



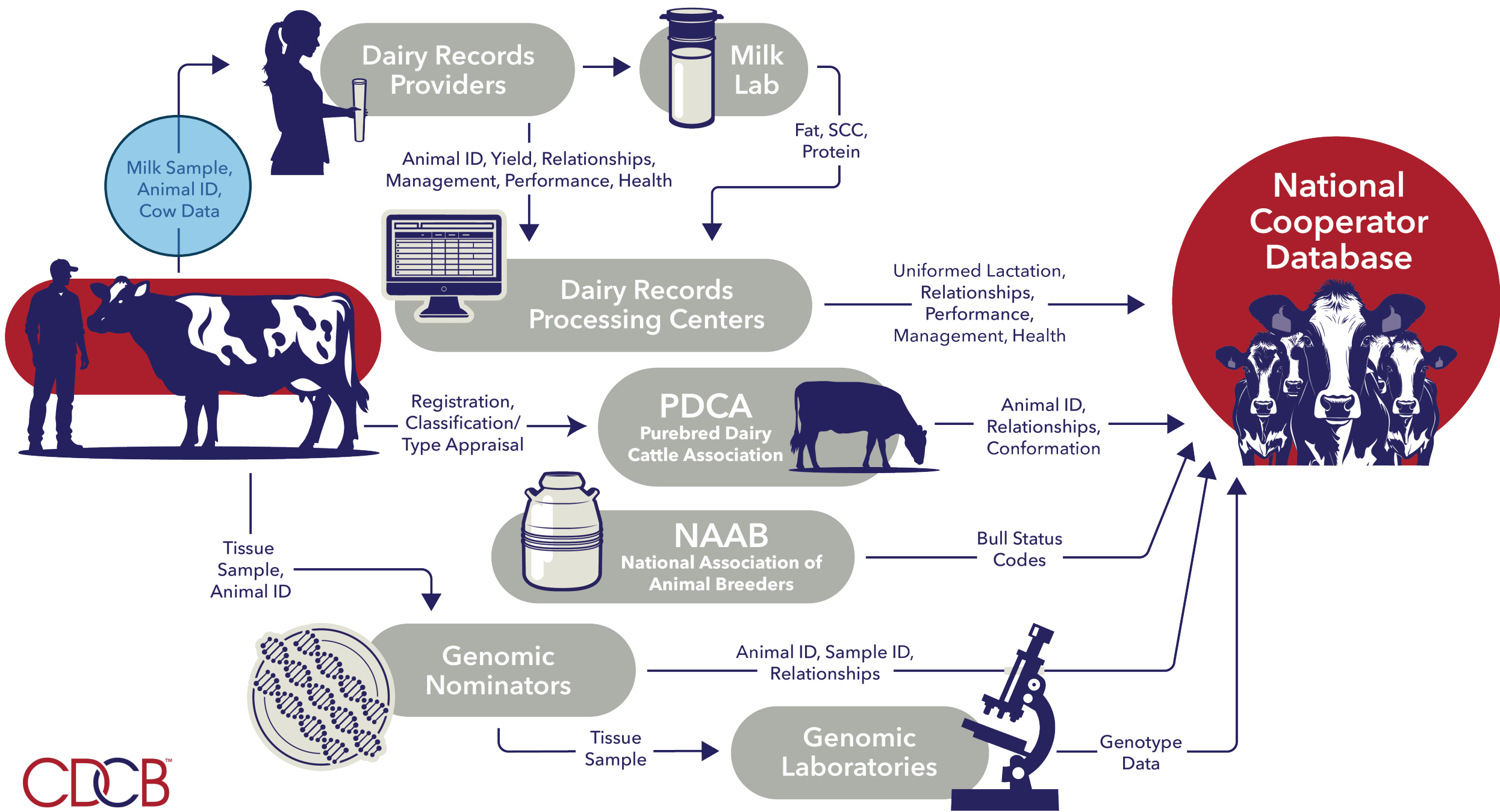
Animal ID – Use and Usability in CDCB Programs

John B. Cole

National DHIA Annual Meeting, Savannah, GA | March 4, 2026

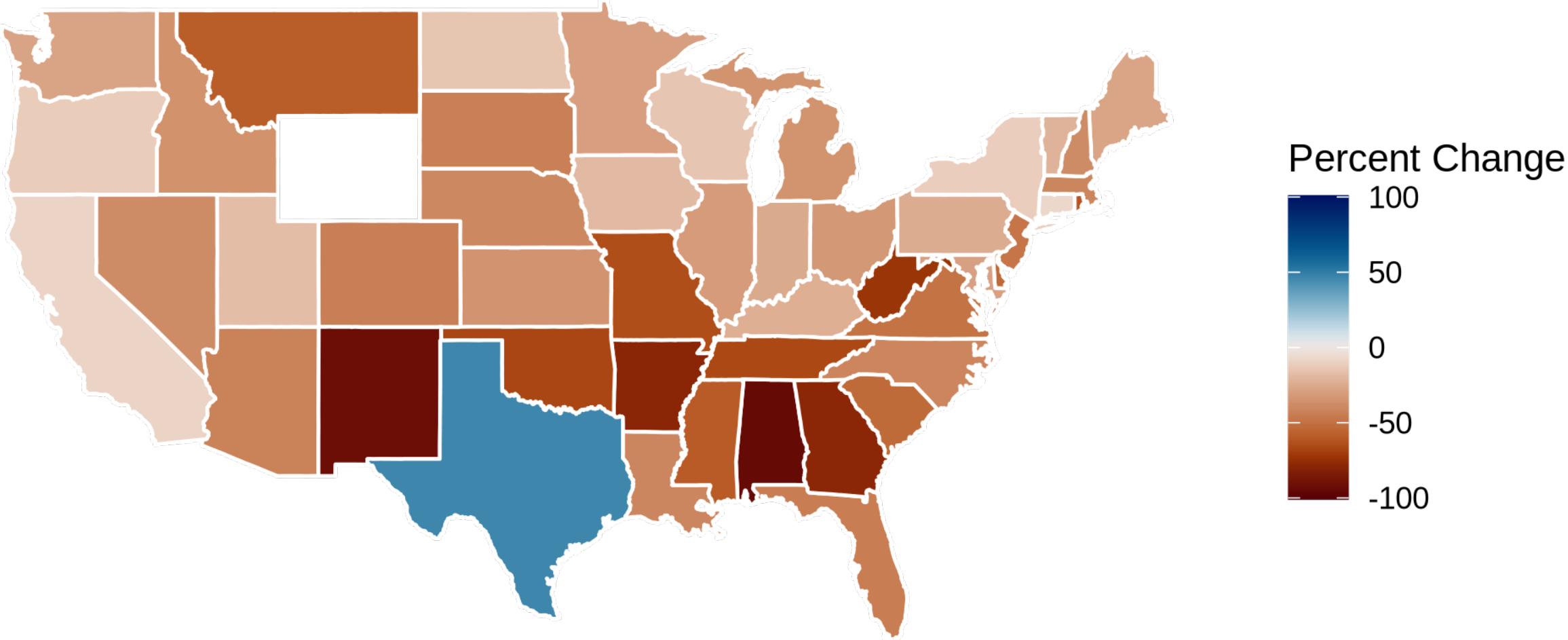
Animal ID, like Wu-Tang Clan, is forever

- ▶ The first meeting I attended after joining AIPL in 2003 was on animal ID, and 23 years later we're still talking about it.
 - Technology may be making challenges more severe, not less.
- ▶ As part of the CDCB Incentives Task Force project we have some recent information on animal ID in the National Cooperator Database.

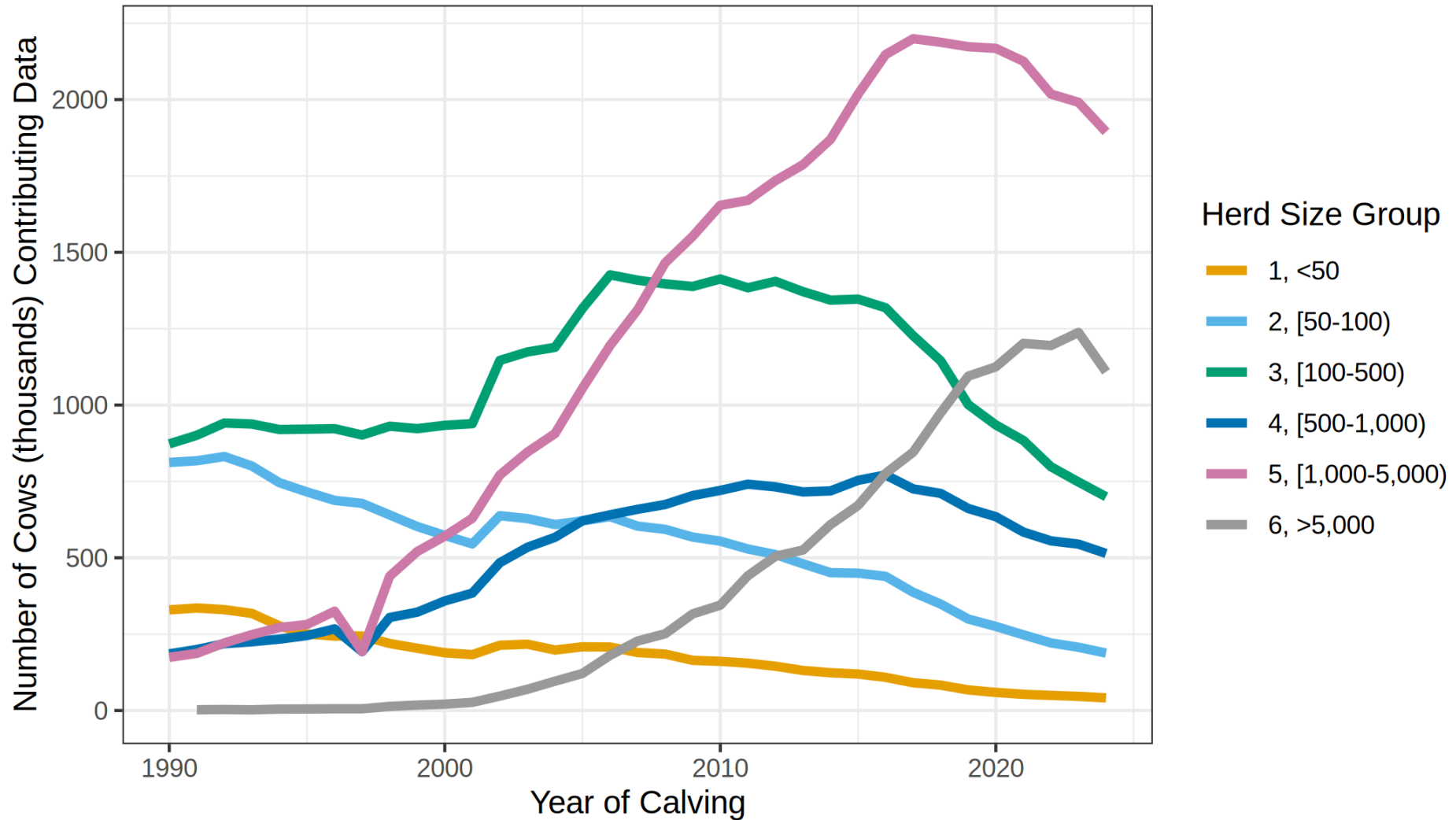


What's the state of the national herd in 2026?

Percent Change in Number of Cows with Records in NCD, 2015 to 2024



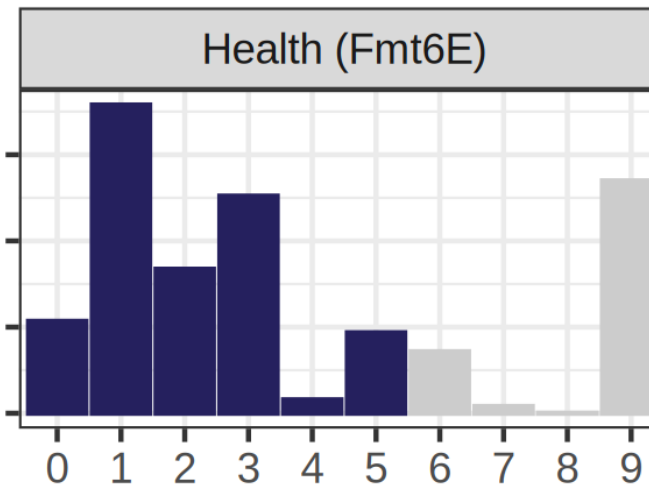
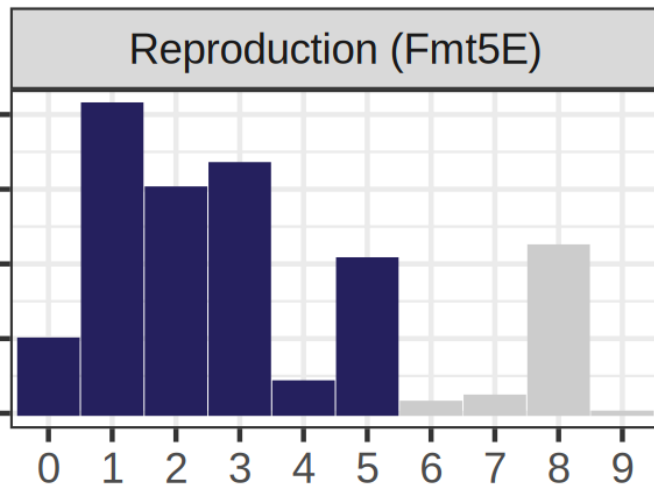
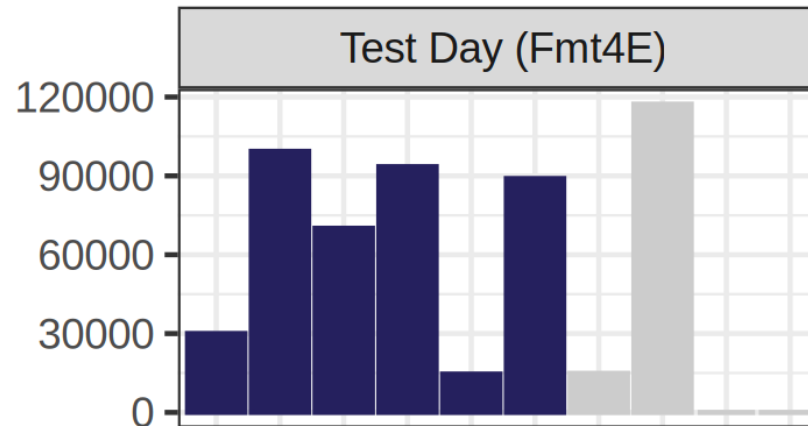
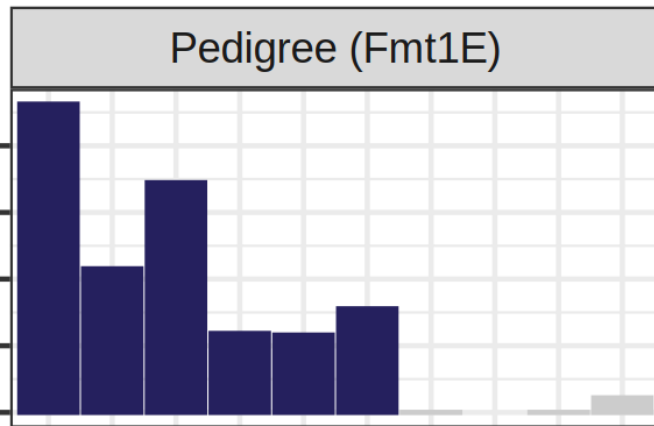
Number of Cows in NCD by Herd Size Group, 1990 to 2024



What are the major reasons records are discarded by EDITS?

Distribution of error codes by format

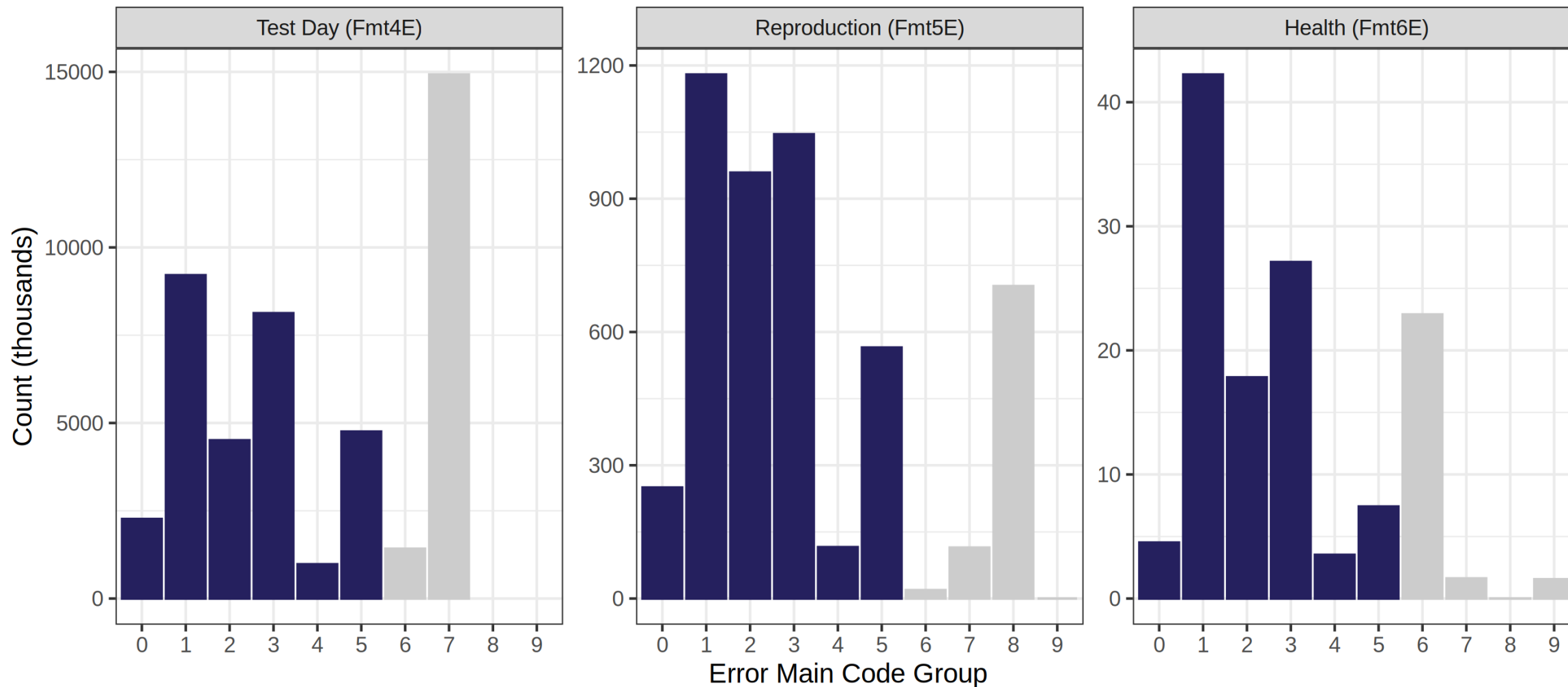
Number of Rejected Records (thousands)



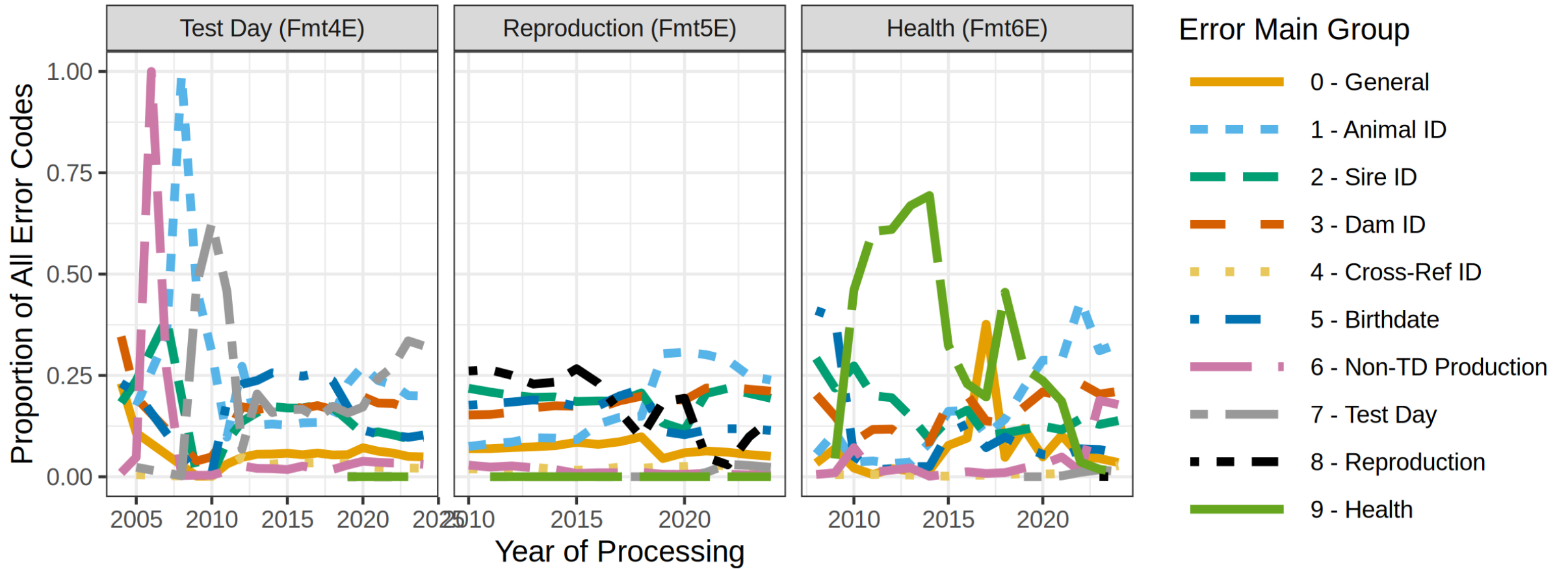
Error Code Main Group

- 0 – General
- 1 - Animal ID
- 2 - Sire ID
- 3 - Dam ID
- 4 - Cross-Ref ID
- 5 – Birthdate
- 6 - Non-TD Production
- 7 - Test Day
- 8 – Reproduction
- 9 - Health

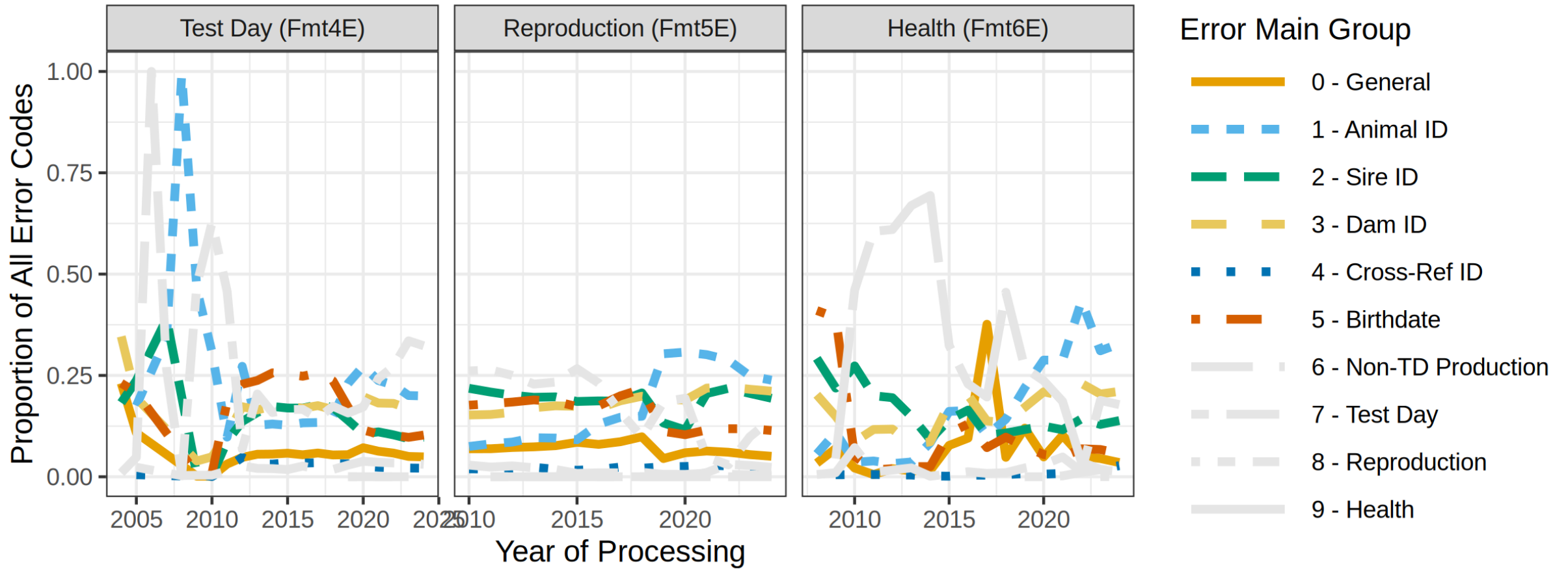
Distribution of error code groups for formats 4E, 5E, and 6E in 2024



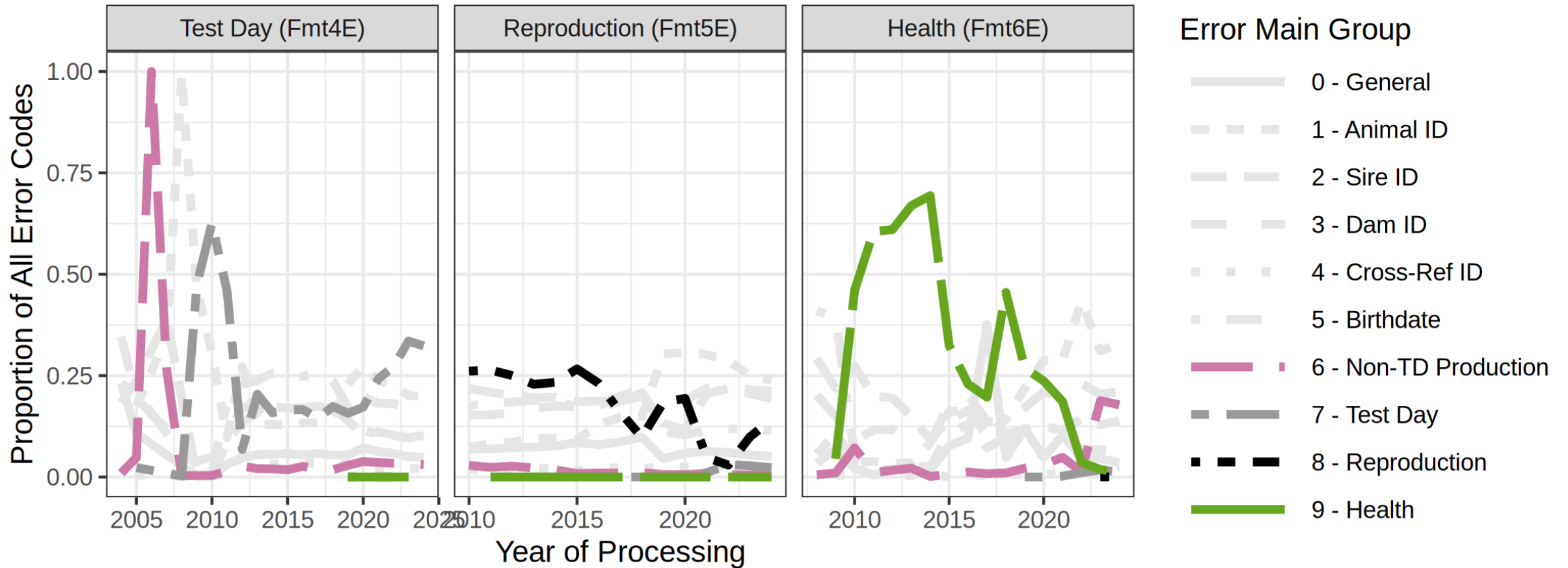
Yearly Trends in Error Codes by Format



Yearly Trends in Error Codes by Format



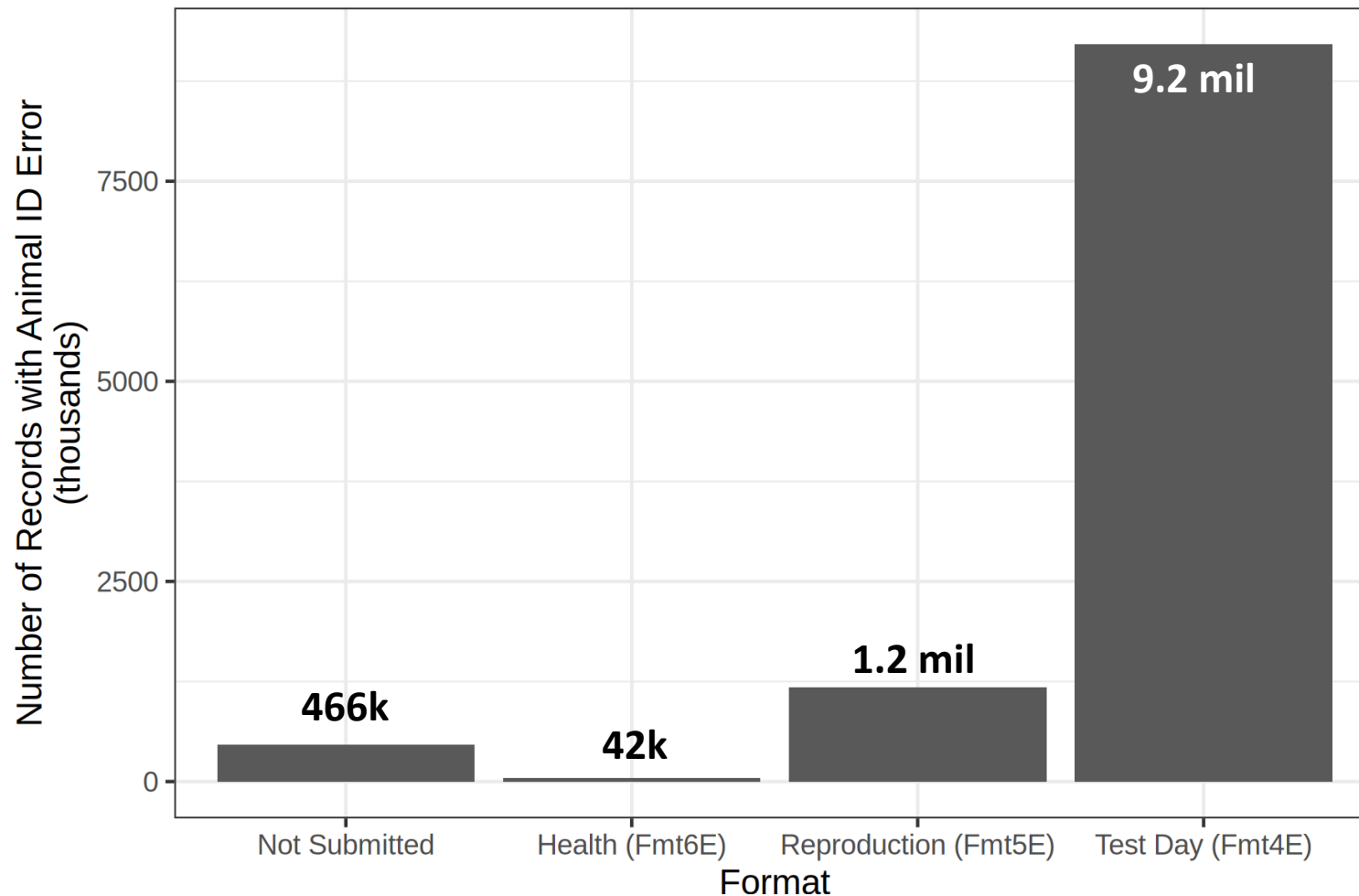
Yearly Trends in Error Codes by Format



Comparison of the number of live cows with missing ID to number of records with animal ID error in 2024

Update on ID issues:

DRPCs reported that in their systems they collectively have **~466k** live cows with missing IDs in herds that actively contribute data to the NCD – records for these cows are not submitted (guaranteed rejection) so were not accounted for in previously presented error codes.



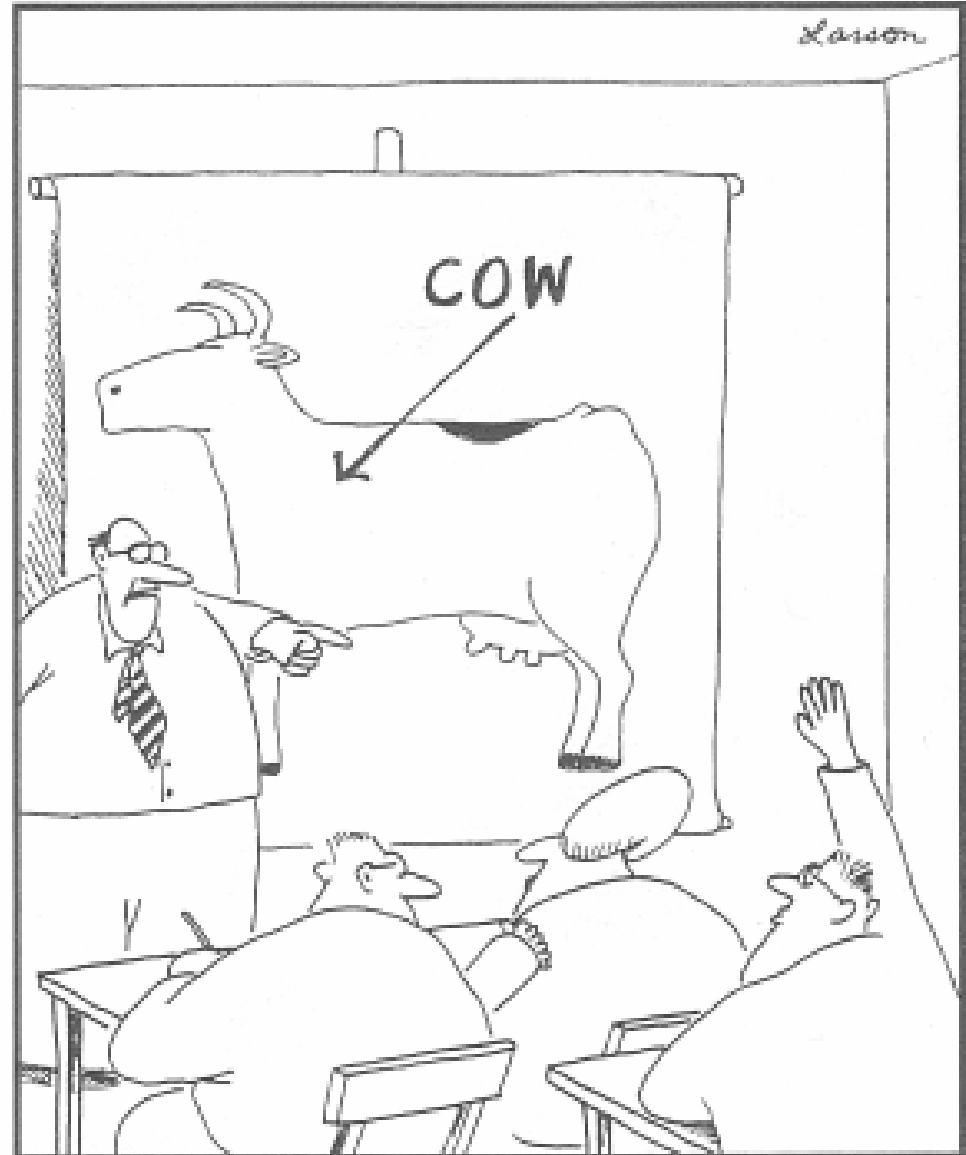
Conclusions

- ▶ Dr. Ashley Ling at CDCB did the hard work of assembling these data.
- ▶ Poor-quality animal ID is the main reason pedigree, lactation, reproduction, and health events fail edits.
- ▶ Hundreds of thousands of records aren't transmitted from DRPCs to the NCD because ID is incomplete.
- ▶ The problem isn't just tags, it's software.

Questions?

Thank you for your interest!

john.cole@uscdcb.com



"Yes ... I believe there's a question there in the back."