



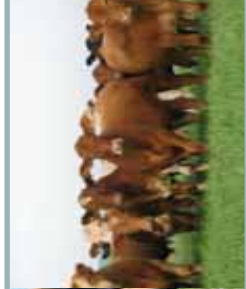
# Estrategias de utilización para optimizar la producción primaria y secundaria de sistemas pastoriles

## Strategies to optimize primary and secondary production on pastoral systems

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## The context...

- Innovations in pasture management?

*Provenza et al. (2013) criticised the traditional inability of researchers to create innovative practices.*

*Van den Pol-van Dasselaaar (2012) concluded that no major developments in grazing systems management were recently occurring in Europe.*

*Nowadays, there is increasing emphasis on grazing management and the role of the grazing animal on ecosystem services, concurrently with a decreasing emphasis on grazing management generating animal production outputs.*

- **Are we asking the right questions?**



## The outline...

- Sward vs grazing management
- Building animal oriented management targets
- Case study (PISA) to illustrate how sward targets oriented by grazing behaviour can be applied at farm level



## Concepts, definitions and limits of the rationale...

- **Goal:** to propose sward management based on animal ingestive behaviour... then:
- **sward structure** is the spatial arrangement of morphological tissues at the moment of the bite;
- **Ingestive behavior** is a set of actions to gather a bite;
- **Assumption:** the higher is the intake rate the higher is the probability to reach maximum daily intake and secondary productivity

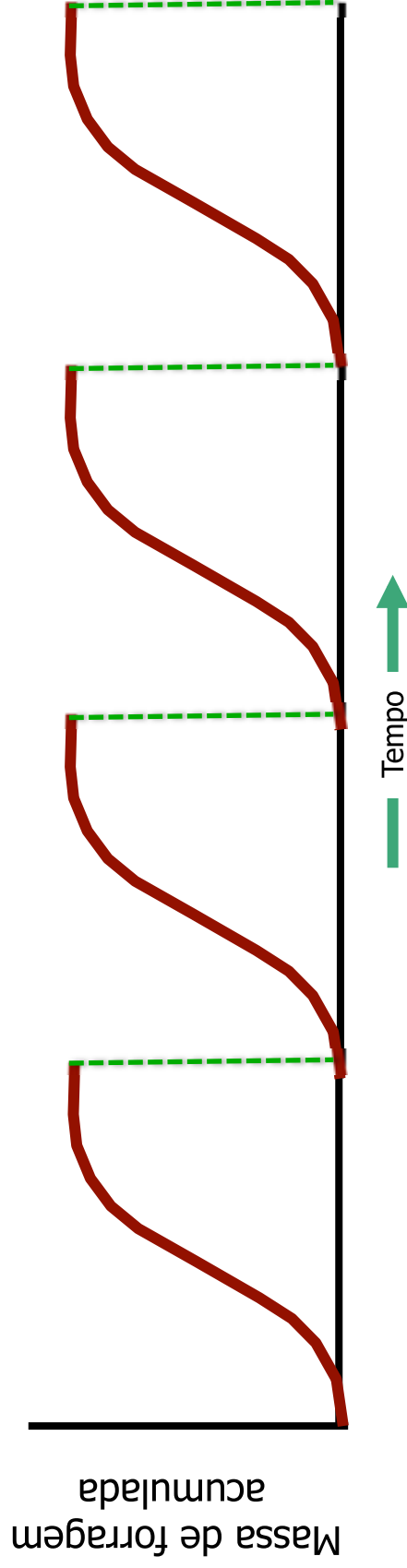


**Temporal and spatial scale of sward targets: a period of occupation in a rotational stocking**



## Sward oriented guidelines...

“[...] recomendações de manejo do pastejo existentes foram feitas com base no argumento de que, para melhor aproveitar as características de crescimento das plantas forrageiras, o especialista em manejo de pastagens deveria manejar as plantas, em pastejo rotacionado [sic], objetivando obter uma série de rebrotações [sic] sucessivas que apresentassem o padrão de crescimento sigmóide. Nesse caso, os pastejos deveriam ser realizados sempre ao final da fase linear de crescimento como forma de obter a máxima taxa média de acúmulo de forragem [...]”



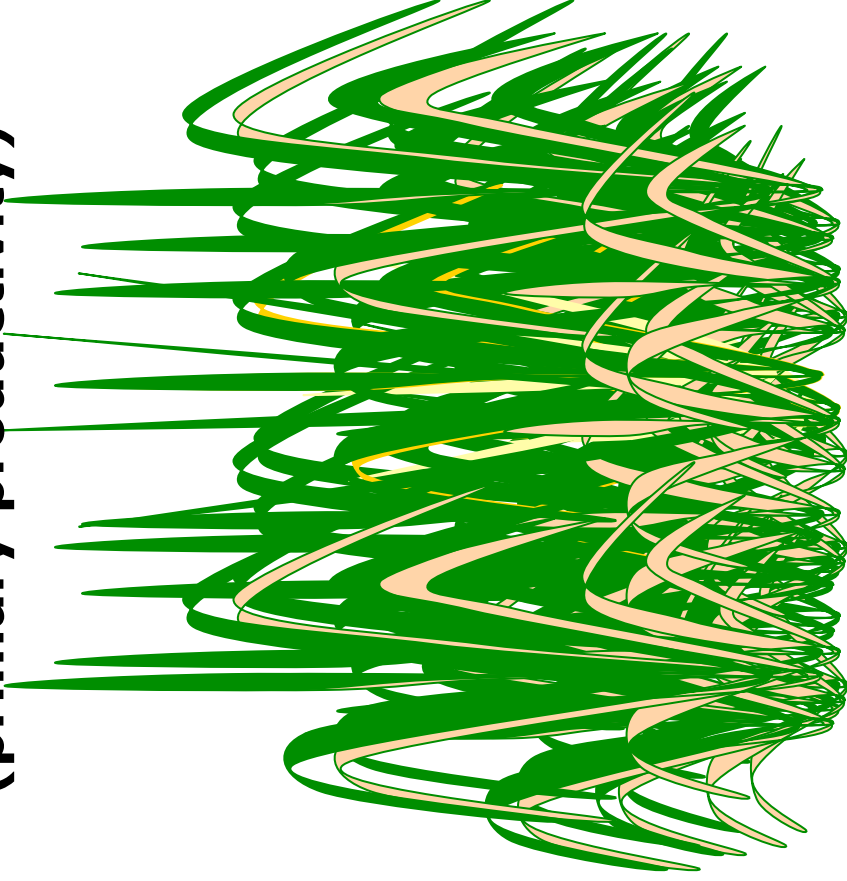
Silva & Nascimento Júnior (2007)

## Classical rationale on pastoral systems

Plant growth  
(primary productivity)



Plant harvest  
(secondary productivity)

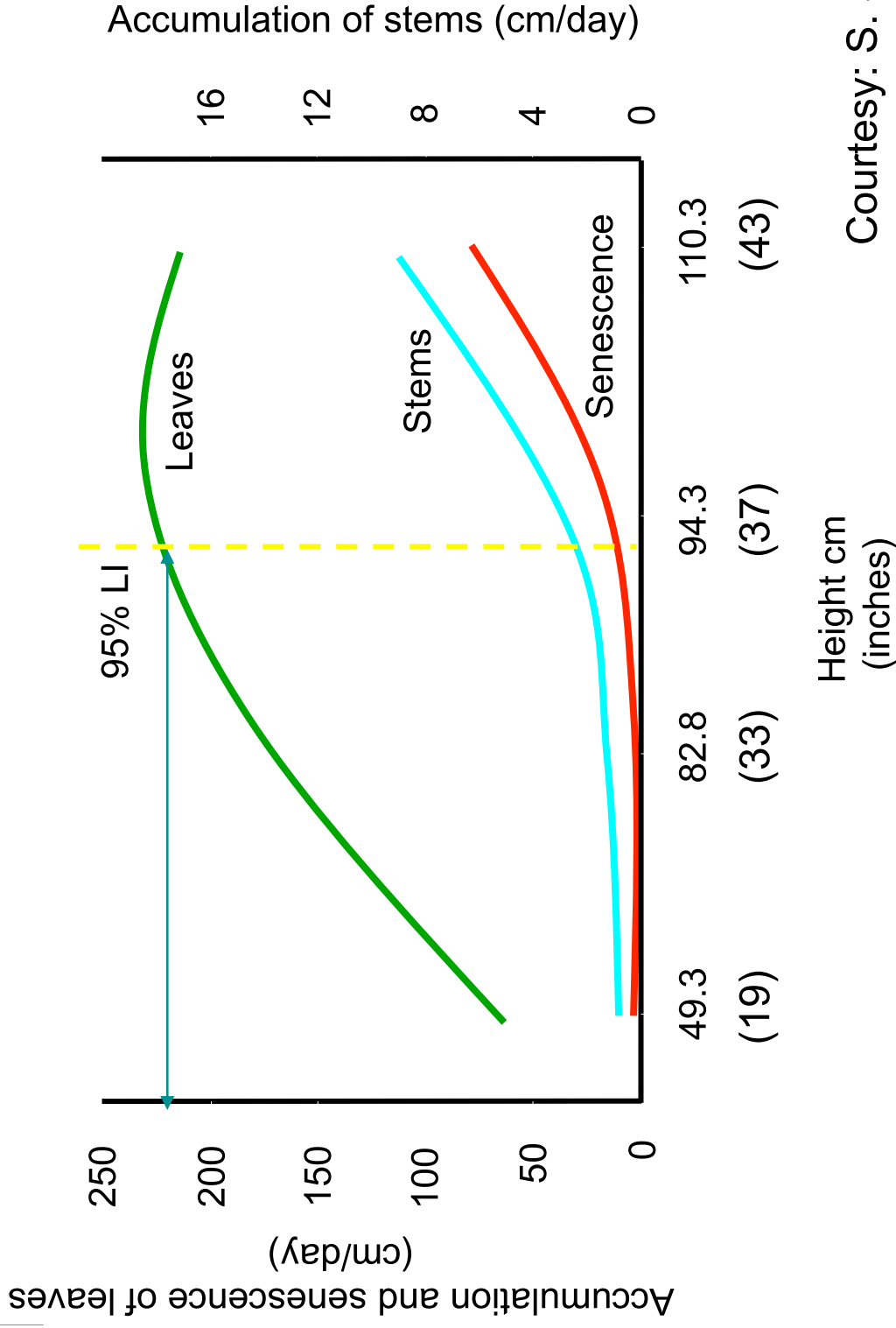


Courtesy, Sbrissia, A.

Courtesy, COAMO

# Sward oriented guidelines...

## *Panicum maximum* cv Mombaça:



Courtesy: S. Silva

# Proposing animal oriented guidelines...



Grupo de Pesquisa em  
Ecologia do Pastejo

CSIRO PUBLISHING  
*Animal Production Science* 2015, 55, 411–425  
<https://doi.org/10.1071/AN14079>

**Synthesis: foraging decisions link plants, herbivores and human beings**

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<sup>B</sup>Feed and Farm Systems Group, DairyNZ, Private Bag 3221, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand,  
<sup>C</sup>Research Group on Livestock Grazing Ecology, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul,  
 CEP 91240-000, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil,  
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**Abstract.** Herbivores make decisions about where to forage and what combinations and sequences of foods to eat, integrating influences that span generations, with choices manifest daily within a lifetime. These influences begin *in utero* and early in life; they emerge daily from interactions among internal needs and contexts unique to the physical and social environments, and they link the calls of plants with the palates of herbivores and humans. This synthesis summarizes implications for future research in plant, internal, physiological, and social dynamics, and suggests (1) how primary and secondary compounds that can be managed physiologically with cells and organs in animals to influence food selection, (2) temporal and spatial patterns in plants, internal, physiological, and social dynamics, and suggests (3) ways humans can manage foraging behaviours that emerge from these interactions in the form of meal dynamics and social benefits, and (4) models of foraging behaviour that integrate the aforementioned influences.

**Additional keywords:** behaviour, habitat selection, managing grazing, meal patterns, models of foraging, nutrition, secondary compounds.  
 Received 8 July 2014, accepted 12 November 2014, published online 5 February 2015

## Introduction

Herbivores face several challenges in foraging (Provenza and Ralph 1990). Depending on location and context, they select their food from grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees, each being unique biochemically. Individual plant parts can be either nutritious or toxic depending on the time of day, season and resources available in the environment where the plant is growing, as well as a plant part, age, physiological state, and past experience with primary compounds (energy, protein, minerals and other plant parts) eaten in the past. This affects the sequence in which other plant parts are eaten on the next day, and the value of particular plant parts (alkaloids). Given thousands of organic compounds and inorganic nutrients, broadly categorised as vitamins and minerals, that are present in the diet, herbivores eat 50, or more, items a day, although an opportunity to eat a few items among them may be limited to one or two items per day. We are just beginning to understand what they choose to eat within the meal, from meal to meal, day to day, and season to season.

Herbivores make decisions about where to forage, what combinations of foods to eat, and in which sequences to eat them. Their choices integrate influences that span generations.

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they begin *in utero* and become manifest within the lifetime of each individual from interactions that arise daily among needs and contexts unique to the physical and social environments, and the following four topics: (1) physiological factors that influence meal dynamics, (2) temporal and spatial patterns in plants, internal, physiological, and social dynamics, (3) ways humans can manage foraging behaviours that ultimately lead to an animal's well-being, and (4) models of foraging behaviour that integrate the points of the aforementioned topics. We summarise research from each topic and identify promising areas for future influence (Fig. 1). Understanding behavioural mechanisms that humans manage dynamics and distribution patterns for key economic and social benefits.

**Physiological factors influencing meal dynamics**  
 Animals experience and respond to different physiological states through affective and cognitive processes (Provenza 1995). Affective processes integrate the taste of food with interoceptive feedback from cells and organ systems (Provenza and Villalba 2006). This interoceptive integration changes liking

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- Herbivores make decisions about where to forage and what combinations of foods to eat, integrating influences that span generations, with choices manifest daily within a lifetime (Provenza et al., 2015)

- Why do not take it into account?





# Animal oriented guidelines...

*Tropical Grasslands – Forrajes Tropicales (2013) Volume 1, 137–155*

## Harry Stobbs Memorial Lecture: Can grazing behavior support innovations in grassland management?

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**Keywords:** Grazing management, pasture structure, grazing systems, forage intake, bite mass.

### Abstract

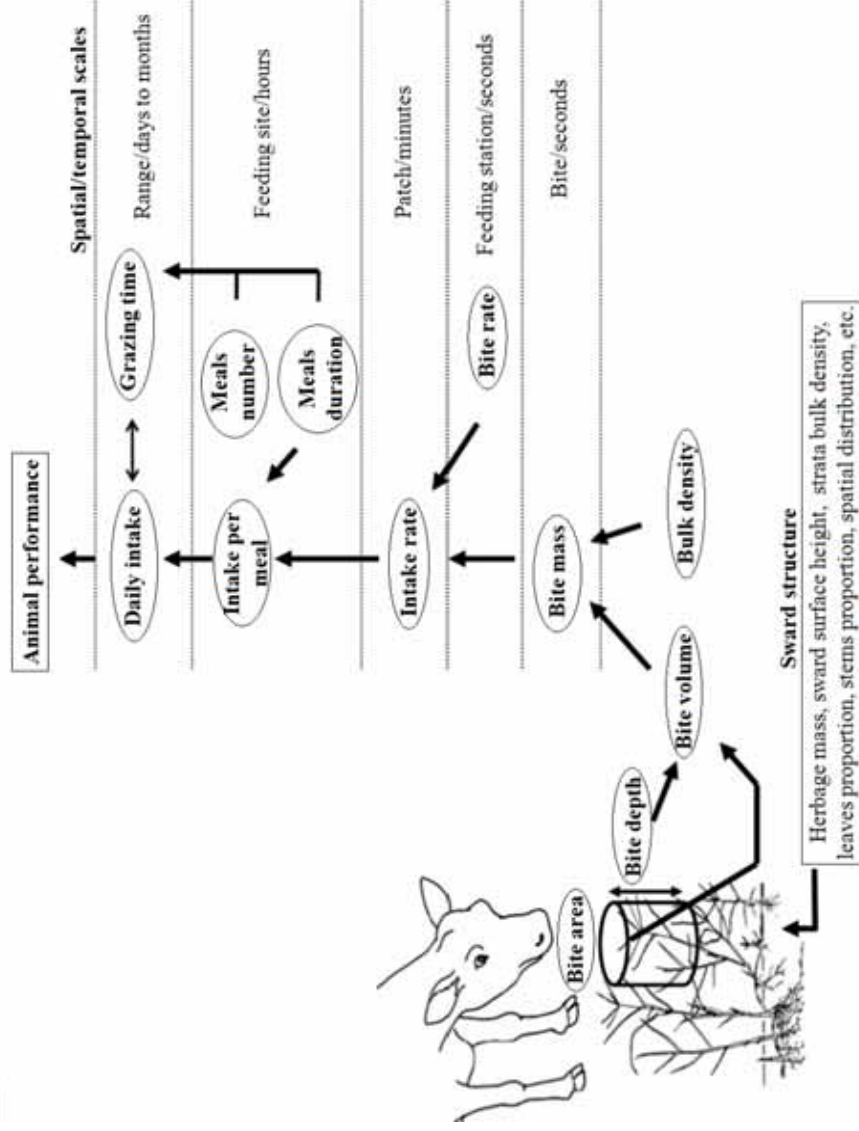
Grazing is a fundamental process affecting grassland ecosystem dynamics and functioning. Its behavioral components comprise how animals search for feed, and gather and process plant tissues in different spatio-temporal scales of the grazing process. Nowadays, there is an increasing emphasis on grazing management and the role of the grazing animal on ecosystem services, concomitantly with a decreasing emphasis on grazing management generating animal production outputs. Grazing behavior incorporates both approaches, which are not necessarily dichotomist. It would provide the basis to support innovation in grazing systems. However, it is unclear how the significant knowledge, developed in this research area since the disciplines of Agronomy and Ecology began to interact, have supported creativity in grazing science. It seems there is a current gap in this context, which was a major concern of researcher-leaders like Harry Stobbs. This paper pays tribute to him, reviewing recent grazing behavior research and prioritizing those studies originating in the favorable tropics and subtropics. New evidence on how pasture structure limits forage intake in homogeneous and heterogeneous pastures is presented. Pasture management strategies designed to maximize bite mass and forage intake per unit grazing time are assumed to promote both animal production and landscape value. To conclude, a Brazilian case study (PISA) is briefly described to illustrate how grazing behavior research can reach farmers and change their lives by using simple management strategies ("take the best and leave the rest" rule) supported by reductionist approaches applied in holistic frameworks.

### Resumen

El pastoreo es un proceso fundamental que afecta la dinámica y el funcionamiento de los ecosistemas de pasturas. Sus componentes comprenden la forma como los animales buscan el alimento y lo ingieren y cómo procesan los tejidos de las plantas en diferentes escalas espacio-temporales dentro del proceso de pastoreo. Actualmente existe un énfasis creciente en el manejo del pastoreo y en el papel de los animales en pastoreo respecto a los servicios de ecosistemas, conjuntamente con el descenso del énfasis en el manejo de pastoreo con fines de producción animal. El comportamiento de pastoreo incorpora ambos enfoques, los cuales no necesariamente son dicotómicos; puede proporcionar la base para innovaciones en los sistemas de pastoreo. No obstante, no es claro cómo los avances significativos del conocimiento en esta área de investigación, desde que las disciplinas de agronomía y ecología comenzaron a interactuar, han contribuido a la creatividad en la ciencia del pastoreo. Aparentemente existe un vacío en este contexto, y esto fue una de las preocupaciones principales de investigadores líderes como Harry Stobbs. En el presente documento se rinde homenaje a este científico y se revisan las investigaciones recientes en comportamiento de pastoreo, priorizando estudios procedentes de zonas favorables del trópico y subtropico. Se presenta una nueva evidencia de la forma como la estructura de una pastura limita el consumo del forraje tanto en pasturas homogéneas como heterogéneas. Se asume que las estrategias de manejo del pastoreo, diseñadas a maximizar el bocado y su ingestión por unidad de tiempo de pastoreo, son dirigidas a promover tanto la producción animal como el valor paisajístico. Para concluir, se presenta un estudio de caso en Brasil (PISA) que ilustra y describe brevemente cómo la investigación en el comportamiento de pastoreo puede llegar a los productores para contribuir a su bienestar solo con la adopción de estrategias sencillas de manejo (la regla del "tome lo mejor y deje el resto"), con el apoyo de enfoques reduccionistas que se aplican en marcos holísticos.

Correspondence: Paulo C.F. Carvalho, *Grazing Ecology Research Group, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Av. Bento Gonçalves 7712, Bairro Agronomia, Porto Alegre CEP 91540-000, RS, Brazil. Email: [paulofc@ufrgs.br](mailto:paulofc@ufrgs.br)*

[www.tropicalgrasslands.info](http://www.tropicalgrasslands.info)



# Animal oriented guidelines: evaluation process



from reductionism....

...to production systems

(-)

Spatio-temporal scales

(+)



## Phase 1

Scale: bite

Output: sward  
targets

Main parameter:

Intake rate



## Phase 2

Scale: tiller

Output: sward dynamics

Main parameter:

Efficiency of

harvesting



## Phase 3

Scale: paddock

Output: sward  
production

Main parameter:

Efficiency of

utilization



## Understanding the grazing process and defining structures to grazing...

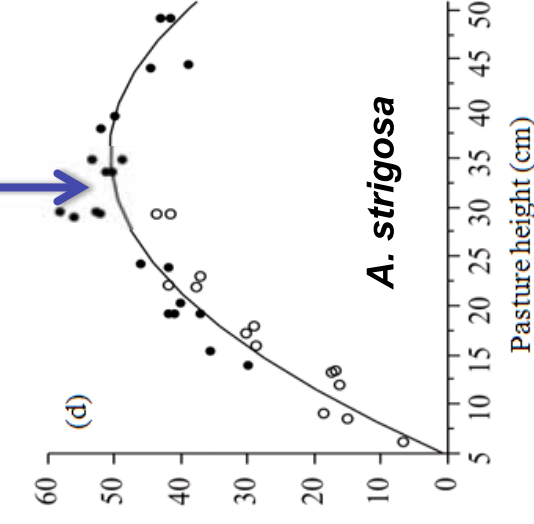
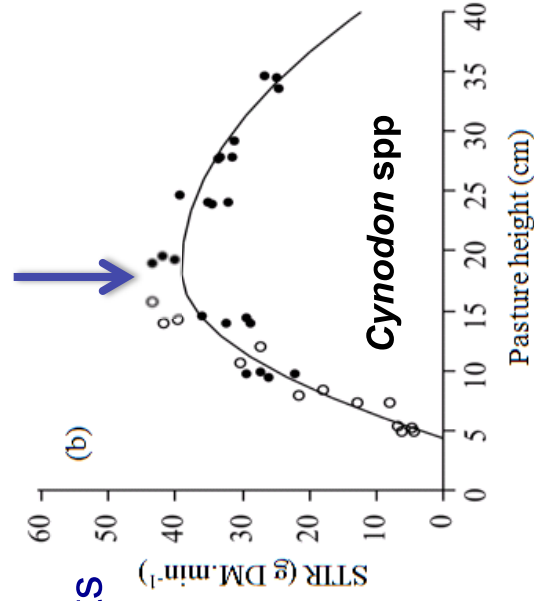
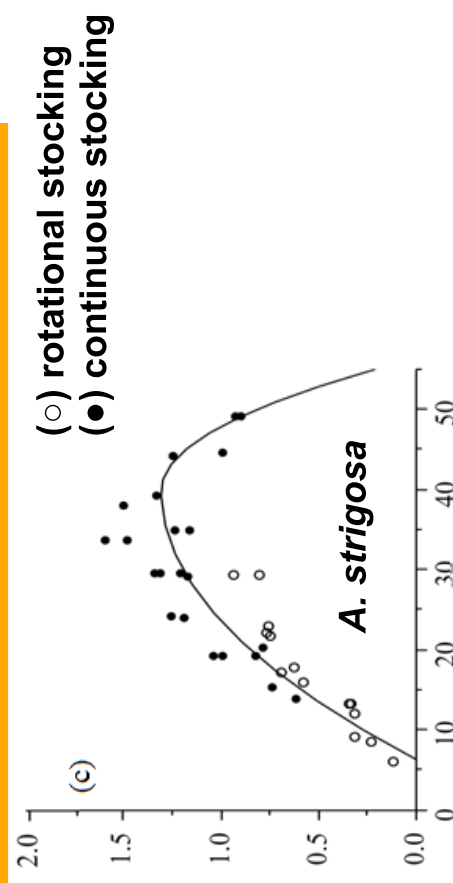
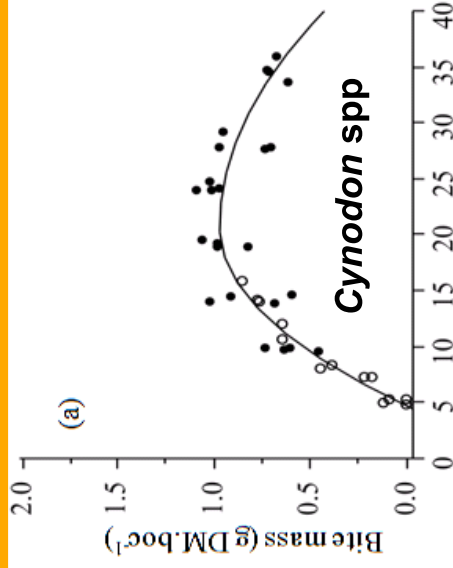


**Post-grazing?**

**Pre-grazing?**

Photo: M. F. Pinto

# Determining pre-grazing targets...

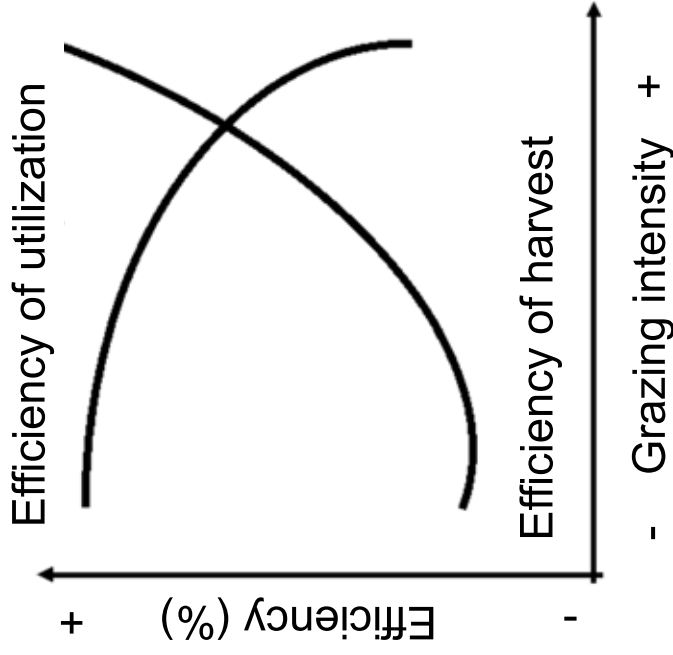


Pre-grazing targets

Mezzalana et al., 2015. Adaptations of Type IV functional response for estimating short-term intake rate by grazing herbivores. Journal of Functional Ecology (in prep).

## When to move out ?

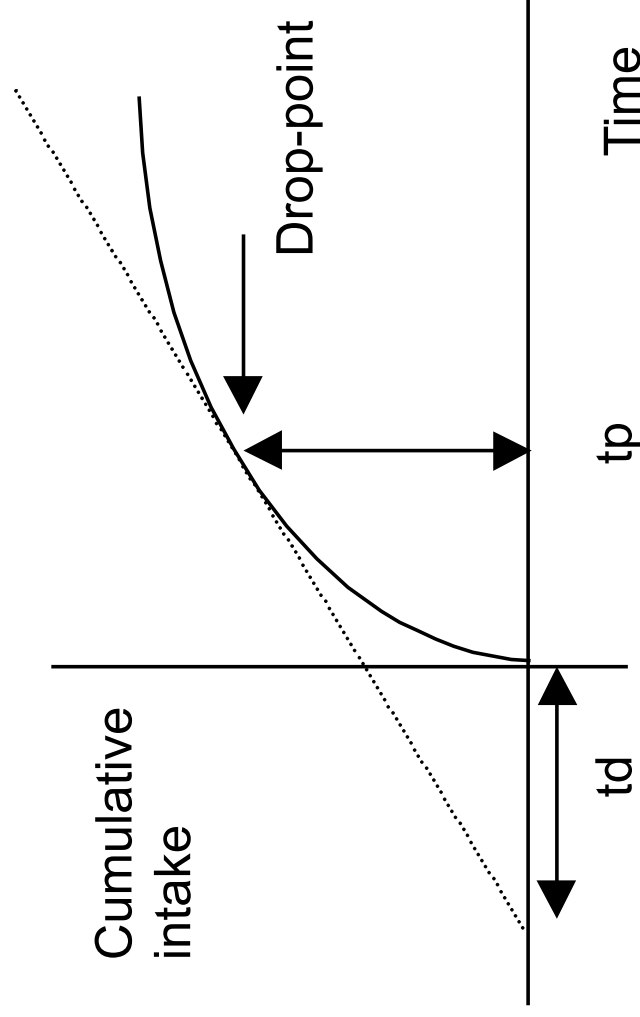
- Pre-grazing structure: broader theoretical framework than post-grazing structure



Courtesy: M. Wade



## When to move out ?



Marginal Value Theorem (Charnov, 1976)

Grazing down

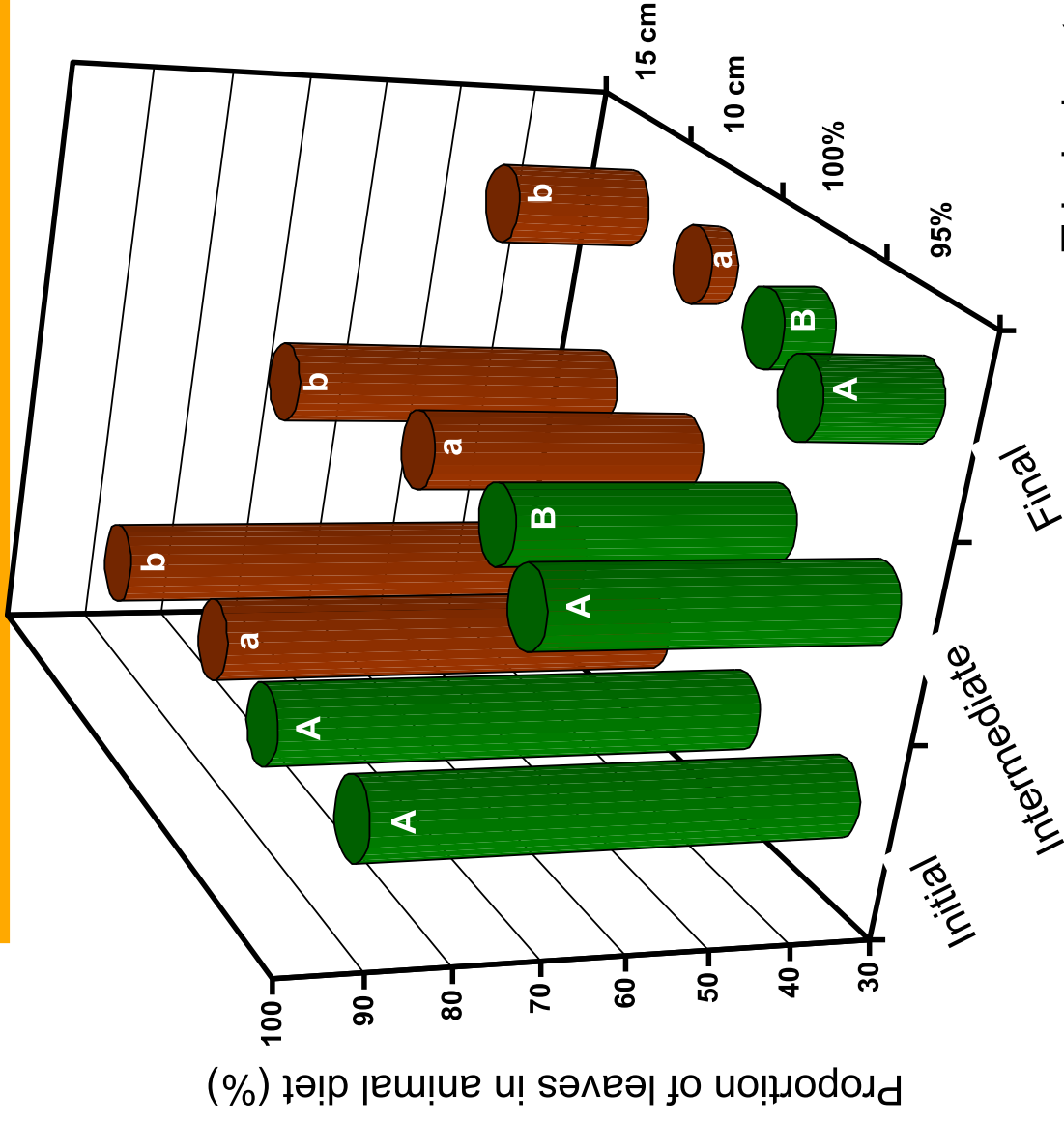
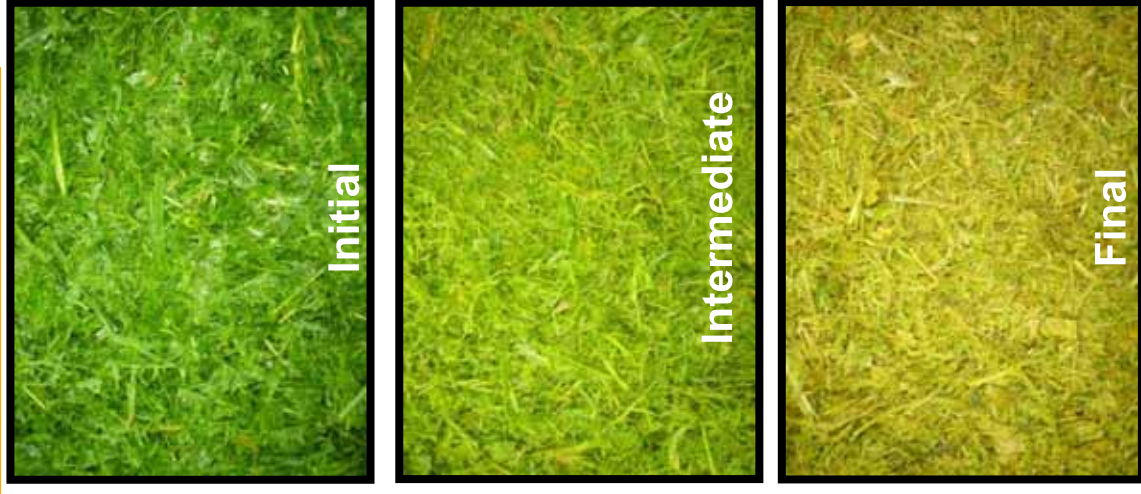
# Grazing behaviour determining post-grazing pasture structure



Courtesy: J. Mezzalana



# Changes in sward structure during grazing



Trindade et al., 2007

Grazing down steps

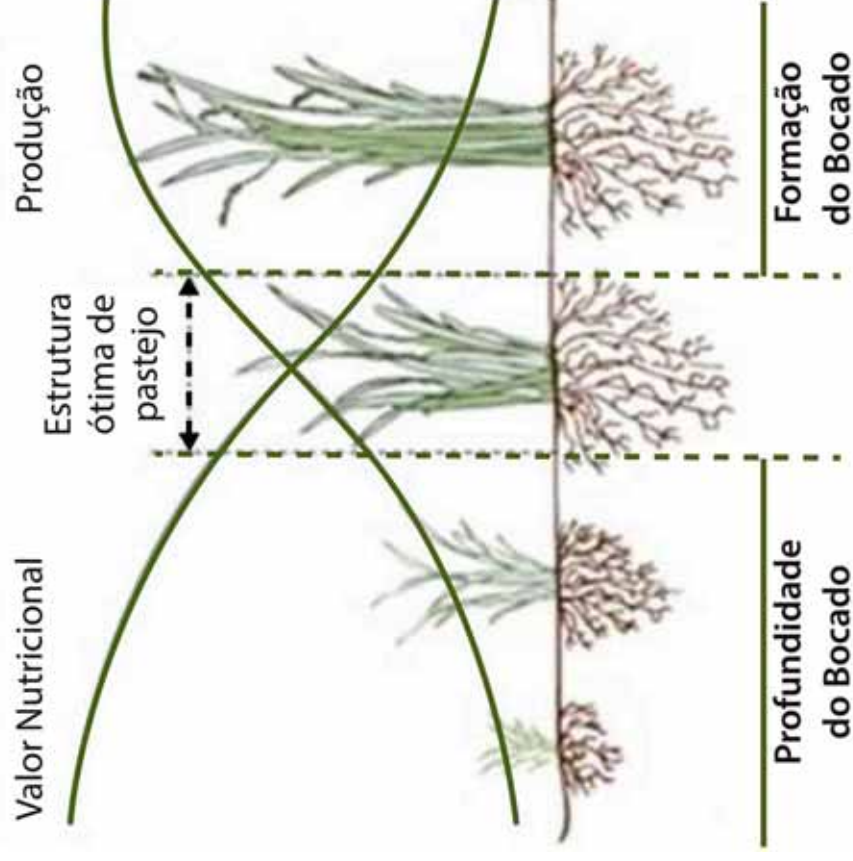


# Changes in ingestive behavior during grazing



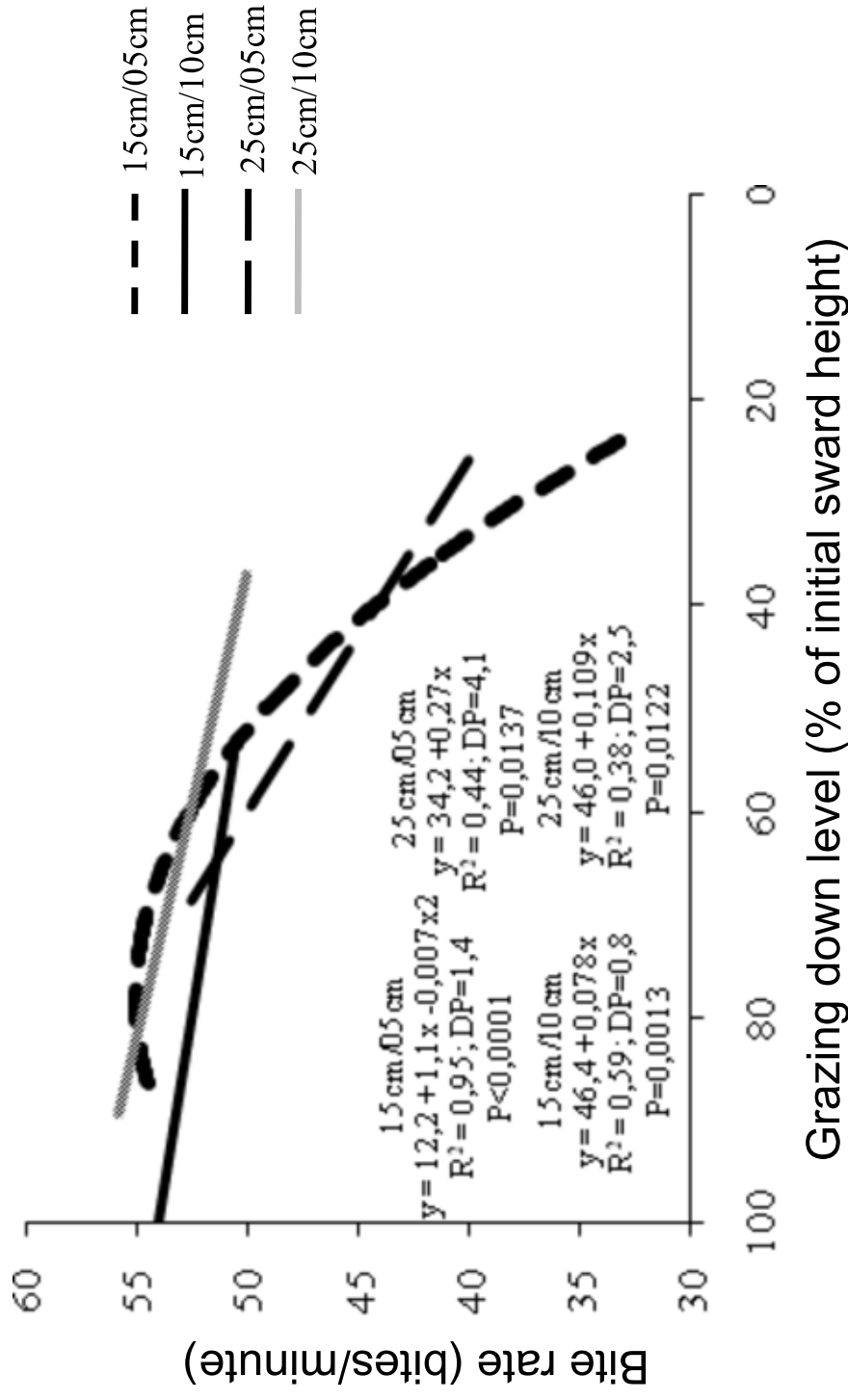
The bite dilemma

Pasture structural thresholds





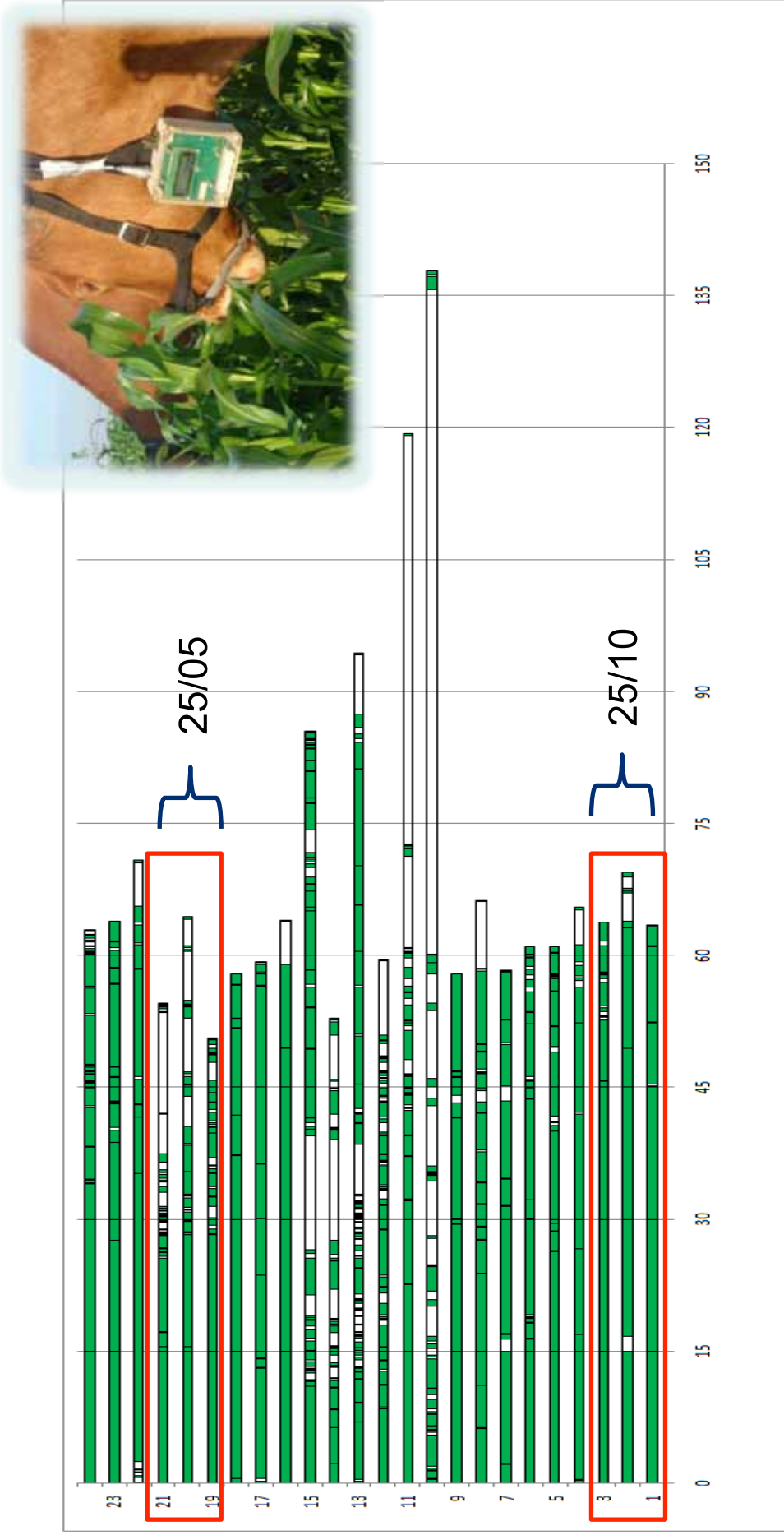
# Changes in ingestive behavior during grazing



Amaral et al., 2012. Sward structure management for a maximum short-term intake rate in annual ryegrass. Grass and Forage Science, 68: 271-277

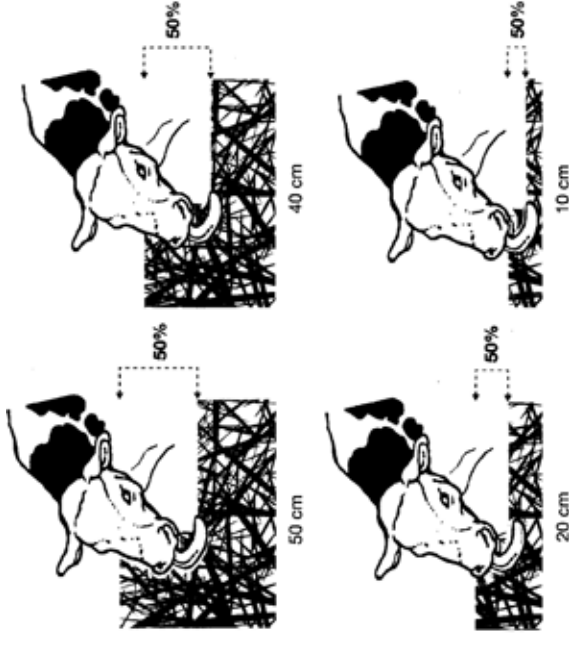
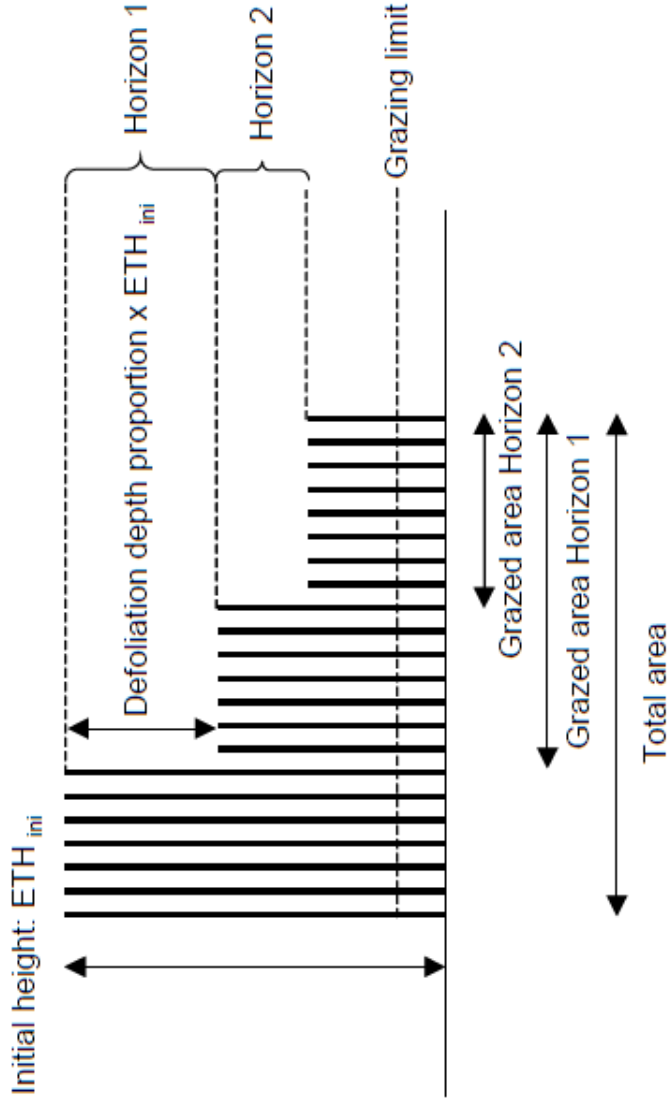


# Changes in ingestive behavior during grazing



Amaral et al., 2012. Sward structure management for a maximum short-term intake rate in annual ryegrass. Grass and Forage Science, 68: 271-277

# Changes in sward structure and behavior during grazing

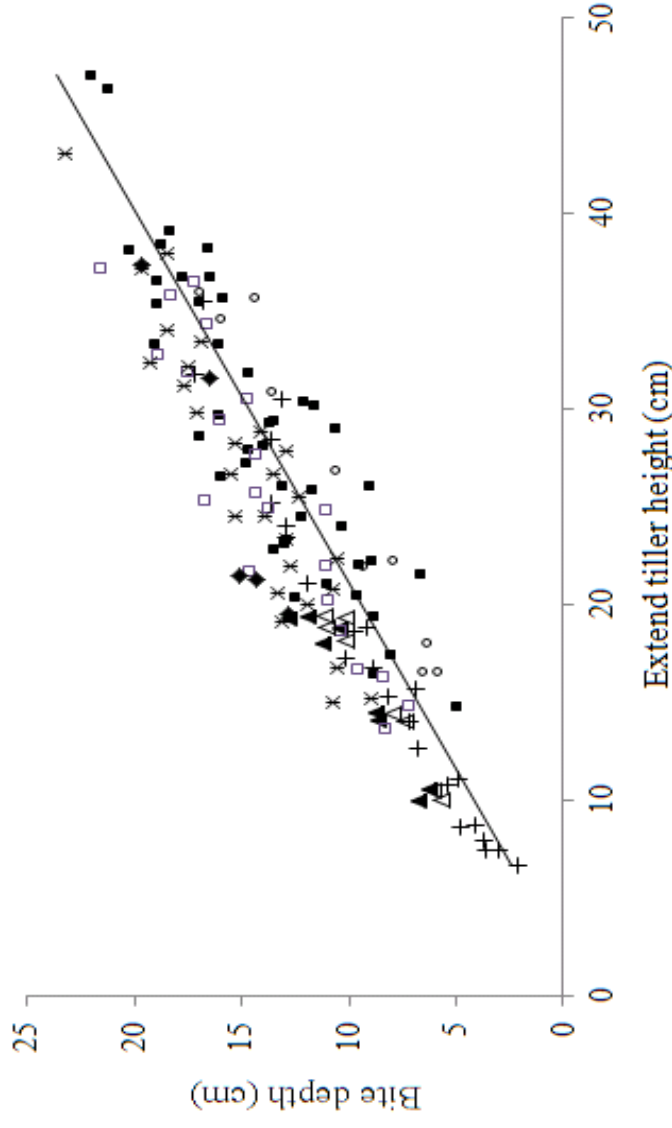


Grazing by horizons (Baumont et al., 2004)

Grazing by horizons (Cangiano et al., 1999)



# Changes in sward structure and behavior during grazing



## Relationship between bite depth and extended tiller height in Tropical and Temperate pastures (Carvalho, 2013)

( $\Delta$ ) sheep and ( $\blacktriangle$ ) beef heifers in natural grassland (Gonçalves *et al.* 2009a); ( $\blacklozenge$ ) beef heifers in *A. strigosa* (Mezzalana *et al.* 2013b); ( $\blacksquare$ ) beef heifers in *B. brizantha* (Da Trindade 2007); (+) sheep in *F. arundinacea* and *D. glomerata* (Carvalho *et al.* 1998); ( $\circ$ ) horses in five cv. of *Cynodon* sp. (Dittrich *et al.* 2005); (\*) ponies in *Cynodon* sp. and *P. paniculatum* (Dittrich *et al.* 2007); ( $\square$ ) dairy cows in *A. strigosa* (Lesama *et al.* 1999); ( $y = 1.1 + 0.52x$ ;  $R^2 = 0.8391$ ;  $SE = 1.9$ ;  $P < 0.0001$ ;  $n = 203$ ).

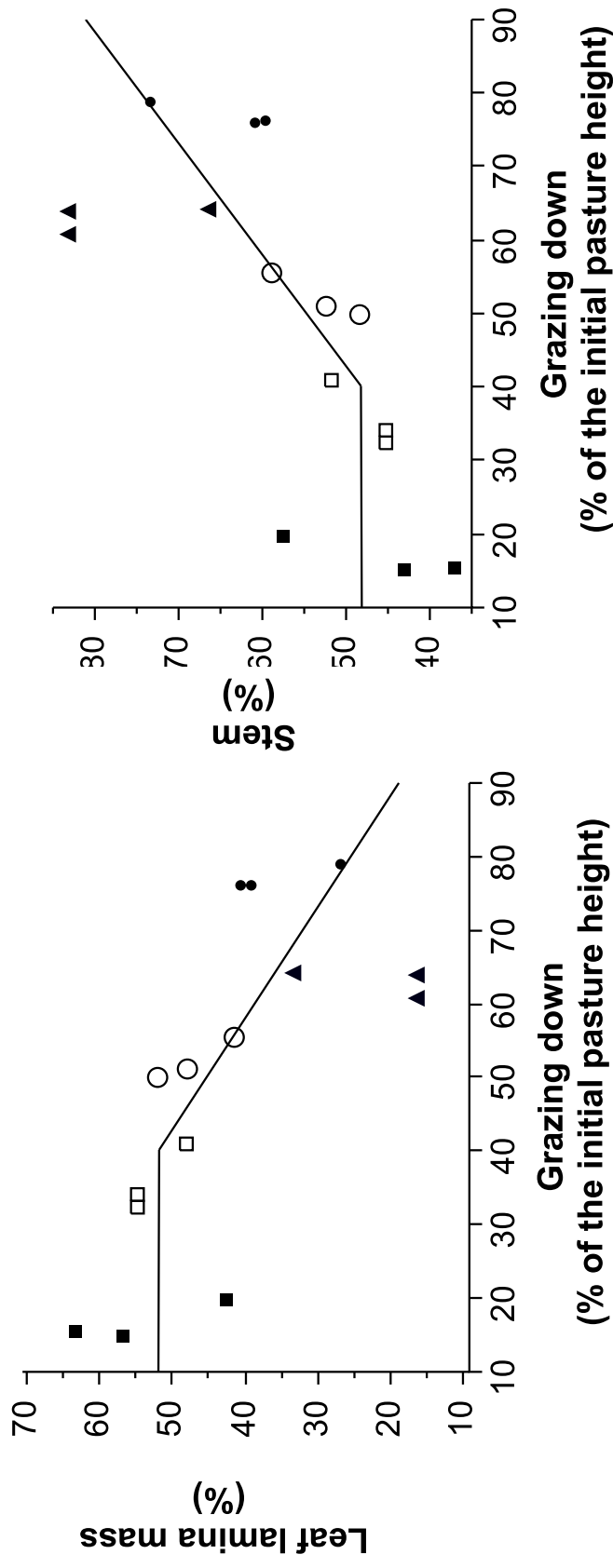
Grazing down

# Sward structure and behaviour changing simultaneously





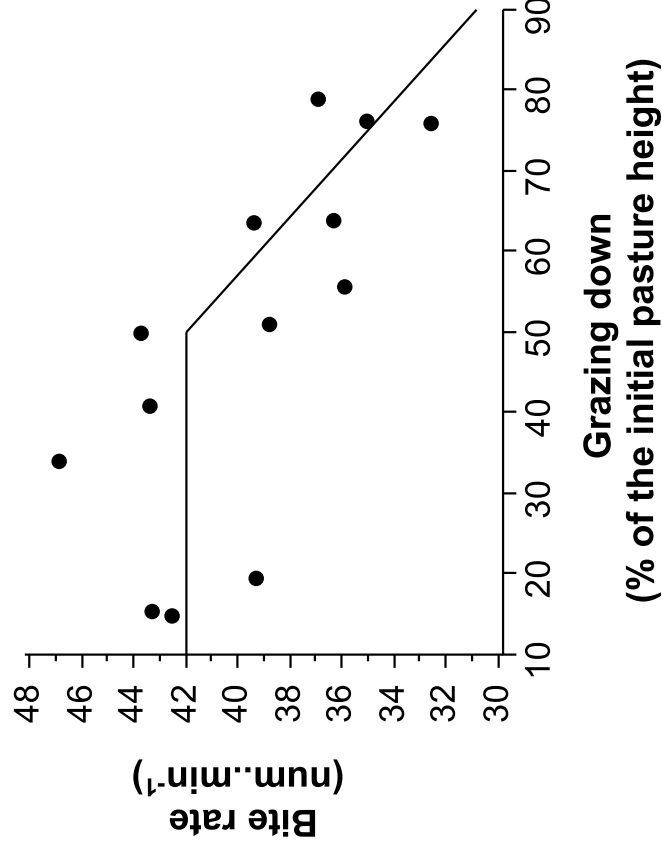
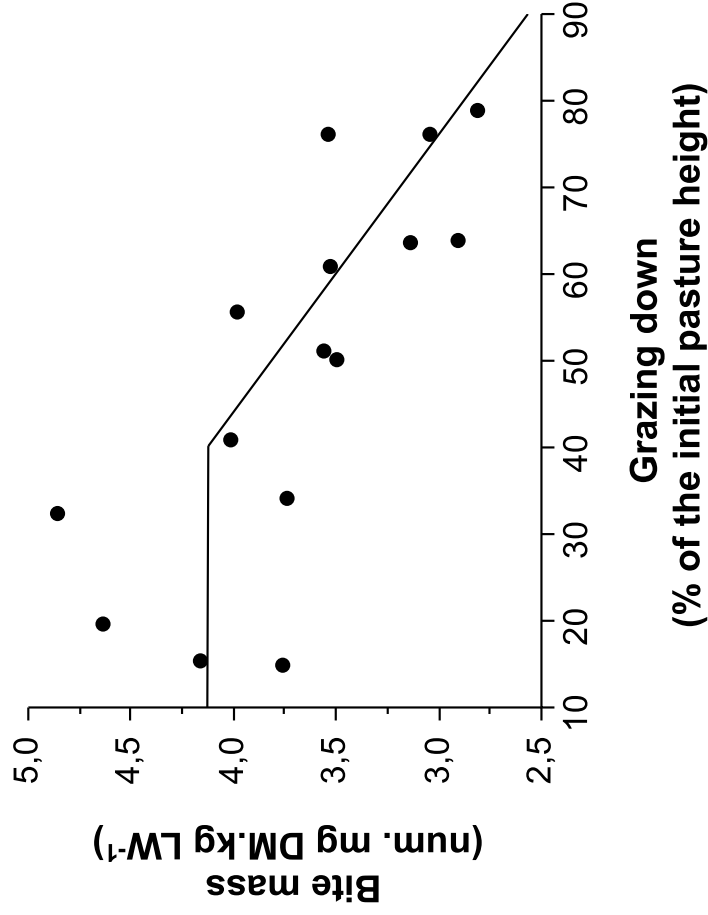
# Changes in sward structure and behavior during grazing



Fonseca et al., 2013. Effect of sward surface height and level of herbage depletion on bite features of cattle grazing Sorghum bicolor swards. Journal of Animal Science, 91:4357-4365



# Changes in sward structure and behavior during grazing

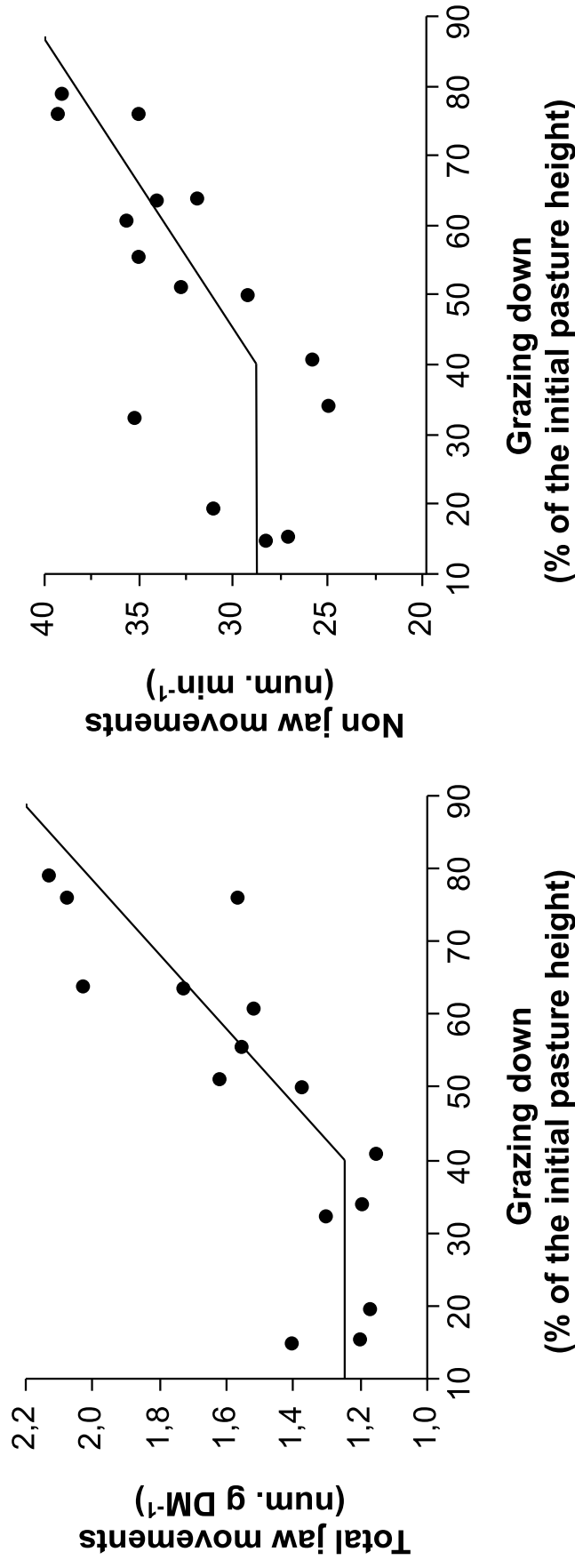


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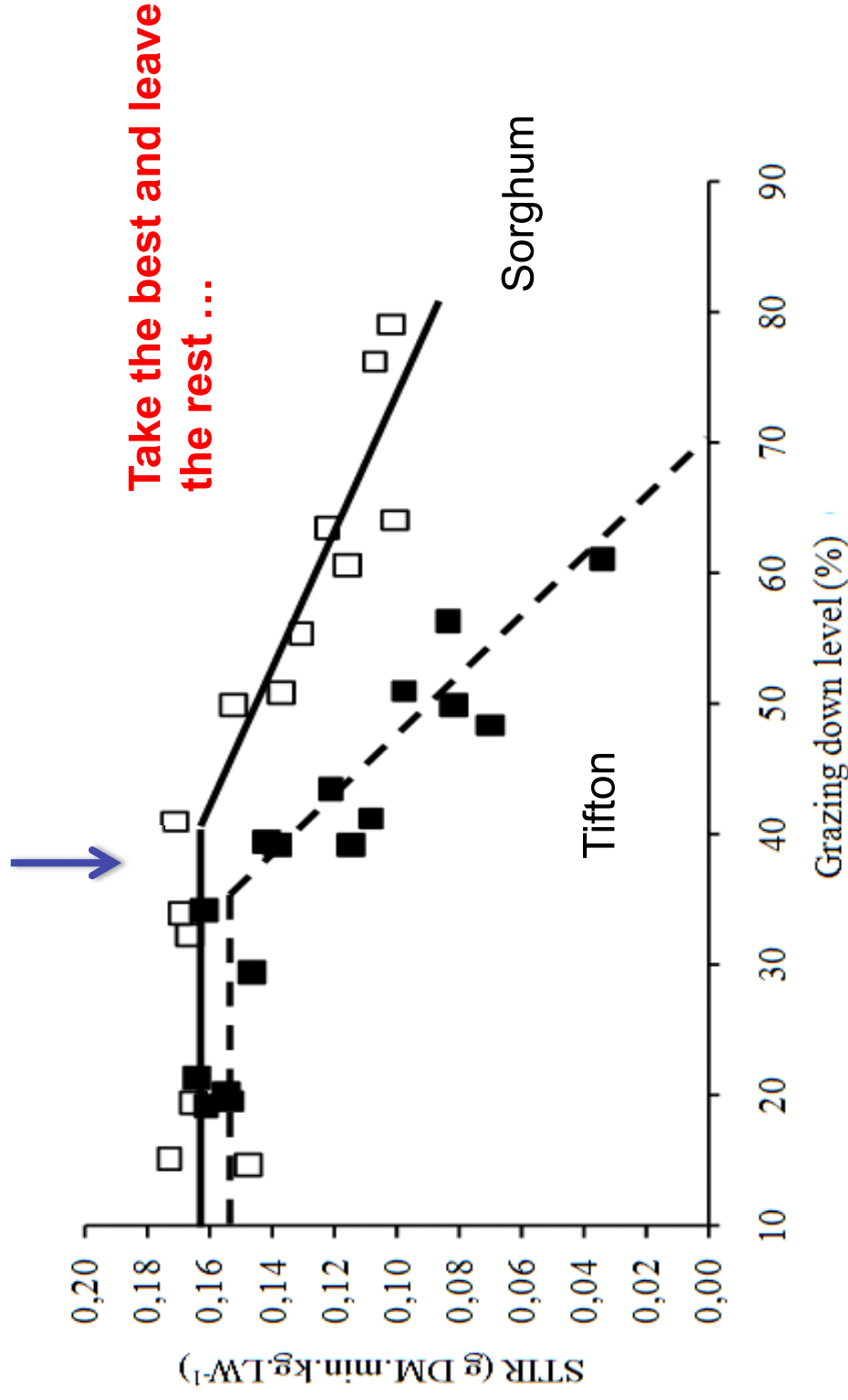
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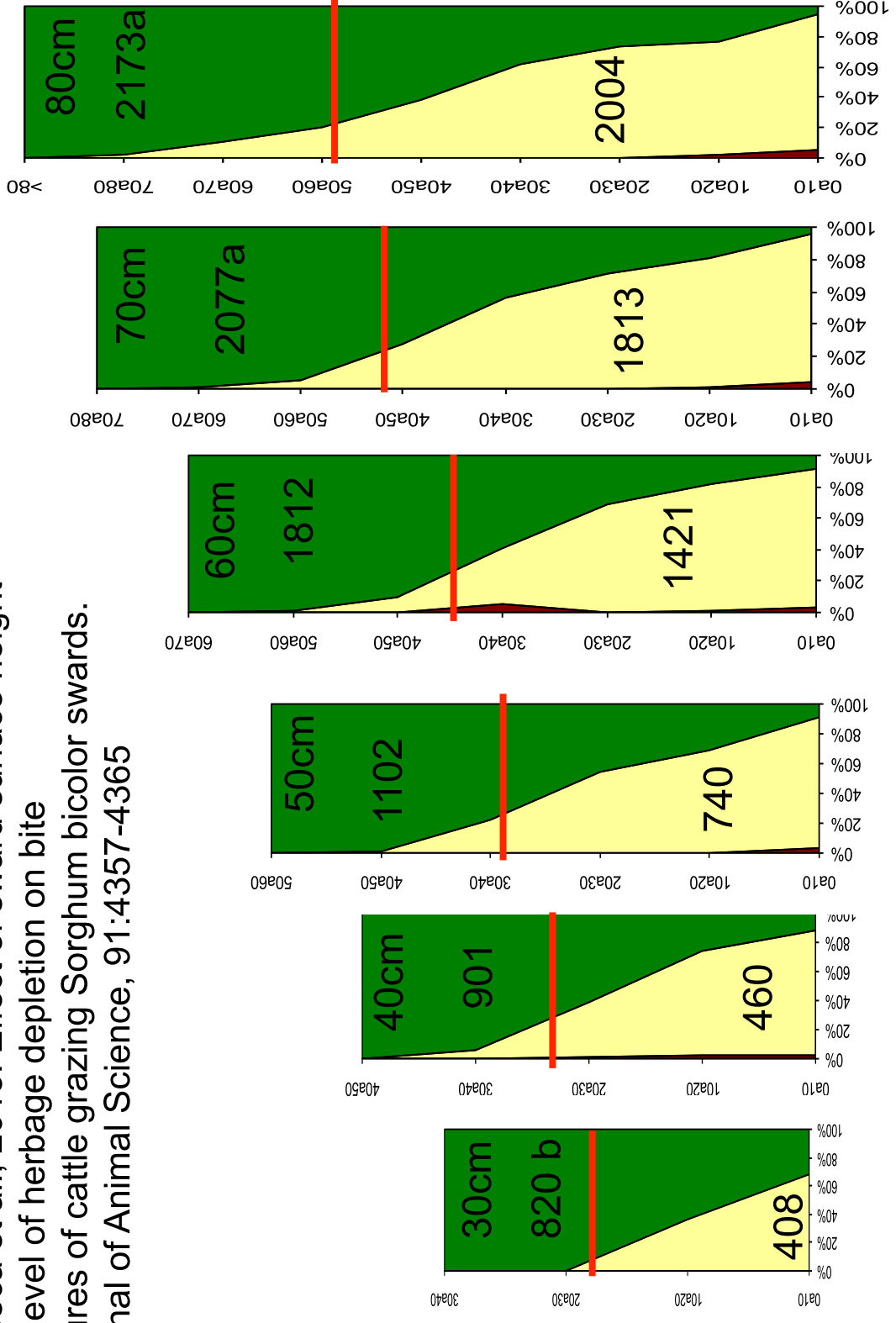


Carvalho, P. C. F. 2013. Harry Stobbs Memorial Lecture: Can grazing behaviour support innovations in grassland management?. Tropical Grasslands – Forrajes Tropicales, v. 1, p. 137-155, 2013.



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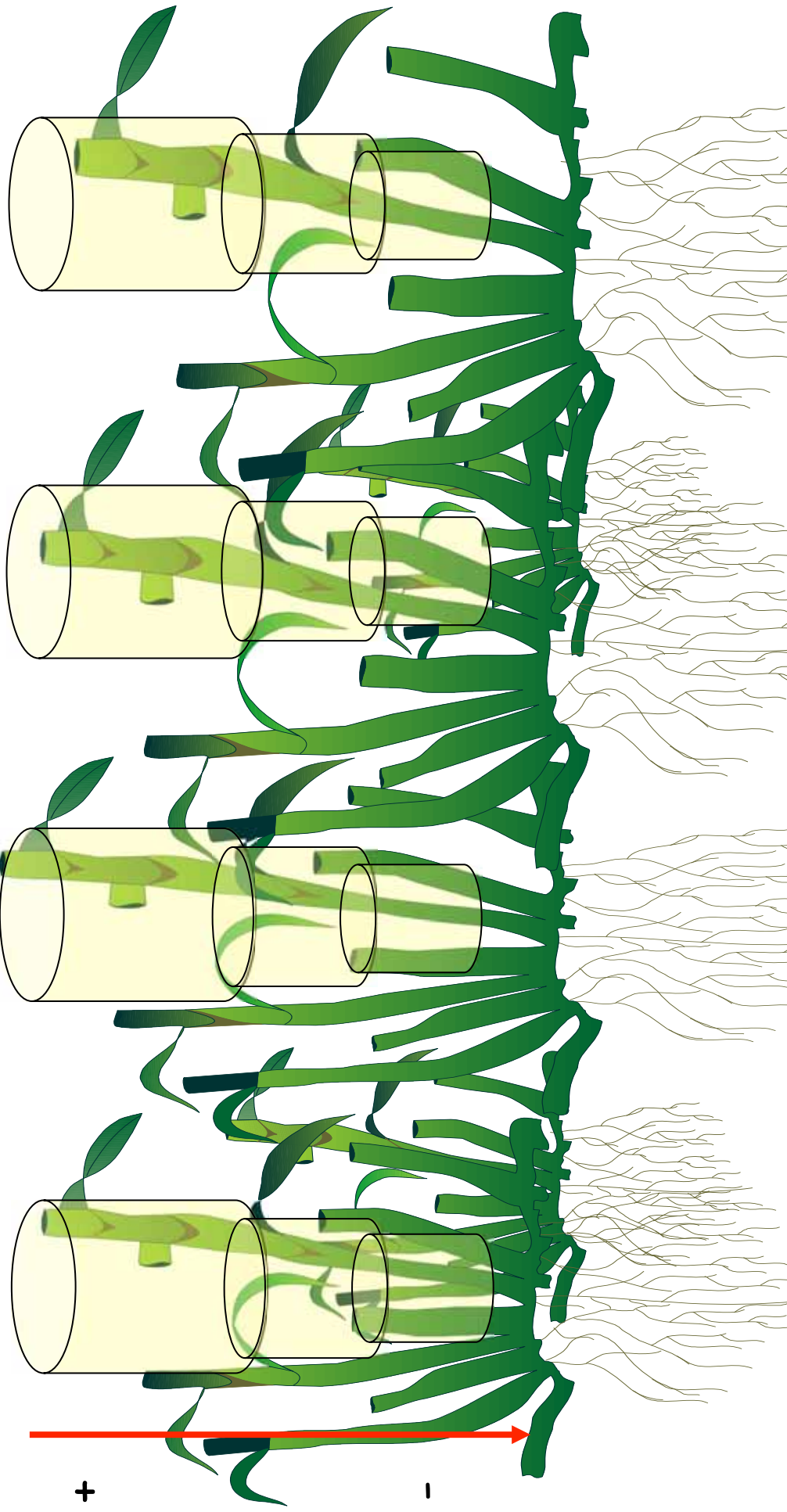




# Changes in sward structure and behavior during grazing

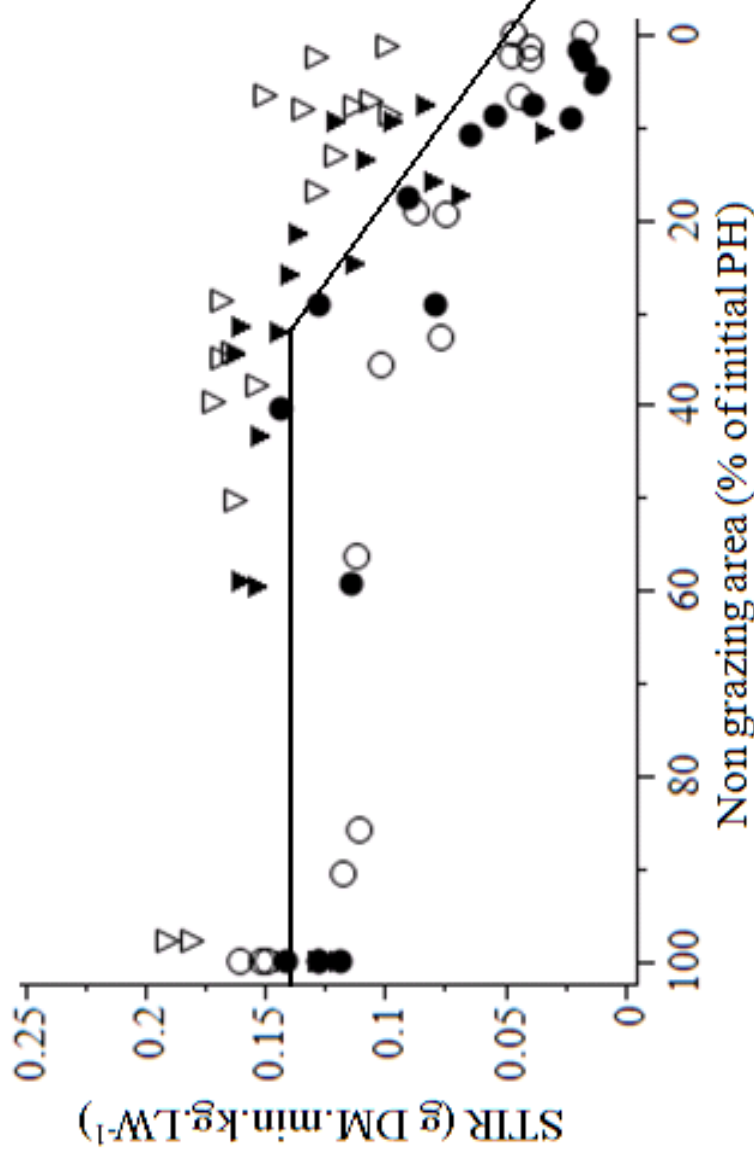
Quality

Leaf Mass





# Changes in sward structure and behavior during grazing



## Changes in short-term herbage intake rate with reduction in the proportion of non-grazing area (Carvalho, 2013)

(●) dairy heifers in *Cynodon* sp. sward under continuous stocking; ○ (○) beef heifers in *A. strigosus* sward under continuous stocking; ▼ (▼) dairy heifers in *Cynodon* sp. sward under rotational stocking; and ( ) beef heifers in *S. bicolor* swards under rotational stocking (Fonseca et al., in prep).

Grazing down



# From bite to paddock scale



*Grazing down*



# Rotational stocking





# “Rotatinuous” stocking

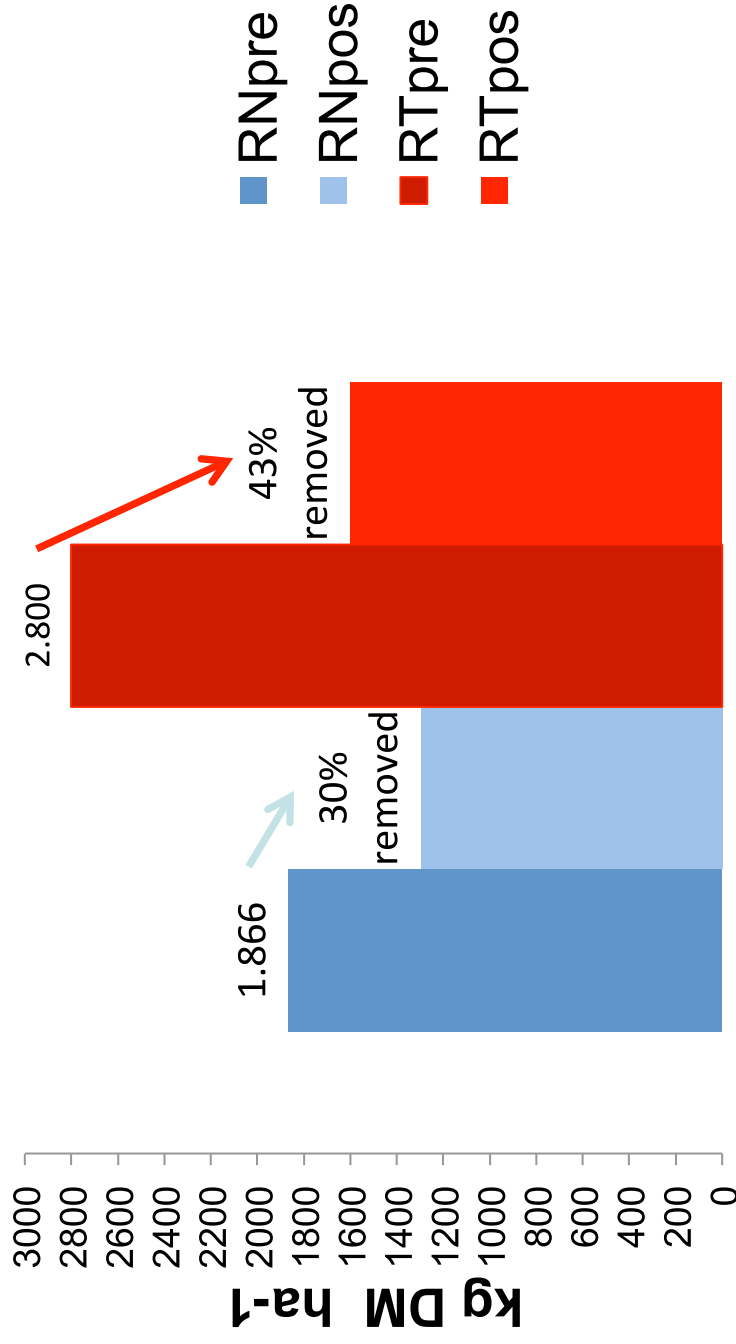






## “Rotatinuous” stocking

### Forage mass



Schons, R. M.T. 2015. Critérios para manejo de pastagens podem ser fundamentados no comportamento ingestivo dos animais? Um exemplo com pastoreio rotativo conduzido sob metas de maximização do acúmulo ou da ingestão do pasto. Dissertação de Mestrado, UFRGS.



## “Rotatinuous” stocking

Parameters	RN	RT	P	MSE
Grazing cycles (n°)	11	4	0.001	1.23
Resting period (n° days)	13	35	0.001	1.36
Pre-grazing leaf mass (kg DM ha <sup>-1</sup> )	854	1345	0.004	70.6
Post-grazing leaf mass (kg DM ha <sup>-1</sup> )	481	405	0.036	43.3
Pre-grazing LI (%)	91	95	0.001	0.23
Post-grazing LI (%)	77	63	0.001	2.13
Herbage accum. (kg DM ha <sup>-1</sup> dia <sup>-1</sup> )	56	32	0.189	5.1
Herbage production (kg DM ha <sup>-1</sup> )	9023	6819	0.043	576.9

Schons, R. M.T. 2015. Critérios para manejo de pastagens podem ser fundamentados no comportamento ingestivo dos animais? Um exemplo com pastoreio rotativo conduzido sob metas de maximização do acúmulo ou da ingestão do pasto. Dissertação de Mestrado, UFRGS.



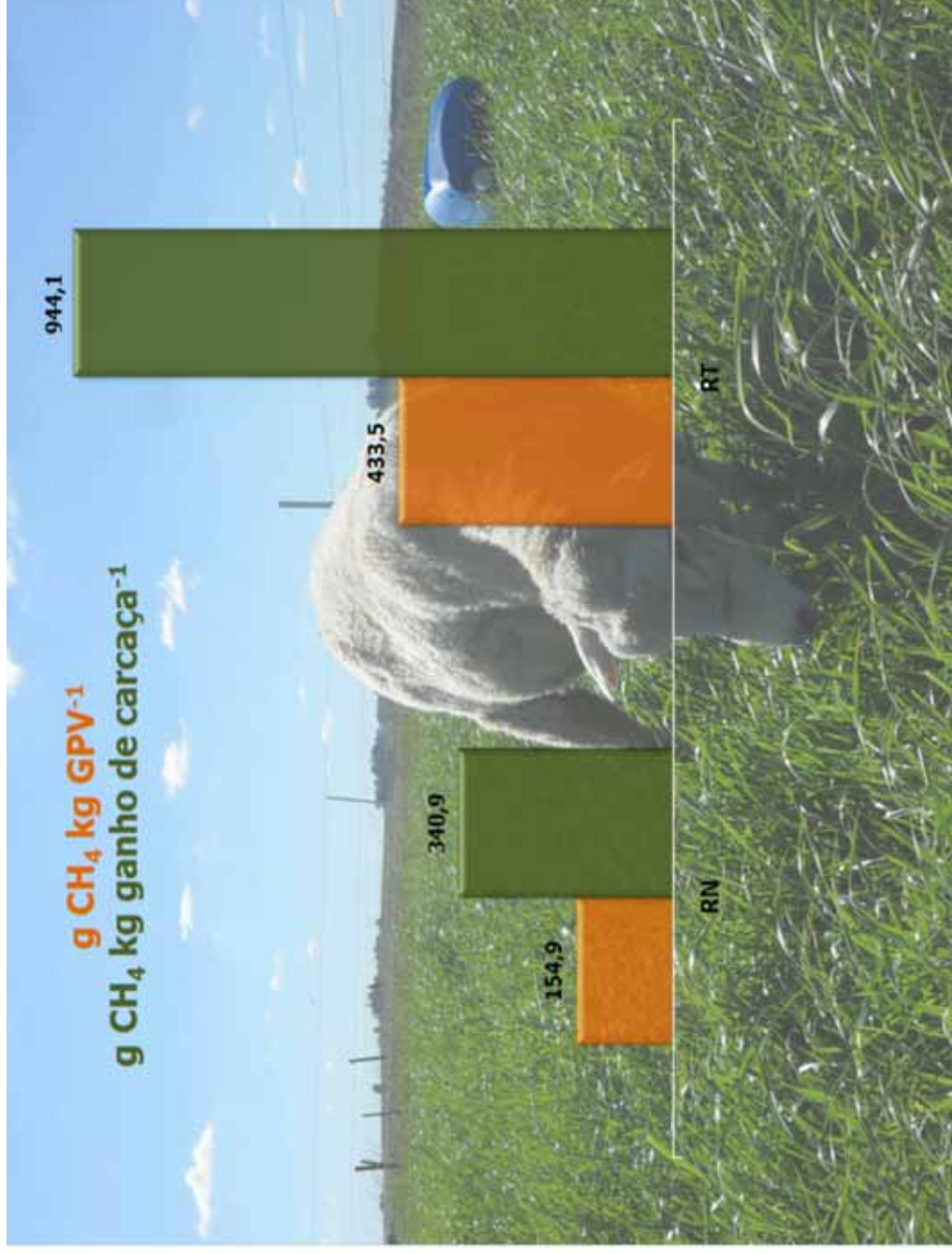
## “Rotatinuous” stocking

Parameters	RN	RT	P	MSE
Forage harvested (kg/ha)	6267	4701	0.029	390.4
ADG (kg/day)	0.096	0.026	0.001	0.4
LWG/ha (kg)	392	174	0.004	0.86
Stocking rate (kg LW/ha)	1019	1478	0.001	90.8
Parasites (eggs/g feces)	480	3039	0.001	1004

Schons, R. M.T. 2015. Critérios para manejo de pastagens podem ser fundamentados no comportamento ingestivo dos animais? Um exemplo com pastoreio rotativo conduzido sob metas de maximização do acúmulo ou da ingestão do pasto. Dissertação de Mestrado, UFRGS.

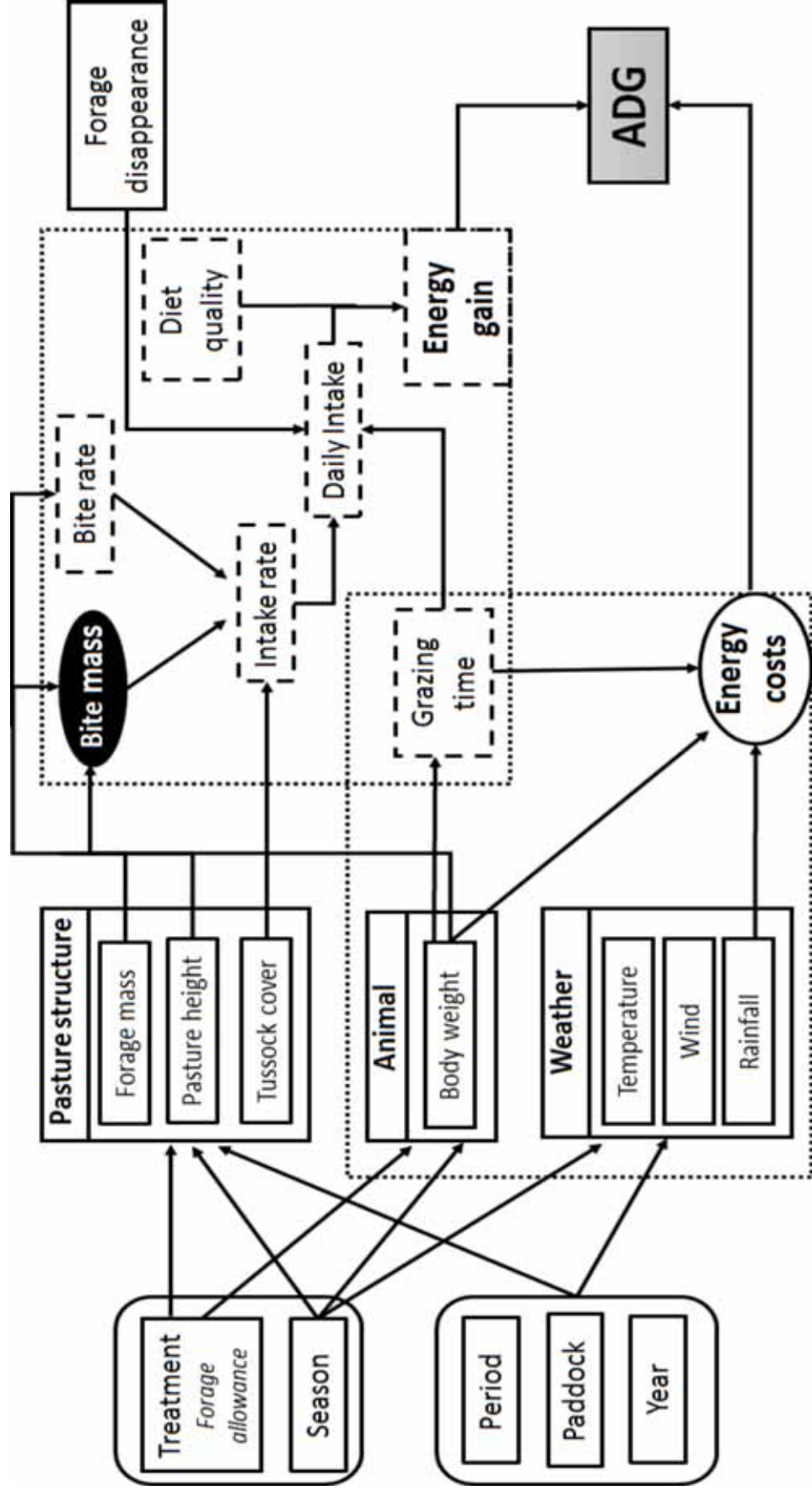


# “Rotatinuous” stocking





# Conceptual model: integrating short-term and long-term variables



Carvalho, P.C.F. et al. 2015. Can animal performance be predicted from short-term grazing processes? *Animal Production Science*, 55: 319-327.



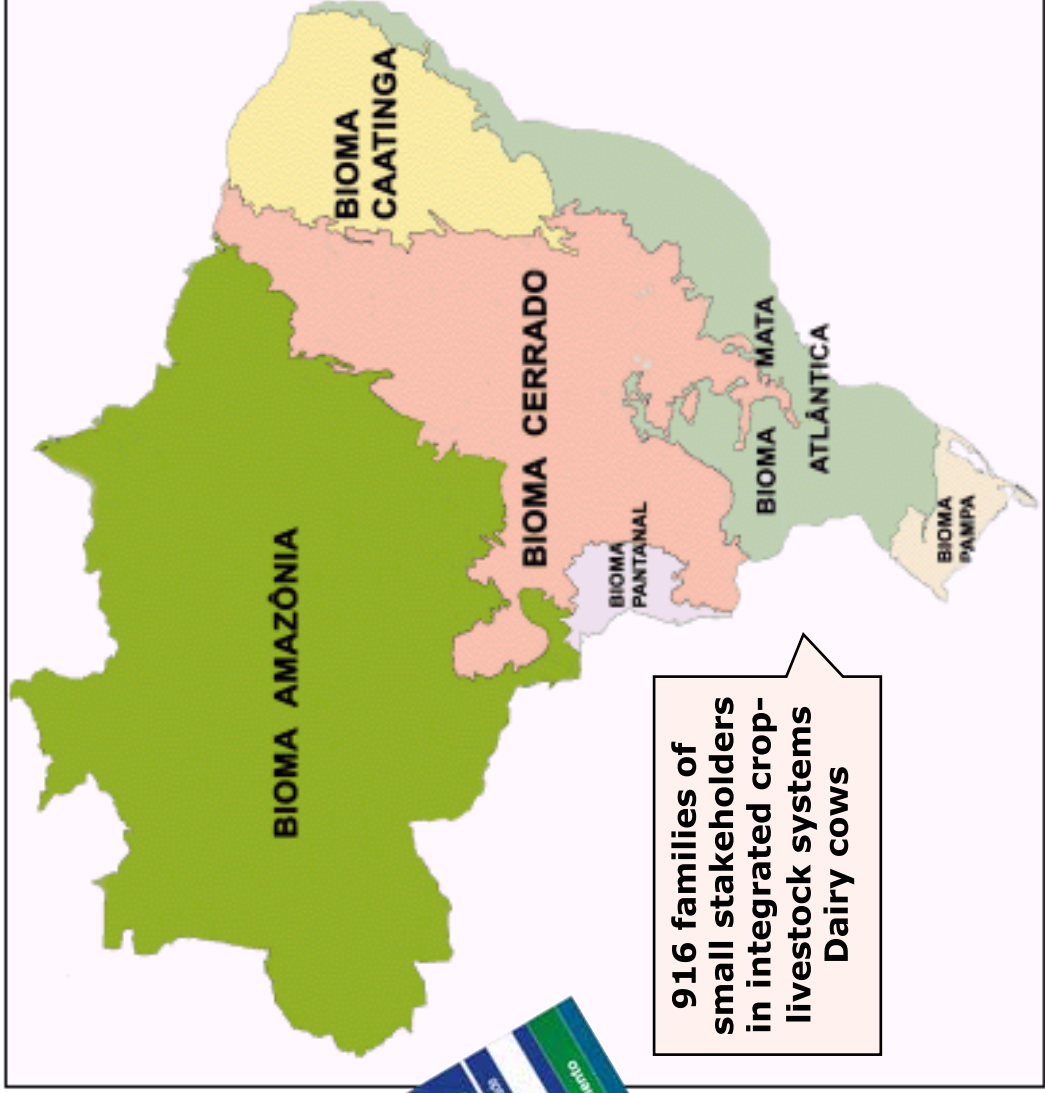
## Rotatinuous grazing: partial conclusions



- Pre-grazing pasture targets depend on the type of forage but causal processes are the same
- Post-grazing pasture targets do not depend on the type of forage (general rule) and causal processes are the same



# The PISA case study: from science to practice



Science into practice: changing small holders lives





# PISA: structure

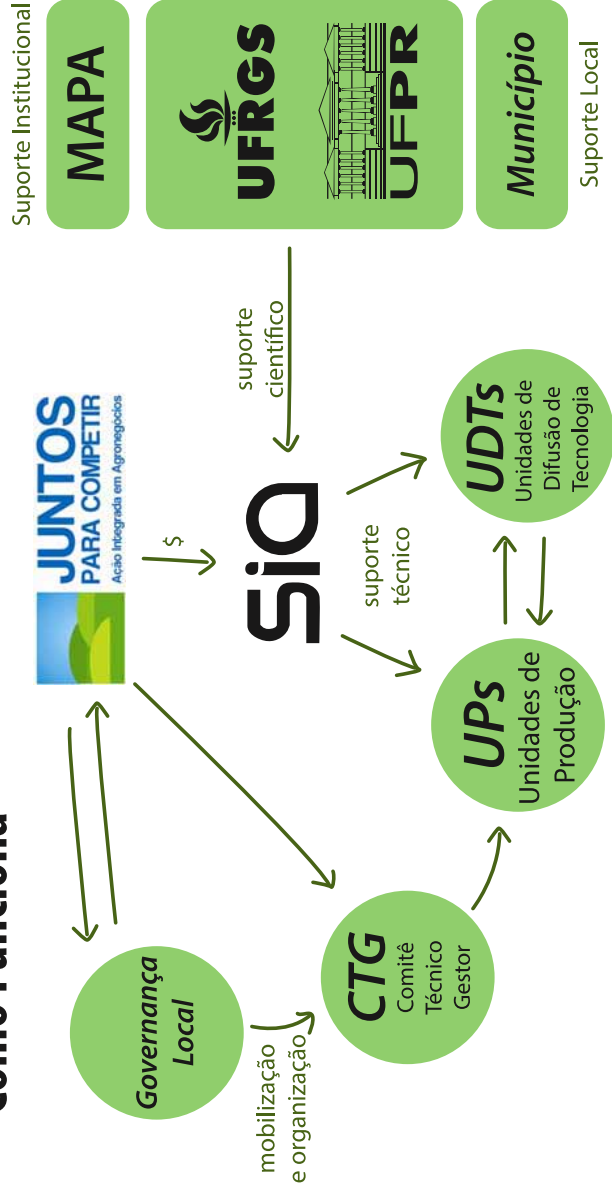


5

Introdução

## PISA

### Como Funciona



PISA



# The PISA case study: from science to practice



Grazing Ecology  
Research Group



On average, farmers milk 14 lactating cows, for a total daily milk production of approximately 150 litres.



Ministério da  
Agricultura, Pecuária  
e Abastecimento



JUNTOS  
PARA COMPETIR  
Ação Integrada em Agronegócios



# Grazing is a time consuming process



Courtesy: M. Gibb



# The "Rotatinuous" stocking method



**ESPECIAL**

**Pastagens**

## O boi é quem manda

**Pastorjo "rotatínuo" não abre mão da rotação de piquetes, mas respeita comportamento natural dos animais, que consomem apenas porção mais nobre do pasto.**

podem selecionar o alimento, como no pastoreio contínuo.

Uma é a grande "vacada" do boi brasileiro, ainda pouco conhecida pelos pecuaristas de corte, mas já bastante usada por produtores de leite do Rio Grande do Sul.

Após 14 anos de pesquisa, comprovamos que os ruminantes têm hábitos de pastoreio muito próprios. Quando podem escolher, comem apenas a parte mais nutritiva das plantas (as folhas), evitando os materiais secos e os mais duros, como as colmoas. O que fazemos, no rotatínuo, é proporcionar esse comportamento, elevando a produtividade tanto de carne quanto de leite.

explana Faccio. Segundo ele, o grande objetivo anual de manejo de pastagens é escolher entre duas vertentes: a máxima eficiência de utilização do sapon e a máxima eficiência de utilização dose alimento pelo animal. A partir de determinados momentos, elas podem ser avaliadas.

Apesar de muitos produtores acreditarem que o boi é quem manda, na verdade, quem manda é o pasto. Quando o boi tem acesso a uma porção mais nobre do pasto, ele consome menos e produz mais leite e carne.



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## Harry Stobbs Memorial Lecture: Can grazing behavior support innovations in grassland management?

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**Keywords:** Grazing management, pasture structure, grazing systems, forage intake, bite mass.

### Abstract

Grazing is a fundamental process affecting grassland ecosystem dynamics and functioning. Its behavioral components comprise how animals search for food, and gather and process plant tissues in different spatio-temporal scales of the grazing process. Nowadays, there is an increasing emphasis on grazing management and the role of the grazing animal on ecosystem services, concomitantly with a decreasing emphasis on grazing management generating animal production outputs. Grazing behavior incorporates both approaches, which are not necessarily dichotomist. It would provide the basis to support innovation in grazing systems. However, it is unclear how the significant knowledge developed in this research area since the disciplines of Agronomy and Ecology began to interact, have supported creativity in grazing science. It seems there is a current gap in this context, which was a major concern of ruminant researchers like Harry Stobbs. This paper pays tribute to him, reviewing recent grazing behavior research and prioritizing those studies originating in the favorable tropics and subtropics. New evidence on how pasture structure limits forage intake in homogeneous and heterogeneous pastures is presented. Pasture management strategies designed to maximize bite mass and forage intake per unit grazing time are assumed to promote both animal production and landscape value. To conclude, a Brazilian case study (PISA) is briefly described to illustrate how grazing behavior research can reach farmers and change their lives by using simple management strategies ("take the best and leave the rest" rule) supported by reductionist approaches applied in holistic frameworks.

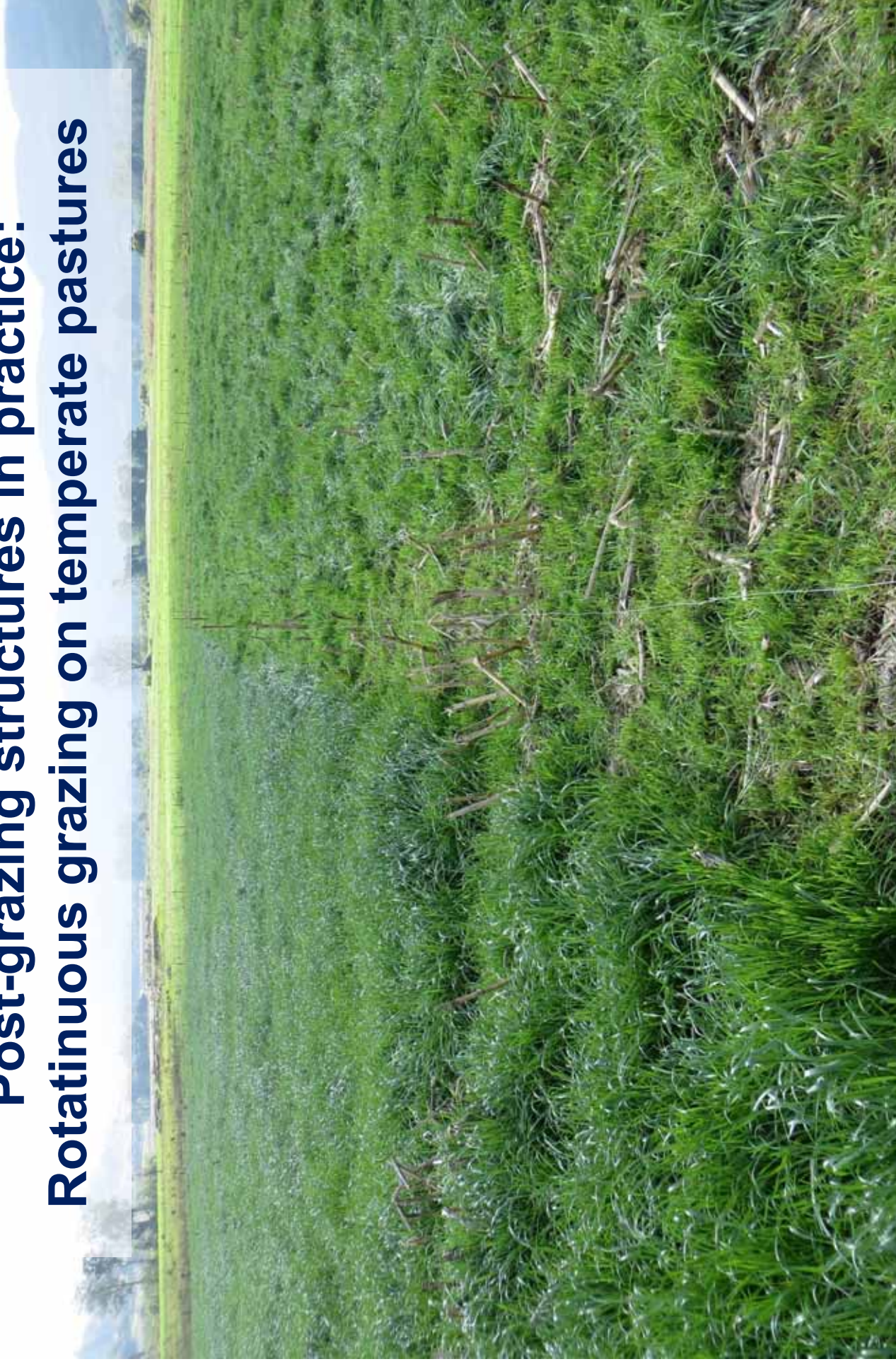
### Resumen

El pastoreo es un proceso fundamental que afecta la dinámica y el funcionamiento de los ecosistemas de pasturas. Sus componentes comprenden la forma cómo los animales buscan el alimento y lo ingieren y cómo procesan los tejidos de las plantas en diferentes escalas espacio-temporales dentro del proceso de pastoreo. Actualmente existe un énfasis creciente en el manejo del pastoreo y en el papel de los animales en pastoreo respecto a los servicios de ecosistemas, conjuntamente con el descenso del énfasis en el manejo de pastoreo con fines de producción animal. El comportamiento de pastoreo incorpora ambos enfoques, los cuales no necesariamente son dicotómicos, puede proporcionar la base para innovaciones en los sistemas de pastoreo. No obstante no es claro cómo los avances significativos del conocimiento en esta área de investigación, desde que las disciplinas de agronomía y ecología comenzaron a interactuar, han contribuido a la creatividad en la ciencia del pastoreo. Aparentemente existe un vacío en este contexto, y esto fue una de las preocupaciones principales de investigadores líderes como Harry Stobbs. En el presente documento se rinde homenaje a este científico y se revisan las investigaciones recientes en comportamiento de pastoreo, priorizando estudios procedentes de zonas favorables del trópico y subtropical. Se presenta una nueva evidencia de la forma cómo la estructura de una pastura limita el consumo del forraje tanto en pasturas homogéneas como heterogéneas. Se asume que las estrategias de manejo del pastoreo, diseñadas a maximizar el bocado y su ingestión por unidad de tiempo de pastoreo, son dirigidas a promover tanto la producción animal como el valor paisajístico. Para concluir, se presenta un estudio de caso en Brasil (PISA) que ilustra y describe brevemente cómo la investigación en el comportamiento de pastoreo puede llegar a los productores para contribuir a su bienestar sólo con la adopción de estrategias sencillas de manejo (la regla del "tome lo mejor y deje el resto"), con el apoyo de enfoques reduccionistas que se aplican en marcos holísticos.

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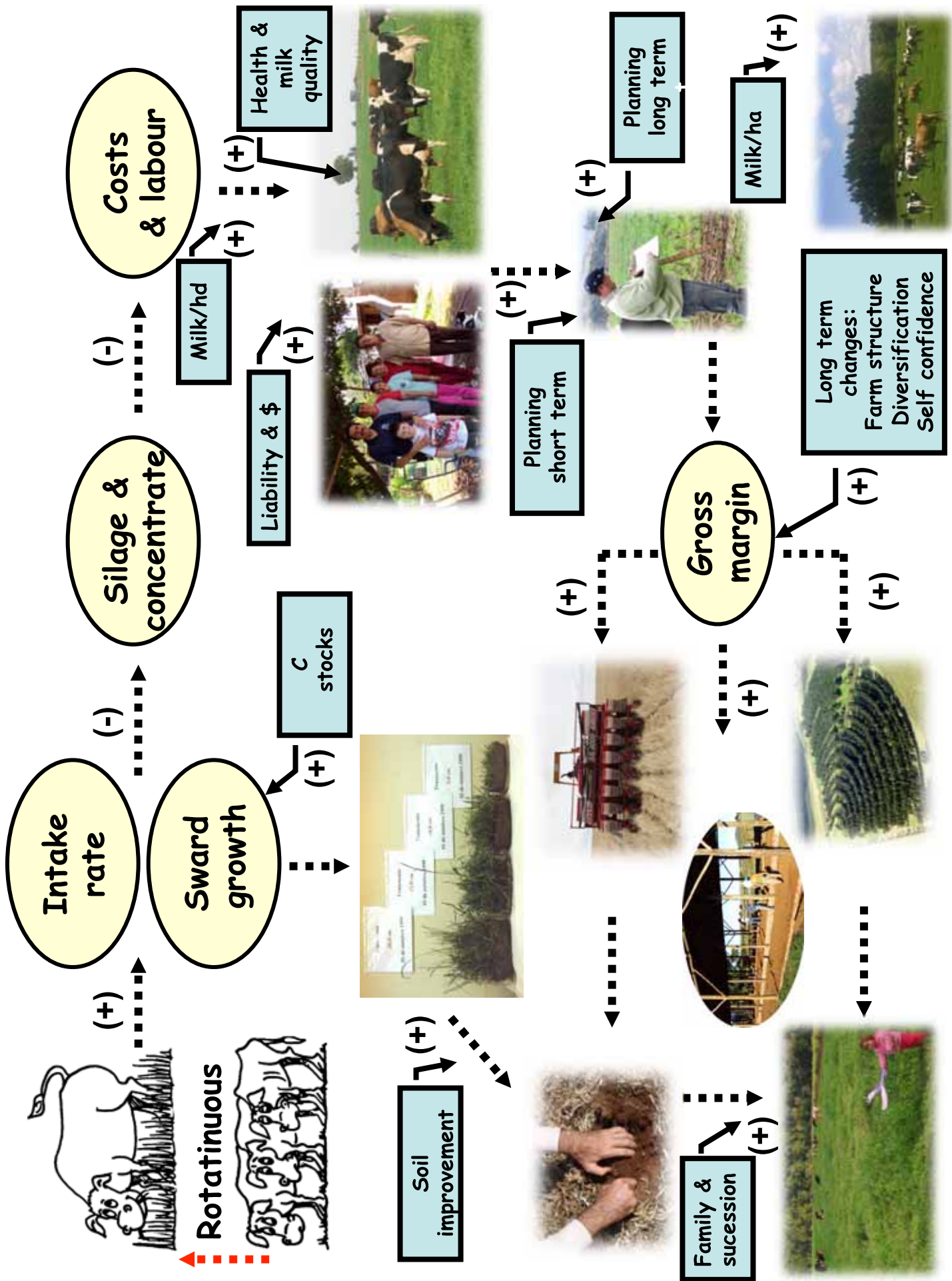
[www.tropicalgrasslands.info](http://www.tropicalgrasslands.info)

# **Post-grazing structures in practice: Rotatinuous grazing on temperate pastures**



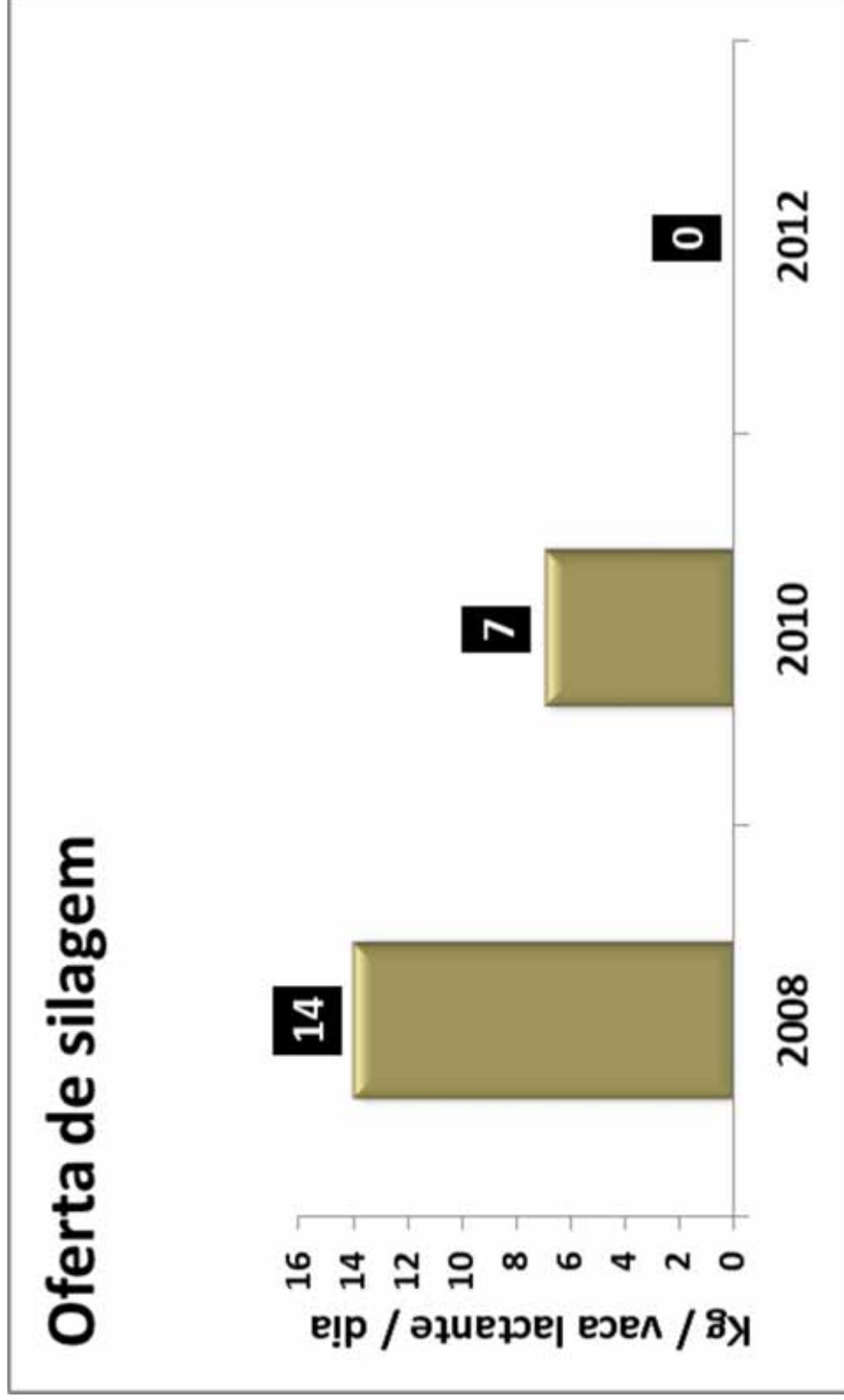
**Post-grazing structures in practice:  
“Rotatinuous grazing” on tropical pastures**







# The PISA case study: from science to practice

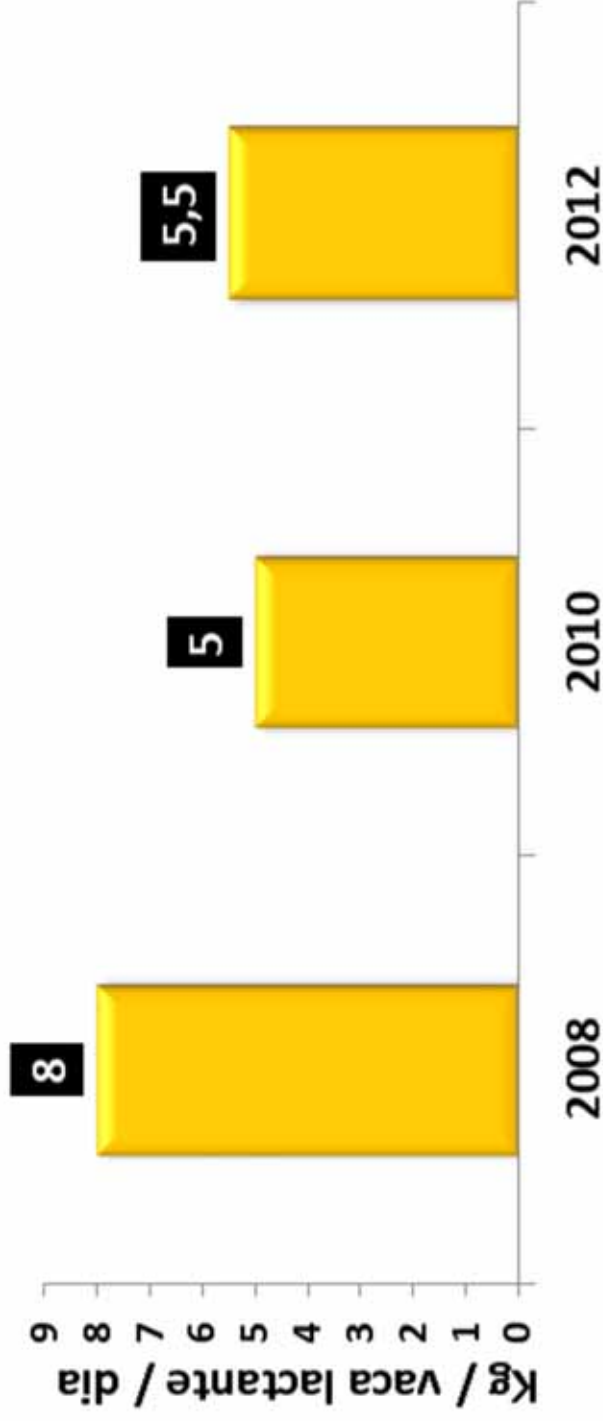




# The PISA case study: from science to practice

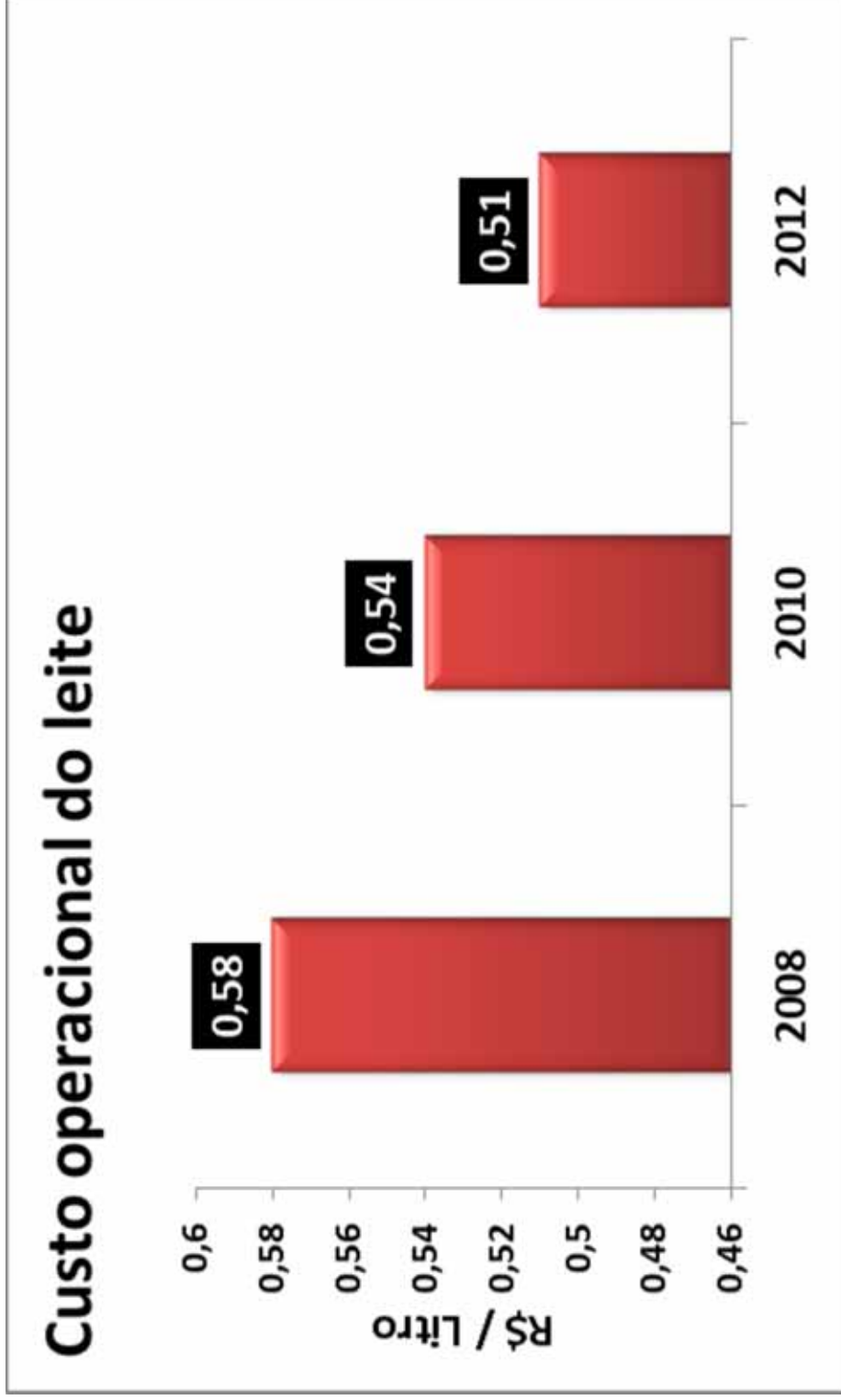


## Oferta de ração concentrada

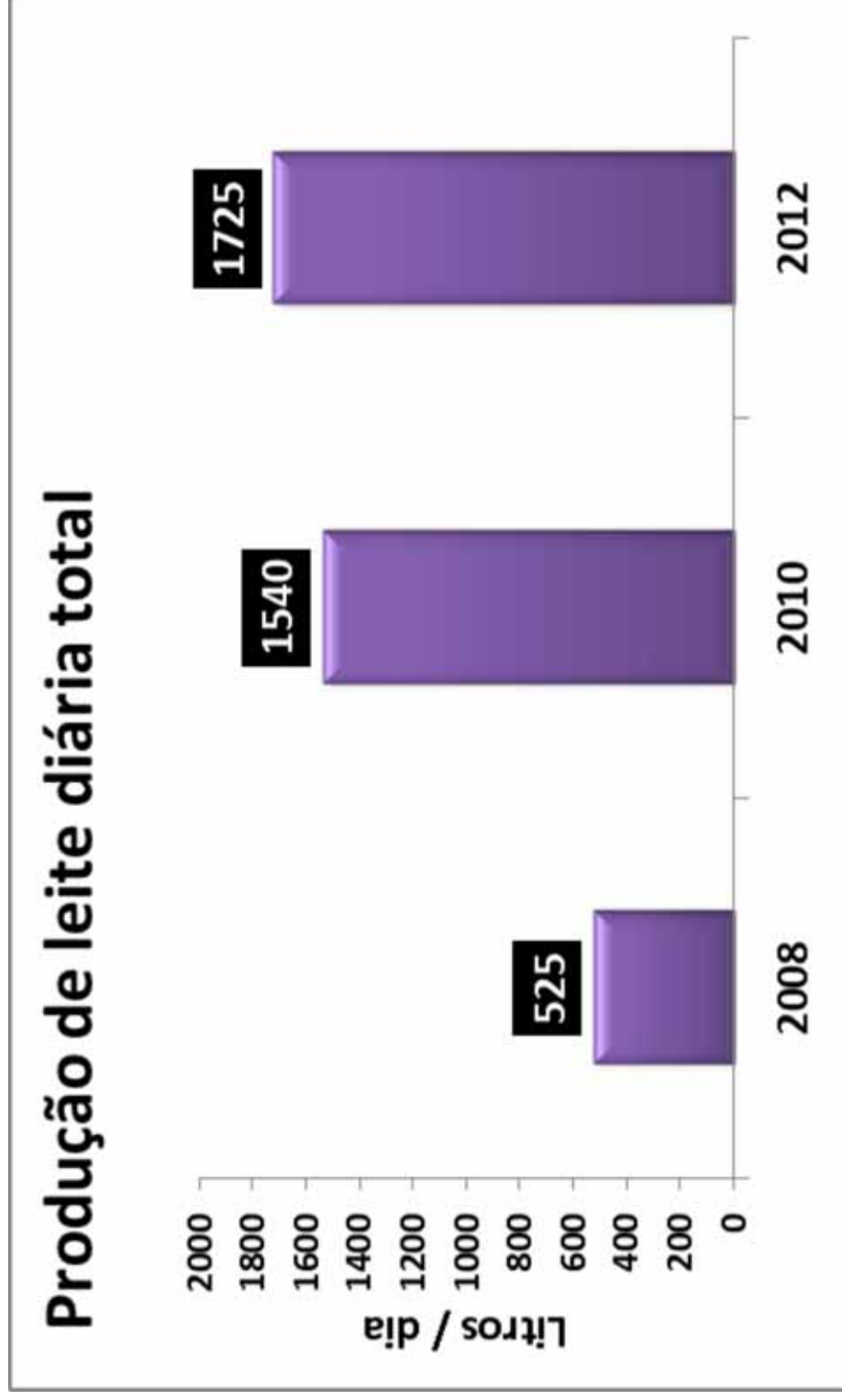




# The PISA case study: from science to practice

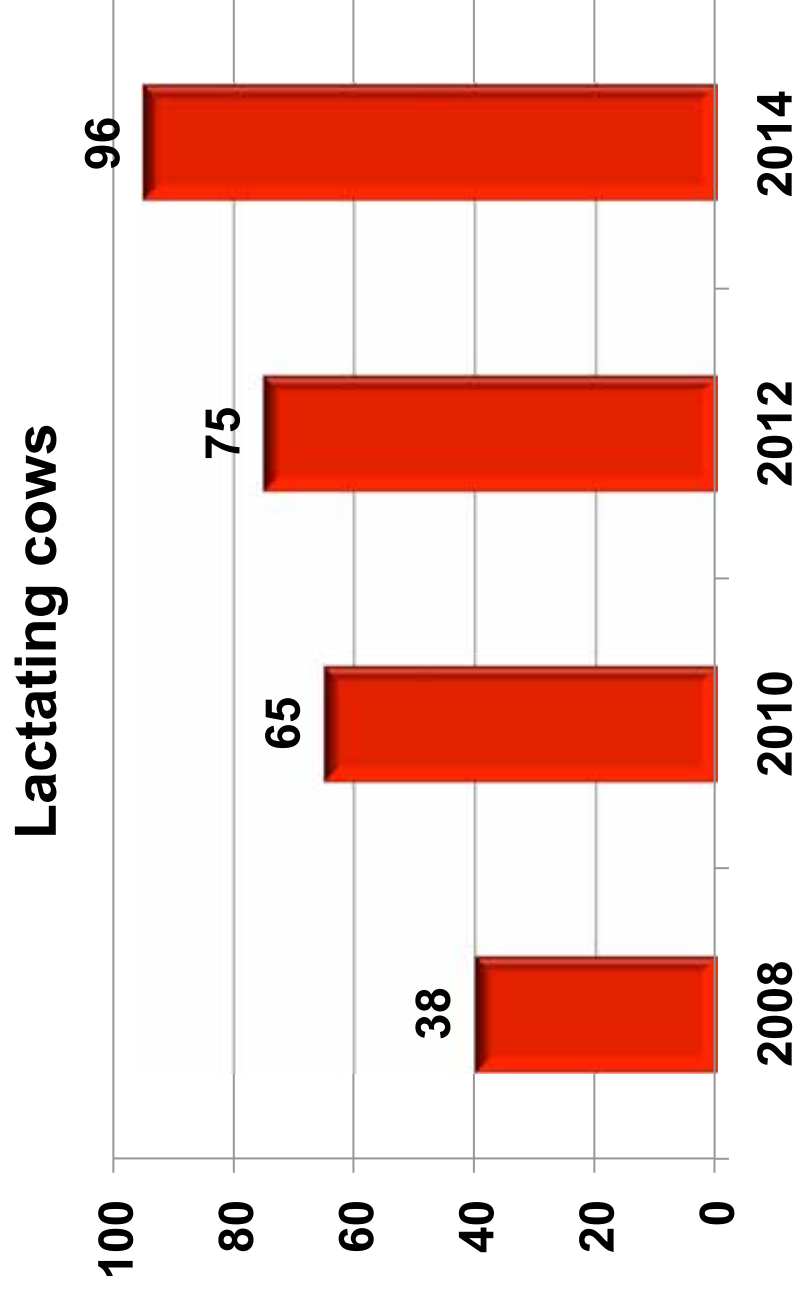


# The PISA case study: from science to practice



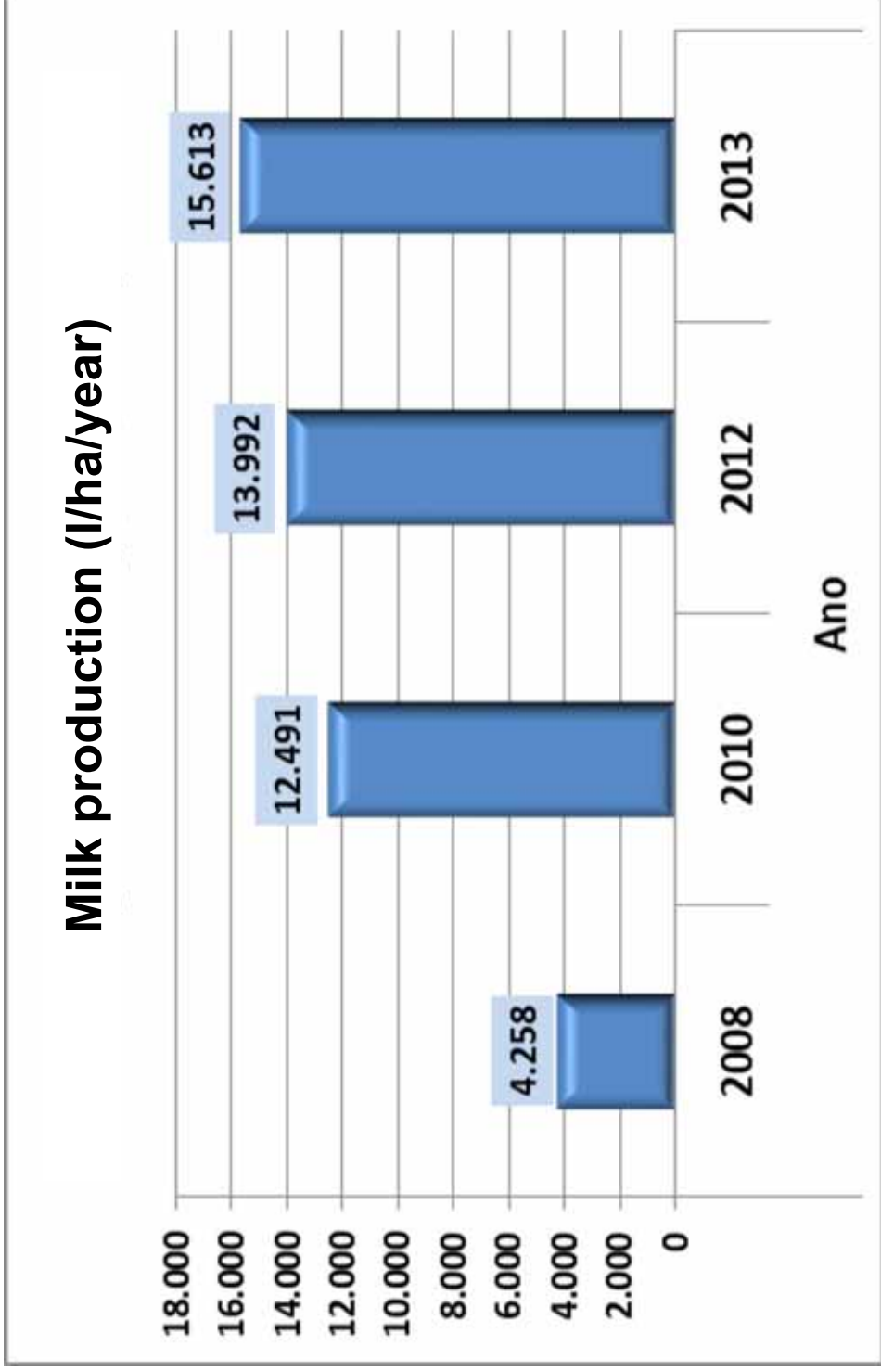


# The PISA case study: from science to practice



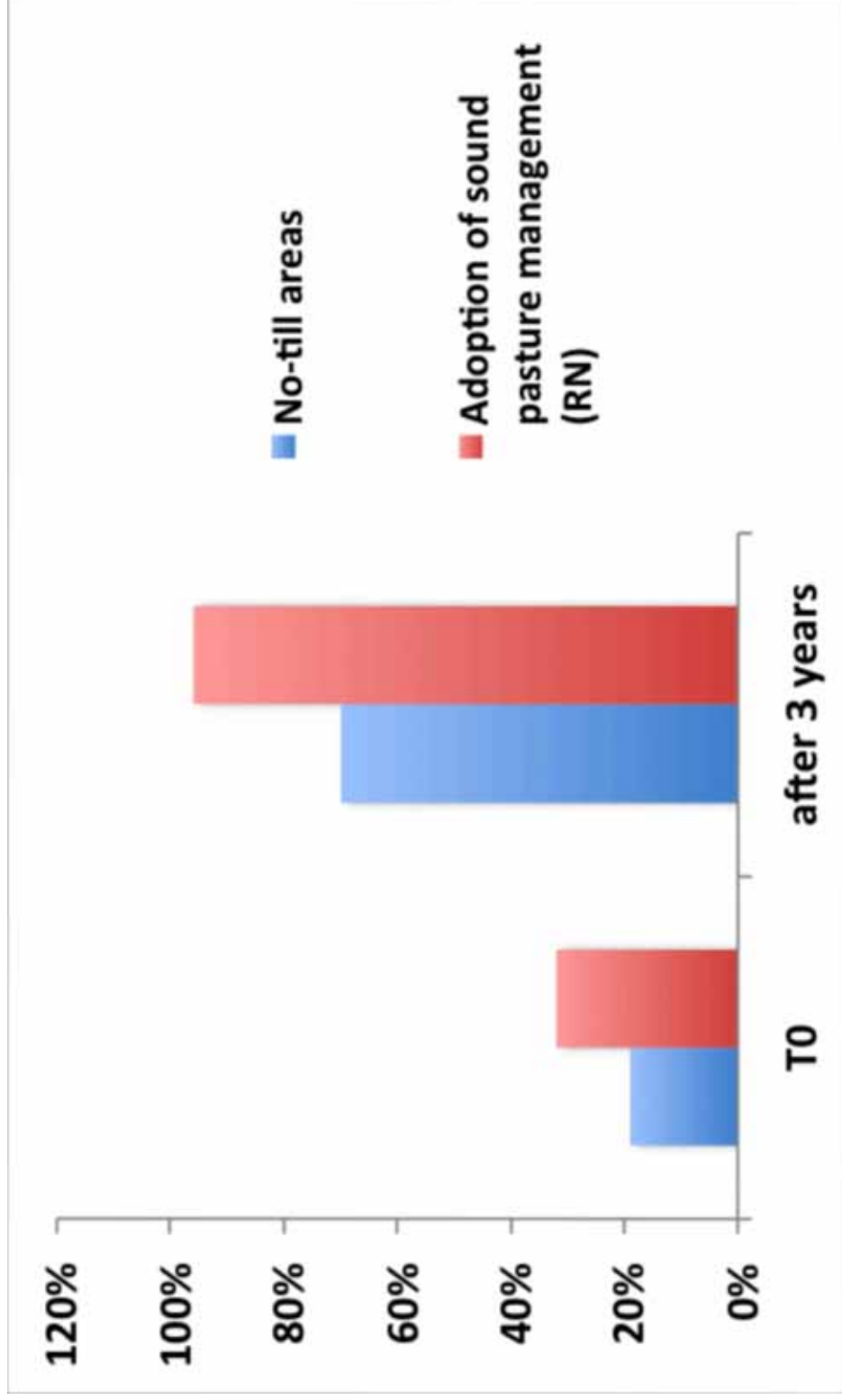


# The PISA case study: from science to practice





# The PISA case study: from science to practice





# Stakeholder empowerment



*Alexandre Becker  
Sward stick– home made*



*Field day PISA Vale do Taquari  
Traverseiro, RS, July 2012*

Courtesy: SIA









# Need for innovation in grazing science



Thanks to GPEP  
research group  
Photos by C.E. Pinto

Long-term field sampling  
consequences...



Lessons about biodiversity

...being enthusiastic...



# Learning with the wise man...



# Collaboration

US

AR

EMBRAPA

UY





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# Building pastoral environments, a grazing management concept.....



Grazing Ecology  
Research Group  
UFRGS

