

FIELD EXPERIENCE WITH A POLYVALENT MASTITIS VACCINE IN A COMERCIAL DAIRY FARM INFECTED WITH STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS

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OBJECTIVES

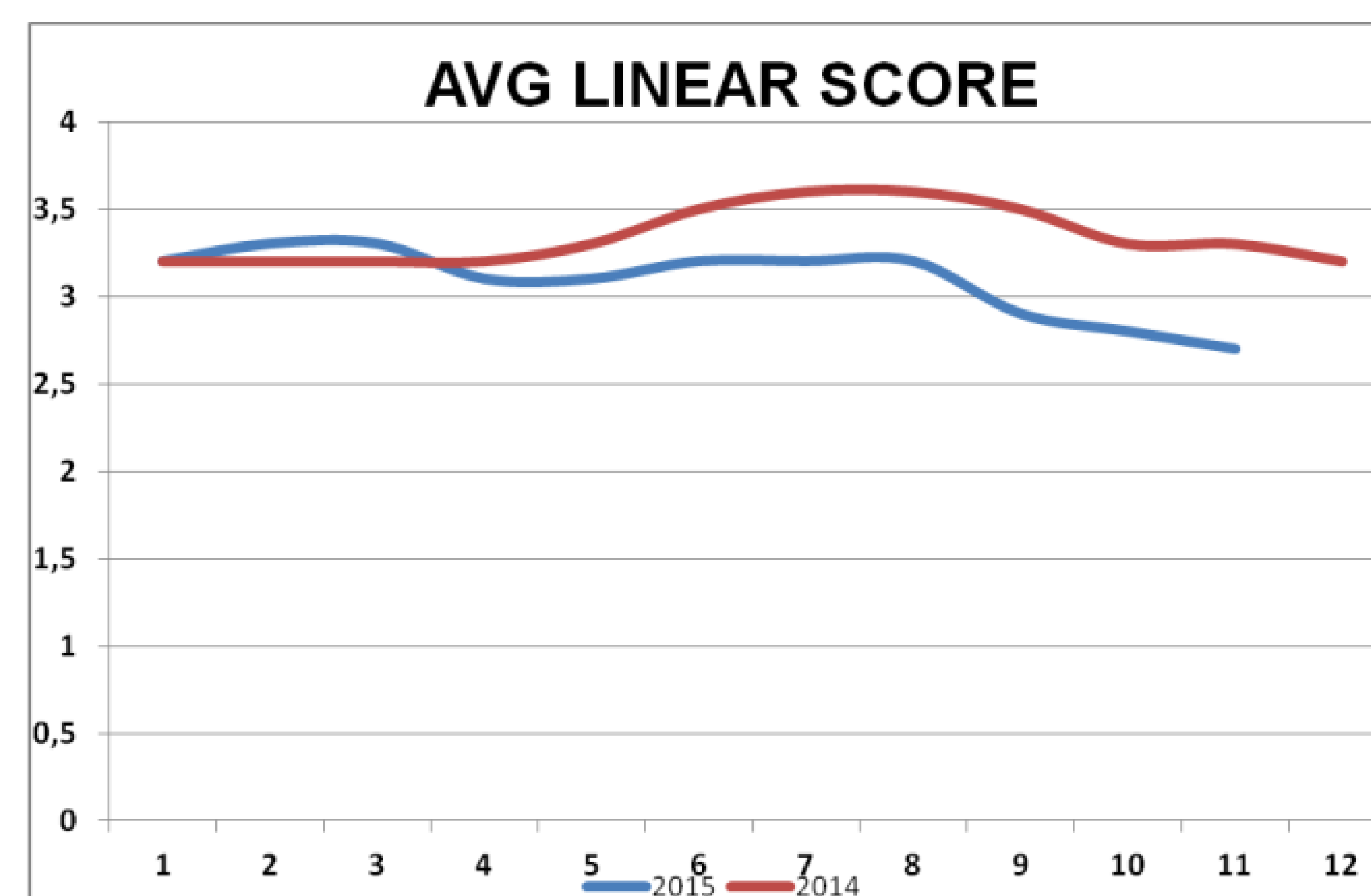
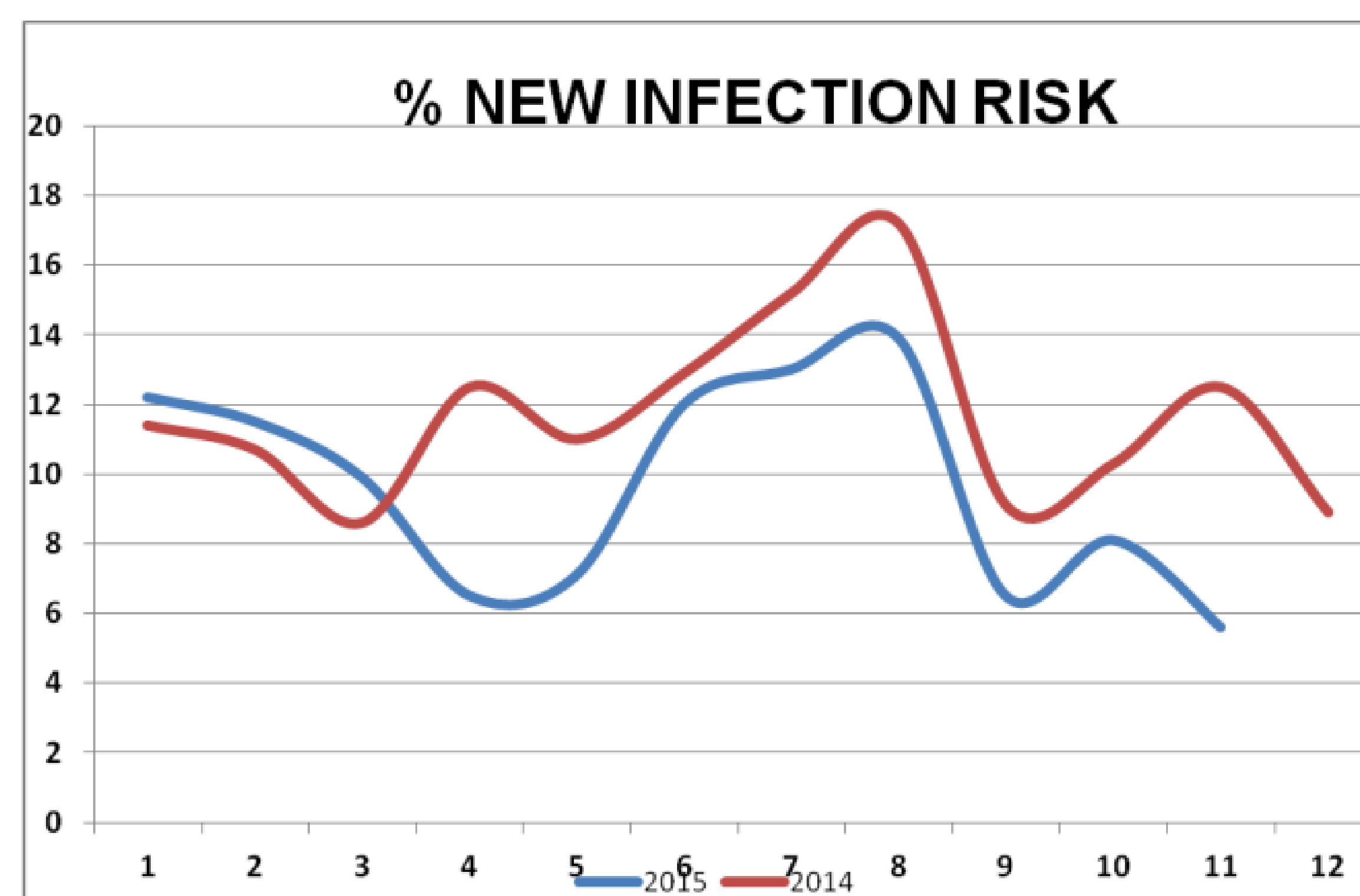
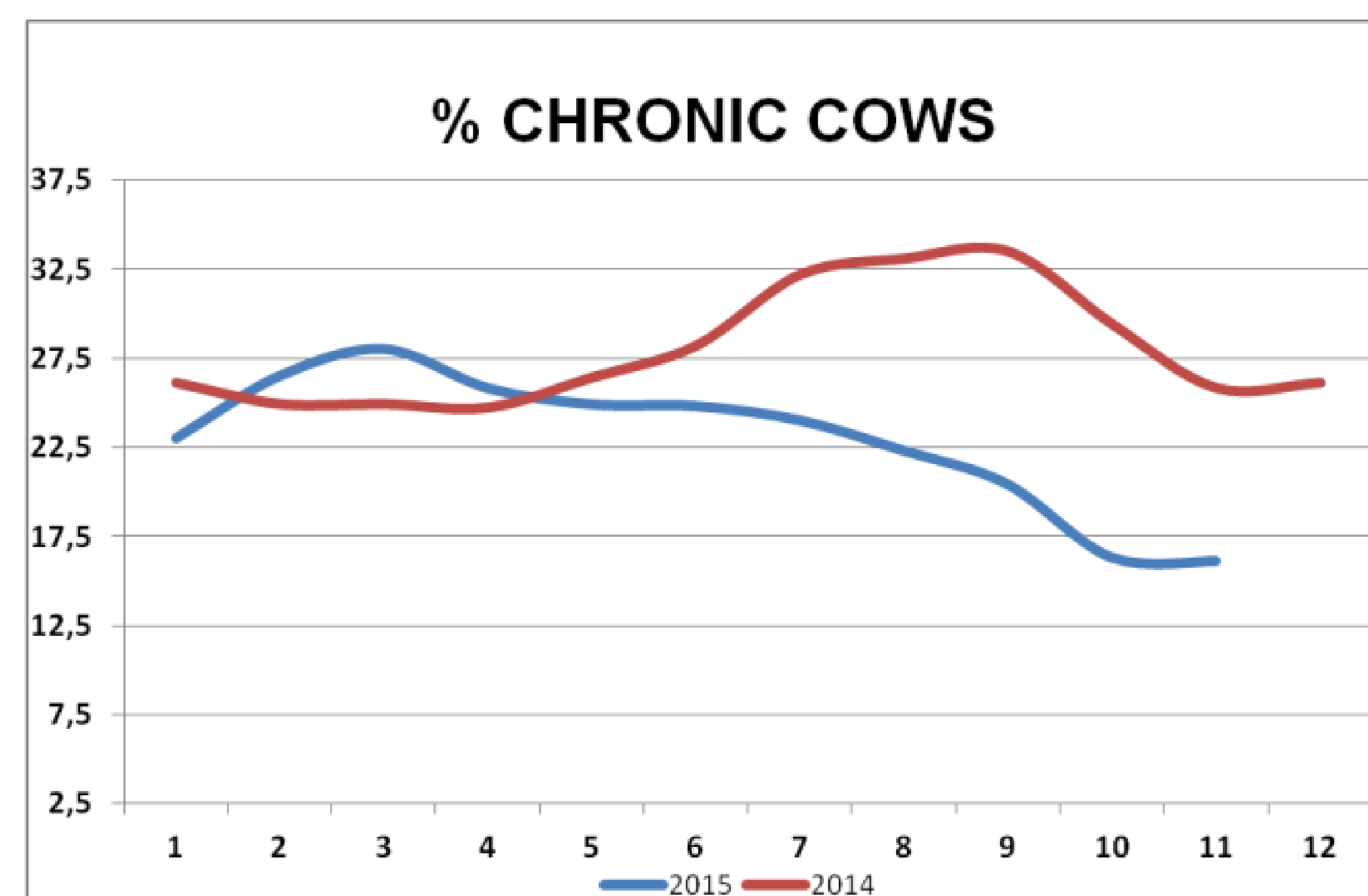
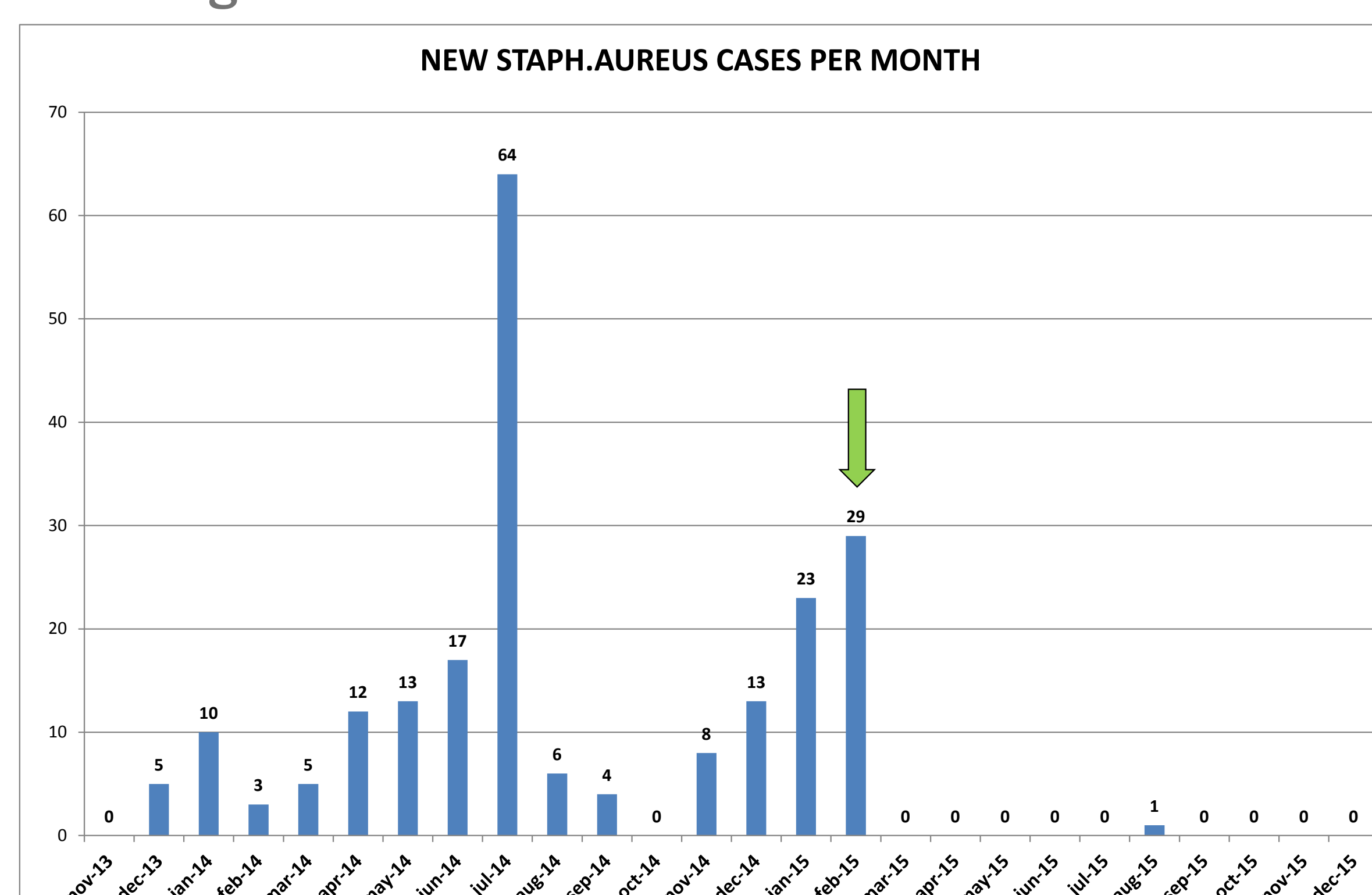
The objective of this poster is to show the efficacy of STARTVAC® along with management practices to reduce spreading and control *Staph aureus* in a commercial dairy farm with high prevalence of infection by *Staph aureus*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The farm is located in Spain milking 600 cows x3. Cows in lactation are housed in pens with freestalls bedded with recycled dry manure and environmental conditions are very good, with very low clinical mastitis rate (< 2% monthly). However, the farm has been fighting against *Staph aureus* since 5 years, with high BTSCC and high prevalence of infection. Despite checking the healthy groups by CMT, culturing and segregating *Staph* positive animals many times, and cheking fresh animals after calving by culture, new positive animals appeared after in the healthy group. In July 2014, the farm had problems cleaning and sanitazing the milking machine and we experienced a dramatic outbreak in new cases (64). In February 2015, all the animals in the healthy groups were sampled for PCR twice in a week time difference and we segregated *Staph aureus* positive animals once again. Fresh animals are sampled by PCR one week after calving in the fresh group and positives are segregated. At the same time, we vaccinated all the lactating animals, dry cows and heifers two months before calving and and revaccinated 21 days. After that, the whole farm has been vaccinated each 3 months. The farm is making monthly SCC test at cow level and we used these data to calculate KPI related to dynamics of infection, as % of chronic cows, new infection risk, and average linear score.

RESULTS

The farm udder health has been improving and only one new case has appeared since we implemented vaccination and it was in a fresh heifer. As a result, BTSCC is decreasing day by day, with less chronic animals, lower new infection risk and lower average linear score.



CONCLUSIONS

Along with other management practices to control *Staph aureus*, vaccination with STARTVAC® in this farm is having a great impact contributing to minimize spreading of *Staph aureus* within the herd, improving udder health and reducing BTSCC.