

Grazing crops

The next big thing in feeding



Cam Nicholson



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Southern Victoria

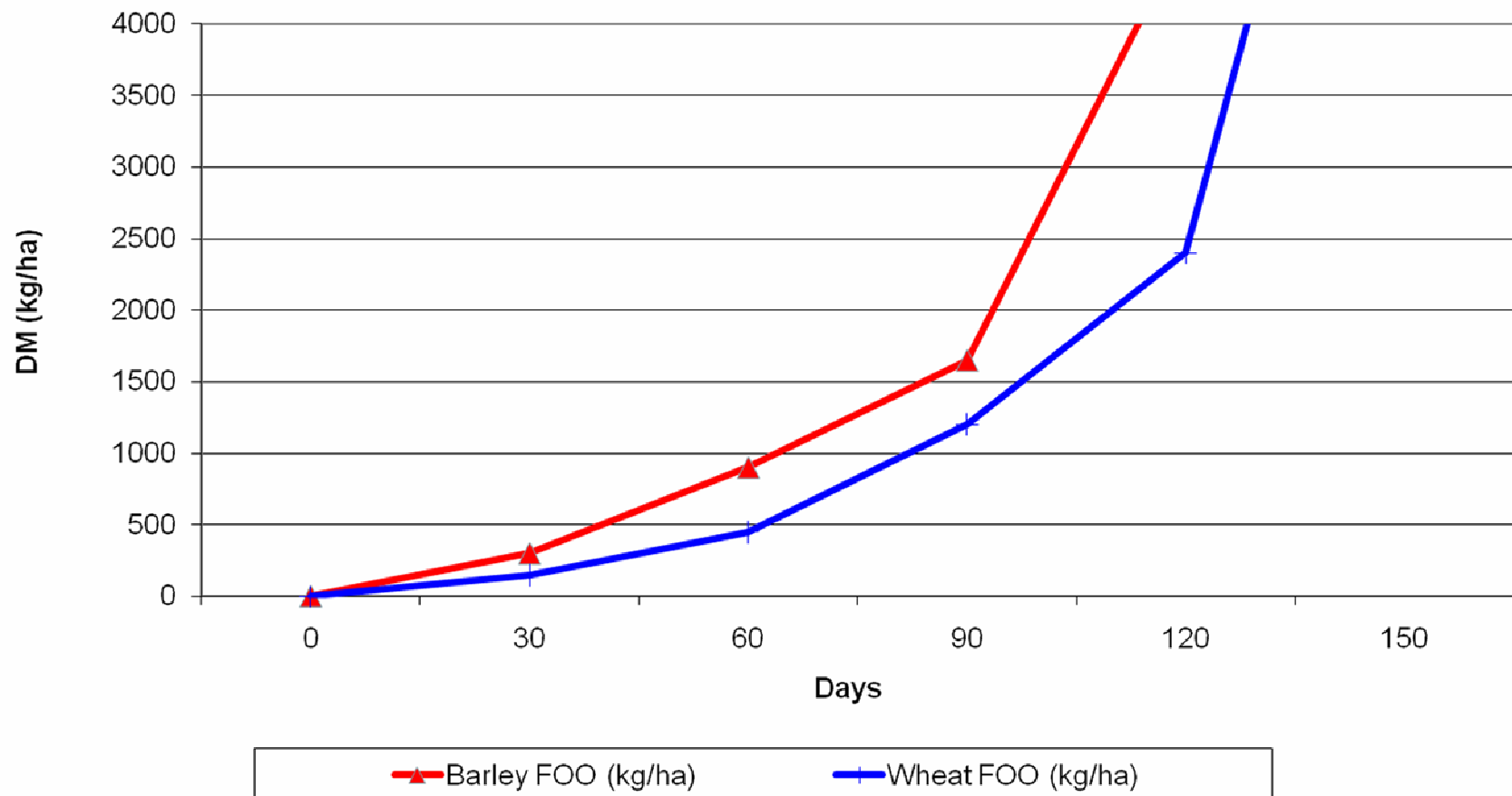
- A traditional livestock area that has moved into cropping – farmers value having feed in winter
- Farmers are using crops as an opportunity to get their pastures right (flexibility)
- Still want a grain yield

Impact of grazing crops on the farm system

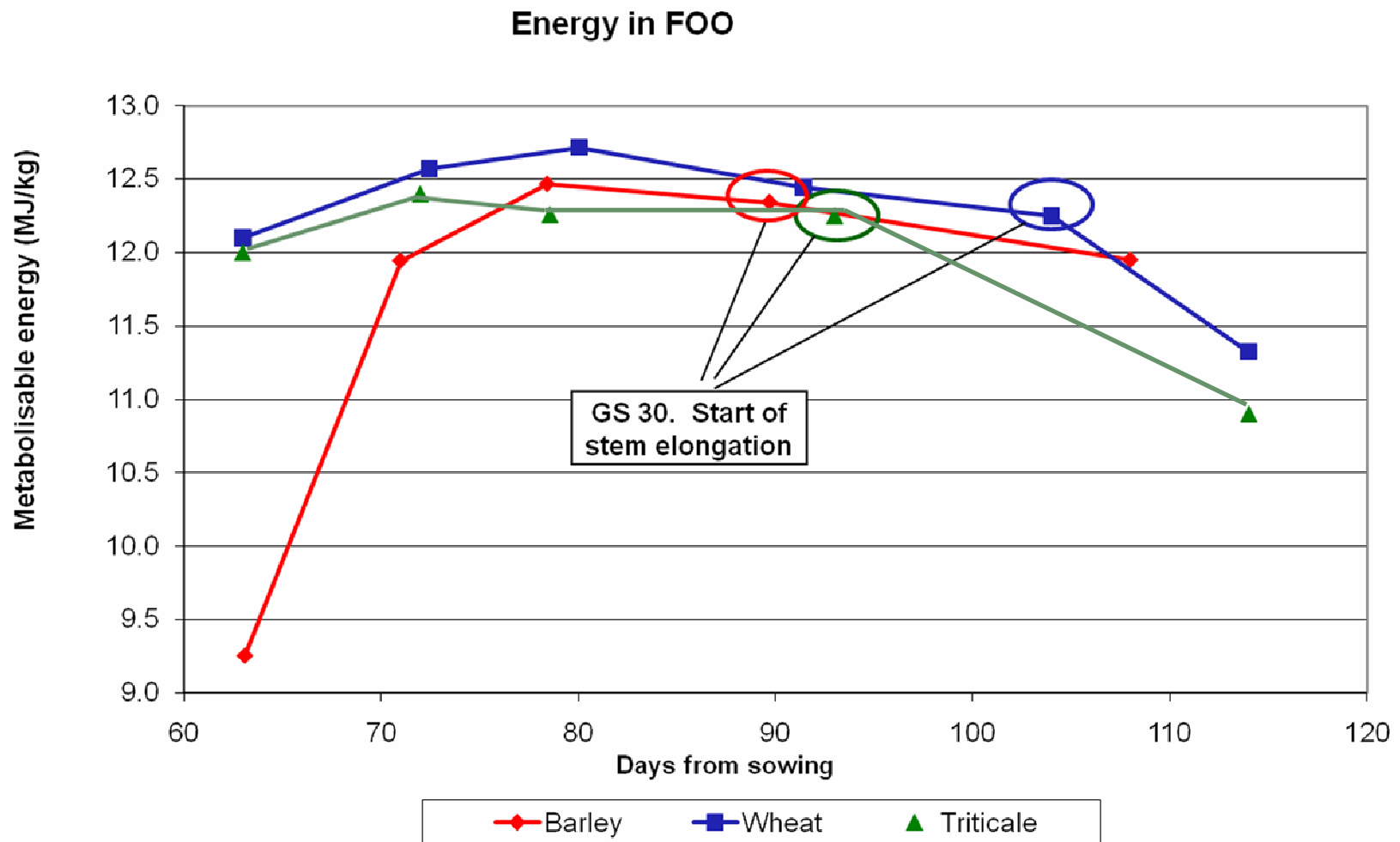
| Crops grazed | Extra DM available on pasture (kg/ha) on Aug 1 compared to no crop grazing | Average gross margin improvement (1961 – 2006) (\$/ha) | Change in gross margin improvement (%) |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Deferment 1- 30 June | 200 (12%) | \$31 | 7 |
| Deferment 15 Jun – 15 Jul | 240 (14%) | \$46 | 11 |
| Deferment 1 – 31 July | 260 (15%) | \$68 | 16 |

Cereal will produce a lot of drymatter

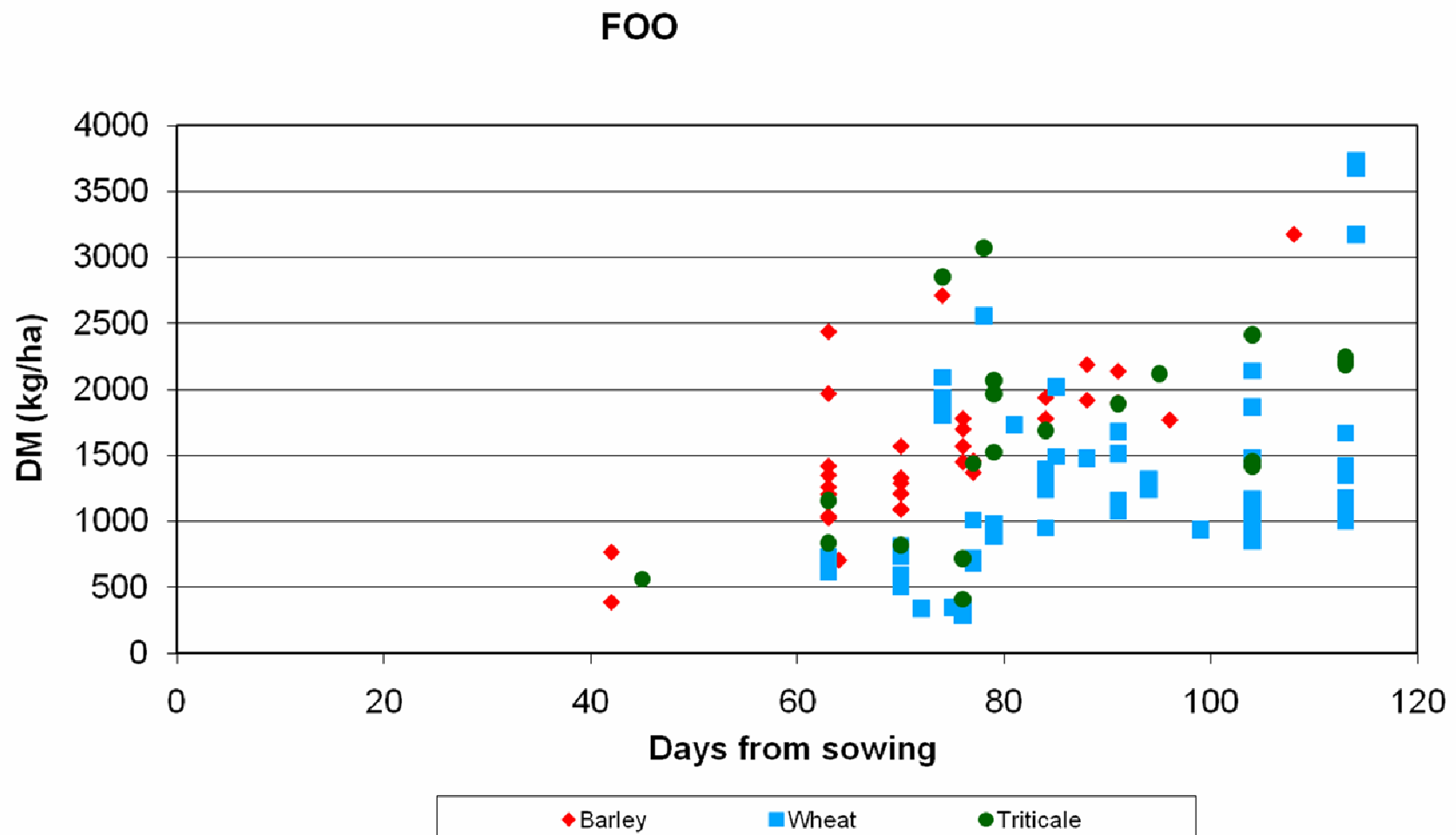
Average FOO for barley (38 trials) and wheat (50 trials)



Cereals will produce high quality fodder

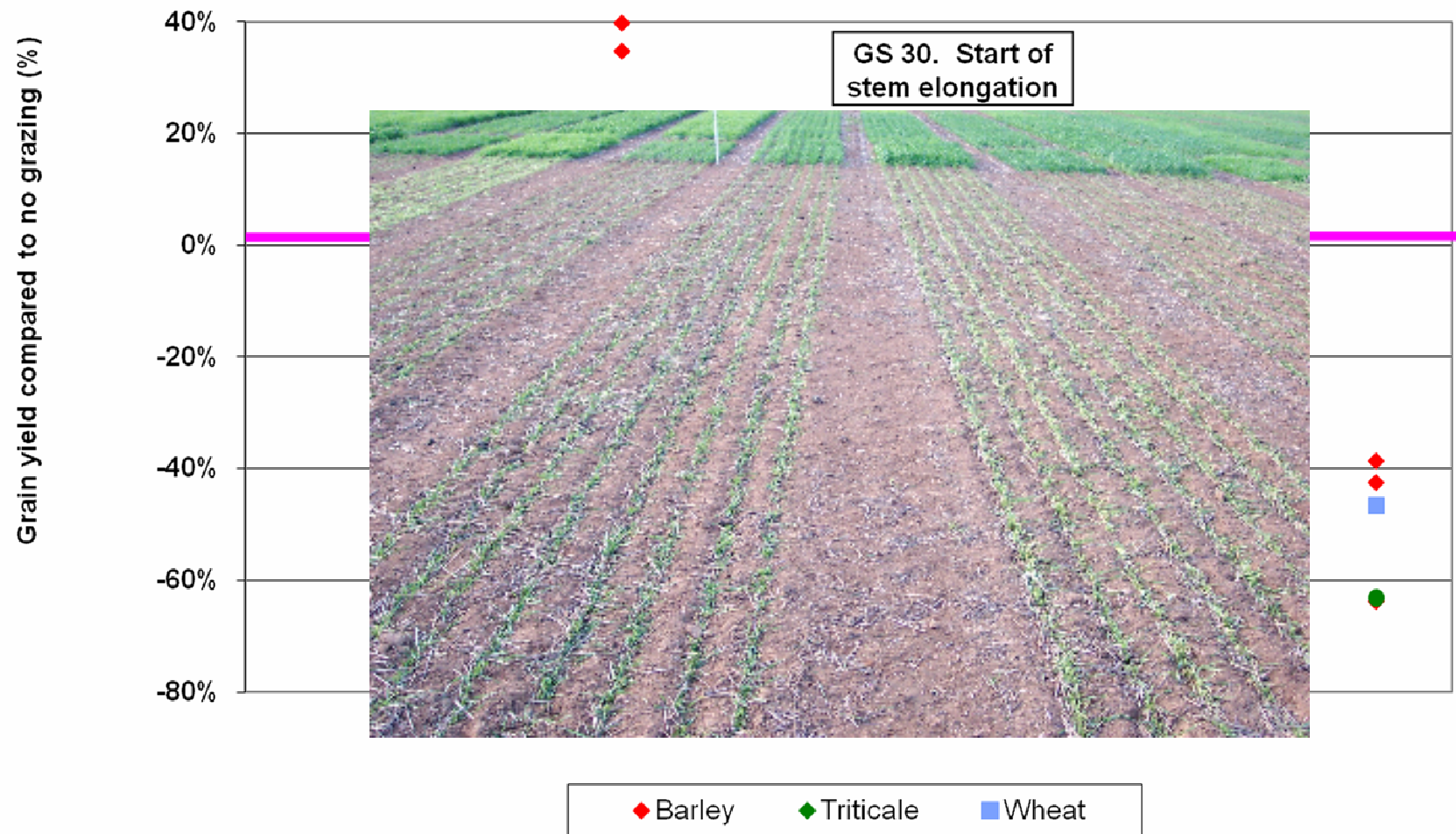


FOO highly variable due to variety, sowing time, moisture and soil temp

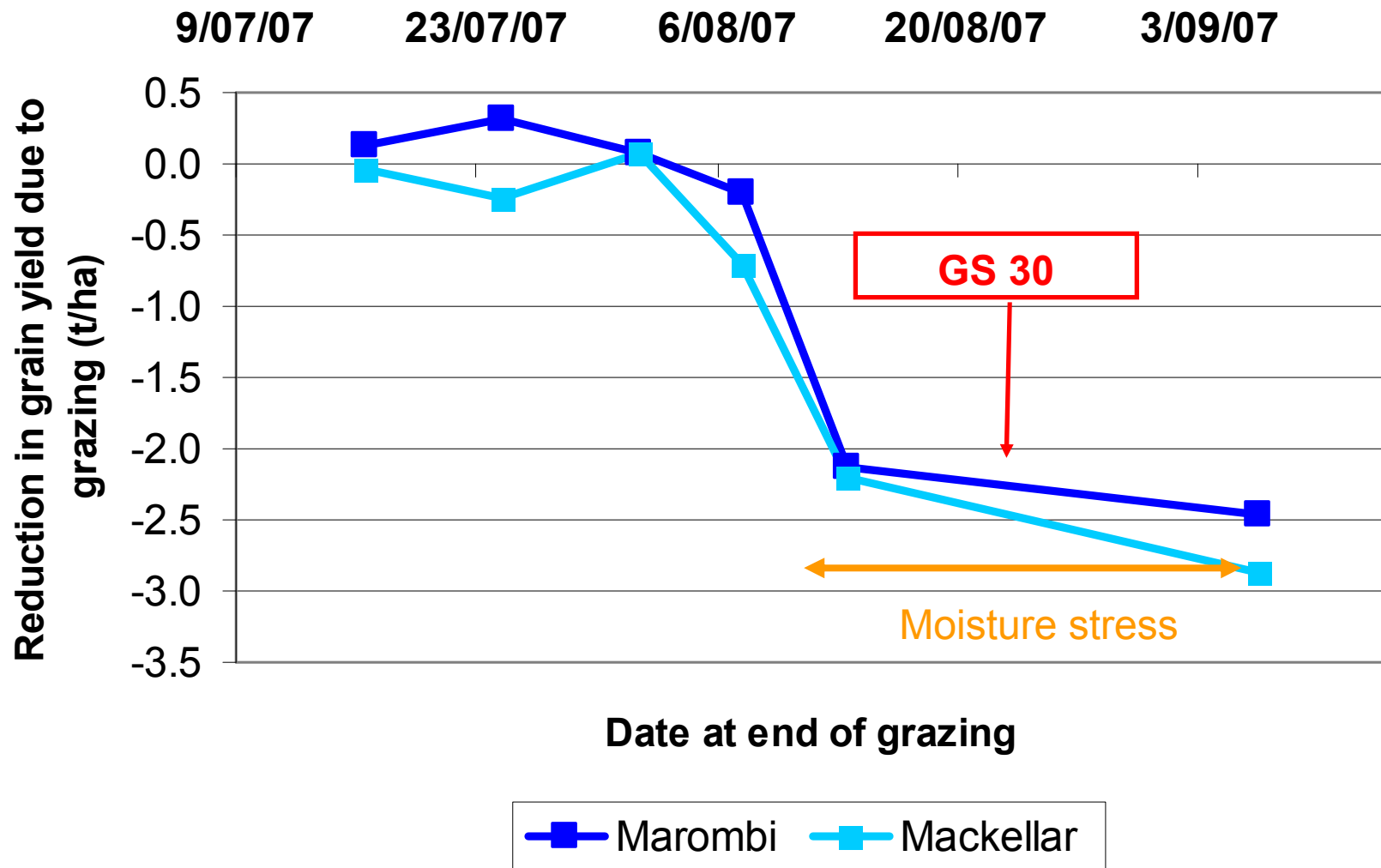


Any cereal can be grazed

Impact on grain yield due to grazing



Favourable conditions after grazing (recovery)



Grazing will delay flowering and maturity



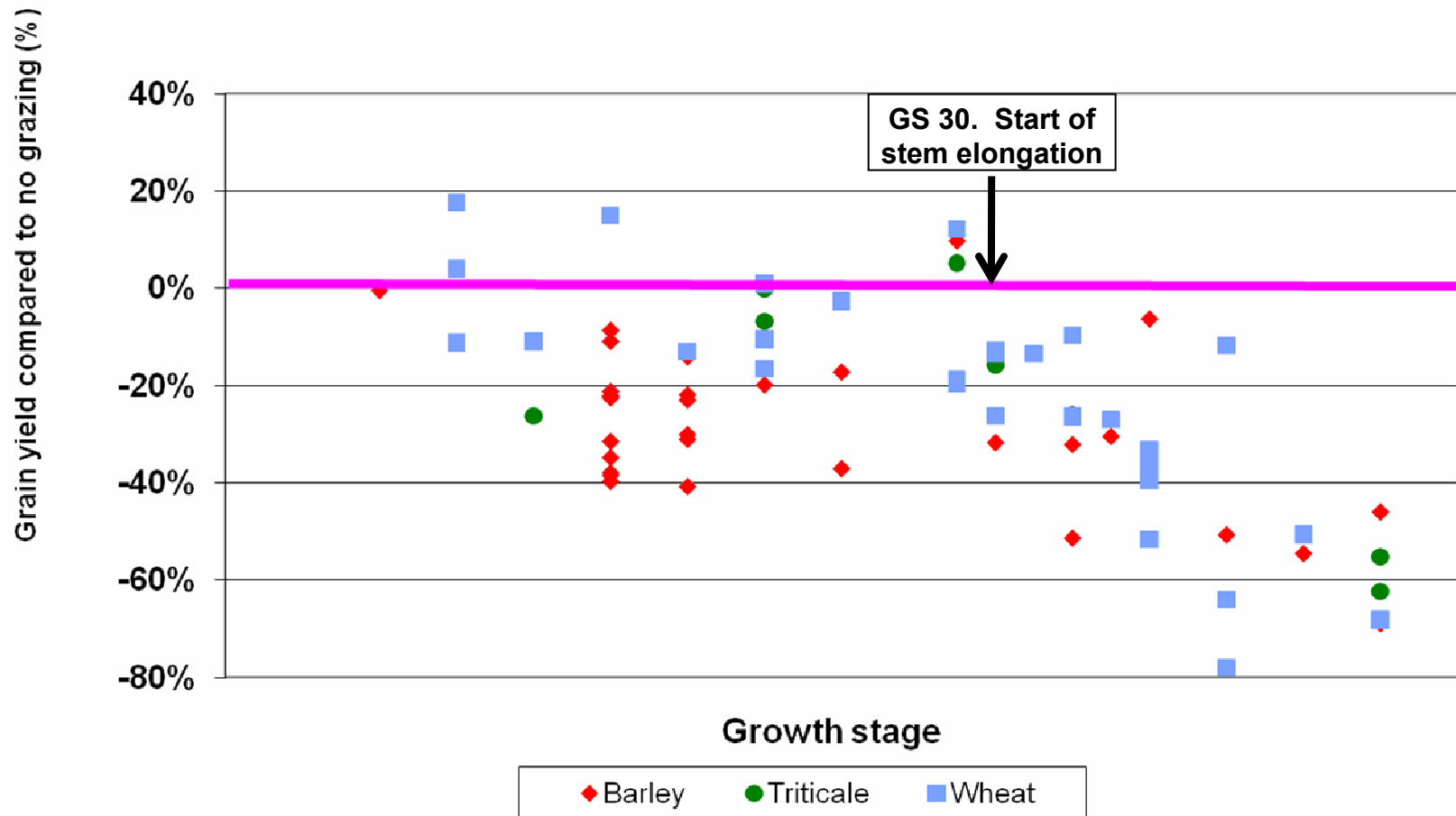
Gairdner barley, Inverleigh 2007. Grazing duration - 7 days

Grazing will delay flowering and maturity



Grazing will reduce the amount of silage, hay and straw

Impact of stubble mass due to grazing



Grazing will reduce the amount of silage, hay and straw

Grazed



Ungrazed

Cereal crops are low in magnesium

- Magnesium loose lick - Equal parts of:
 - Causmag (MgO)
 - Ground limestone
 - Salt
- Place in containers (drench drum cut in half) and locate in an accessible area for livestock

What we need to know more about

- Impact of grazing on soil structure
- Impact on weeds and disease
- Influence on grain quality (protein, screenings)
- Trade off between extra grazing and less grain if grazing after GS 30
- Methods of introducing stock to avoid digestive disorders