

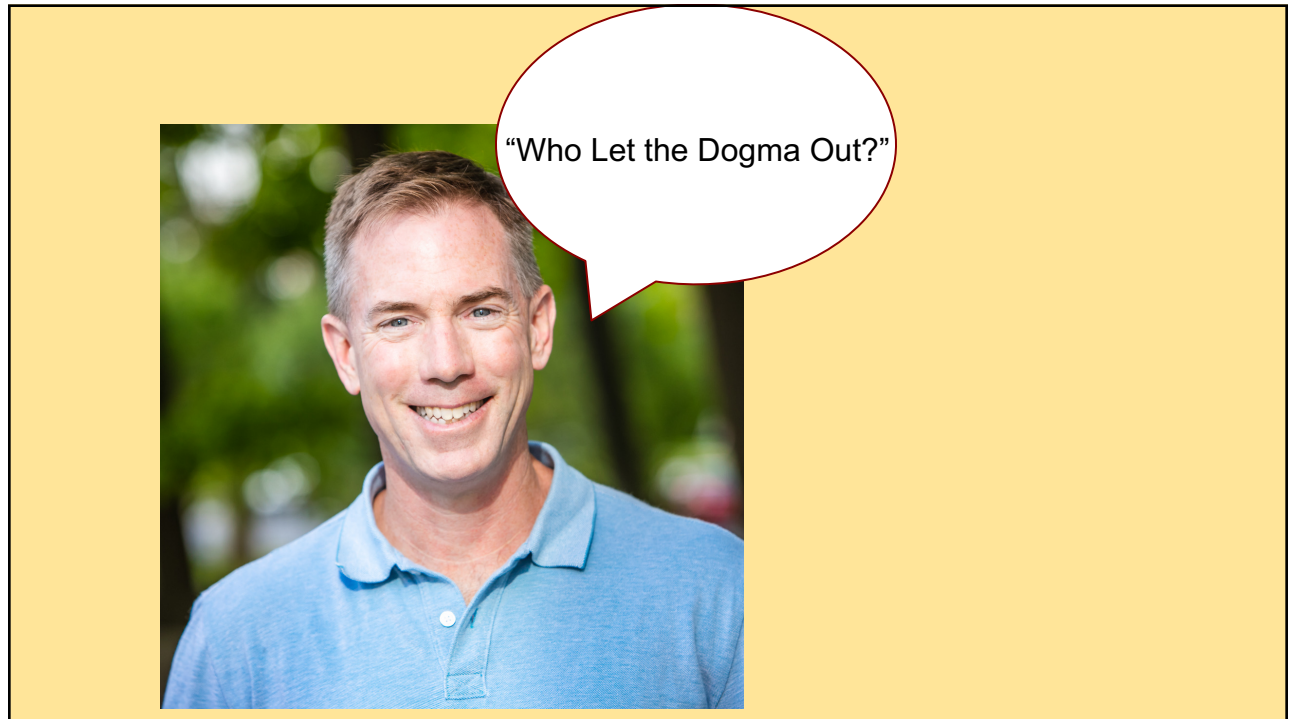


## Who Let the Dogma Out of Transition Cow Physiology

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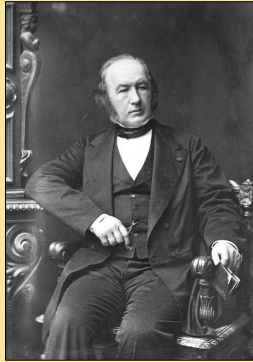
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“Today's problems stem from yesterday's solutions.”

-Peter Senge 2010 in “The Fifth Discipline”



“It's what we think we know that keeps us from learning.”

-Claude Bernard

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## Nutritionists are Often Incorrectly Blamed for:

- High NEFA
- Hyperketonemia
  - ▣ Clinical and subclinical ketosis
- Subclinical hypocalcemia
  
- These are due to 1 of 2 things:
  - ▣ High productivity in healthy cows (profitable dairy producer)
    - The nutritionist deserves a raise
  - ▣ Metabolic reflection of immune activation
    - Likely stemming from metritis, mastitis, pneumonia or GIT inflammation
      - These are mostly management issues and not caused by nutrition

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Everything in today's talk is more thoroughly covered in our recent review

Horst et al., 2021, JDS 14:8380-8410

J. Dairy Sci. 104:8380–8410  
<https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2021-20330>  
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**Invited review: The influence of immune activation on transition cow health and performance—A critical evaluation of traditional dogmas**

E. A. Horst, S. K. Kvidera, and L. H. Baumgard\*  
 Department of Animal Science, Iowa State University, Ames 50011

**ABSTRACT**

The progression from gestation into lactation represents the transition period, and it is accompanied by marked physiological, metabolic, and inflammatory adjustments. The entire lactation and a cow's opportunity to have an additional lactation are heavily dependent on how successfully she adapts during the periparturient period. Additionally, a disproportionate amount of health care and culling occurs early following parturition. Thus, lactation maladaptation has been a heavily researched area of dairy science for more than 50 yr. It was traditionally thought that excessive adipose tissue mobilization in large part dictated transition period success. Further, the magnitude of hypocalcemia has also been assumed to partly control whether a cow effectively navigates the first few months of lactation. The canon became that adipose tissue released non-esterified fatty acids (NEFA) and the resulting hepatic-derived ketones coupled with hypocalcemia lead to immune suppression, which is responsible for transition disorders (e.g., mastitis, metritis, retained placenta, poor fertility). In other words, the dogma evolved that these metabolites and hypocalcemia were causal to transition cow problems and that large efforts should be enlisted to prevent increased NEFA, hyperketonemia, and subclinical hypocalcemia. However, despite intensive academic and industry focus, the periparturient period remains a large hurdle to animal welfare, farm profitability, and dairy sustainability. Thus, it stands to reason that there are alternative explanations to periparturient failures. Recently, it has become firmly established that immune activation and the ipso facto inflammatory response are a normal component of transition cow biology. The origin of immune activation likely stems from the mammary gland, tissue trauma during parturition, and the gastrointestinal tract. If inflammation becomes pathological, it reduces

feed intake and causes hypocalcemia. Our tenet is that immune system utilization of glucose and its induction of hypophagia are responsible for the extensive increase in NEFA and ketones, and this explains why they (and the severity of hypocalcemia) are correlated with poor health, production, and reproduction outcomes. In this review, we argue that changes in circulating NEFA, ketones, and calcium are simply reflective of either (1) normal homeorhetic adjustments that healthy, high-producing cows use to prioritize milk synthesis or (2) the consequence of immune activation and its sequelae. **Key words:** inflammation, hypocalcemia, ketosis, insulin, homeorhesis

**THE PERIPARTURIENT PERIOD**

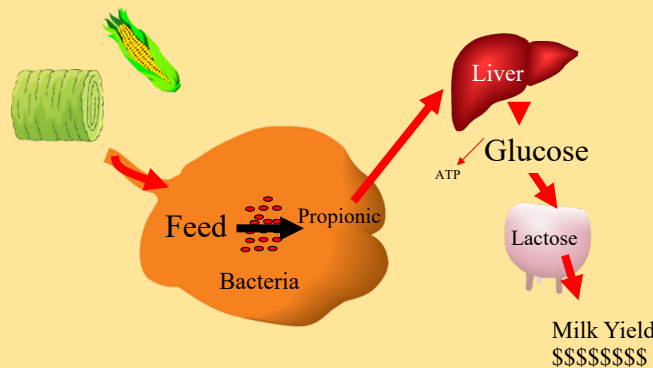
Early lactation is a unique physiological state in which nutrient consumption often does not meet maintenance and milk production costs, creating a negative energy balance (NEB; Drackley, 1999). Milk energy output increases more rapidly than the increase in consumed energy. The magnitude of NEB varies, but usually occurs within the first 10 DIM, and cows return to calculated positive energy balance between 30 and 100 DIM (Moallem et al., 2000; Coffey et al., 2002). To support milk synthesis during NEB, significant alterations in carbohydrate, lipid, protein, and mineral metabolism are implemented.

A thorough appreciation of how important glucose is to milk synthesis is required to understand why these changes (energetics in particular) occur. Glucose is the precursor for lactose synthesis, and lactose is the primary osmoregulator driving milk volume (Neville, 1990). For every 1 kg of milk produced, approximately 72 g of glucose is required (Kronfeld, 1982). During established lactation, hepatic glucose output is exquisitely orchestrated to precisely meet peripheral tissue (e.g., mammary, muscle, adipose, central nervous system) glucose requirements (Baumgard et al., 2017). However, inadequate feed intake during the periparturient period means that the contribution of diet-derived gluconeogenic precursors to hepatic glucose output is insufficient to meet the mammary gland's increasing

Received February 19, 2021.  
 Accepted April 15, 2021.  
 \*Corresponding author: [baumgard@iastate.edu](mailto:baumgard@iastate.edu)

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Glucose is made from propionate  
 Lactose is made from glucose  
 It requires 72 g of glucose to synthesize 1 kg of milk (Kronfeld et al., 1982)  
Milk yield is determined by the amount of synthesized lactose



Friendly reminder of how important glucose is to milk synthesis

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# Foundation of Our Thinking

- The best indicators of “health” are feed intake and milk yield.
- If everyone agrees that “stress” reduces productivity..... then high productivity CANNOT be stressful
  - The idea that high milk production is stressful is an oxymoron
- It’s too easy to overthink the immune system.
  - Don’t need a PhD or DVM to know when a cow is healthy
  - Cows that are eating and producing large quantities of milk ARE healthy
- Inconsistent data creates doubt
  - When scientific papers do not agree we should think twice

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# Transition Period Morbidity

Disorders affects 50%: **When cows leave the herd**

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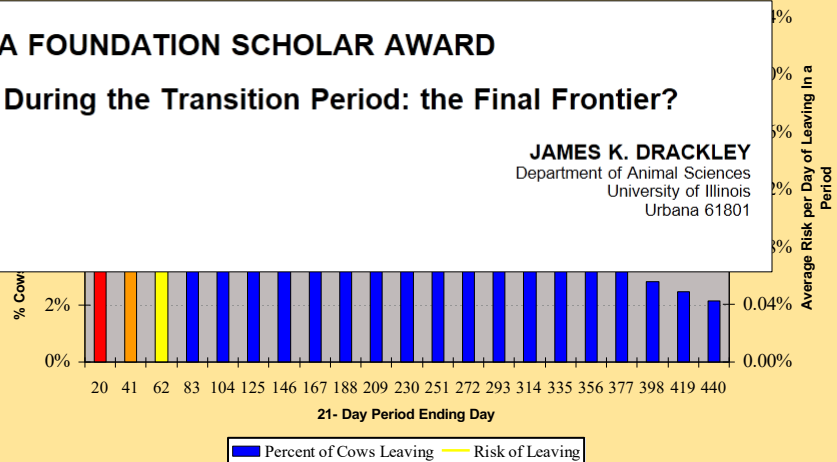
**ADSA FOUNDATION SCHOLAR AWARD**

**Biology of Dairy Cows During the Transition Period: the Final Frontier?**

**JAMES K. DRACKLEY**  
Department of Animal Sciences  
University of Illinois  
Urbana 61801

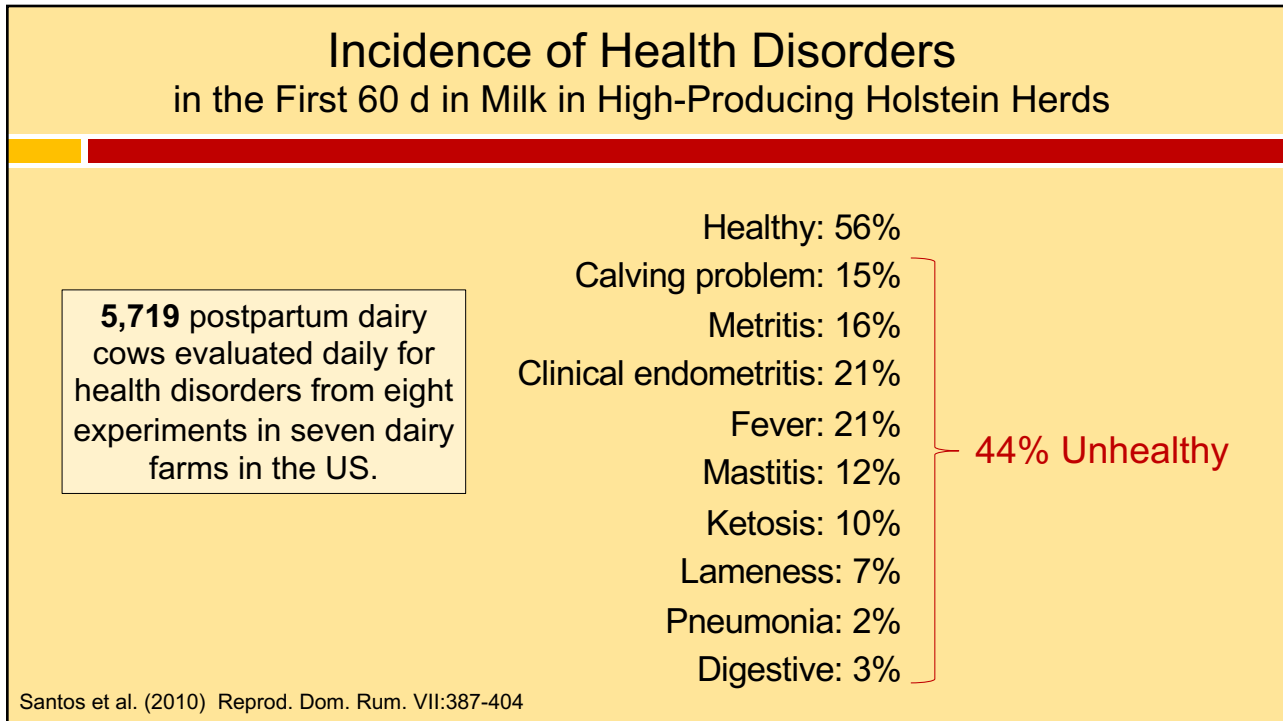
- Fatty liver
- Lameness
- Death

Drackley, 1999

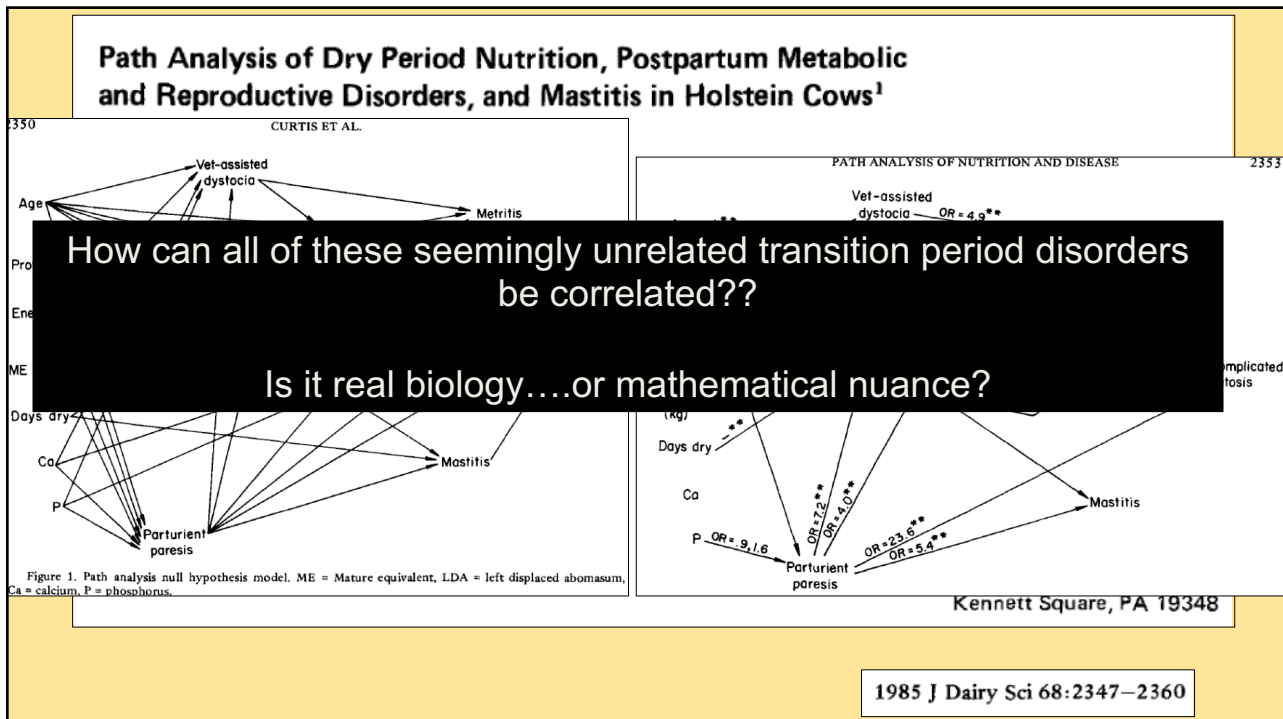


Source: 2002, Steve Stewart, DVM, Dipl.-ABVP, Univ. of Minnesota, College of Vet. Med.

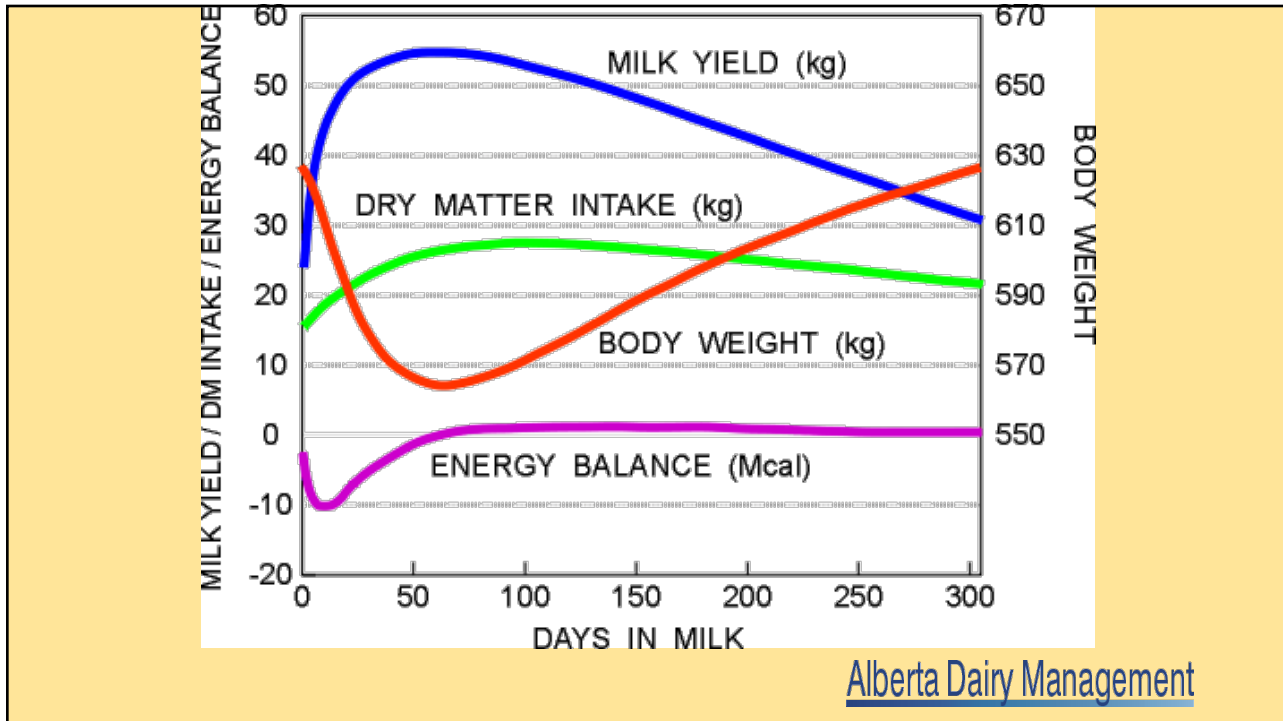
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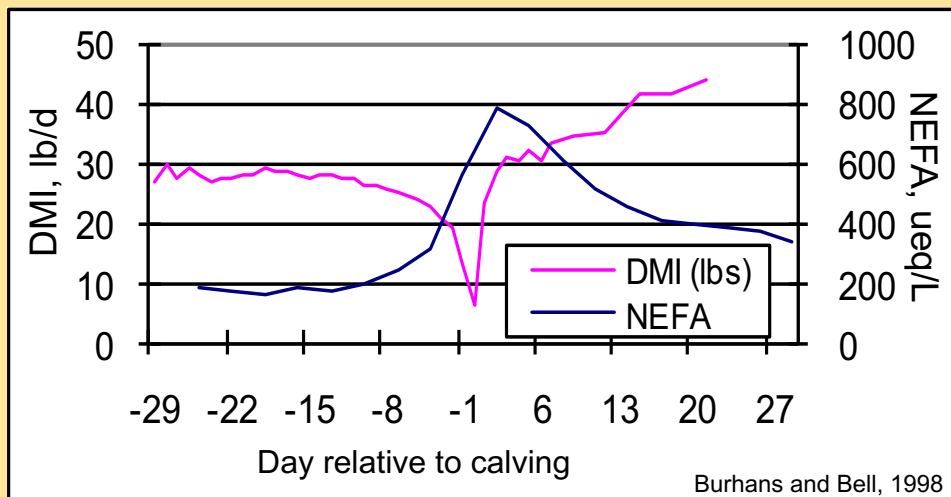


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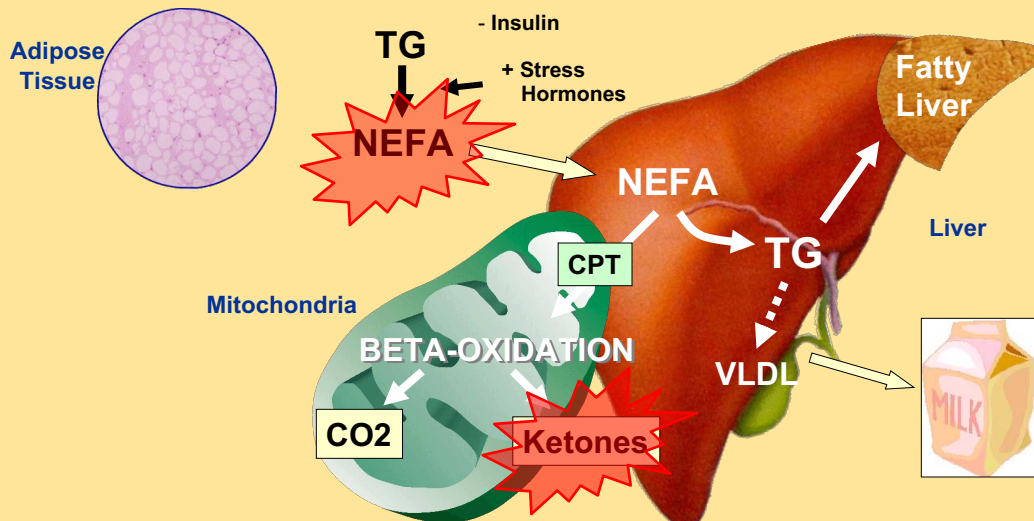
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## Transition Period Energy Balance



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## Liver Lipid Metabolism During the Transition Period



Adapted from Dr. Jim Drackley's papers and presentations

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## Retrospective and Observational Studies

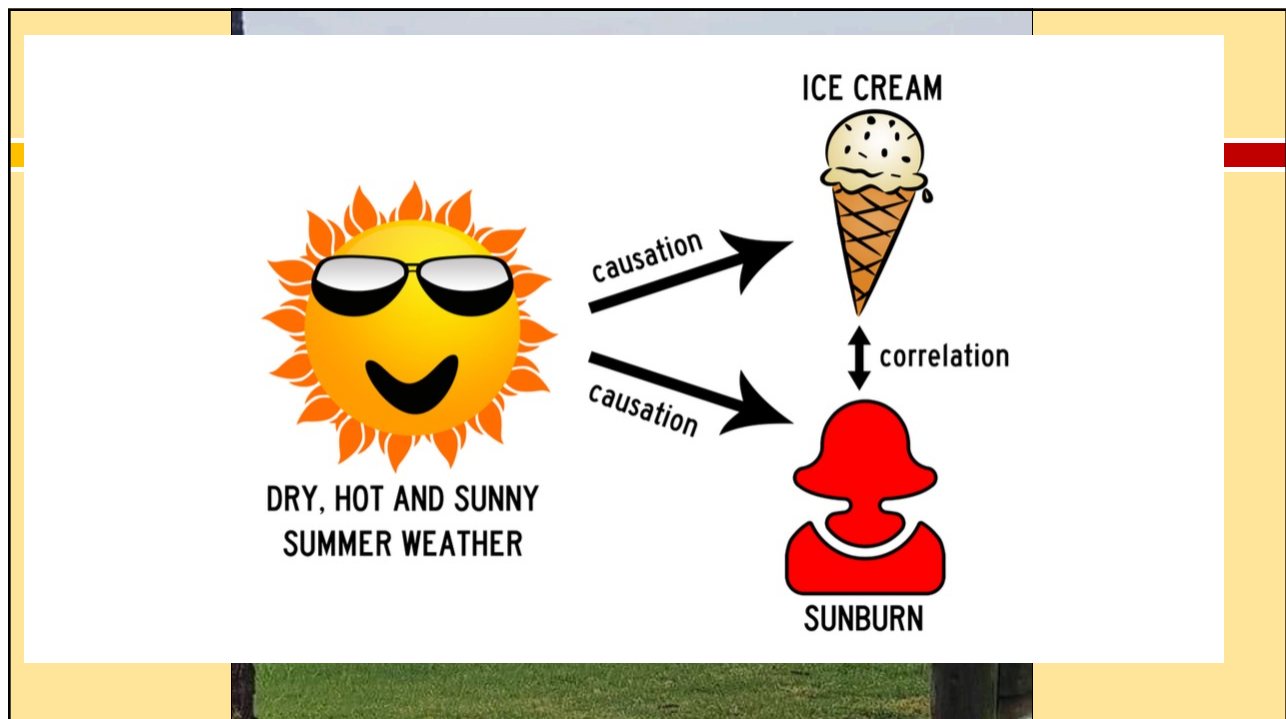
- Hundreds of studies associate and correlate NEFA, BHBA and Ca with:
  - ▣ Increased risk of ketosis, decreased milk yield, LDA, metritis, retained placenta, laminitis, or poor reproduction
    - Chapinal et al., 2011; Huzzey et al., 2011; Ospina et al., 2010a, 2010c; Duffield et al., 2009; LeBlanc et al., 2005
- Many papers do not agree.....inconsistent effects in the literature
- Plasma NEFA are markedly increased (>700 mEq/L) following calving in almost all cows
  - ~15-20% get clinical ketosis
  - What makes these cows more susceptible to ketosis?
    - Predisposition to developing fatty liver?
- Reductionist approach (one metabolite = one disease)

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## Cause and Effect??

- The incidence of health problems is highest in the first month of lactation
- The largest swings in energetic metabolites, hormones and minerals occurs in the first month of lactation
- Thus...a lot of moving parts and events occurring simultaneously
  - Consequently they will all be correlated
- Causality and correlation are incorrectly interchanged when an observational relationship between 2 events is claimed to be inevitable rather than coincidental.

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This correlation interpretation then causes suspect decision making and unnecessary farm expenses

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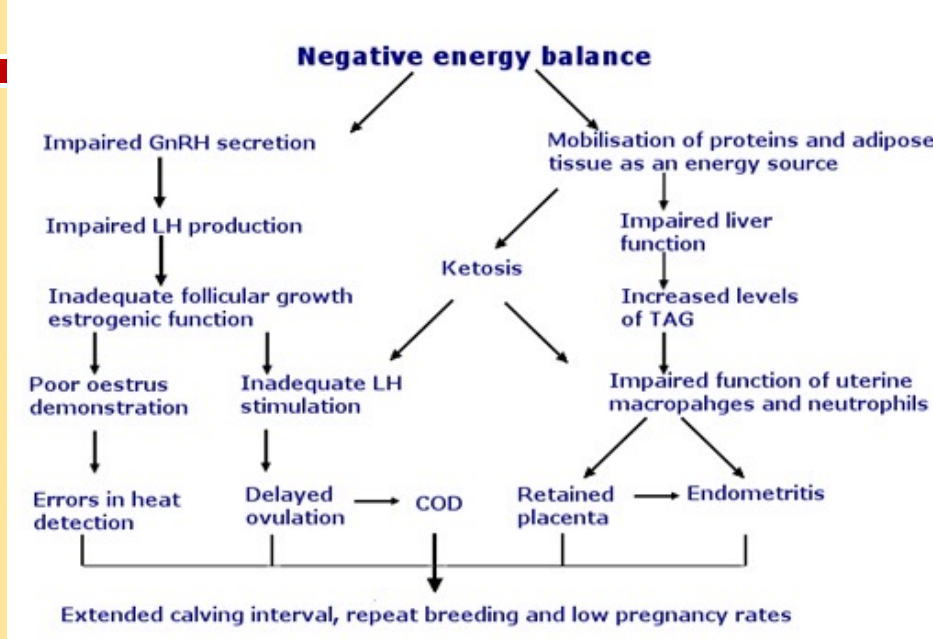
## Traditional Belief

Assuming Correlation Equals Causation

Increased NEFA, Hyperketonemia, and Hypocalcemia.....**CAUSE** production and health problems

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## Dogma: Negative Energy Balance CAUSES problems



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## Dogma: Ketones cause problems



<https://slideplayer.com/slide/13774593/>

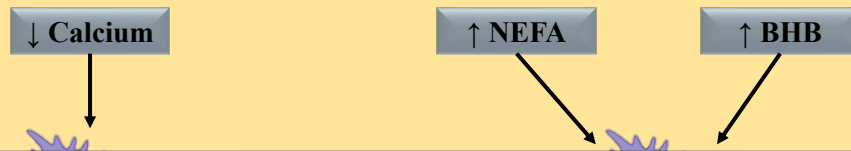
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## How (and why) do NEFA, Hyperketonemia and Hypocalcemia cause problems

- ❑ Biological plausibility?
  - ❑ Why would evolution favor a scenario where the mother endangers herself and compromises her ability to nourish her young?
  
- ❑ There remains little mechanistic evidence for how NEFA, ketones and Ca can directly have such a large influence on a variety of seemingly unconnected systems and diseases
  
- ❑ Best line of evidence is extrapolated from their purported role in immunosuppression

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## Impact on Leukocyte Function



**But too many inconsistencies (as reviewed by LeBlanc, 2020)**

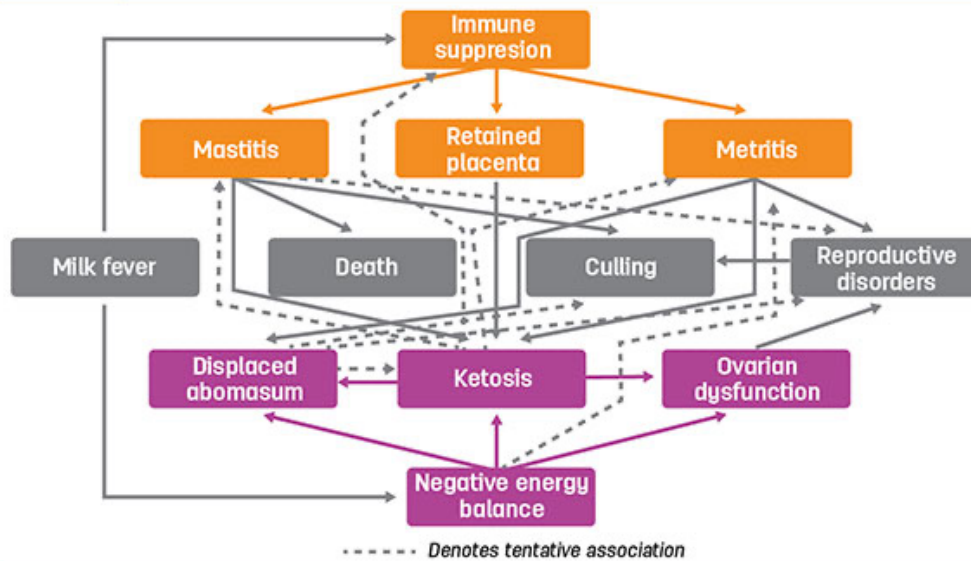
**A solid foundation of any dogma should be a consistent pattern**

↓ intracellular Ca stores  
 ↓ neutrophil phagocytosis  
(Ducusin et al., 2003; Kimura et al., 2006; Martinez et al., 2014))

No impact on phagocytosis (Sica et al., 2006)  
 No impact on antibody secretion  
 ↓ neutrophil chemotaxis, myeloperoxidase and  
 or cytochrome production (Ster et al., 2012)  
 No impact on neutrophil killing ability  
(Hoeben et al., 1997; Sunyasathaporn et al., 1999; Lacetera et al., 2004; Hammon et al., 2006)

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Dogma:

**FIGURE 1** The impact and consequences of negative energy balance and immune suppression

<https://www.progressivedairy.com/topics/herd-health/four-ways-to-reduce-the-risk-of-transition-cow-problems>

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If hyperketonemia, high NEFA and subclinical hypocalcemia are pathological....it stands to reason that therapeutically treating these disorders would improve cow health

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### Culling Trends Over Time

Culling Reason	NAHMS (1996)	NAHMS (2002)	NAHMS (2014)
Voluntary Reasons	21.3	19.3	21.1
Reproduction			
Injury	4.1	6.0	5.2
Death	3.8	4.8	4.2
Disposition			
Lameness	14.2	16.3	16.8
Other	3.9	4.1	

National Animal Health Monitoring Systems

Despite emphasis, time and money spent on preventing high NEFA, hyperketonemia and subclinical hypocalcemia herd health is not improving

Maybe we're "medicating" the wrong things??

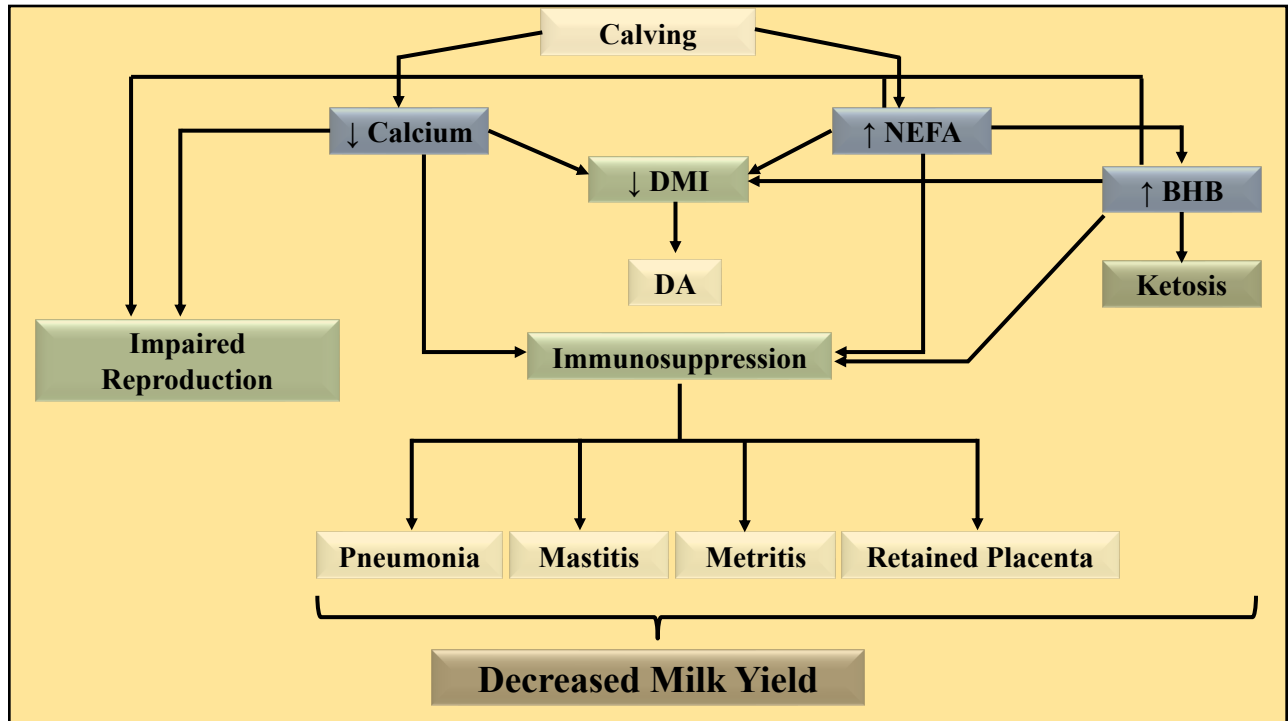
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## Traditional Belief

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Increased NEFA, Hyperketonemia, and Hypocalcemia.....**CAUSE** production and health problems

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## Historical Dissection the Dogmas

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## Ketosis Dogma

- Excess adipose tissue mobilization causes fatty liver and ketosis
- This is exacerbated in high producing cows
- Academic & Industry Goal: Reduce blood NEFA

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## Observations that should have been red flags:

- 1) Associations and correlations
  - ▣ No cause and effect.....and the correlations are weak anyway...not probative
- 2) Infusing ketones or NEFA does not cause negative outcomes
  - ▣ In nature, animals ebb and flow out of ketosis ALL the time
- 3) Ketotic cows are not hypoinsulinemic
  - ▣ Often times they are hyperinsulinemic
- 4) Ketones do not decrease feed intake
  - ▣ Otherwise a starving animal would not have an appetite
- 5) Preventing adipose mobilization reduces milk yield
  - ▣ Transition period hyperinsulinemia is associated with immediate and long-term low milk yield
  - ▣ Insulin or TZD administration
- 6) Some females do not consume any food after parturition
  - ▣ Ocean mammals
- 7) Regional differences in the rate of clinical ketosis
  - ▣ Clinical ketosis rates in Arizona are less than 1%. Most dairy producers in AZ have never treated a ketotic cow.

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# Hyperketonemia

- Ketogenesis is the coordinated convergence of CHO and Lipid metabolism
- Highly conserved amongst almost all mammals
  - ▣ Some ocean mammals are an exception
- Ancient strategy that even the simplest of organisms utilize during energy insufficiency
- Millions of people are on low CHO/ketogenic diet
  - ▣ Dozens of meta-analysis papers in the scientific literature
- Claiming hyperketonemia is a disease is akin to assigning hyperglycemia as the pathological origin of diabetes

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## THE VETERINARY RECORD

Founded by William Hunting, F.R.C.V.S., in 1888

Volume 78	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5th, 1966	7 Mansfield Street, London, W.1. Museum 6541
No. 6	Price: 2s. 6d.	

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### Bovine Ketosis

BY  
H. A. KREBS

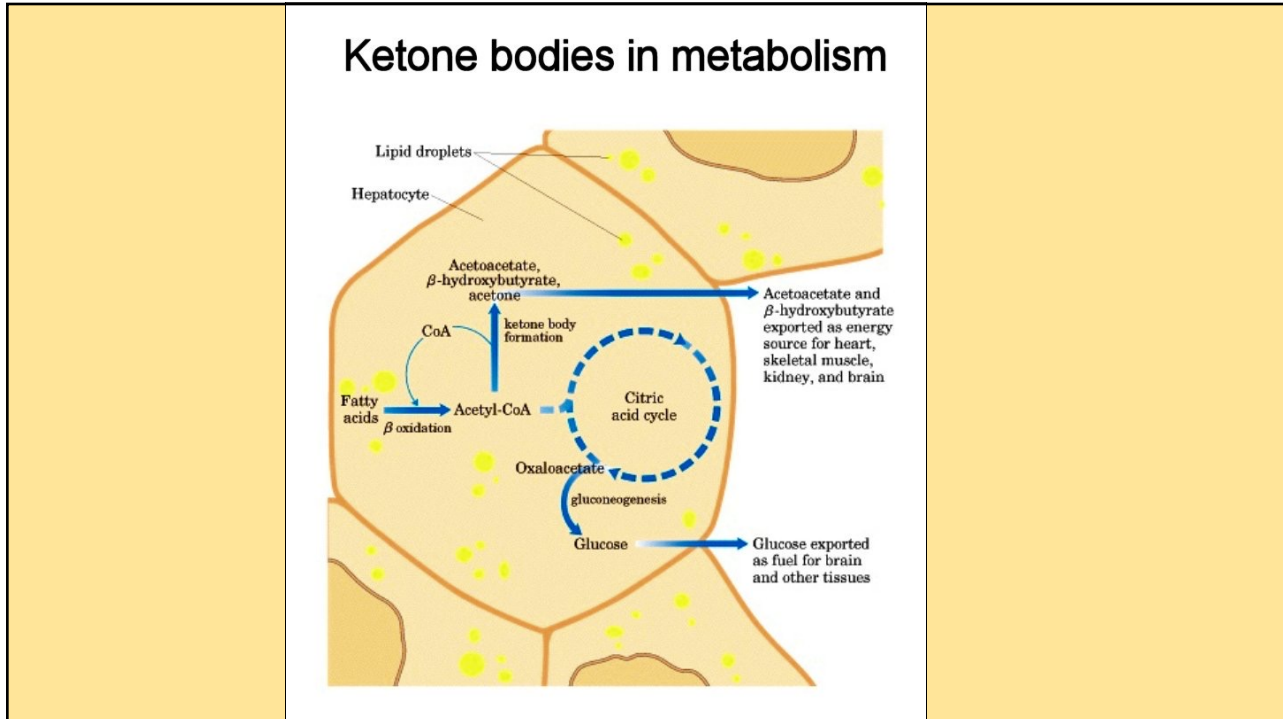
**Medical Research Council Unit for Research in Cell  
Metabolism, Department of Biochemistry, University  
of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford**

**SUMMARY.**—The severer forms of ketosis which occur in diabetes mellitus and in the lactating cow are always associated with increased rates of gluconeogenesis. Evidence is discussed which indicates that the high rates of gluconeogenesis in the liver are the direct cause of the high rates of ketone body formation. It follows that the parenteral administration of large doses of glucose is the rational therapy of bovine ketosis because this relieves the need for high rates of gluconeogenesis. The dose must be related to the glucose requirements of milk secretion.

stasis.” That animal tissues can oxidise ketone bodies has long been known qualitatively (Snapper & Grünbaum, 1927a, b, 1928; Mirsky & Broh-Kahn, 1937; Wick & Drury, 1941), but the extent to which ketone bodies can be utilised as fuel has become known only recently. Heart muscle, for example, can use acetoacetate preferentially even when glucose and insulin and other substrates are available (Williamson & Krebs, 1961). The living sheep can

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**Partitioning of Nutrients During Pregnancy and Lactation: A Review of Mechanisms Involving Homeostasis and Homeorhesis**

DALE E. BAUMAN and W. BRUCE CURRIE  
Department of Animal Science  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853

**ABSTRACT**  
Control of metabolism during pregnancy and physiological processes in which food is transformed into body tissues and activities

Received January 28, 1980.

1980 J Dairy Sci 63:1514-1529

←

Introduced the Homeorhesis concept

Mobilization of adipose tissue and partial conversion of NEFA into Ketones is **ESSENTIAL** for maximum milk yield in early lactation

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## Common Critique of My Message

- When PG is given, SHK cows produce more milk
  - ▣ McArt et al., 2011
    - 2 out of 3 farms had increased milk yield when SHK cows given PG
  - ▣ Lemond et al., 2012

The body of evidence does not support the practice of giving subclinical hyperketonemic cows PG

- But inconsistent patterns. No effect of PG on milk in SHK cows
  - ▣ Bors et al., 2013
  - ▣ Ostergaard et al., 2020
  - ▣ Capel et al., 2021

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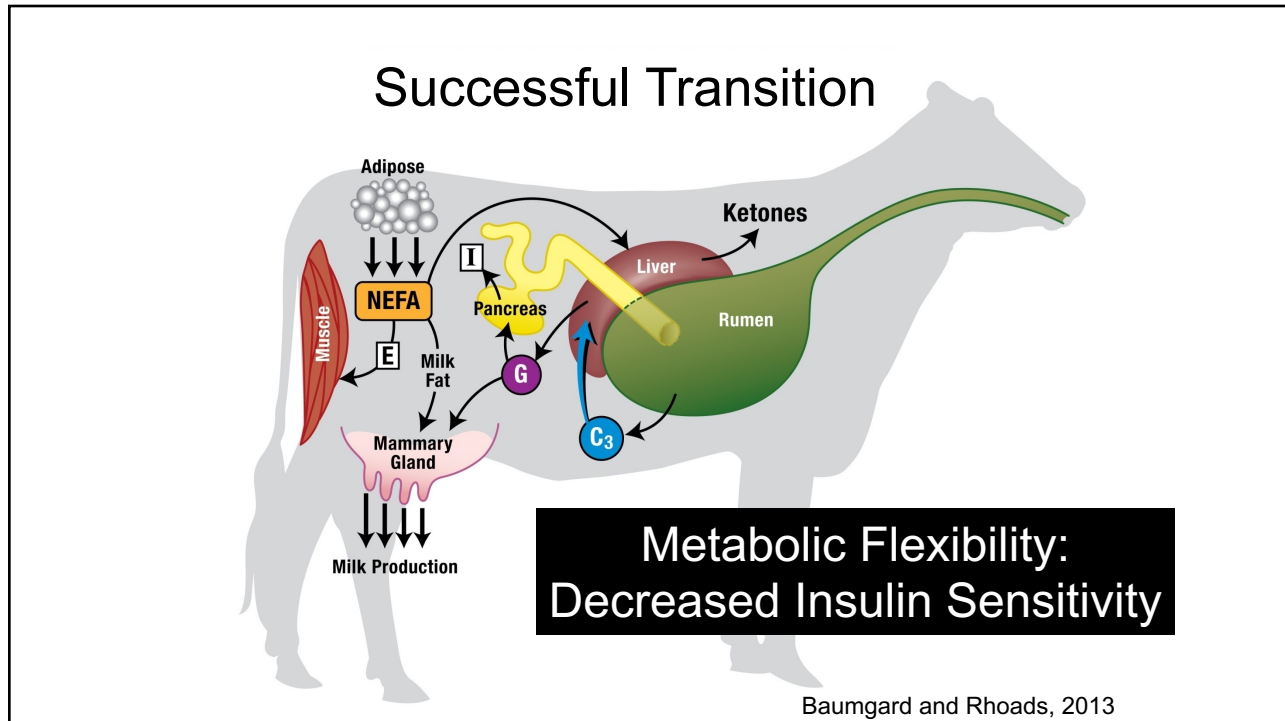
## Transition Period and Insulin

- Higher producing cows are more hypoinsulinemic
- Periparturient insulin is inversely related to whole lactation performance
- Insulin clearance is increased by genetic selection for milk yield
- Administering insulin or insulin sensitizing agents decrease milk yield

The primary endocrine profile required for high production is hypoinsulinemia

Horst et al., 2021

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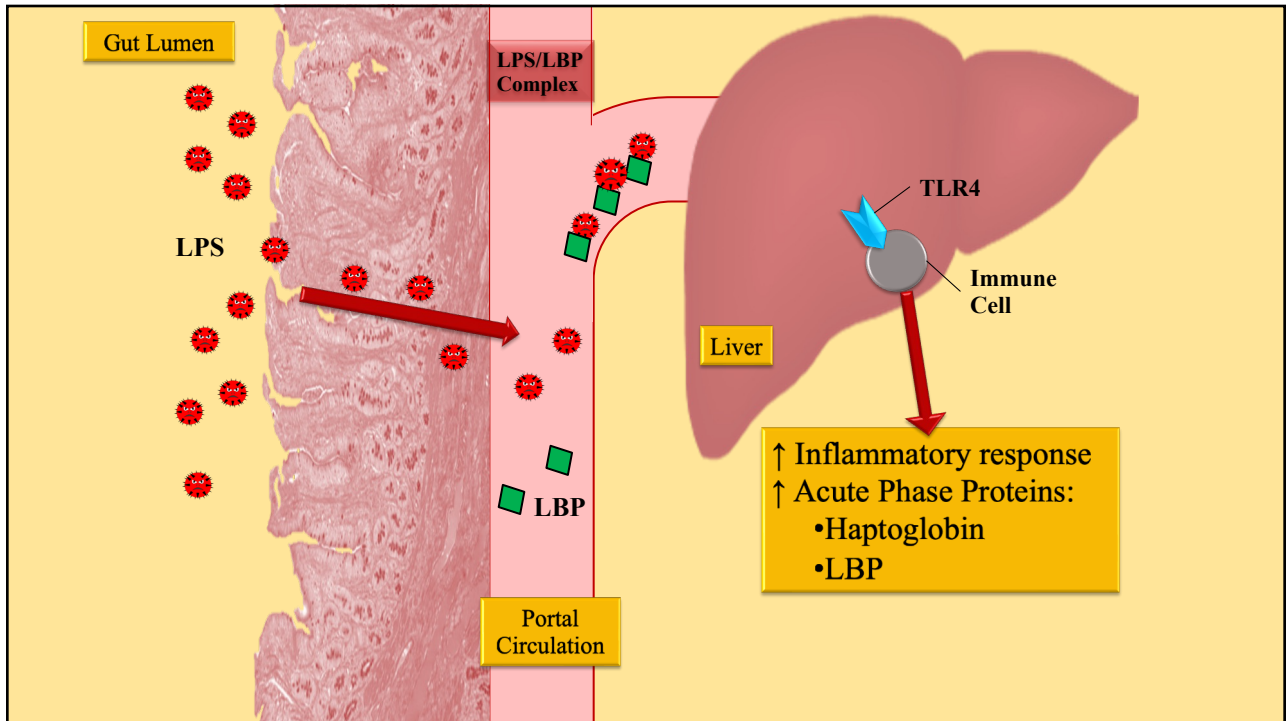


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## Inflammation in Transition Cows

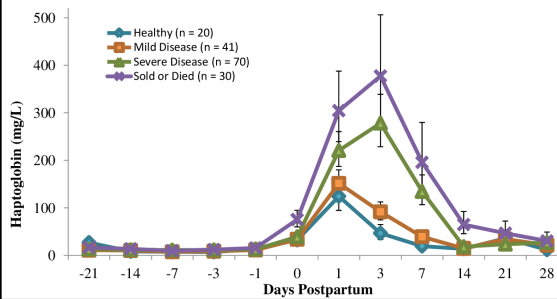
- ▣ Observed in all cows  
(Bertoni et al., 2008; Trevisi and Minuti, 2018)
- ▣ What is the source?
  - ▣ Mammary Gland
  - ▣ Uterus
  - ▣ Gastrointestinal tract
- ▣ What are the consequences?

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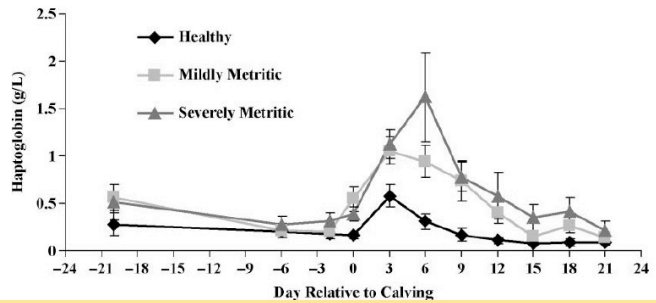


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### Immune Activation (Haptoglobin) Precedes Clinical Disease



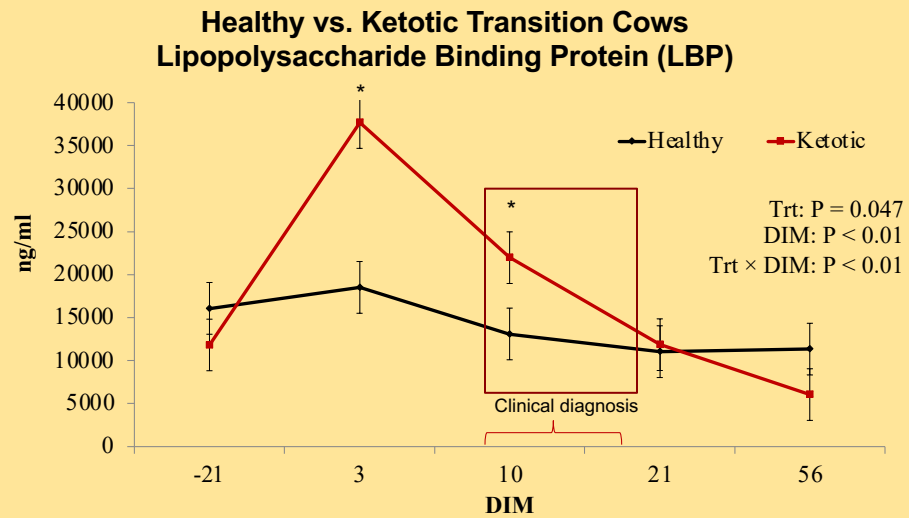
Sebedra 2012



Huzzey et al., 2012

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## Increased LBP in Ketotic Cows



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## Transition Period Immune Activation

Inflammation's role in:

Suboptimal DMI

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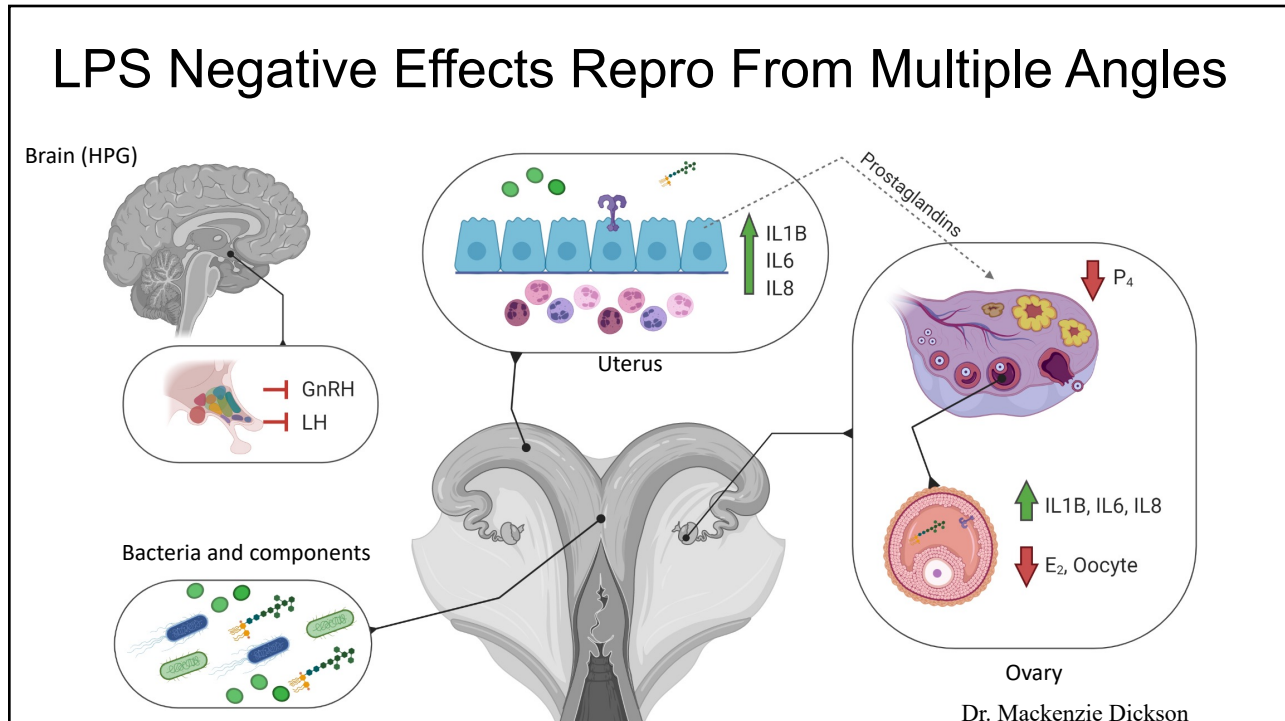
## Immune Activation and Feed Intake

- Inflammatory mediators are potent anorexic compounds (Kushibiki et al., 2003)
- Reduced feed intake is a highly conserved species response to infection (Aubert et al., 1997; Wang et al., 2016)
- Infection decreases feed consumption, even in insects (Adamo, 2005)
- Cows with increased inflammation have decreased DMI (Trevisi et al., 2002)
  - ▣ ...and also increased NEFA and BHB (Trevisi et al., 2010, 2012; Zhou et al., 2016)
  - ▣ **Inflammation is the simplest and most logical explanation for why some cows don't eat well before and following calving**

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## Inflammation and Reproduction?

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**Calcium**

Atomic mass: 40.078  
 Electron configuration: 2, 8, 8, 2  
<https://www.fotosearch.com/K3127137/>

## Hypocalcemia Dogma

<https://www.farmersjournal.ie/milk-fever-the-problem-of-low-blood-calcium-in-cattle-319488>


- ❑ Milk uptake of Ca is so quick and extensive that it exceeds the homeostatic capacity to replenish it.
- ❑ Academic & Industry Goal: Minimize postcalving hypocalcemia

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# Hypocalcemia


- Clinical hypocalcemia (milk fever) needs a pre-calving dietary strategy
  - ▣ The marked reduction in clinical milk fever is arguably the biggest advancement in dairy nutrition in the last 40 years
  
- Clinical hypocalcemia is pathological
  - ▣ It warrants immediate intervention
  
- Is subclinical hypocalcemia pathological?
  - ▣ Is it detrimental to health, productivity and profitability?

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 J. Dairy Sci. 95:1240–1248  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3168/jds.2011-4586>  
 © American Dairy Science Association®, 2012.

**Associations of subclinical hypocalcemia at calving with milk yield, and feeding, drinking, and standing behaviors around parturition in Holstein cows**

P. E. Jawor,<sup>\*1</sup> J. M. Huzzey,<sup>\*</sup> S. J. LeBlanc,<sup>†</sup> and M. A. G. von Keyserlingk<sup>\*2</sup>  
\*Animal Welfare Program, Faculty of Land and Food Systems, University of British Columbia, 2357 Main Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6T 1Z4, Canada  
 †Department of Population Medicine, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1, Canada



Week	Control (kg/d)	Subclinical Hypocalcemia (kg/d)
0	~39	~41
1	~42	~49
2	~46	~51
3	~48	~52
4	~49	~53

Subclinical hypocalcemia is often associated with increased productivity

If subclinical hypocalcemia is pathological...why do subclinical hypocalcemic cows produce more milk?

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# Immunoactivation was identified as a cause of milk fever more than 130 years ago

## MILK FEVER (PARTURIENT PARESIS) IN DAIRY COWS—A REVIEW

J. W. HIBBS

*Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster*

Milk fever (parturient paresis) is an afebrile disease which typically is associated with parturition and beginning lactation. It is characterized by a sudden paralysis, gradual loss of consciousness and, if untreated, usually terminates in death. Few diseases of livestock have caused as much theoretical controversy and interest as has milk fever. Gradually, through the years, much has been learned about the nature of milk fever, and effective means of treatment have been devised, resulting in a reduction in mortality of from 60 to 70 per cent to less than 1 per cent. The basic physiological cause of milk fever has yet to be proven. The "parathyroid deficiency (hypocalcemia) theory" of Dryerre and Greig (54) seems to come the nearest of the many theories that have been advanced to accounting for the immediate cause, but many fundamental questions

## THE VETERINARY JOURNAL

AND

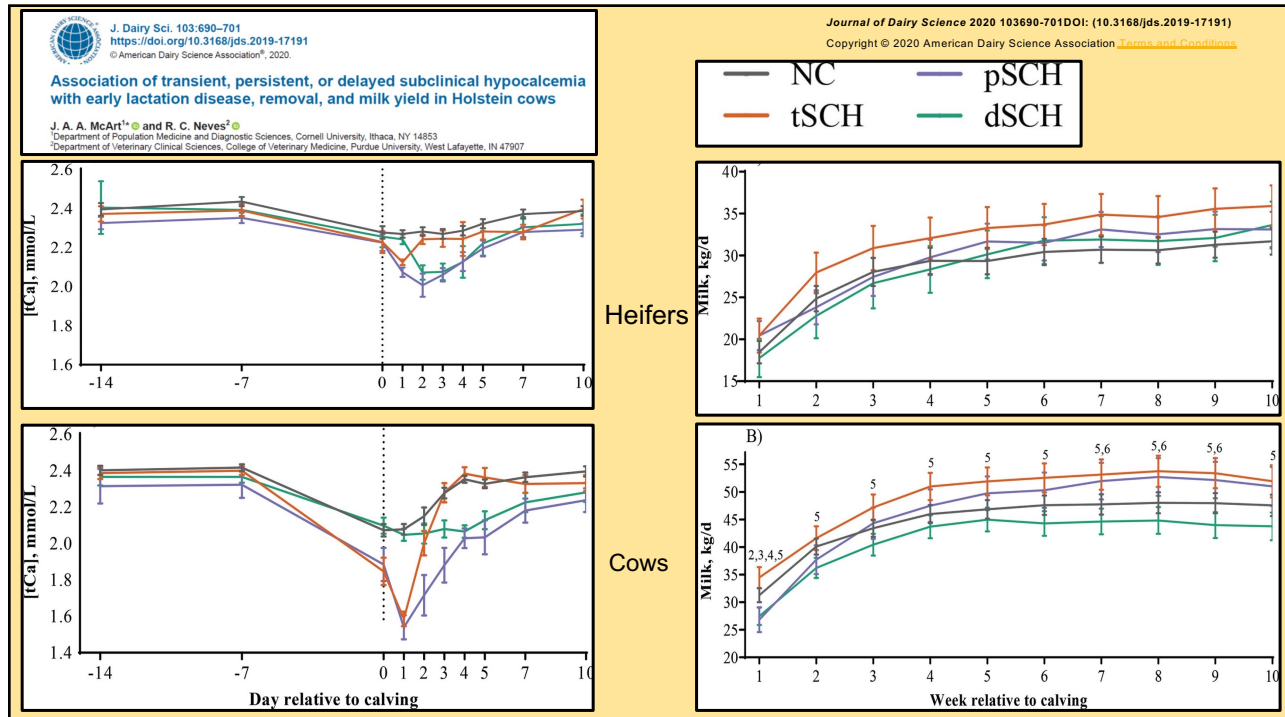
## Annals of Comparative Pathology.

JANUARY, 1889.

### PARTURIENT APOPLEXY IN COWS—A FORM OF SEPTICÆMIA.

BY A. HARRISON THOMAS, M.B., C.M., B.SC., ETC., WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.

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## Patterns of Subclinical Hypocalcemia


- Clearly there are different causes for hypocalcemia.....and each cause has different implications.
- What could contribute to chronic and delayed subclinical hypocalcemia?

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## Immune Activation and Hypocalcemia


Research in Veterinary Science 129 (2020) 74–81

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

 **ELSEVIER**

Research in Veterinary Science

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/rvsc](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/rvsc)



Effects of an oral supplement containing calcium and live yeast on post-absorptive metabolism, inflammation and production following intravenous lipopolysaccharide infusion in dairy cows

Mohammad Al-Qaisi<sup>a,c</sup>, Sara K. Kvidera<sup>a</sup>, Erin A. Horst<sup>a</sup>, Carrie S. McCarthy<sup>a</sup>, Edith J. Mayorga<sup>a</sup>, Megan A. Abeyta<sup>a</sup>, Brady M. Goetz<sup>a</sup>, Nathan C. Upah<sup>b</sup>, Dennis M. McKilligan<sup>b</sup>, Hugo A. Ramirez-Ramirez<sup>a</sup>, Leo L. Timms<sup>a</sup>, Lance H. Baumgard<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Animal Science, Iowa State University, Ames 50011, USA  
<sup>b</sup> TechMix, LLC, Stewart, MN 55385, USA  
<sup>c</sup> Department of Animal Production, The University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan

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## Evolution of the Immunometabolic Field

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## Strange Insulin Status in Multiple Scenarios and Pathologies

- Increased circulating insulin during catabolic conditions:
  - Heat stress
  - Ketosis (especially Type II)
  - Feed restriction ([insulin]/DMI)
  - Intentionally induced leaky gut
  - LPS administration:
    - Mammary
    - Muscle
    - I.V.



J. Dairy Sci. 104:8380–8410  
<https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2021-20330>

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**Invited review: The influence of immune activation on transition cow health and performance—A critical evaluation of traditional dogmas**

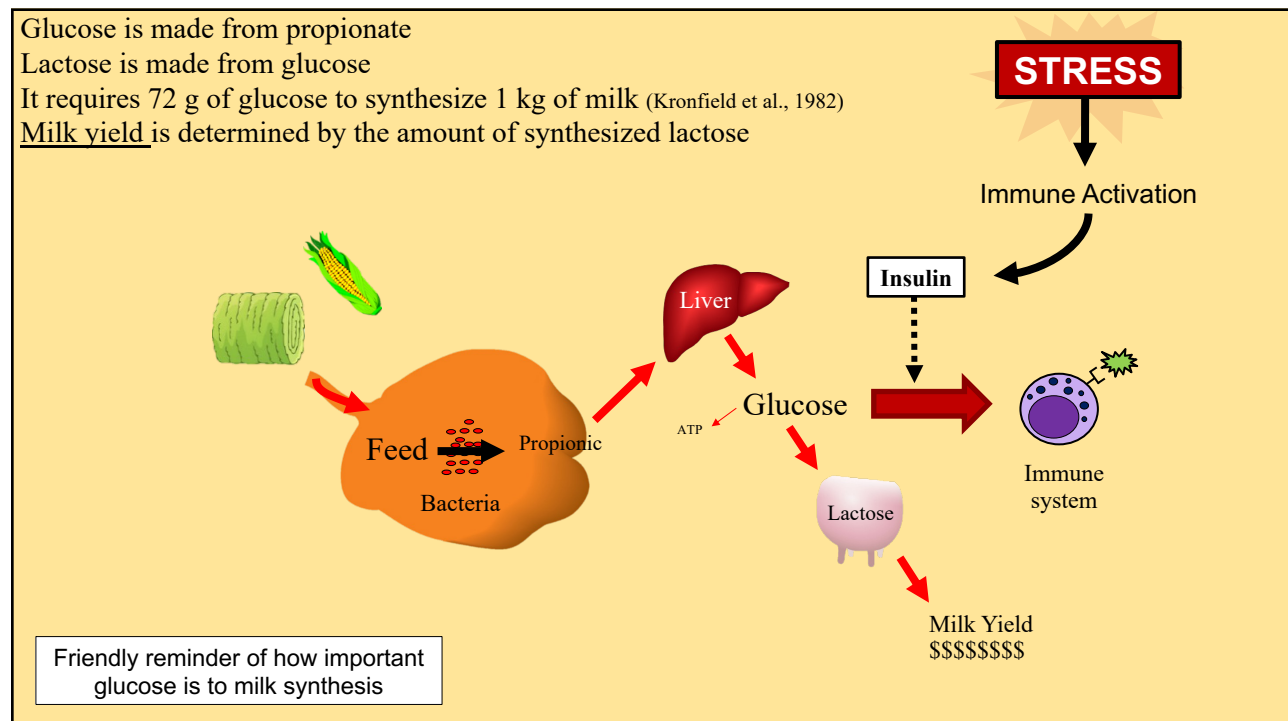
E. A. Horst, S. K. Kvidera, and L. H. Baumgard\*   
 Department of Animal Science, Iowa State University, Ames 50011

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## Why Increase Insulin??

- Why increase the most acutely anabolic hormone during hypercatabolic conditions?
- Most leukocytes (immune cells) are insulin responsive and need insulin to acquire large amounts of glucose

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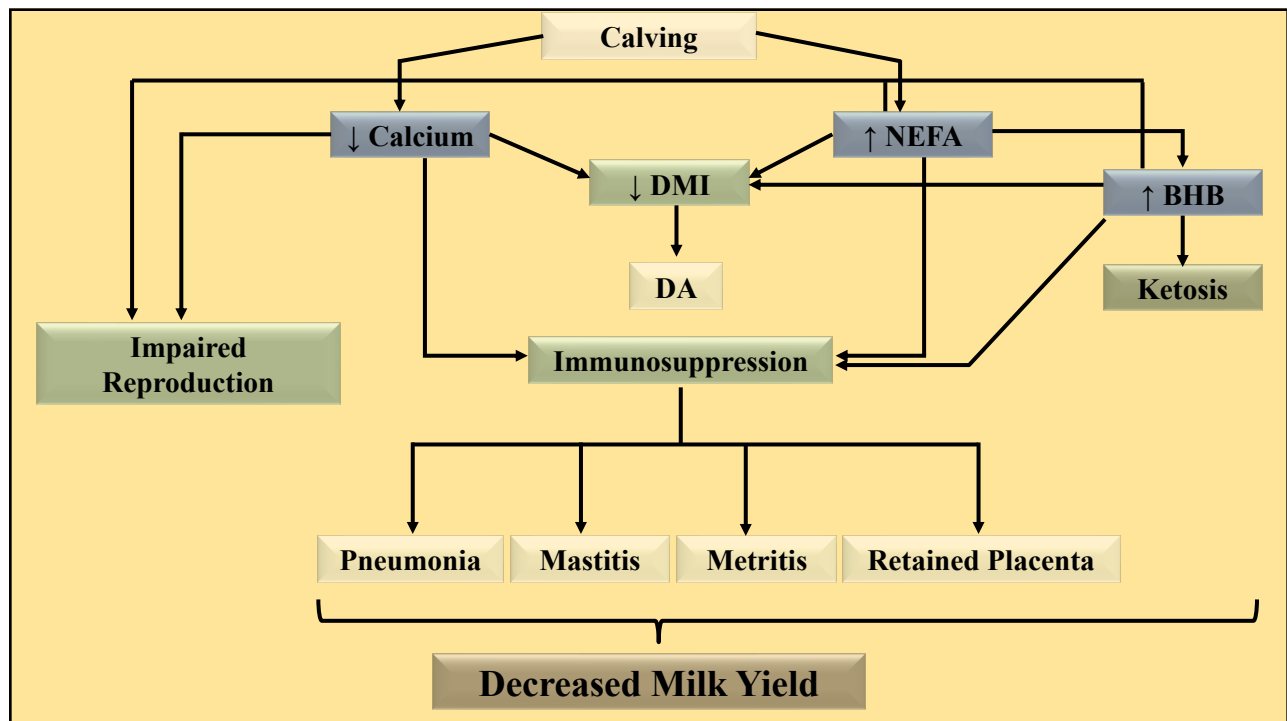
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## Traditional Belief

Increased NEFA, Hyperketonemia, and Hypocalcemia.....**CAUSE** production and health problems

This is not just an ivory tower debate, it has pragmatic and economic consequences

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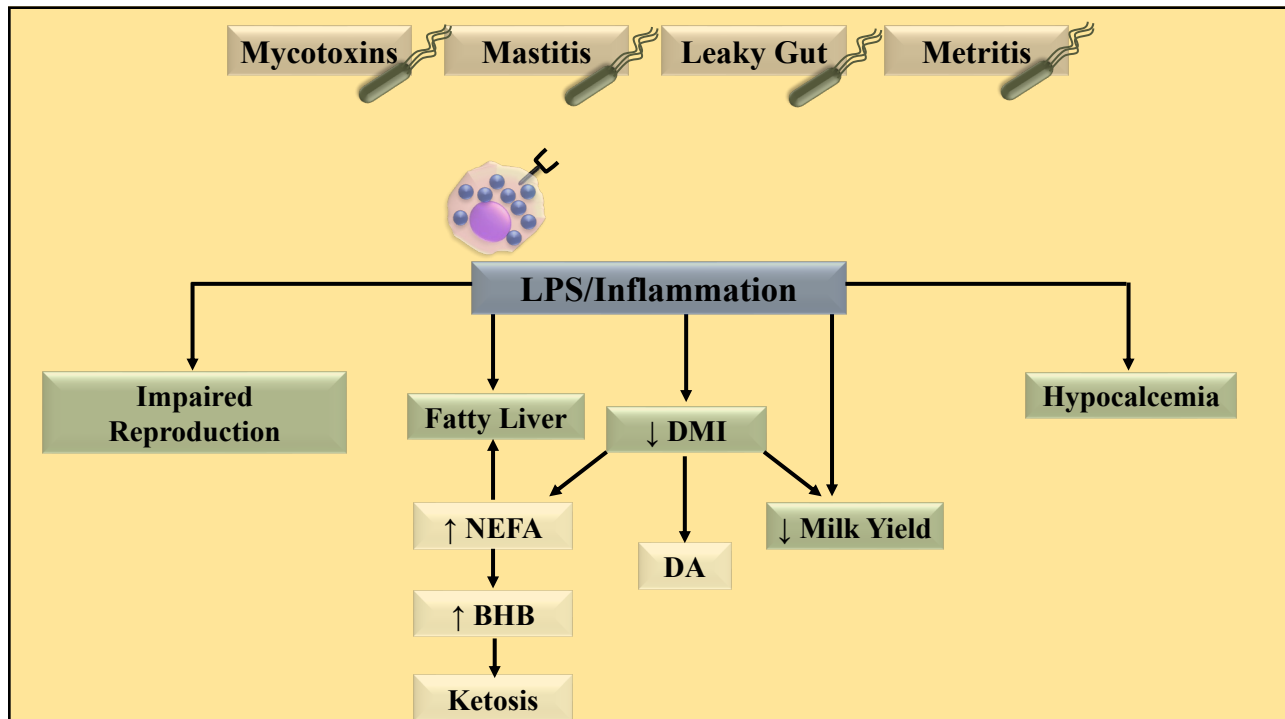
## Paradigm Shifting Concept

Increased NEFA and Hyperketonemia are

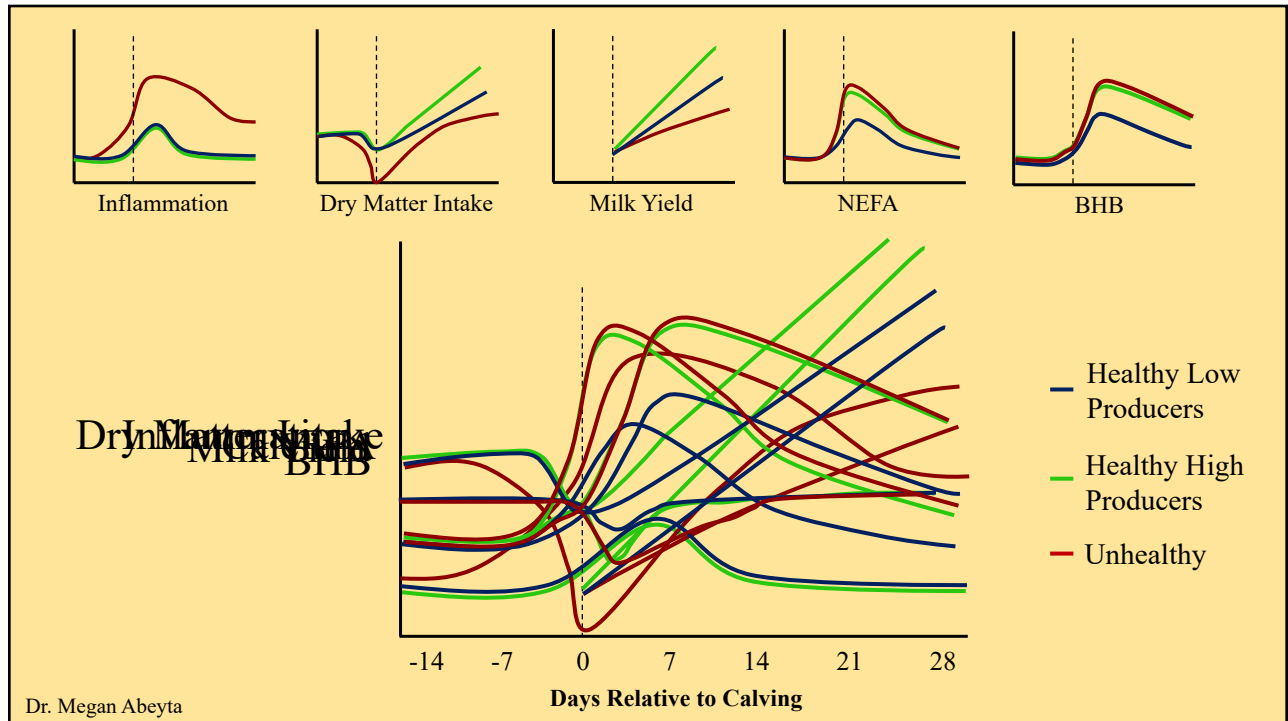
Low Feed Intake, high NEFA, and Hyperketonemia and hypocalcemia are merely SYMPTOMS....a reflection of prior immune stimulation

Hypocalcemia is a consequence of immune activation

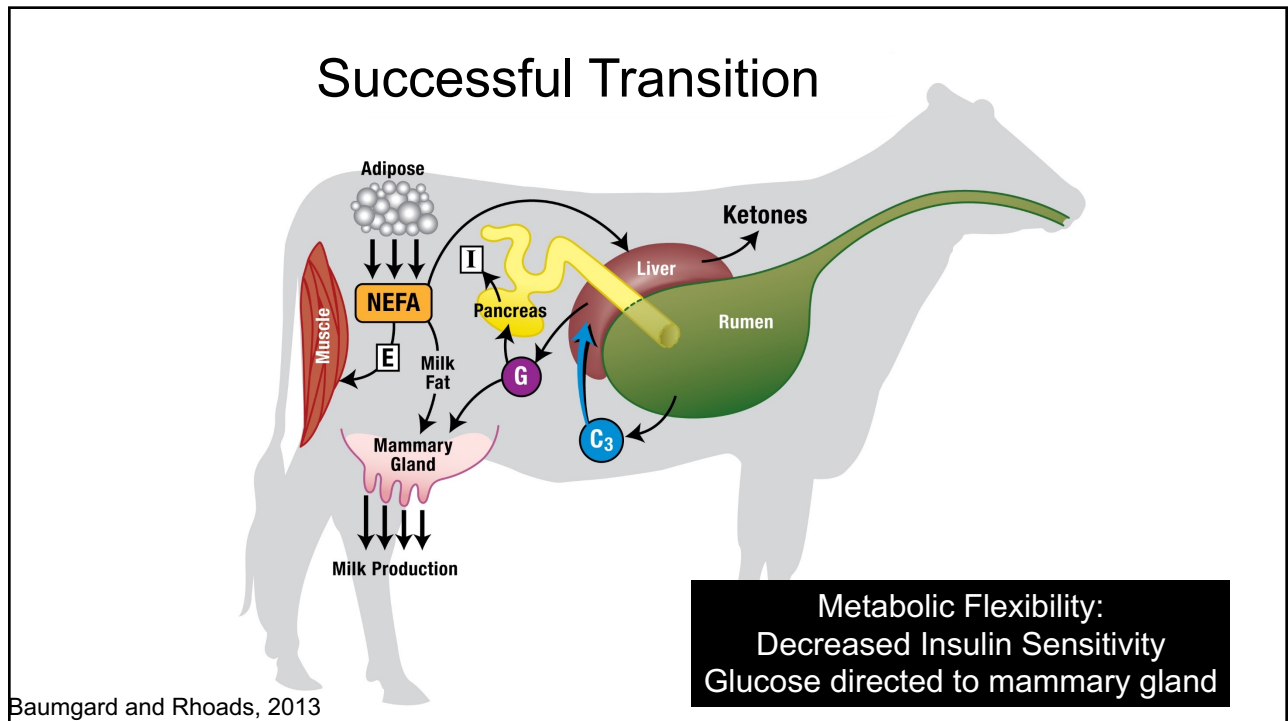
59



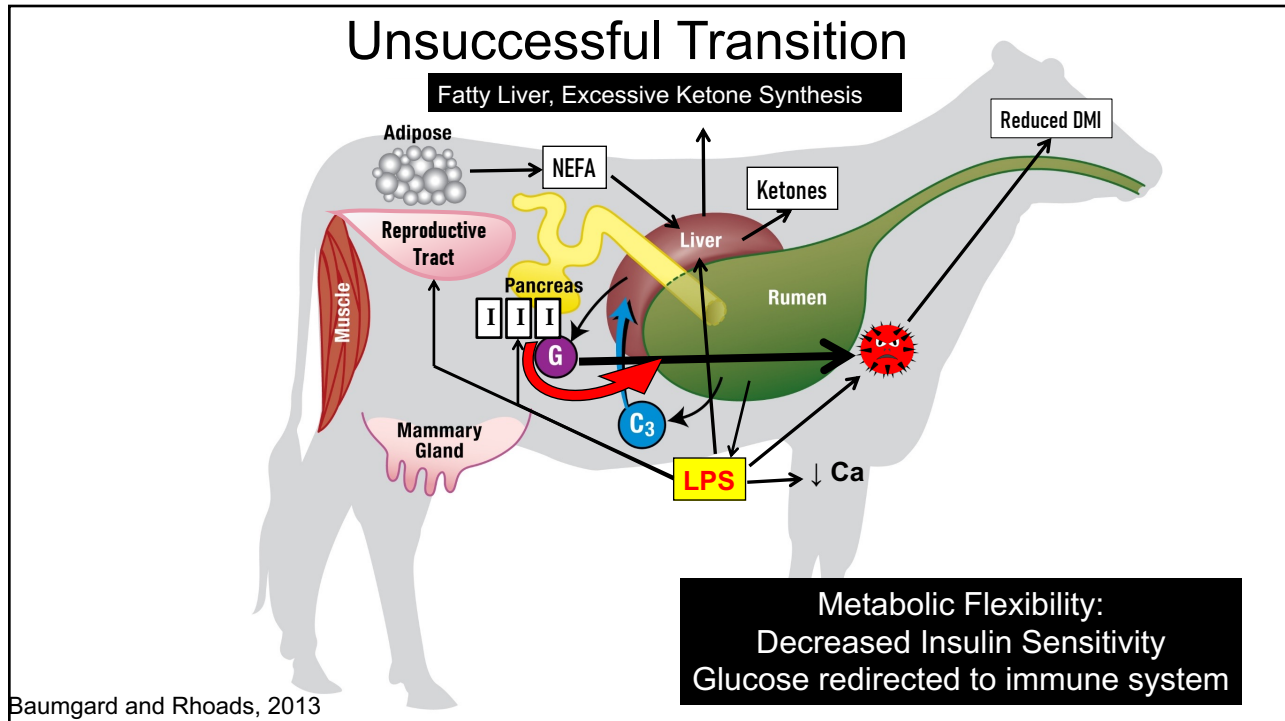
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## Two Causes for “Ketosis”

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Healthy</li> <li>□ High feed intake</li> <li>□ High NEFA and Ketones                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▣ Muscle and organs use for energy</li> </ul> </li> <li>□ “saves glucose” for milk synthesis</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>High milk production</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Immune-Activation</li> <li>□ Reduced feed intake</li> <li>□ High NEFA and Ketones                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▣ Muscle and organs use for energy</li> </ul> </li> <li>□ “saves glucose” for immune system</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Low milk production</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▣ Decreased milk synthesis is another strategy to conserve glucose for immune system</li> </ul>
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## Ketosis Scenario

- Two cows in the fresh pen
  - ▣ 10 DIM
  - ▣ Multiparous
  
- Both are hyperketonemic (i.e. 1.5 mmol/l)

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## Ketosis: When (or if) to intervene?

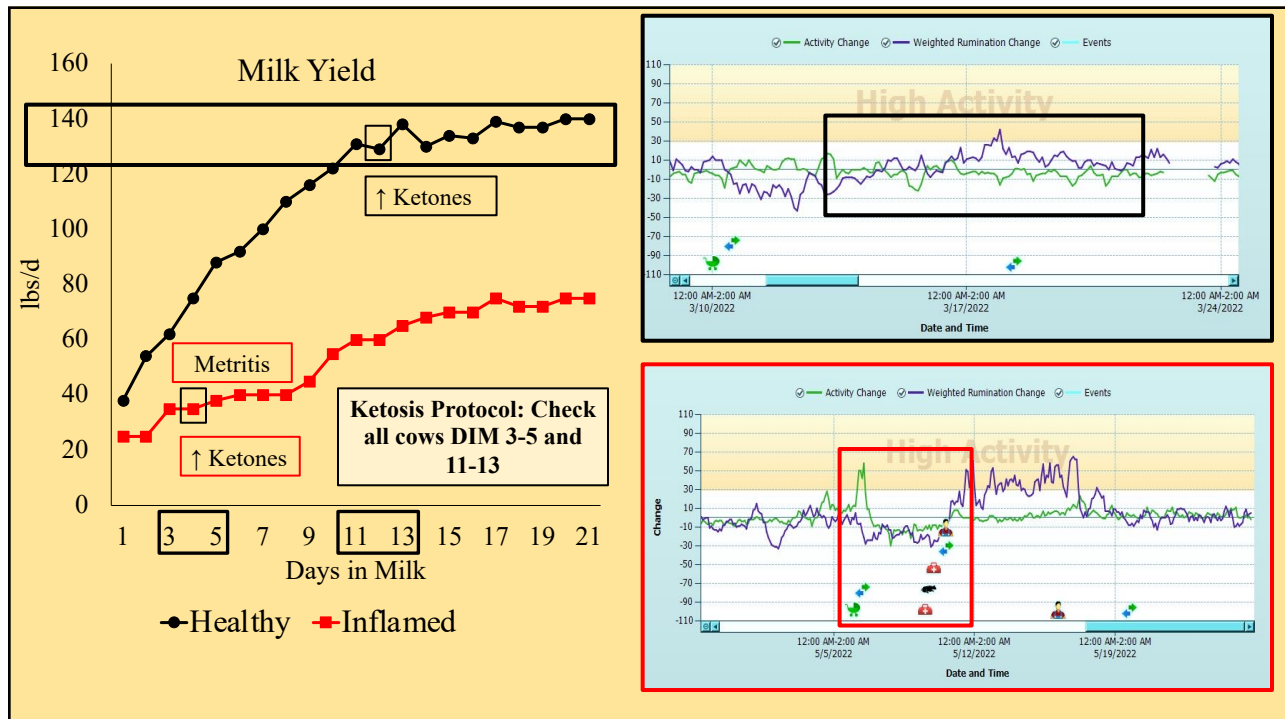
- Treat:
    - ▣ High ketones
    - ▣ Not coming into milk
    - ▣ Not aggressively eating
    - ▣ Looks lethargic and melancholic
    - ▣ Has a mild fever
  
  - Don't mess with
    - ▣ High ketones....but she's eating like a champ
    - ▣ Milking like a world-record holder
    - ▣ Looks great
    - ▣ No fever
- But treating with energy does nothing to address the real problem.....somewhere.....immune-activation is putting the clamp on appetite
- She's the healthiest cow in the herd

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# Real World Example

## ISU Dairy Farm Spring of 2022

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## Management Changes?

**High production can only occur in the absence of stress and morbidity**

temperature during the transition period?

- ❑ Costs money and time
  - ❑ Costs associated with the “treatment”
  - ❑ Costs associated with improper treatment administration
    - i.e. Propylene glycol inadvertently down the trachea
  - ❑ Opportunity costs for that dedicated labor
- ❑ Instead pay more attention to feed intake (rumination) and milk yield

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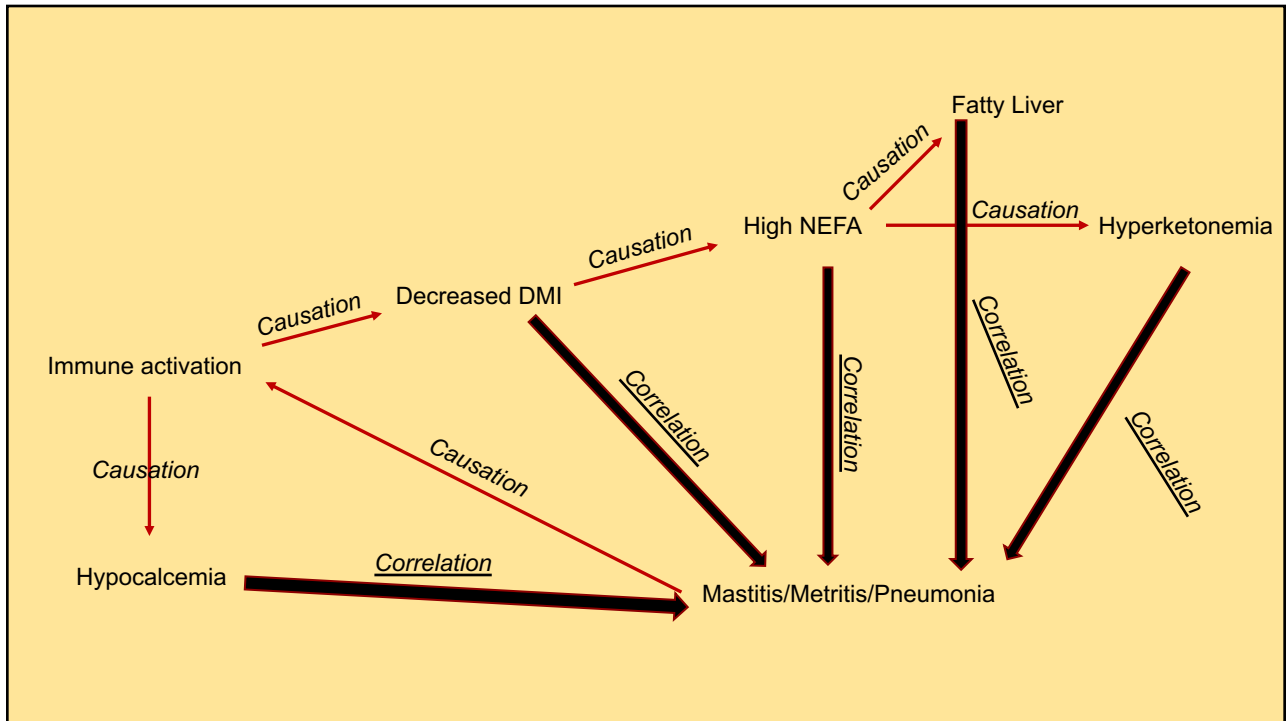
## Immune Activation Causes Inflammation

- ❑ All transition cows are inflamed (just the magnitude differs)

**The immune system “pumps the brake” on feed intake, prevent immune activation and put the “pedal to the metal”!!**

- ❑ Immune activation causes hypocalcemia
  - ❑ It's clearly not the only reason for subclinical hypocalcemia
- ❑ LPS causes infertility
- ❑ Immune activation reduces feed intake
  - ❑ It's the simplest and most logical explanation for why some cows don't eat well following calving

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**Path Analysis of Dry Period Nutrition, Postpartum Metabolic and Reproductive Disorders, and Mastitis in Holstein Cows<sup>1</sup>**

330 CURTIS ET AL. 2353

Age → Vet-assisted dystocia → Mastitis

Vet-assisted dystocia — OR = 4.0\*\*

Ca → Parturient paresis → Mastitis

P → Parturient paresis → Mastitis

Days dry → Parturient paresis → Mastitis

Ca — OR = 7.2\*\*

P — OR = 9.16

Parturient paresis — OR = 3.0\*\*

Parturient paresis — OR = 23.6\*\*

Parturient paresis — OR = 3.4\*\*

Mastitis

Figure 1. Path analysis null hypothesis model. ME = Mature equivalent, LDA = left displaced abomasum, Ca = calcium, P = phosphorus.

Kennett Square, PA 19348

1985 J Dairy Sci 68:2347–2360

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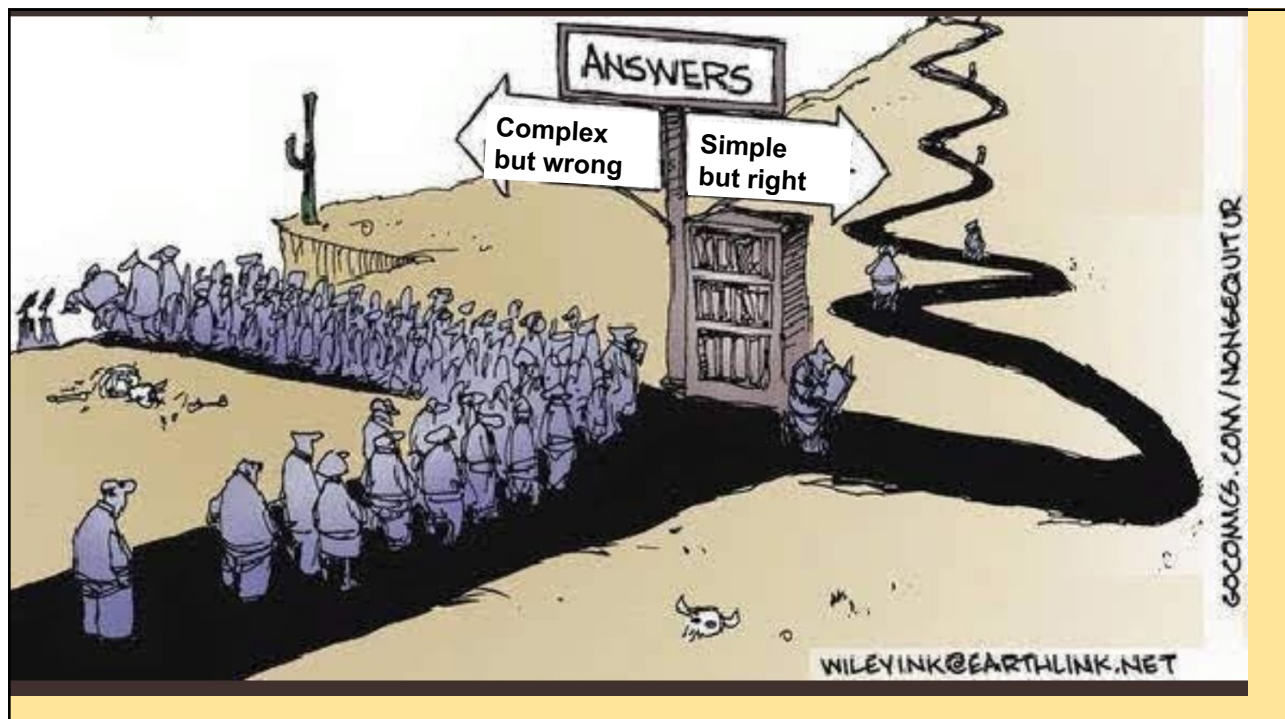
## Summary: Inflammation and the Transition Period

- These metabolic and mineral changes are not “dysfunctional”
- They are required to prioritize survival or required for maximum productivity
  - ▣ They aren't to blame (they're not the cause) for poor productivity

## Profitable Production is a Consequence of Wellness

- Minimize stress (overcrowding of prefresh and fresh pens, on time feed delivery, etc.)
- ▣ Hygiene
  - Minimize environmental pathogens (dry off procedure, dry environment, etc.)
  - Pen cleanliness
- ▣ Dietary strategies
  - Feed hygiene
  - Prevent GIT disturbances
  - Target molecules aimed and minimizing leaky gut
  - Immune modulation

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# Acknowledgments



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- USDA NRI/AFRI/NIFA
  - # 2005-35203-16041
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  - # 2015- 10843
  - # 2017- 05931
  - # 2017- 10843
  - # 2019- 07859
  - # 2020- 02716
  - # 2021- 09507



## Industry Partners

- ADM
- ASCUS
- Biomin
- Diamond V
- Elanco
- Idemitsu
- Micronutrients
- Phileo Lesaffre
- TechMix
- Zoetis
- Alltech
- BASF
- Cargill
- DPI Global
- Grain States Soya
- Kemin Inc.
- Microaid Novus
- Sherring Plough
- Zinpro Inc.

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## What are Producers, Nutritionists and Veterinarians to do?

- Need to identify the source of infection/subclinical infection
  - ▣ Can't just show up and quickly treat subclinical hypocalcemia and hyperketonemia and hurry to next client
  - ▣ Need thorough evaluation...requires time
  
- Train farm personnel to utilize full array of information
  - ▣ Feed intake and production
  - ▣ Cow appearance