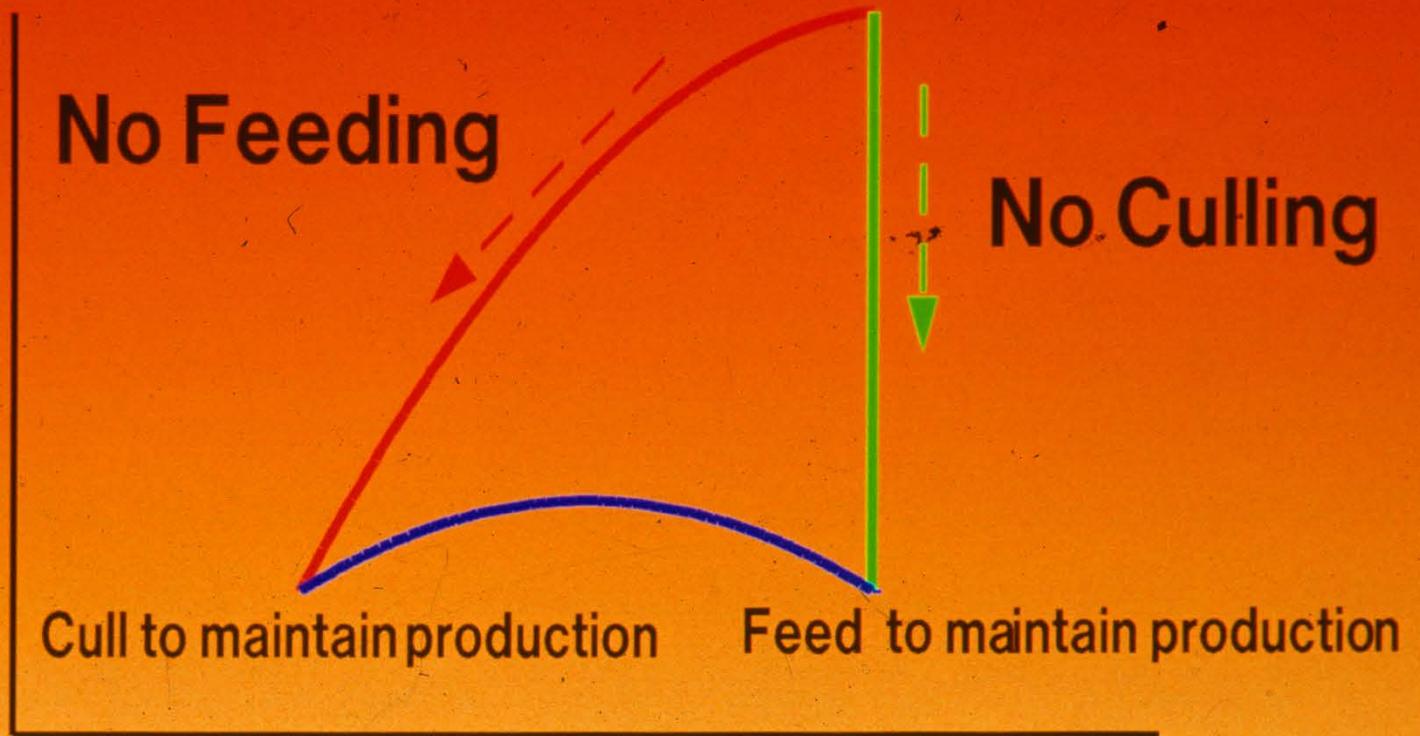
Long term ranch income

Save the ranch and forage base

Save best genetics

Income tax consequences

**NET
INCOME
(\$)**



No Feeding

No Culling

Cull to maintain production

Feed to maintain production

HERD SIZE (cows)

Previous SFREC Research

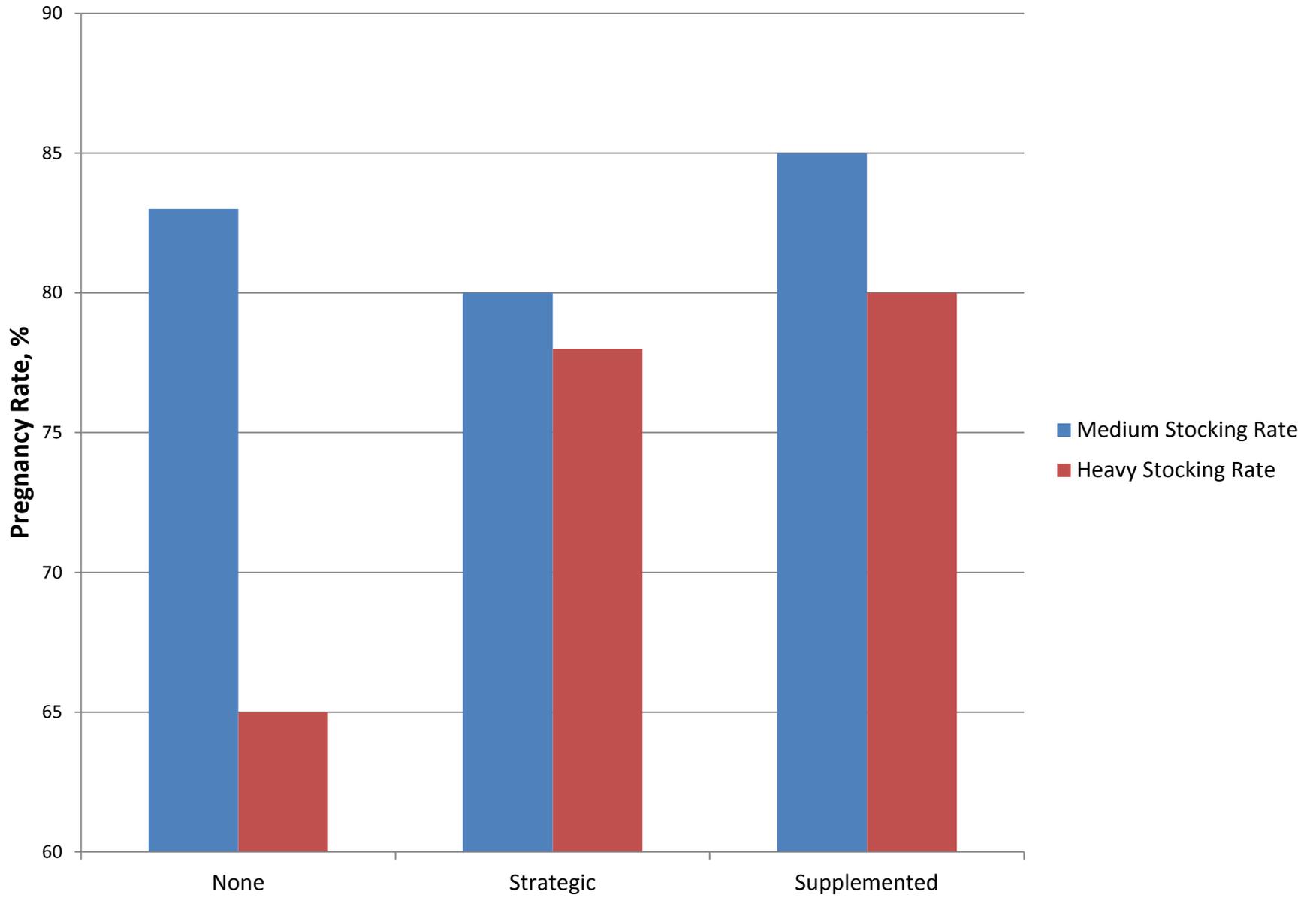
8 years of study during 1992-2000

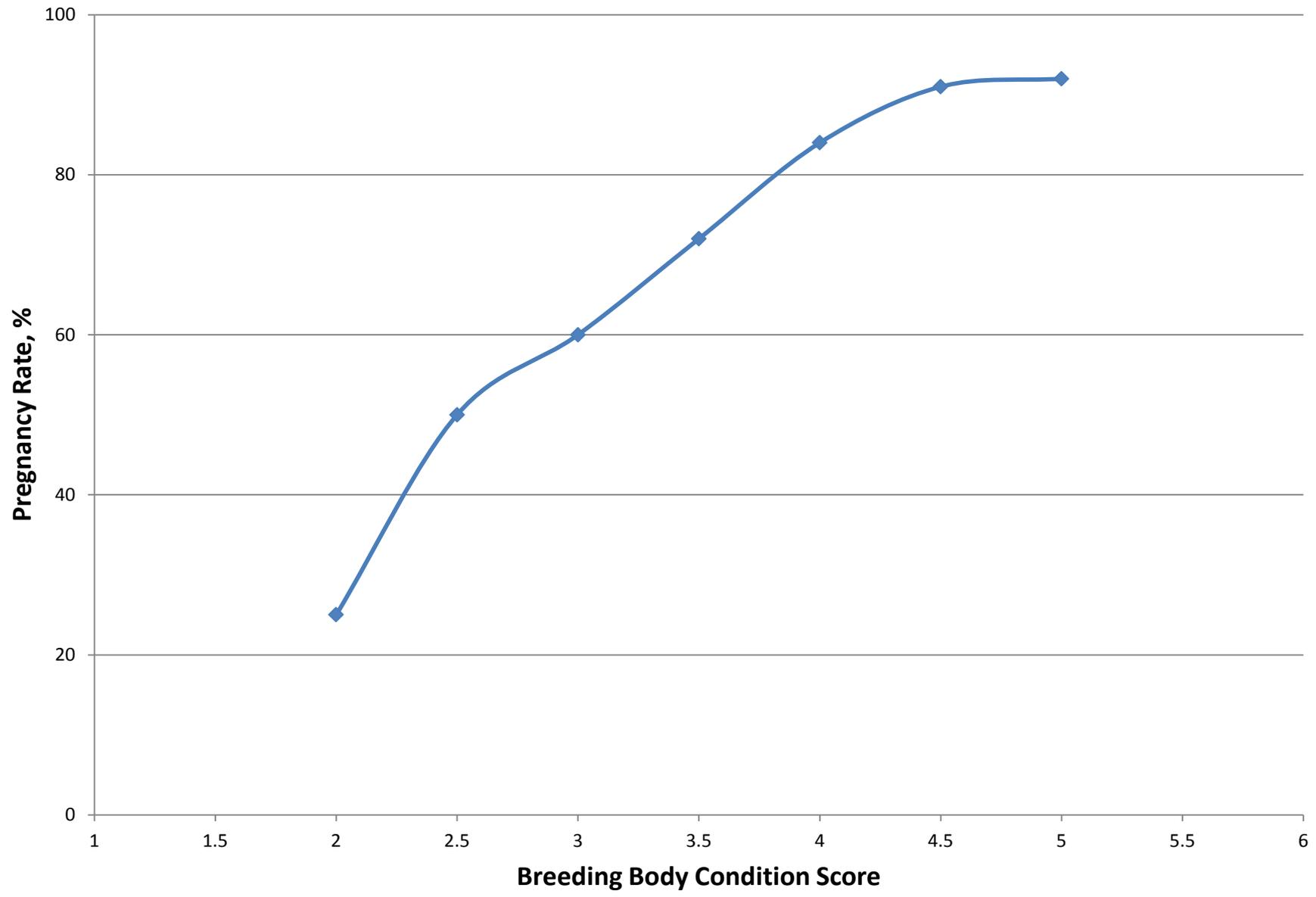
Included 1998-99 drought

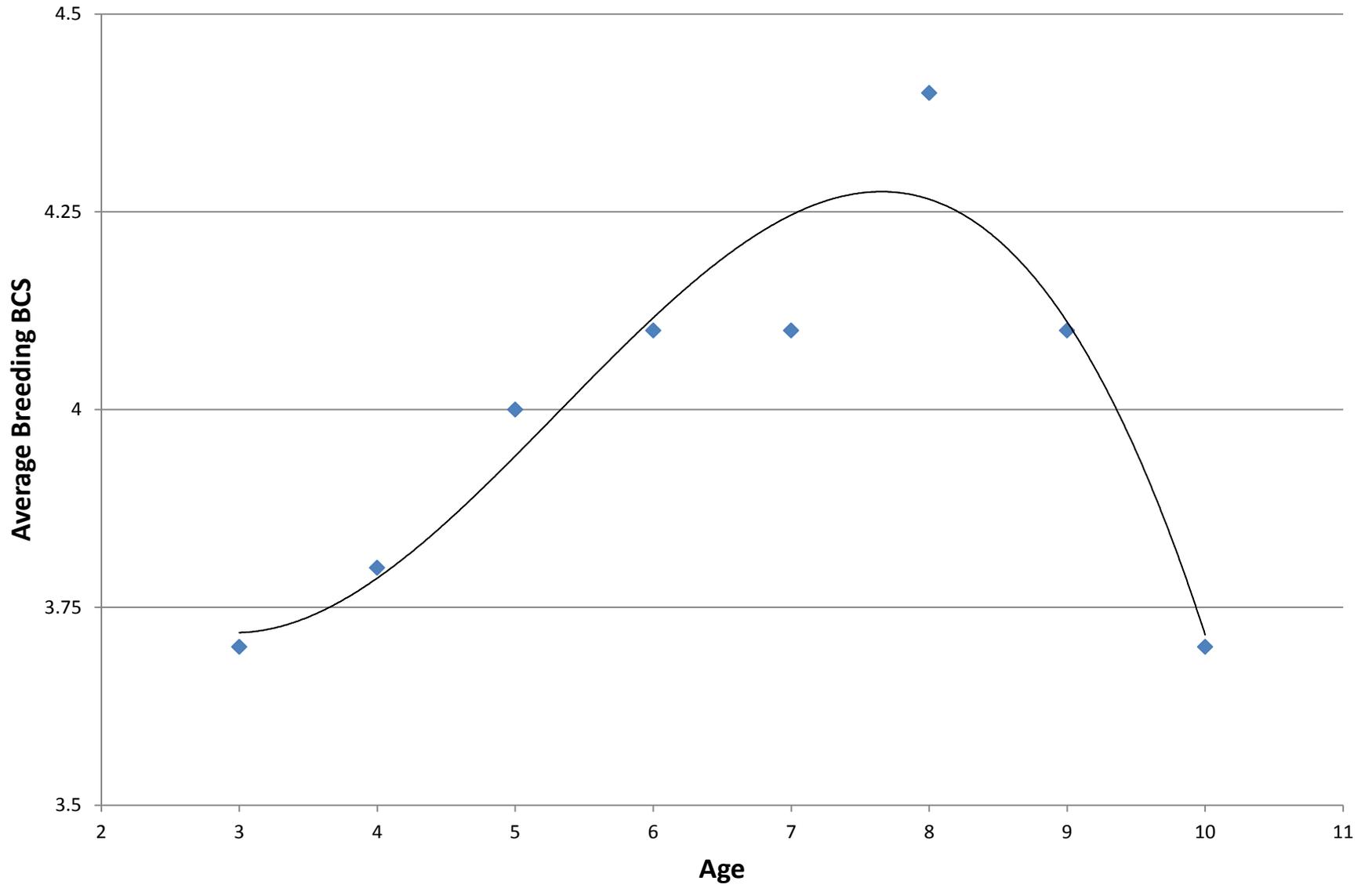
2 Stocking Rates (Medium / High)

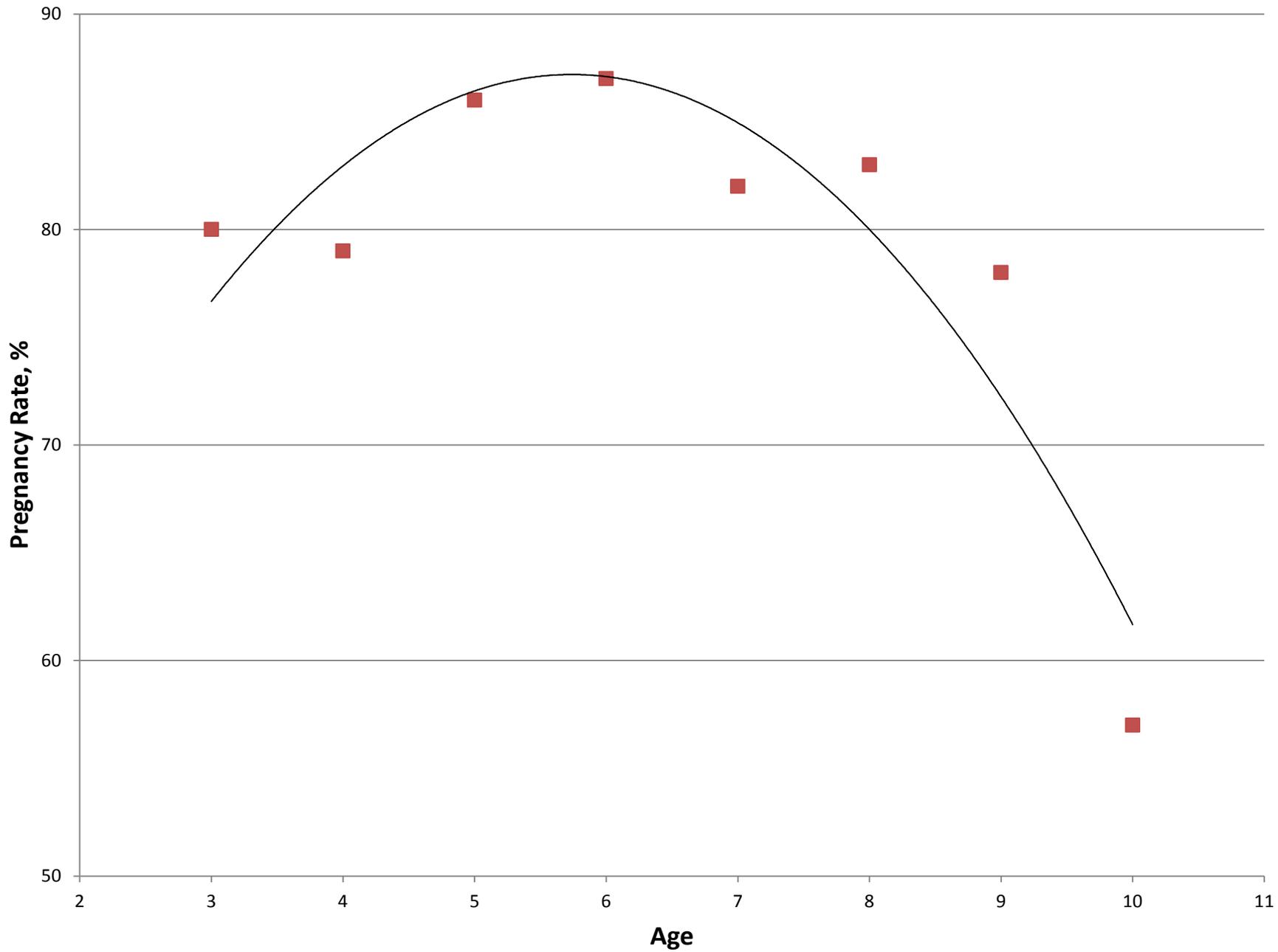
3 Supplementation Treatments (+, Strategic, -)

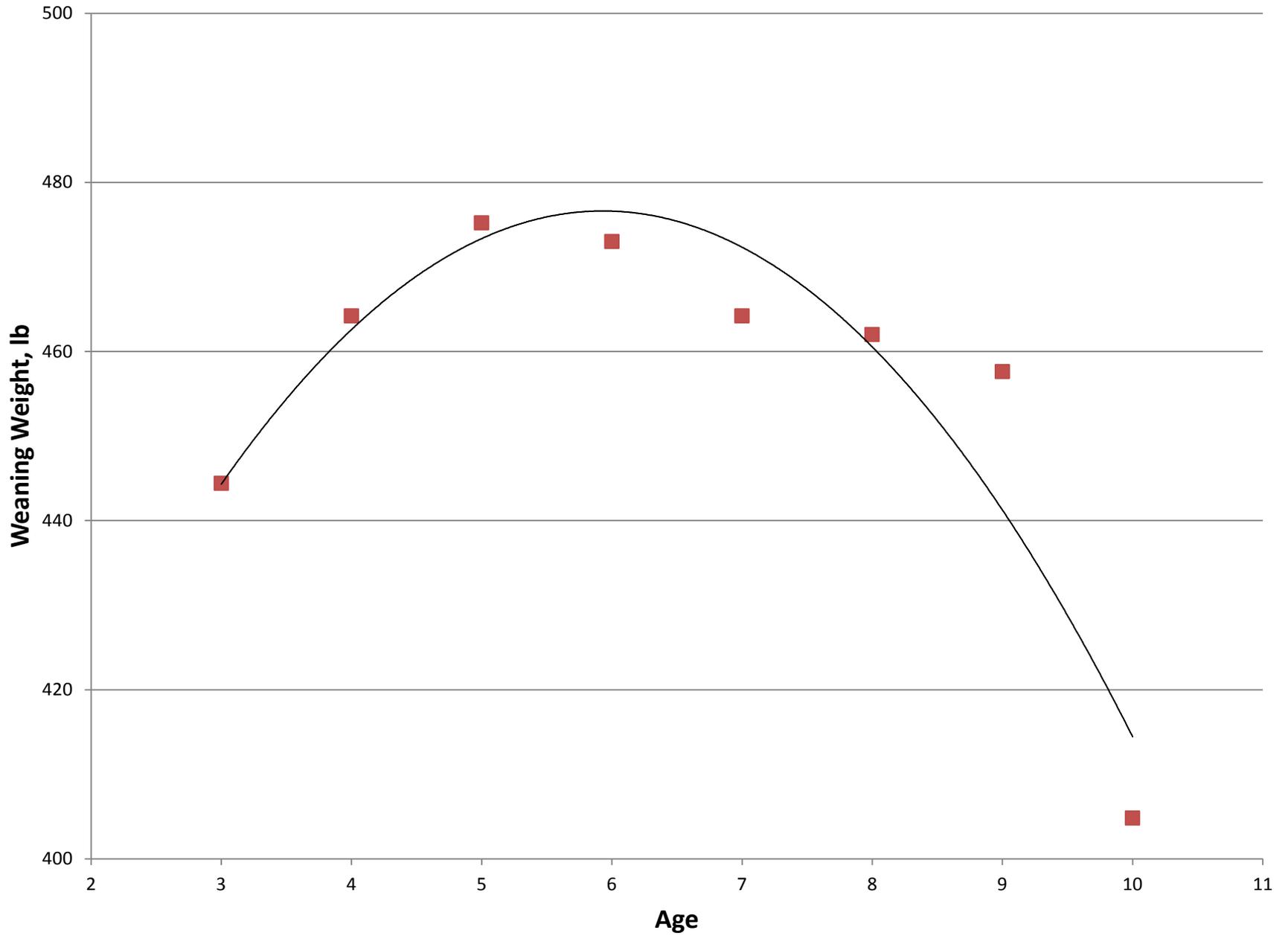
Strategic -- + for cows under 5 BCS, by quarter of year











Conclusions

1. Not supplementing is not a viable option
2. Must at least supplement the thinner cows
3. Both older and younger cows have more difficulty maintaining condition
4. Pregnancy rate decreases in older cows
5. Weaning weights decrease with age after cows are about 5 years old
6. Cull older cows, feed younger and thinner ones you keep