The Effect of Digit Amputation or Arthrodesis Surgery on Culling and Milk Production in Holstein Dairy Cows. By Bicalho et al., page 2596. Dairy cows diagnosed with deep sepsis of the foot were treated surgically with digit amputation or arthrodesis. Treated cows were matched with 1 or 2 unaffected herd mates as controls. Culling rate was higher for cows that had digit amputation compared with controls, but arthrodesis did not increase culling rate. Milk production in cows that survived >60 d was lower for cows that underwent surgery compared with controls. Cows that had arthrodesis surgery returned to production faster than cows that had digit amputation surgery.