

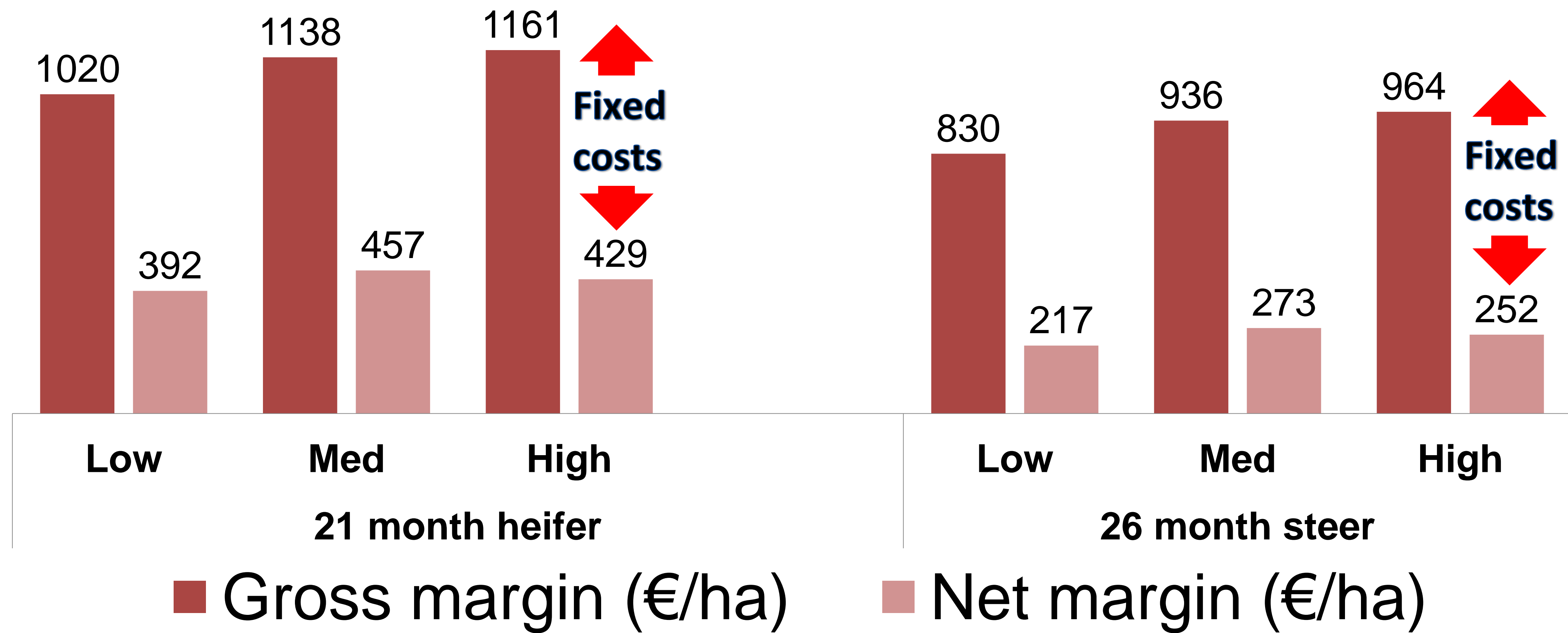
## Trial design

- 216 reared calves purchased each year (AA, HE, LM)
- Split into groups of 72 (36 heifers & 36 steers)
- Grazed at different stocking rates

- Low → 2.6 LU/ha
- Med → 2.9 LU/ha
- High → 3.2 LU/ha



## Net and gross margin (€/ha)



ADG (kg)	21 month heifer			26 month steer		
	Low	Med	High	Low	Med	High
1 <sup>st</sup> season	0.68	0.73	0.68	0.79	0.81	0.82
1 <sup>st</sup> winter	0.65	0.64	0.64	0.59	0.64	0.60
2 <sup>nd</sup> season	<b>0.93</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>0.83</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> winter	-	-	-	0.55	0.60	0.49
3 <sup>rd</sup> season	-	-	-	1.16	1.20	1.26
CW (kg)	<b>259</b>	<b>257.5</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>330</b>
Grade	O= 3=	O= 3=	O= 3=	O= 3=	O= 3+	O= 3+

## Take home message

Optimise stocking rate to:

↑ **Animal performance**

↓ **Production costs (housing, infrastructure)**

