



# Methods used to collect farmers' attitudes towards cattle production: A rapid review

Heather O'Connor<sup>1</sup>, Marnie Brennan<sup>1</sup>, Wendela Wapenaar<sup>1</sup>, Pru Hobson-West<sup>1</sup>, Nick Wright<sup>2</sup> and Imogen Richens<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Veterinary Medicine and Science and <sup>2</sup> School of Geography, The University of Nottingham, UK

## Introduction

- On-farm disease control is extremely important as the consequences of a breakdown can have wide reaching effects
- Current work at the University of Nottingham is investigating the motivators and barriers to implementing biosecurity measures and vaccination on UK dairy farms
- Farmers' attitudes are important to understand as part of the decision making behaviour in all aspects of farming (Defra, 2008)
- There have been a number of methods used to collect and analyse farmers' attitudes and little published research has reviewed studies and their methods in this area

## Aims

- To review and appraise previous research investigating attitudes, motivators and barriers of farmers relating to cattle farming
- To identify and appraise the methods used in previous research in this area



## Methods

- A rapid review methodology was used (Ganann et al., 2010)
- A keyword search was performed in CAB Abstracts in July 2012

### Search Terms

[farms OR farmers OR producer OR producers] AND [opinions OR beliefs] AND [cattle OR sheep OR pigs OR poultry]

### Inclusion Criteria

- Study investigates cattle farmers, including those in a wider farming population
- Study measures or elicits farmer attitudes, motivators, barriers or opinions
- Published as a paper in a research journal
- Available in English
- Readily accessible electronically, in paper copy, or by inter-library loans from the University of Nottingham library

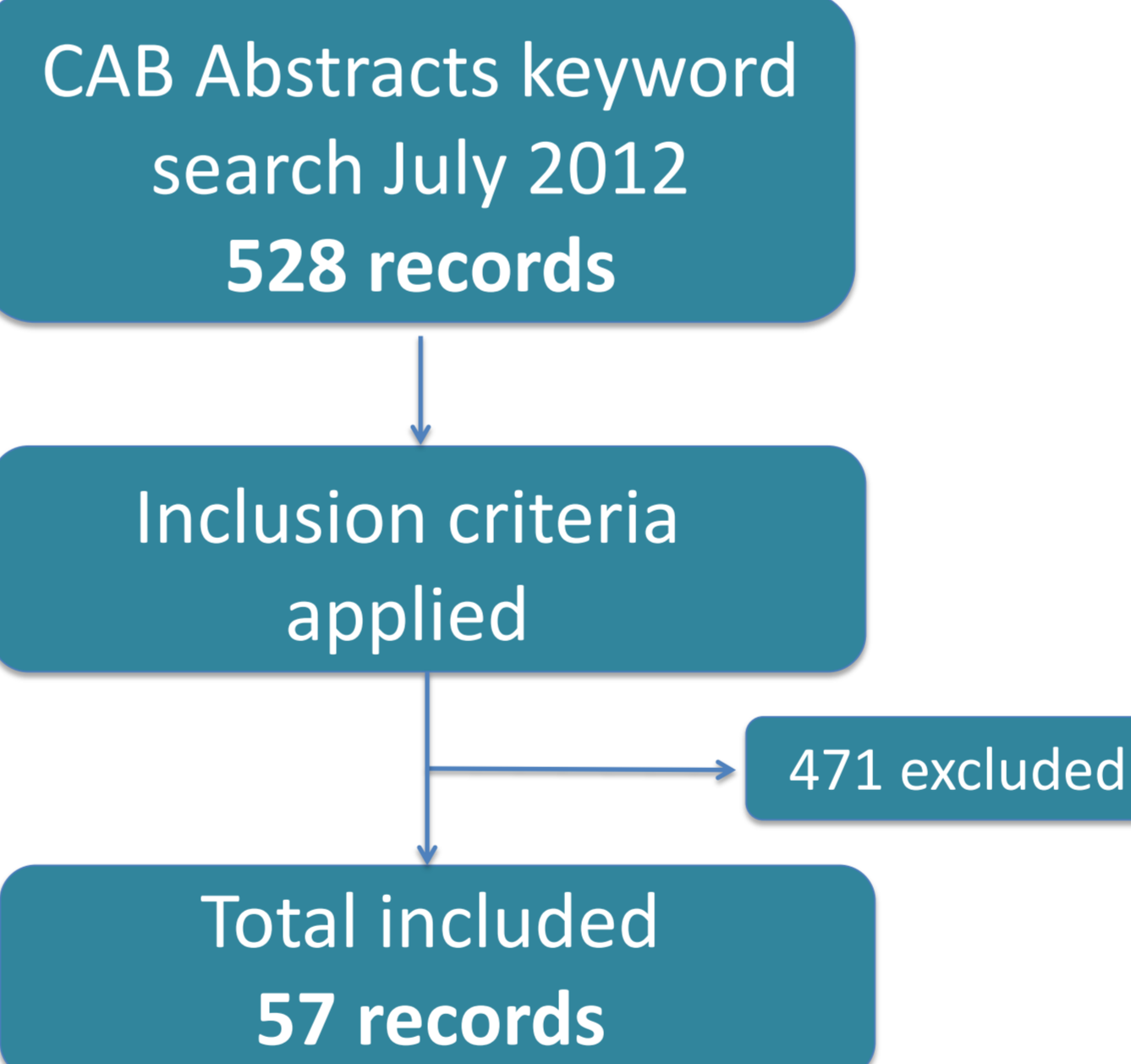
- Each step was performed independently by two authors (HOC and IR) and then checked to ensure agreement
- All included papers will be subject to critical appraisal

## Conclusions

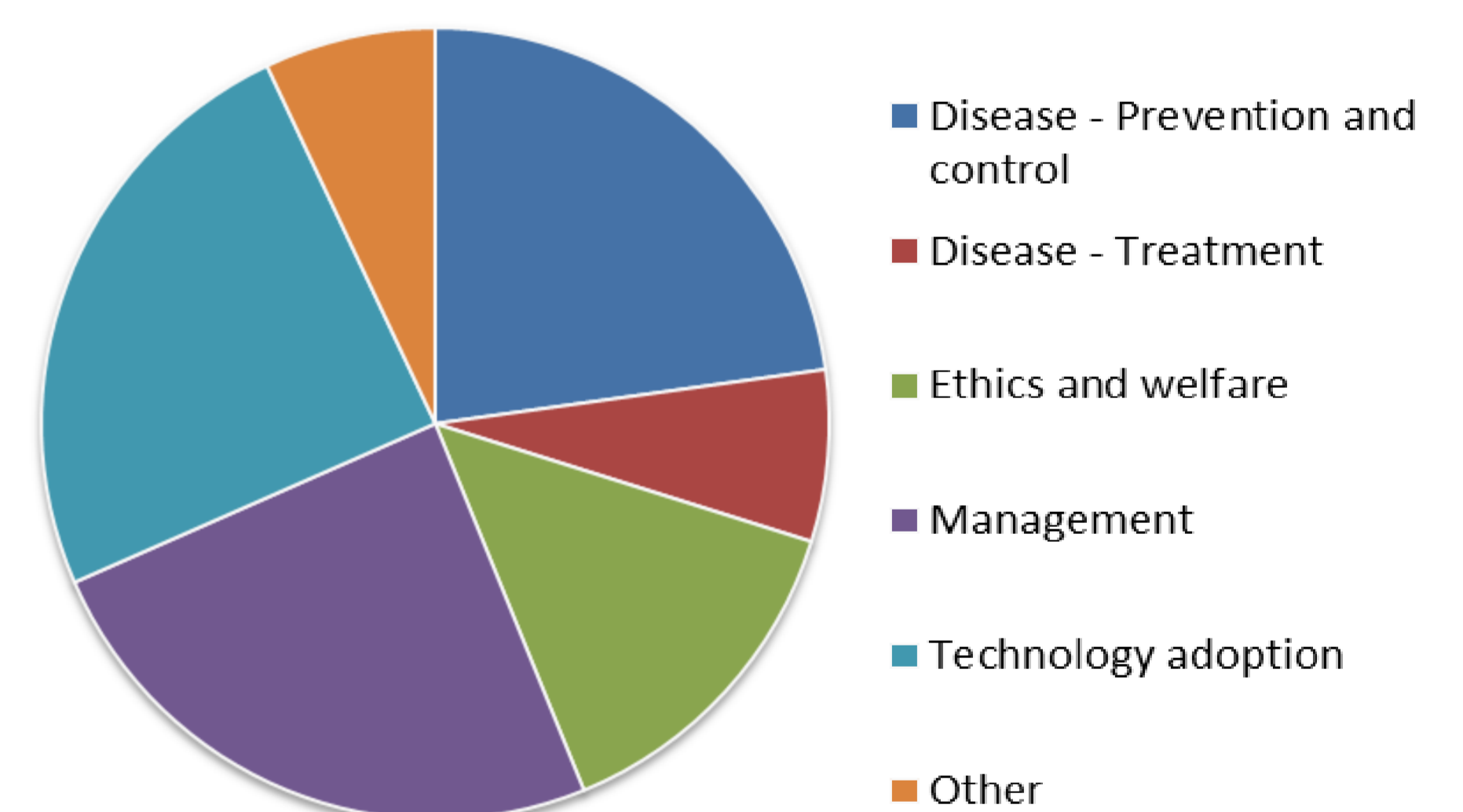
- Research investigating farmer attitudes has increased over the past 20 years, covering a wide variety of topics worldwide
- Multiple methods have been used for data collection and analysis
- Although interviews and group discussions were used almost as often as more quantitative data collection methods, there was a large quantitative analysis bias

## Results

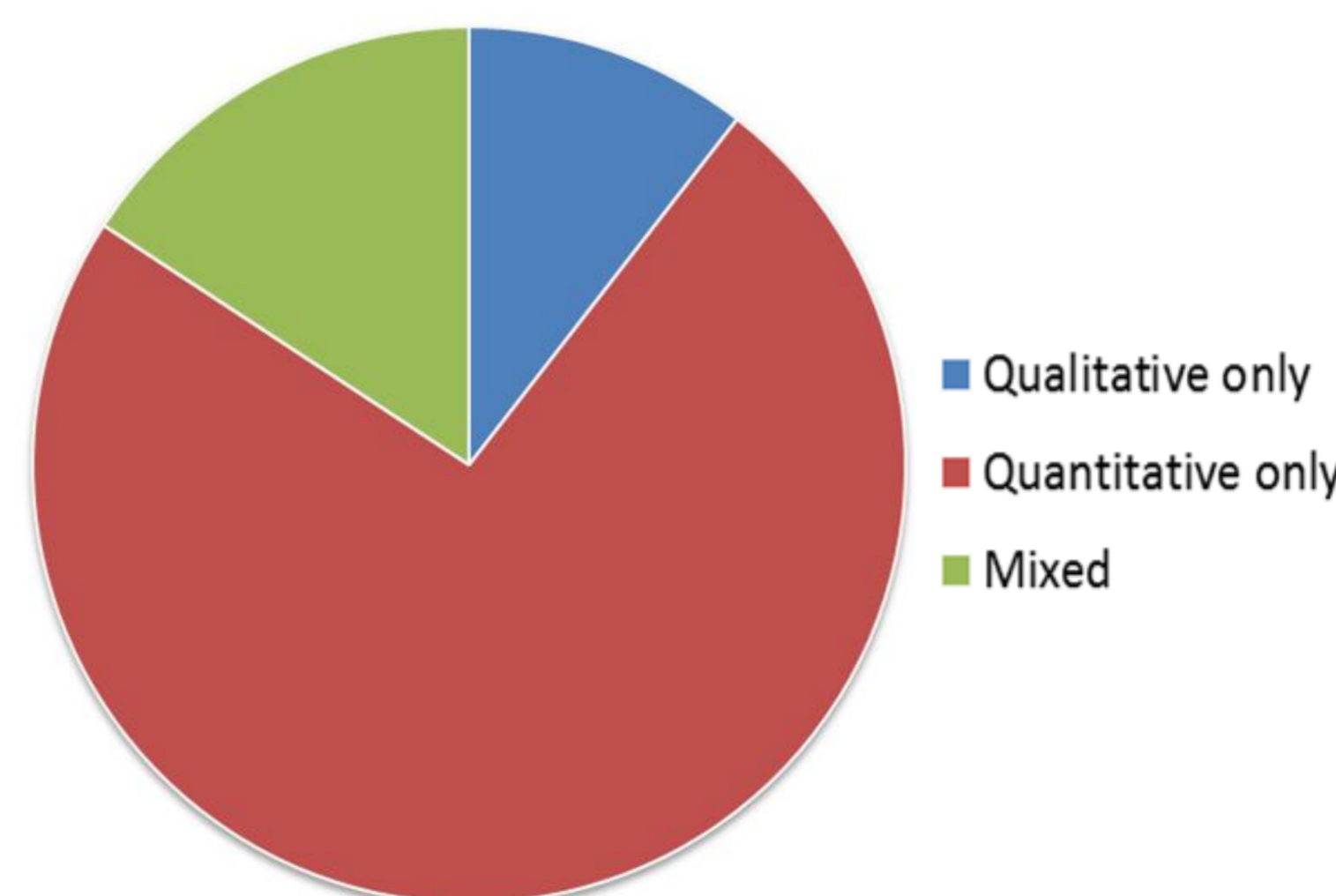
### Keyword search results



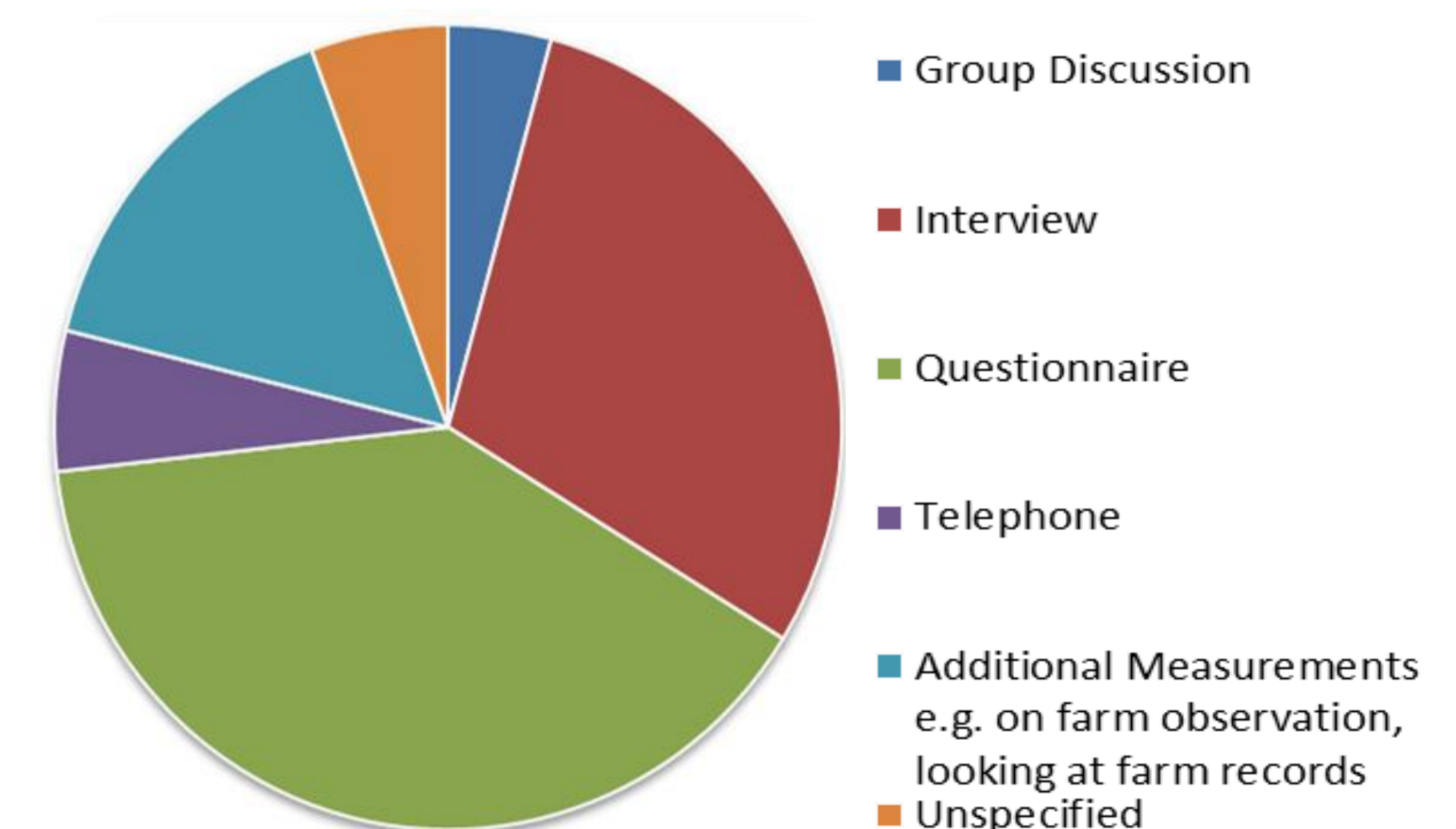
### Main topic of the papers included



### Type of analysis performed



### Method of data collection



A more in depth analysis and critical appraisal will be presented in the final manuscript.

### References

Ganann, R., Ciliska, D. & Thomas, H. (2010). Expediting systematic reviews: methods and implications of rapid reviews. *Implementation Science* 5(56)

Defra. (2008). Understanding behaviours in a farming context. Accessed from: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/>. Last accessed on: 07/03/2013

### Acknowledgements

We are grateful to DairyCo, the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine and The University of Nottingham for funding this research.