
# Where do lick feeders fit?

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

mla
MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

NOVARTIS
ANIMAL HEALTH

LIVECORP

CSBP CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

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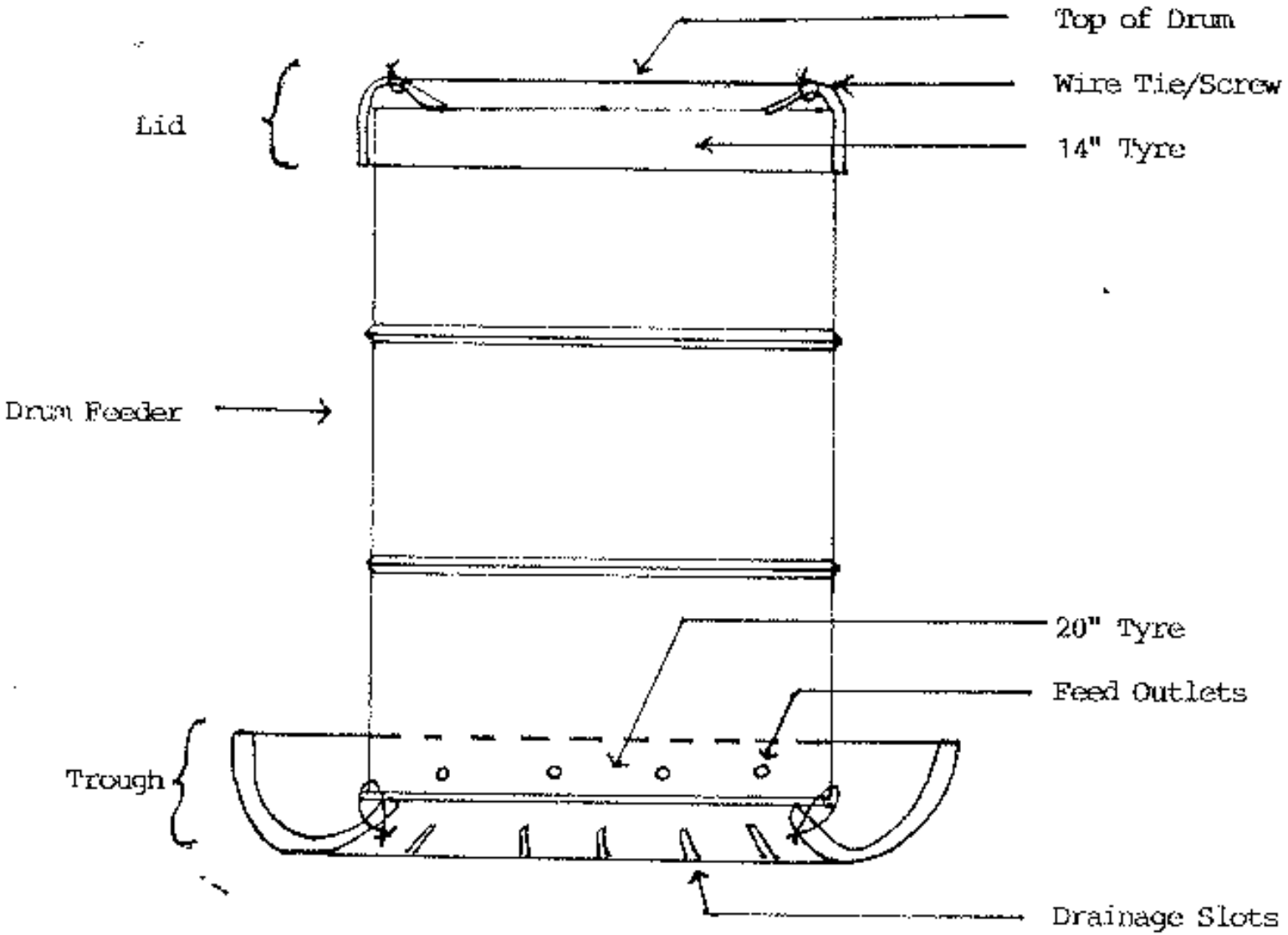
- Development of the Lick Feeder
- Lick Feeder Principles and Examples
- Issues
- Lick Feeder Role in Wool and Prime Lamb Systems Nationally

# 200 LT DRUM FEEDER



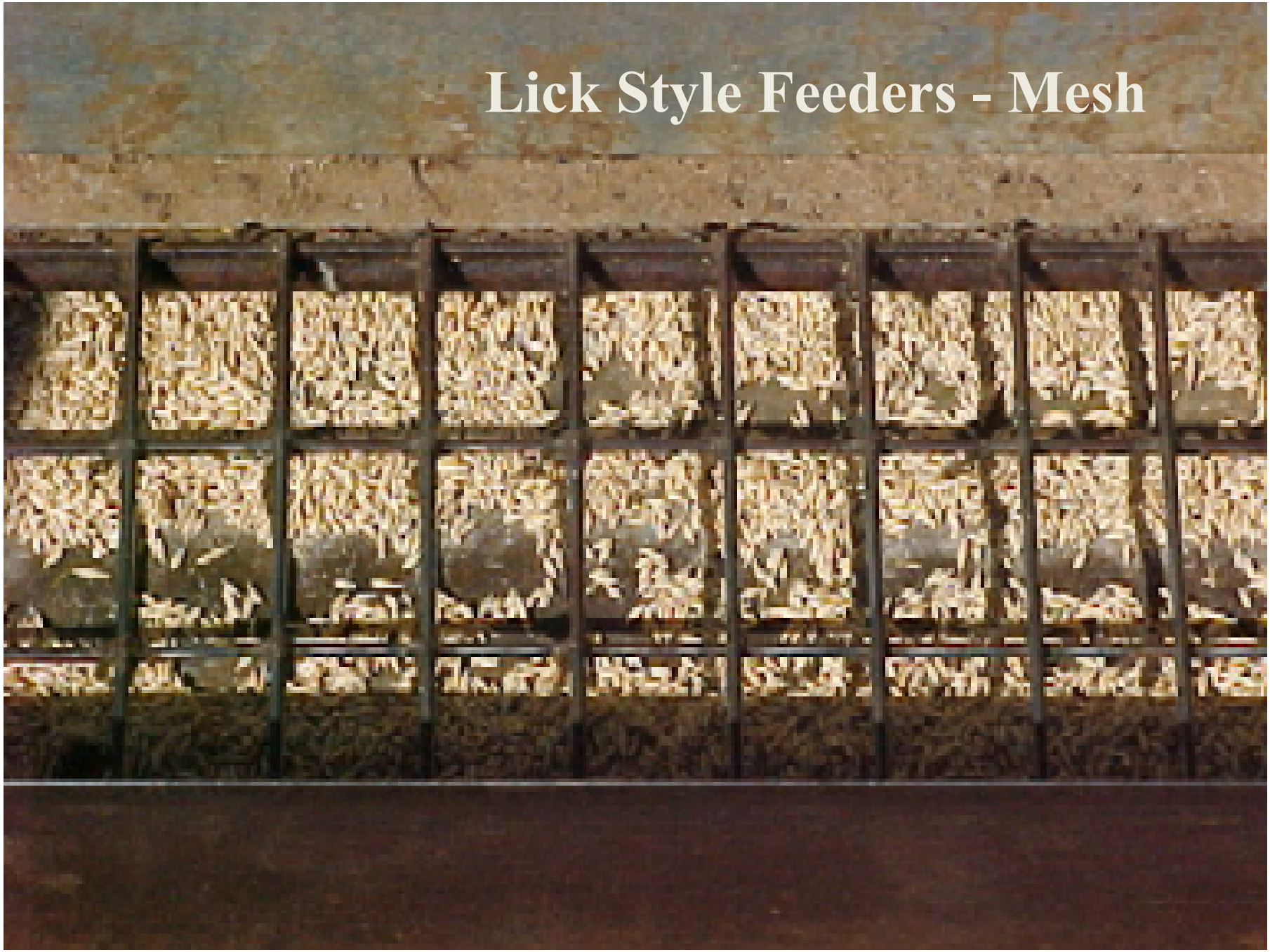
Variations in hole and 'tickler' diameter can be used to deliver grain at a restricted or ad lib rate

# Lick Feeder Development

As a rule of thumb for 25mm diameter holes:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10mm diameter tickler | - | 1.5 – 2 |
| 7mm | - | 2 - 3kg |
| 3mm | - | 4 -5 kg |
| No ticklers | - | 5+ kg/hd/wk |

# Lick Style Feeders - Mesh



# Lick Feeder Development

- Under grazing conditions sheep spend ~ 10% of the day at a self feeder
- Regulating intakes within open trough feeder systems was difficult and so the development of the 'lick' feeder system began

# Lick Feeder Development

- The Modern day 'Lick' Feeder principle was designed by NSW Agriculture during the late 1980's in an effort to "control and conserve grain supplements"
- They were not designed as a means of reducing acidosis risk

# Lick Feeder Development

- The 'lick' principle requires sheep to actively 'lick' grain from restricted areas within a feed trough.
- Stock eventually become 'tongue-tired', leave the feeder to drink and rest, returning throughout the day

# Lick Feeder Development

- Intake can be limited to a few hundred grams of supplement daily
- The Original Cowra Lick Feeder was a modification of a traditional self-feeder with weather damage, wastage and spoilage prevention measures

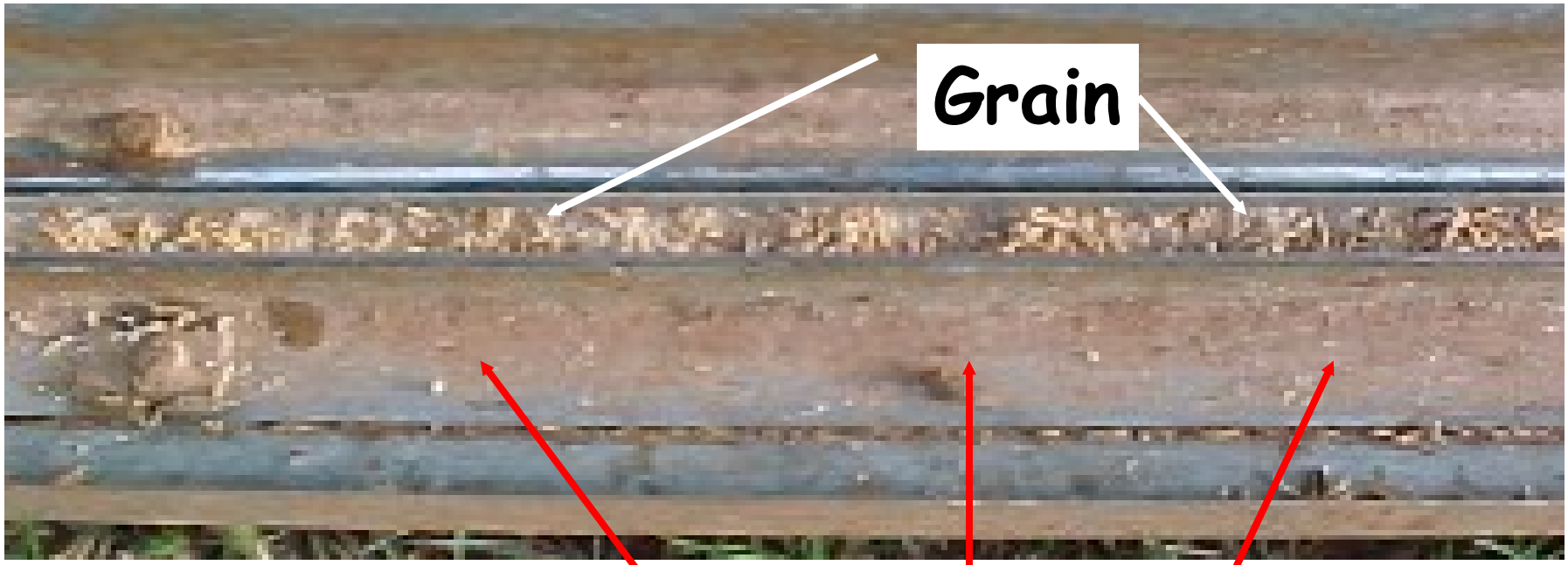

COWRA LICK FEEDER
Apron protects from rain
Kick rail preventing soiling of grain
'Lick' principle to minimise sorting

# Lick Feeder Development

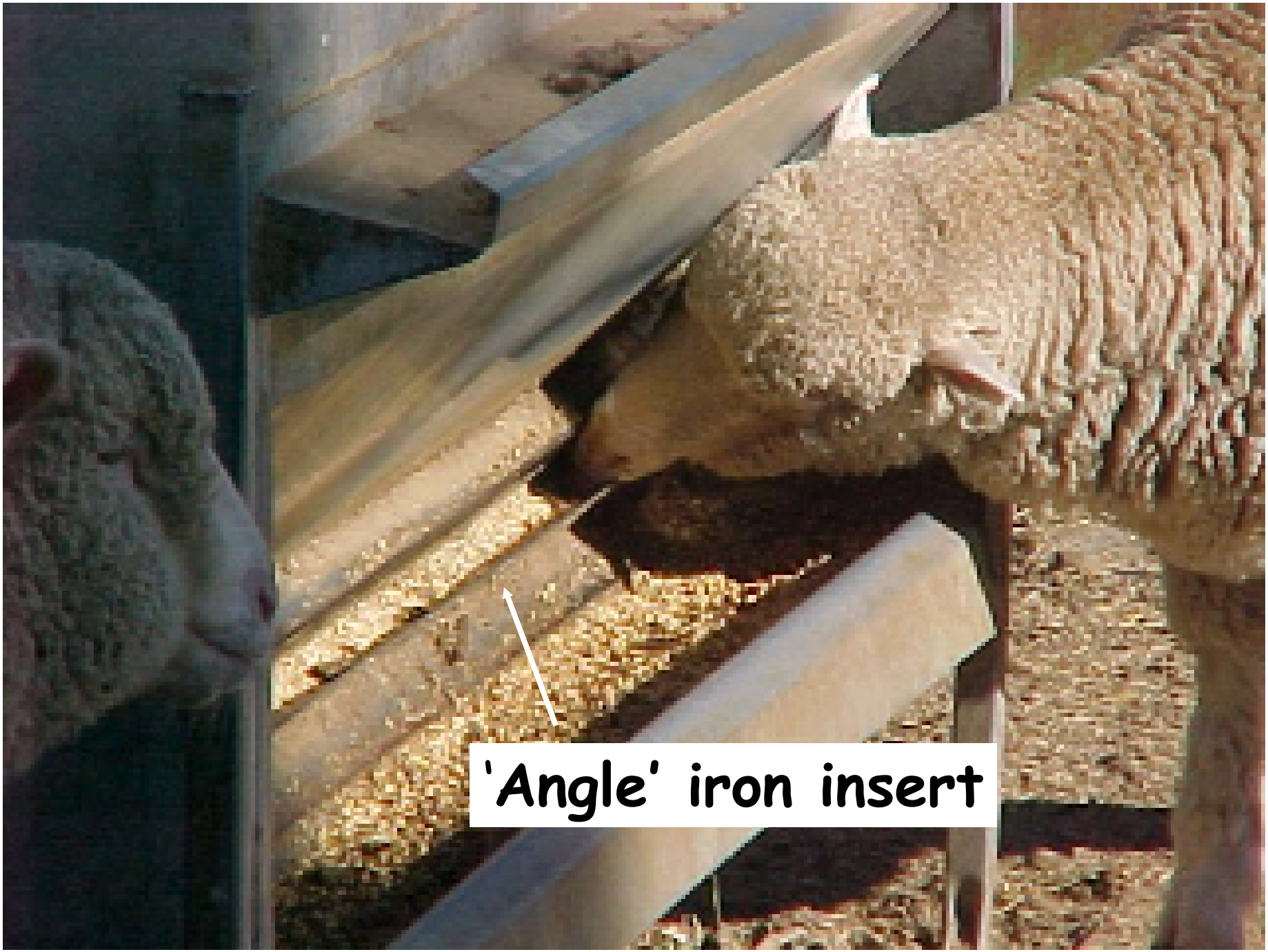
- Initially the 'lick' system consisted of wood panels with straight and (later) 'scalloped' areas along the board face into which the ration flowed.

# Lick Feeder Development

- The board could be moved within the feed trough to vary the area and amount of grain available.
- Issues with board life expectancy, warping, cost, wear and tear and blockages led to the metal 'angle-iron' style modification on which most lick feeders in Australia are now based

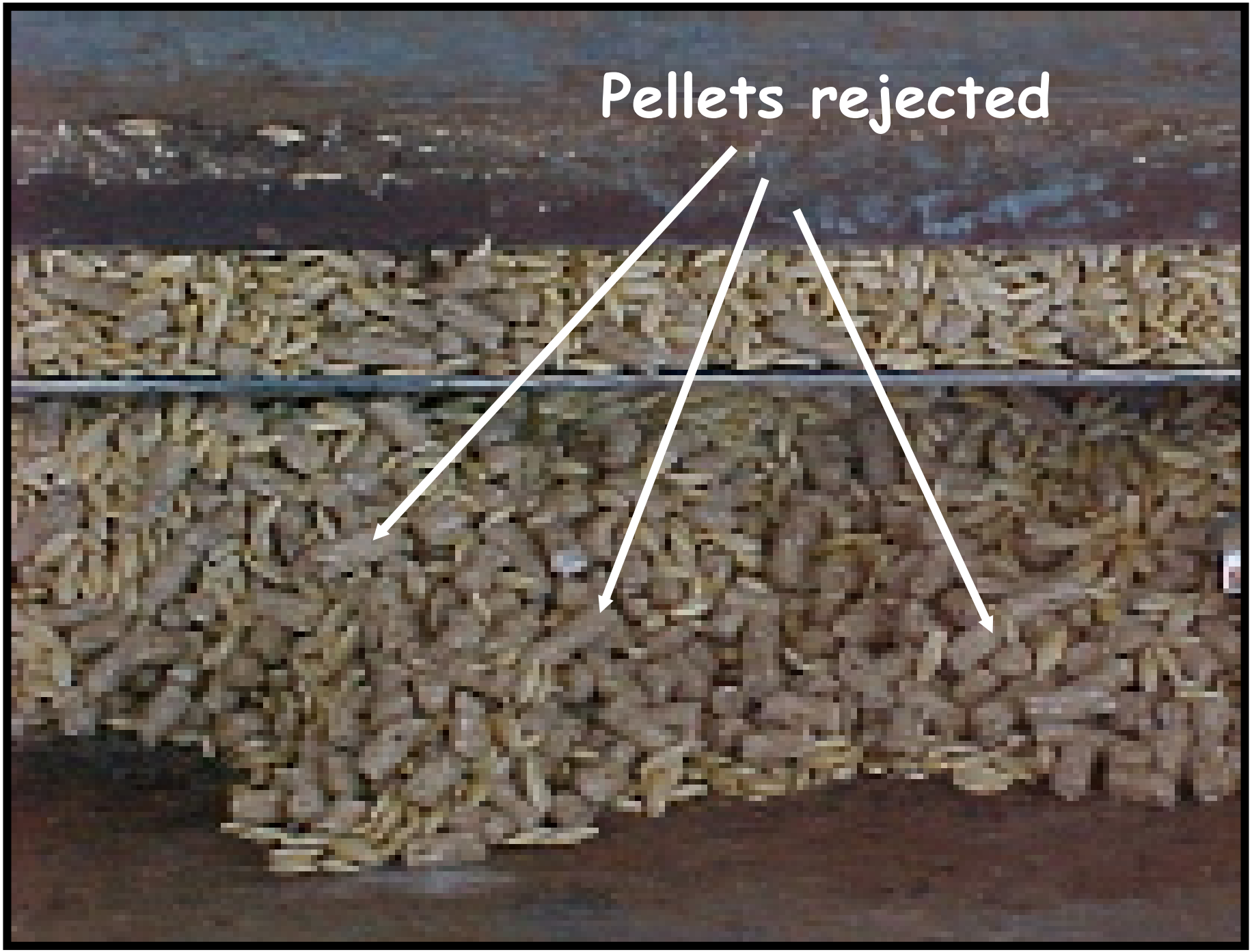



'Angle' iron insert

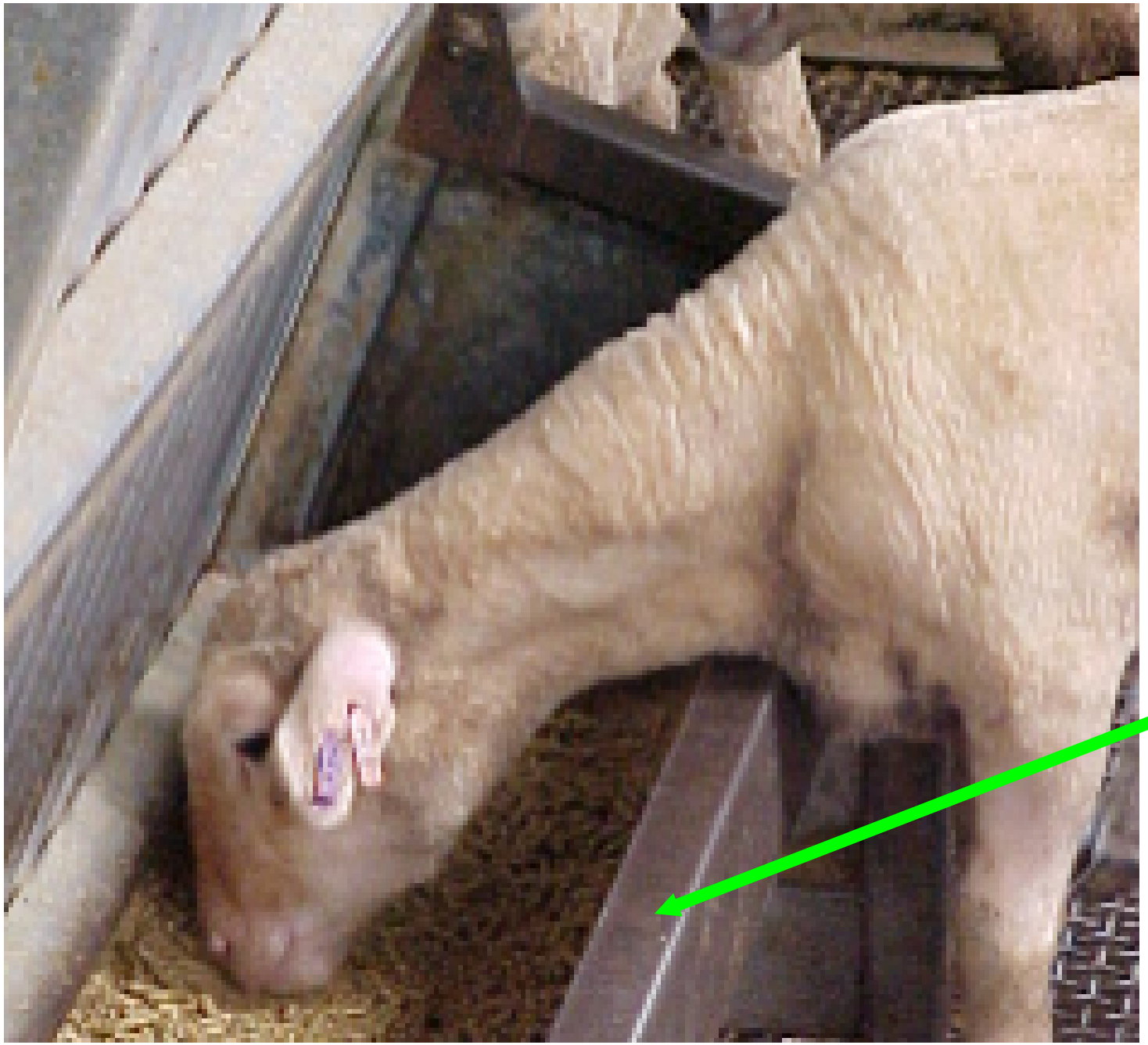

'Angle' iron insert

# Potential Issues

- Sorting and waste


Pellets rejected


Lupins selected against


Rolled
lip will
minimise
waste

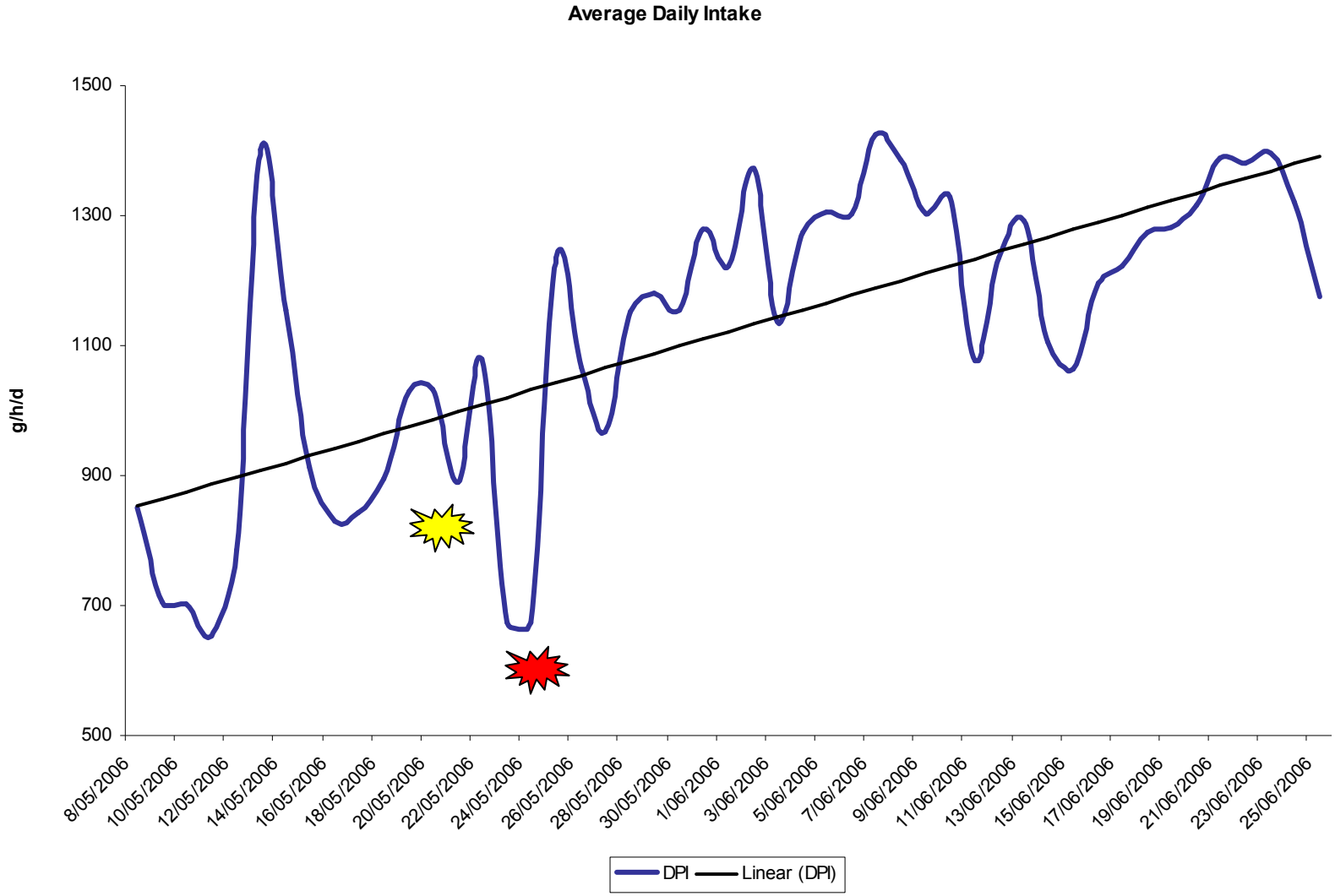
# Potential Issues

- Sorting and waste
- Engorgement – health issues

Solid
Adequate fibre
No acidosis

Poor consistency, gas bubbles, intact grain etc are signs of acidosis

Engorgement – death through asphyxiation


Average Daily Intake
g/h/d
1500
1300
1100
900
700
500
8/05/2006
10/05/2006
12/05/2006
14/05/2006
16/05/2006
18/05/2006
20/05/2006
22/05/2006
24/05/2006
26/05/2006
28/05/2006
30/05/2006
1/06/2006
3/06/2006
5/06/2006
7/06/2006
9/06/2006
11/06/2006
13/06/2006
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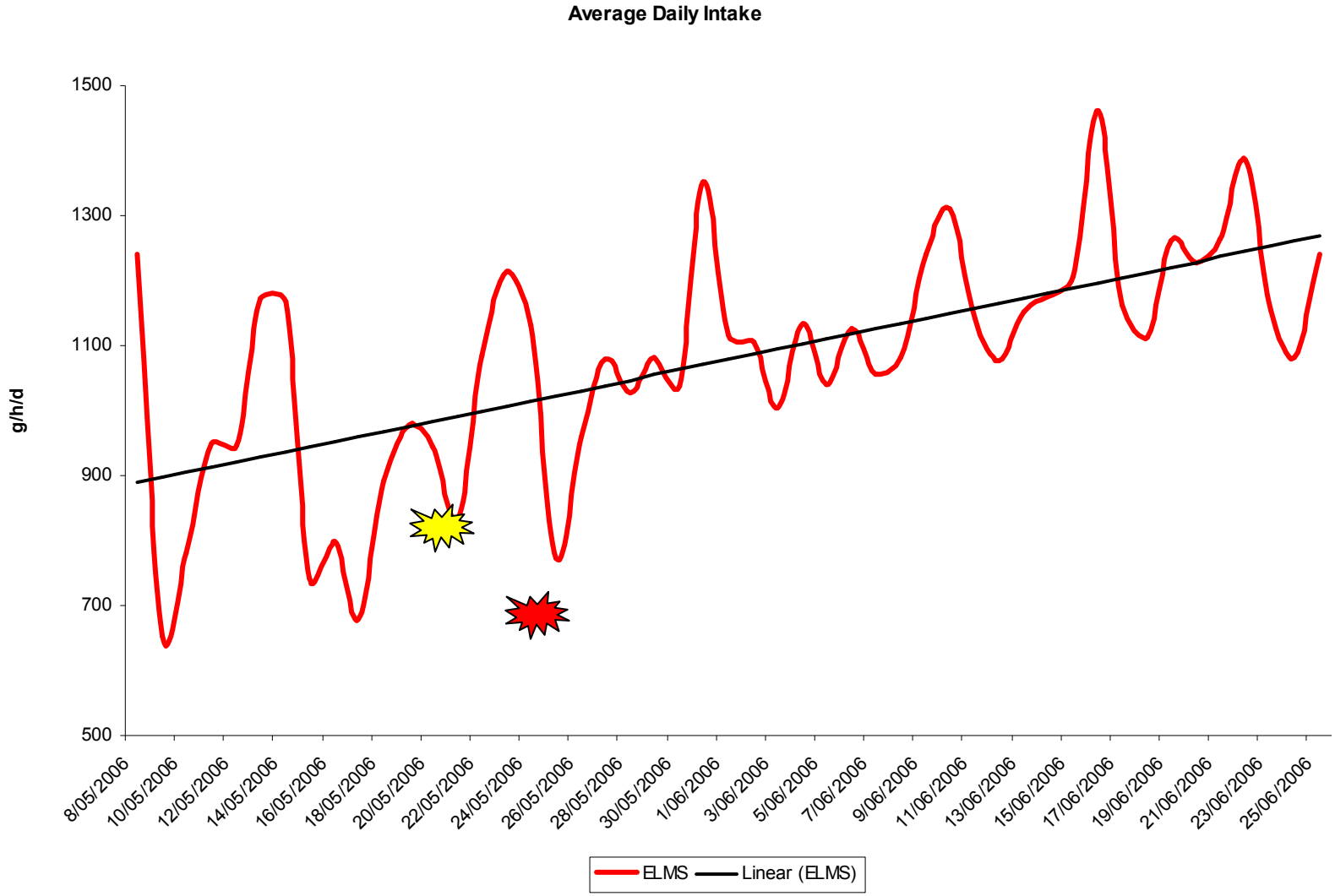
21/06/2006
23/06/2006
25/06/2006
DPI
Linear (DPI)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20/05/2006
22/05/2006
24/05/2006
26/05/2006
28/05/2006
30/05/2006
1/06/2006
3/06/2006
5/06/2006
7/06/2006
9/06/2006
11/06/2006
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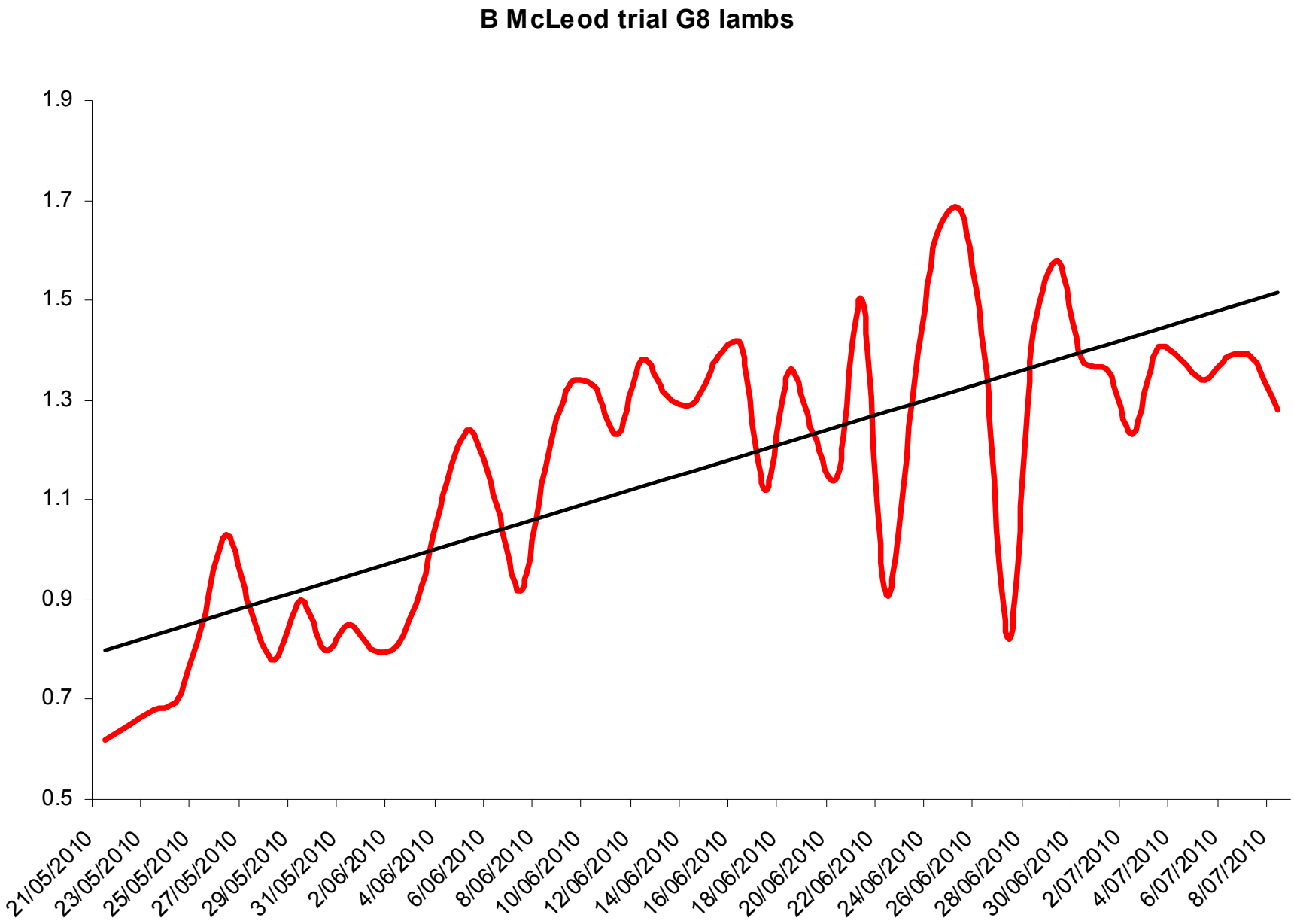
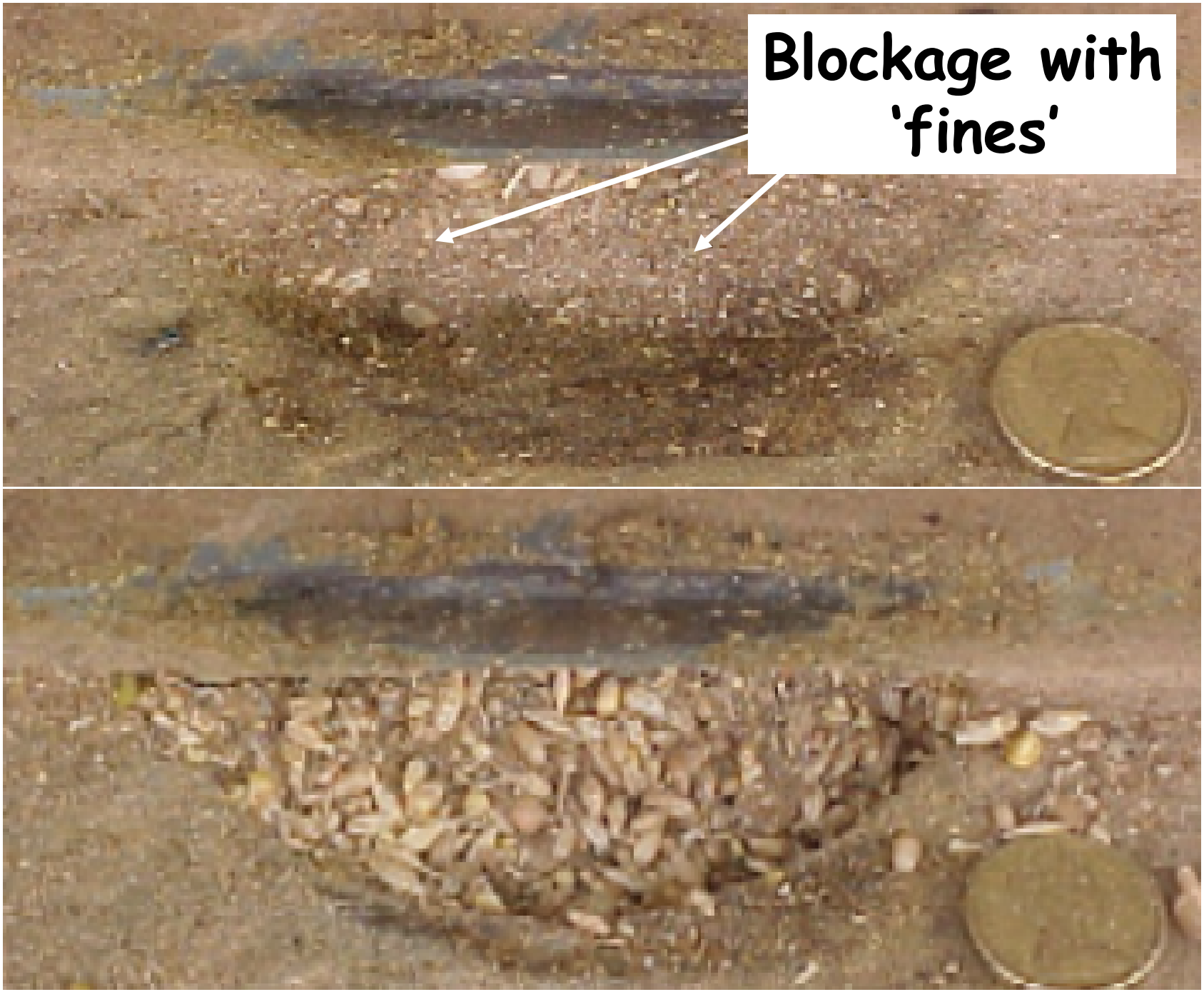
23/06/2006
25/06/2006
ELMS
Linear (ELMS)


B McLeod trial G8 lambs
1.9
1.7
1.5
1.3
1.1
0.9
0.7
0.5
21/05/2010
23/05/2010
25/05/2010
27/05/2010
29/05/2010
31/05/2010
2/06/2010
4/06/2010
6/06/2010
8/06/2010
10/06/2010
12/06/2010
14/06/2010
16/06/2010
18/06/2010
20/06/2010
22/06/2010
24/06/2010
26/06/2010
28/06/2010
30/06/2010
2/07/2010
4/07/2010
6/07/2010
8/07/2010

# Potential Issues

- Sorting and waste
- Engorgement – health issues
- Bridging due to saliva/fines


Blockage with
'fines'


Loose lime


Hardened areas
(saliva)

# Potential Issues

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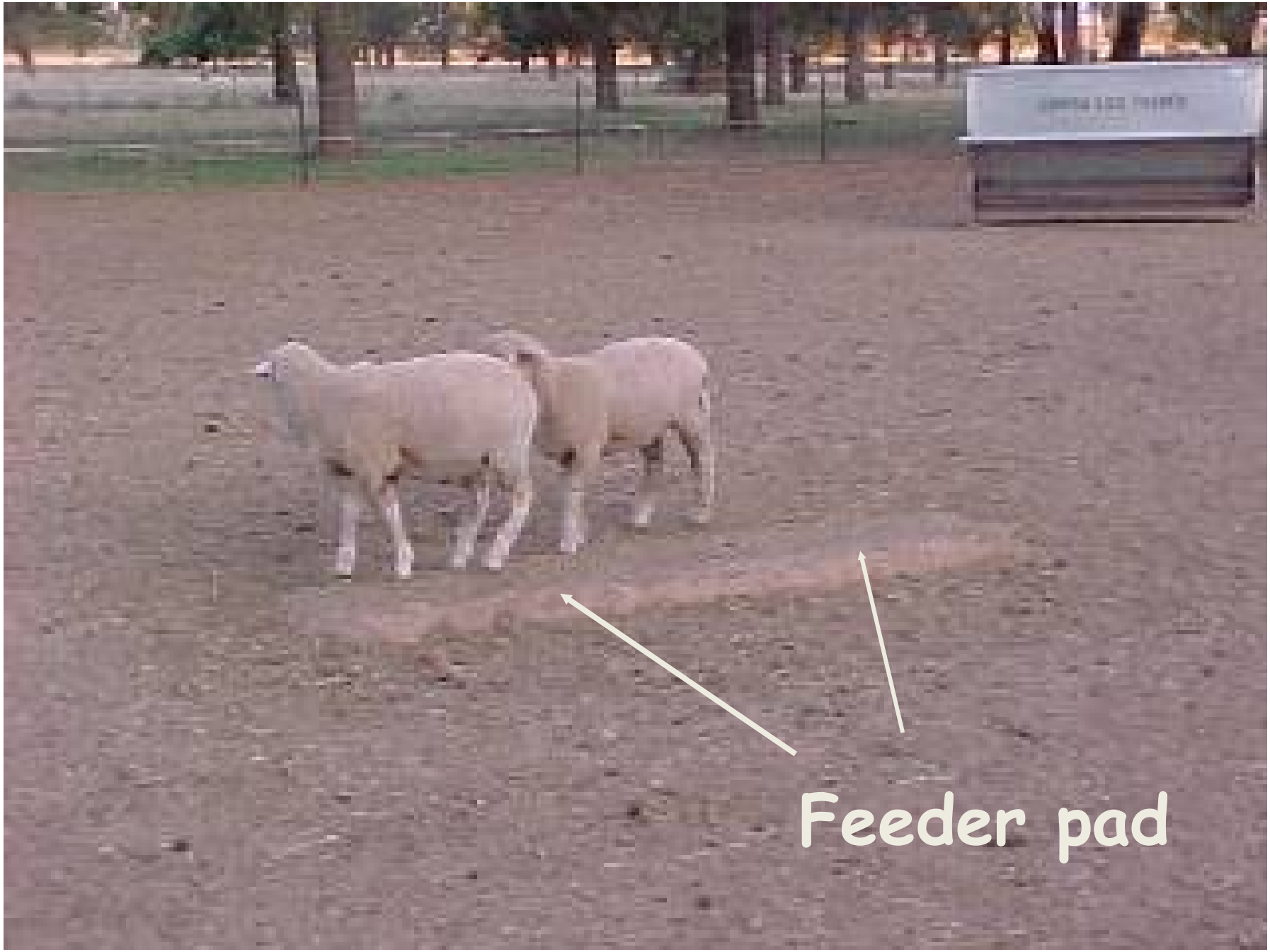
- Engorgement – health issues
- Bridging due to saliva/fines
- Erosion at feeder face


Feeder pad


COWRA LICK FEEDER
Poor drainage will influence intake

# Potential Issues

- Sorting and waste
- Engorgement – health issues
- Bridging due to saliva/fines
- Erosion at feeder face
- Preventing spoilage and mismothering

# Potential Issues

- Sorting and waste
- Engorgement – health issues
- Bridging due to saliva/fines
- Erosion at feeder face
- Preventing spoilage and mismothering
- Pre-training stock to recognise grain as a feed and to use the feeder

# Pre-Training Lambs

There are benefits associated with pre-training lambs while with their dam or experienced ewes in terms of recognising, future intake and use of:

grain and

feeding systems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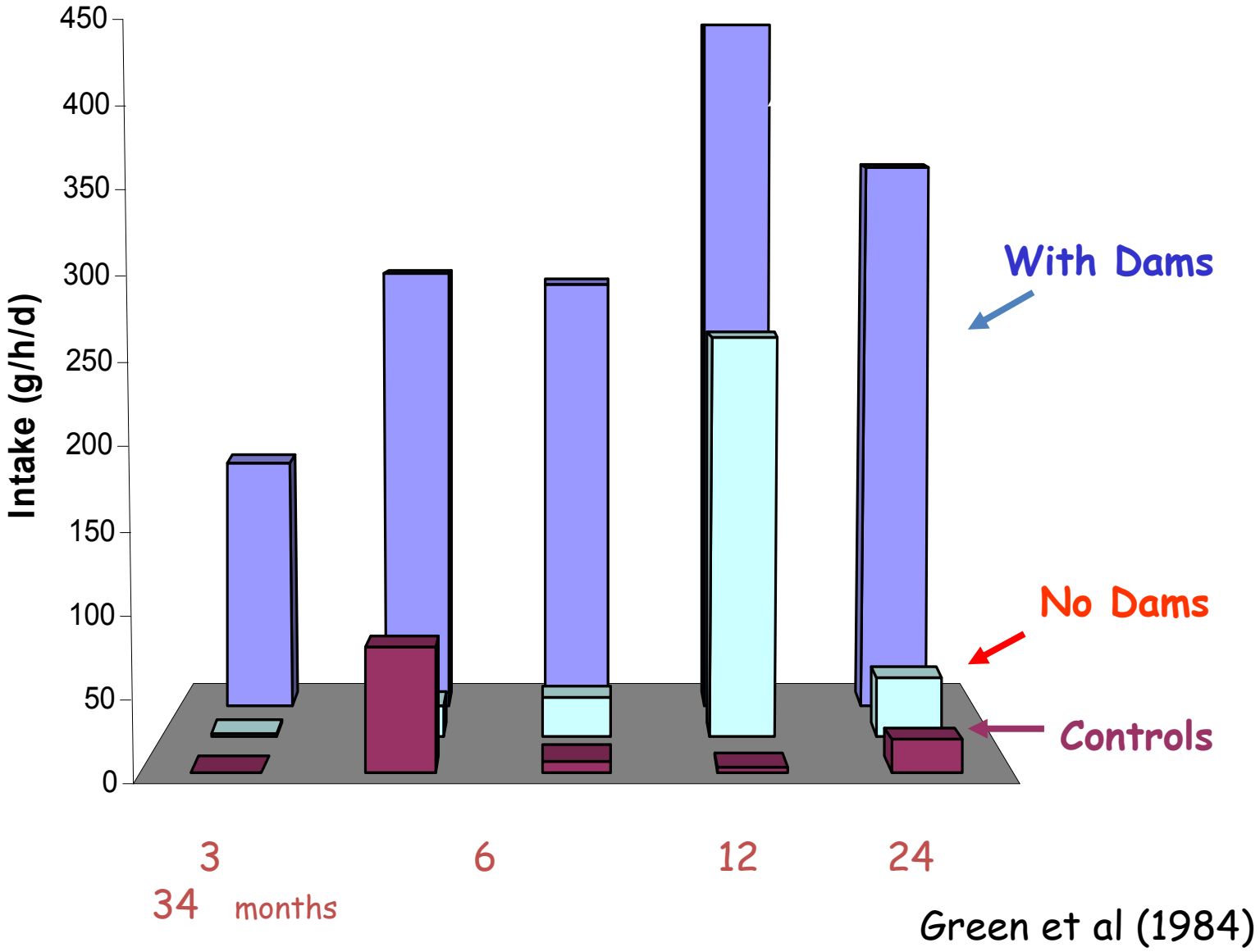
LICKFEEDER

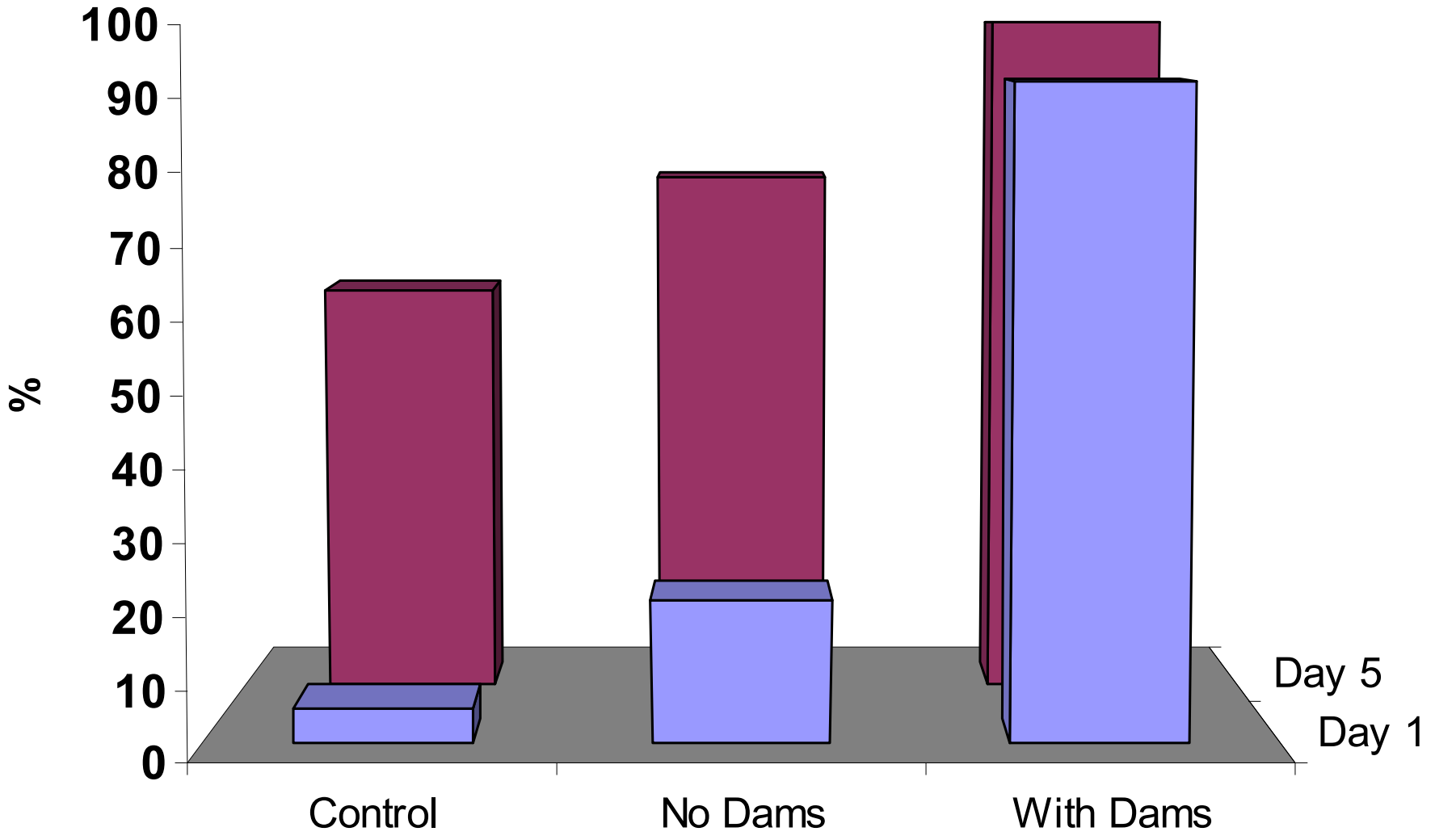

BROMAR
LICKFEEDER

# Average Intakes (5 Days)




Green et al (1984)

# Percentage Eating (Days 1 and 5)




Green et al (1984)

# Lick Feeder Use

Supplement

- to improve ewe and ram condition pre-joining
- during late pregnancy/lambing
- stock on stubbles
- when pasture limiting

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Feedlots

# Lick Feeder Use

Minimise

- labour
- grain waste
- shy feeder/non doer number
- acidosis (???)
- mismothering and
- lamb and production losses

# Lick Feeder Use

Improve

- intakes
- growth rates and
- feed conversion efficiencies
- lamb number meeting target wts
- overall farm efficiencies


# Thank You

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