African Lovegrass grazing management strategies

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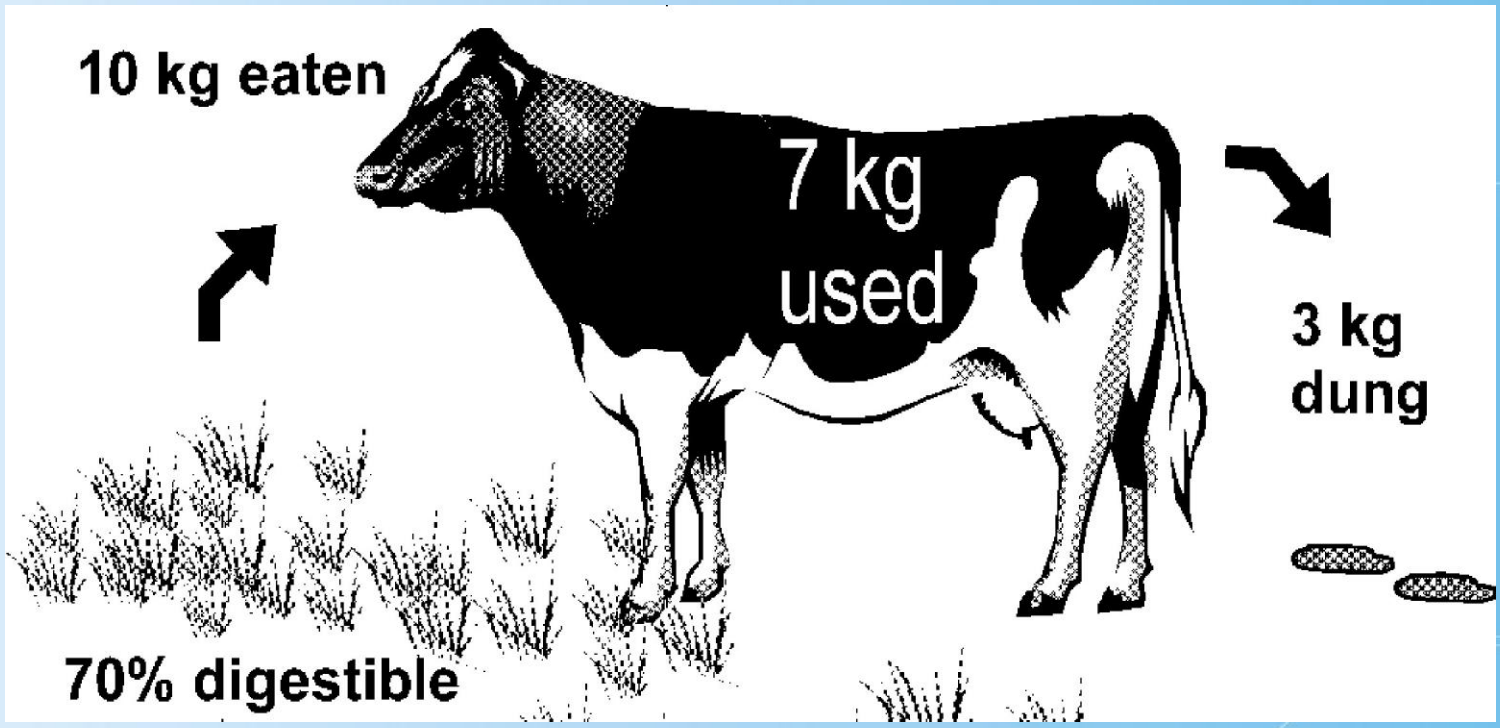
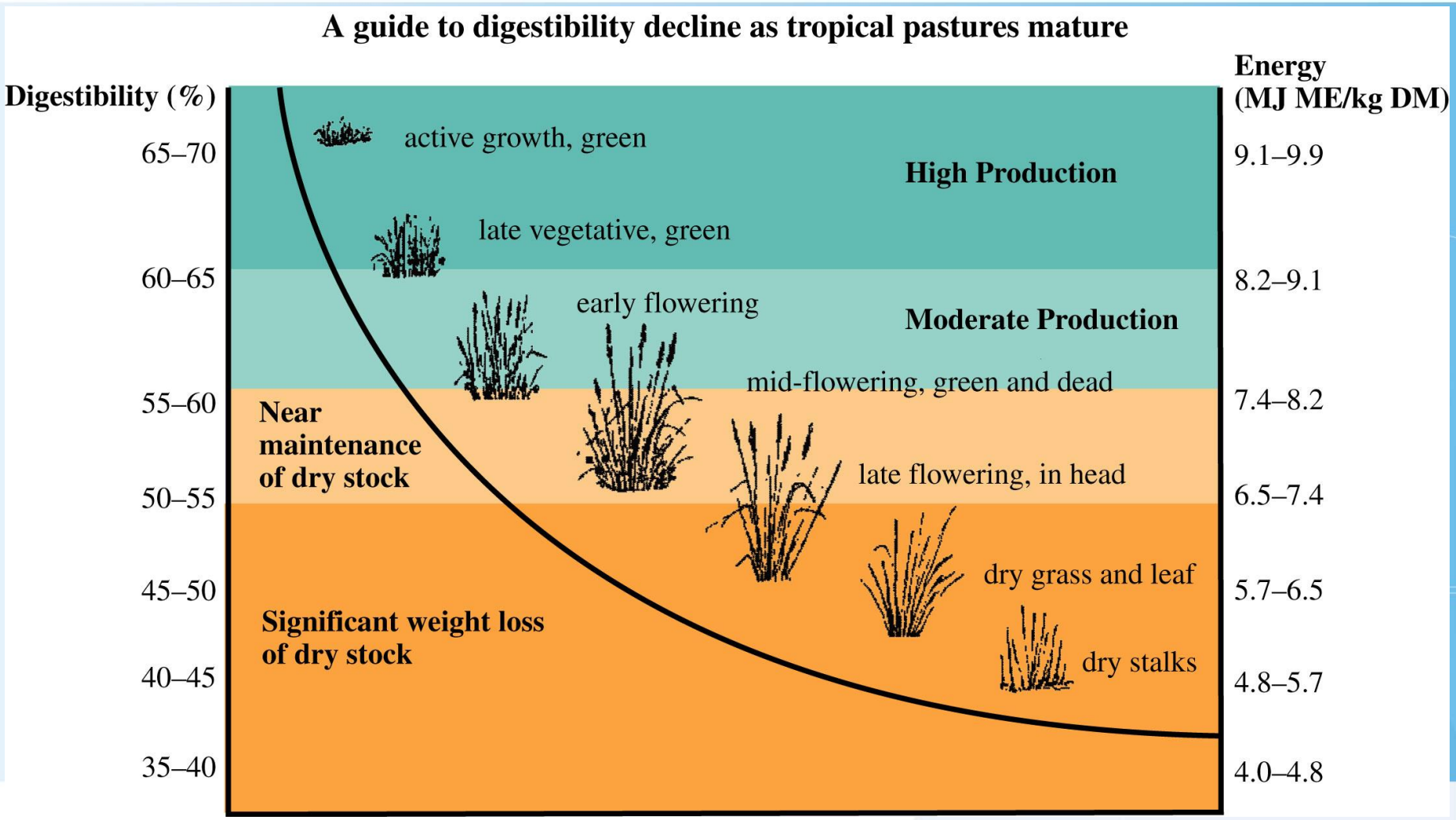
Digestibility
Feed Quality
Growth cycle
Stocking density/Grazing pressure
Methods to remove overall density

The most useful measure of pasture quality is digestibility.



Relationship between Digestibility and Pasture Maturity (Tropical Pasture)



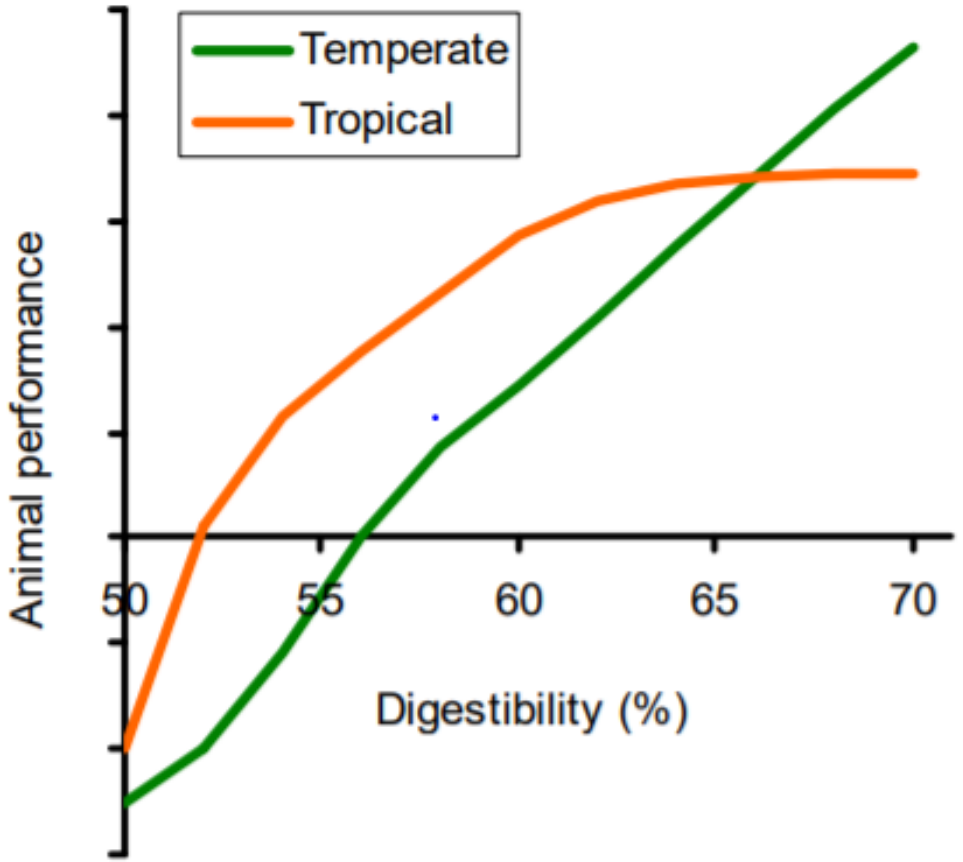
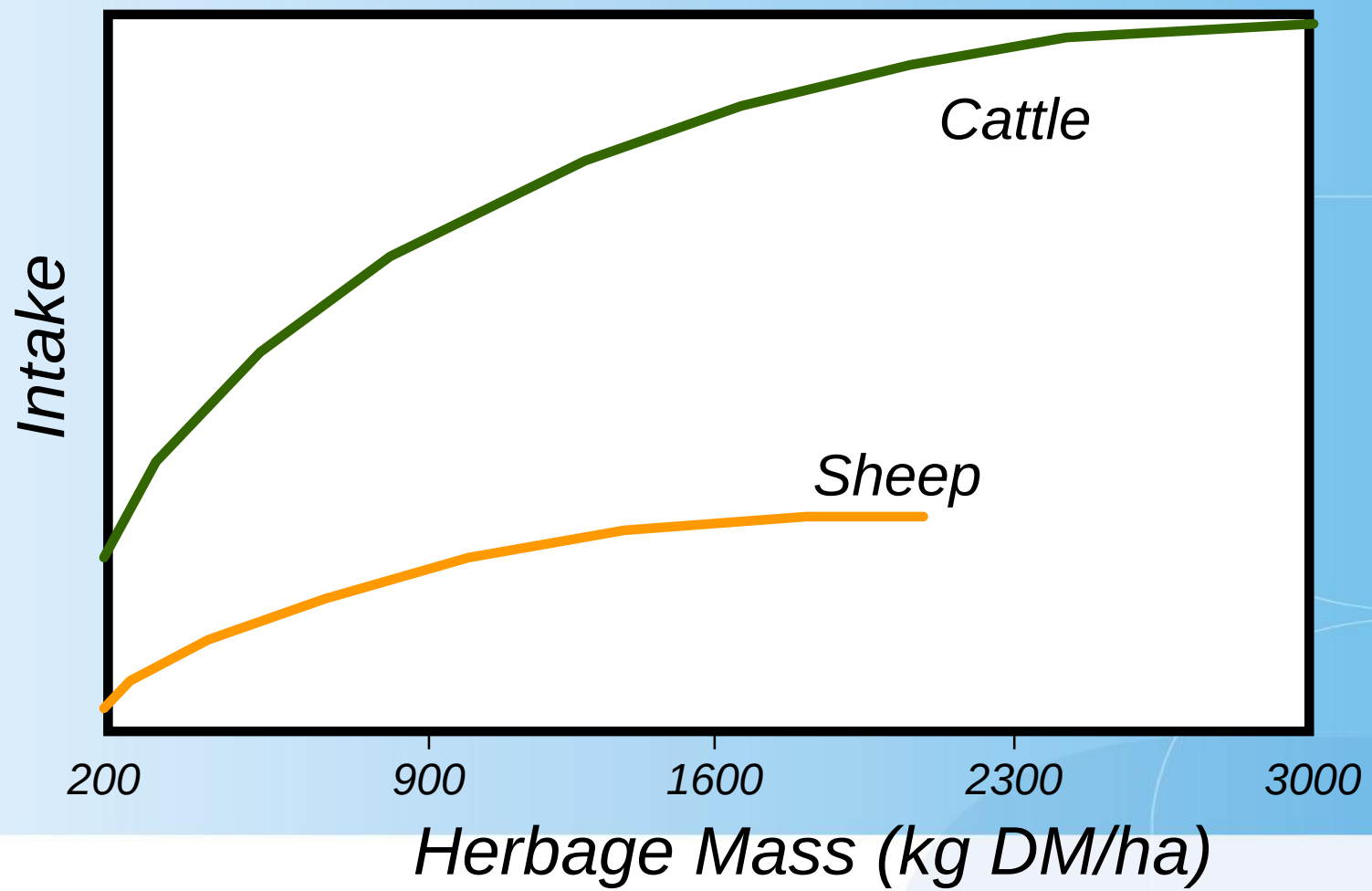
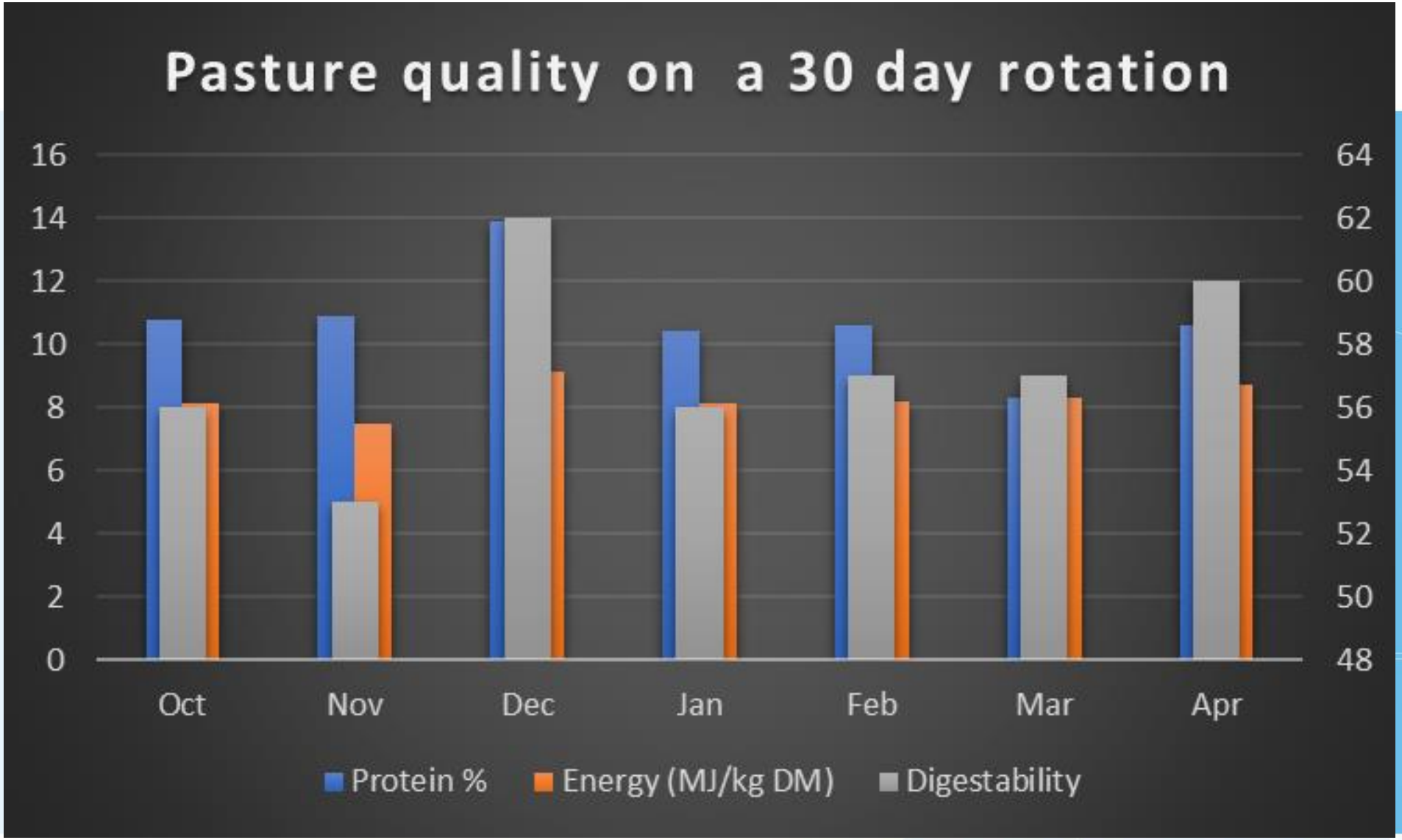


Figure 1. The relative performance of animals grazing temperate and tropical perennial grasses varies as pasture quality changes. Animal performance can be higher on tropical perennial grasses when digestibility declines below 66%.

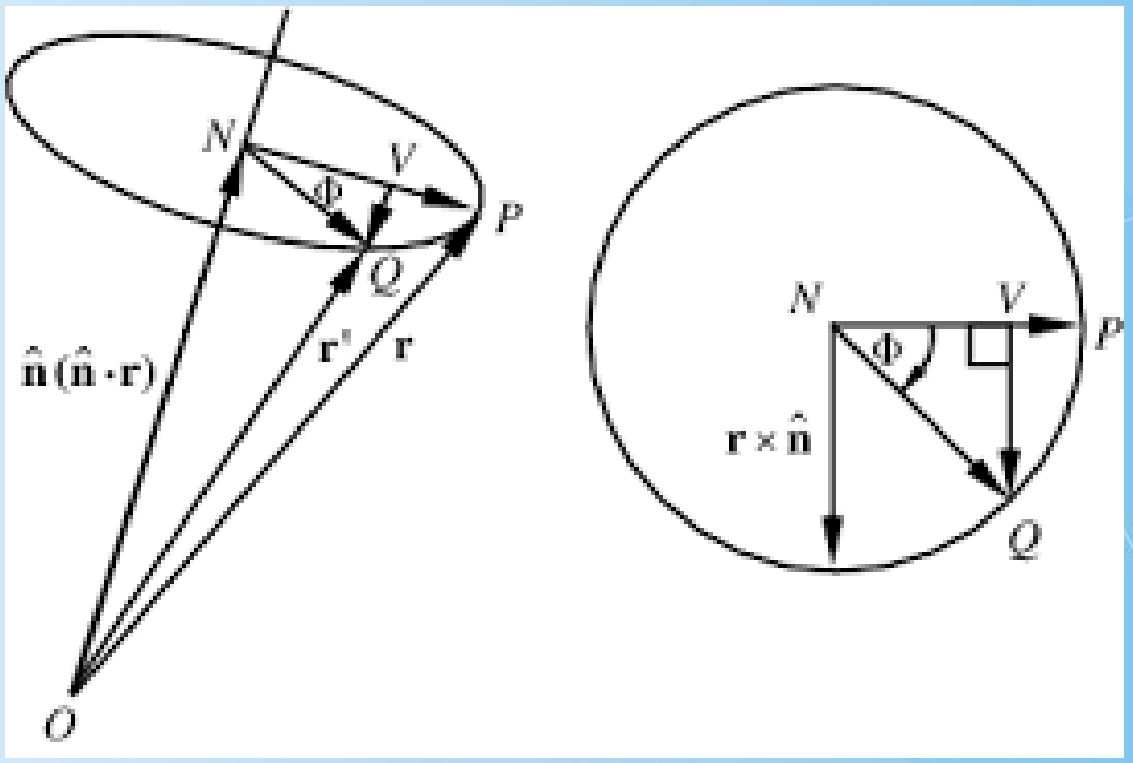

Feed intake is the driver for animals production so the focus needs to be on optimising the amount of green feed available.

Pasture availability limits intake




Pasture quality on a 30 day rotation
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
64
62
60
58
56
54
52
50
48
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
Protein %
Energy (MJ/kg DM)
Digestability

A 30 day rotation will maximise livestock performance over the growing period



Stocking density on a 30 day rotation

- In 2020 season Lovegrass growth rates were 33 Kg Dm/ha/day at the Glen Innes Research Station
- 49 steers (300 kg each)/10ha paddock
- 410 wethers (66kg each)/10ha paddock

Hight Stocking Density and a Rotational System

- Will keep the forage at optimum quality and extend the period of short green growth


High stock densities are not changing the overall stocking rate for the property, more so it better utilises the pasture available
Be mindful of winter feed requirements
Trading over the summer period may be an option

Other benefits of a 30 day cycle

- Decreased canopy cover
- Decreases amount of seed set
- Light to allow for competition

Obstacles

Obstacles

Slashing

Burning

Hay making

Feed quality of Lovegrass from Autumn to Early Spring

Metabolisable Energy (MJ/Kg DM)	4.8
Crude Protein	Less than 2%
Neutral Detergent fibre	90%
Digestibility	Less than 39%

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