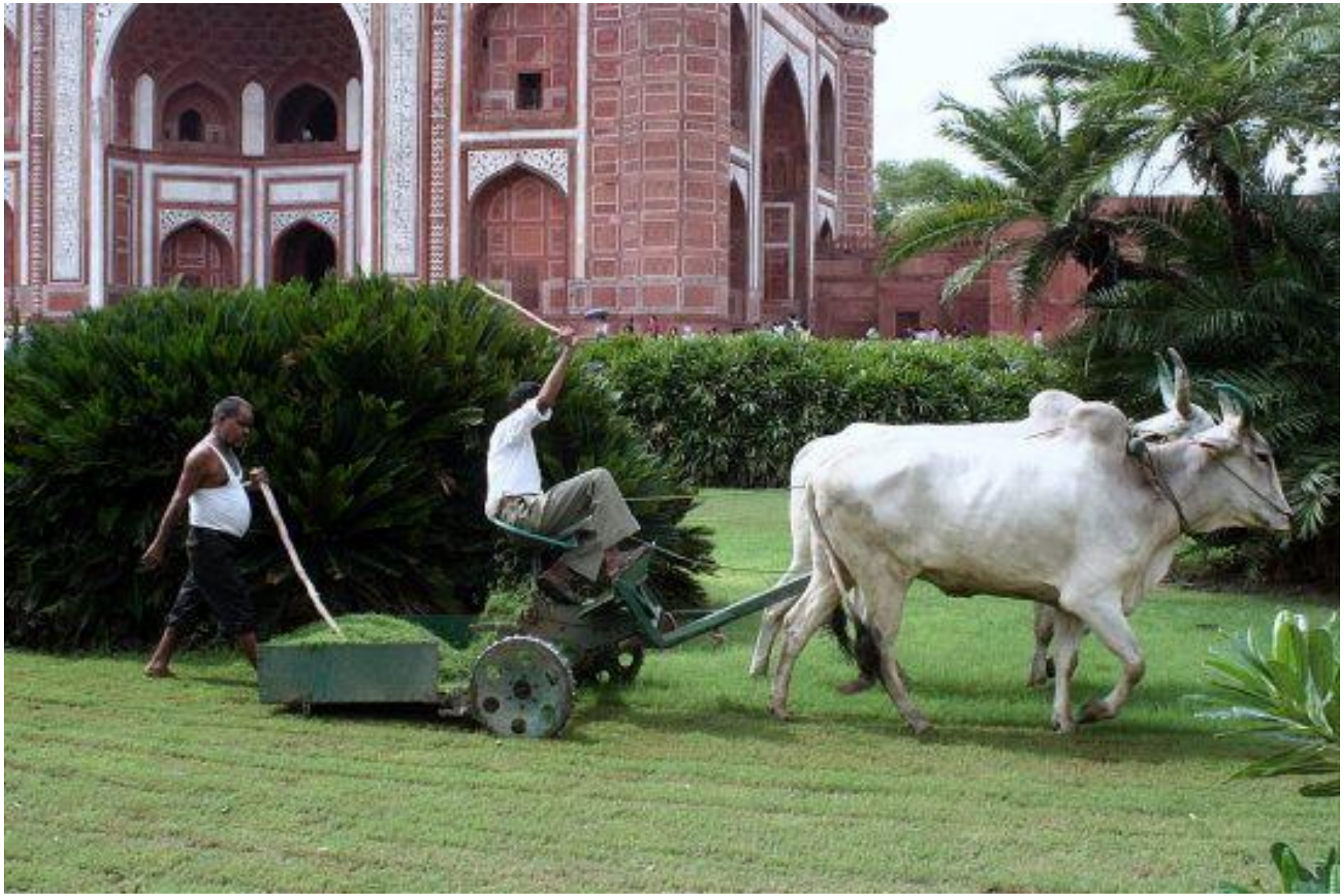
PLANNING NUTRITION FROM PASTURES
IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Question – What is the most important factor influencing nutrition with ruminants?

INTAKE



INTAKE

PASTURE YIELD

STAGE OF GROWTH

PALATABILITY / SPECIES COMPOSITION

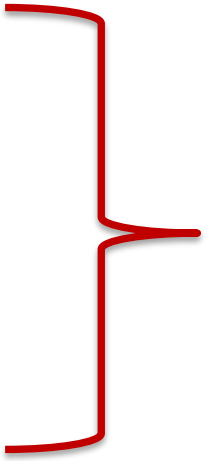
NUTRIENT BALANCE

STRESSORS (TICKS,WORMS,DISEASE)

AGE AND CLASS OF ANIMALS

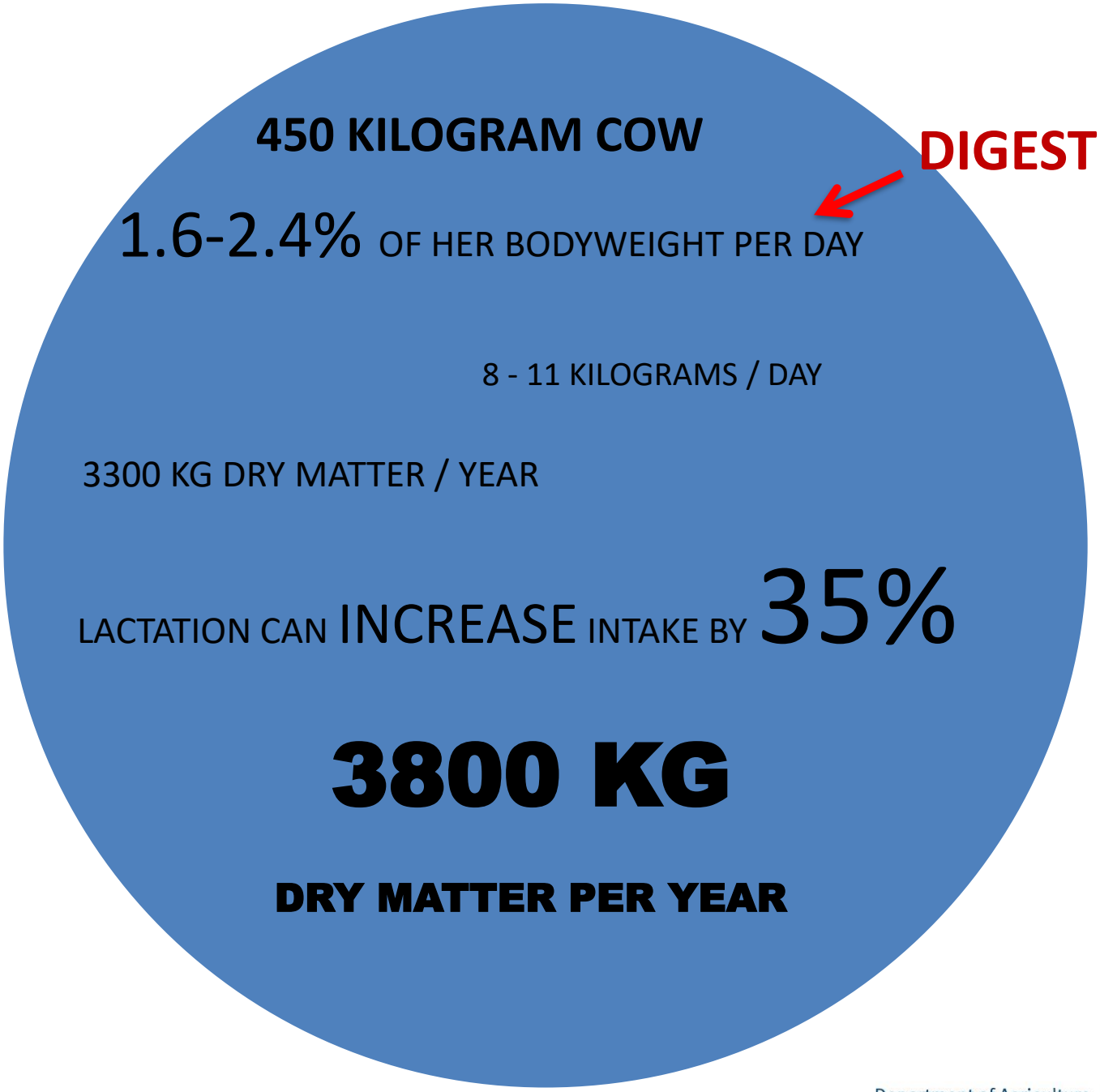
LACTATION

WATER QUALITY



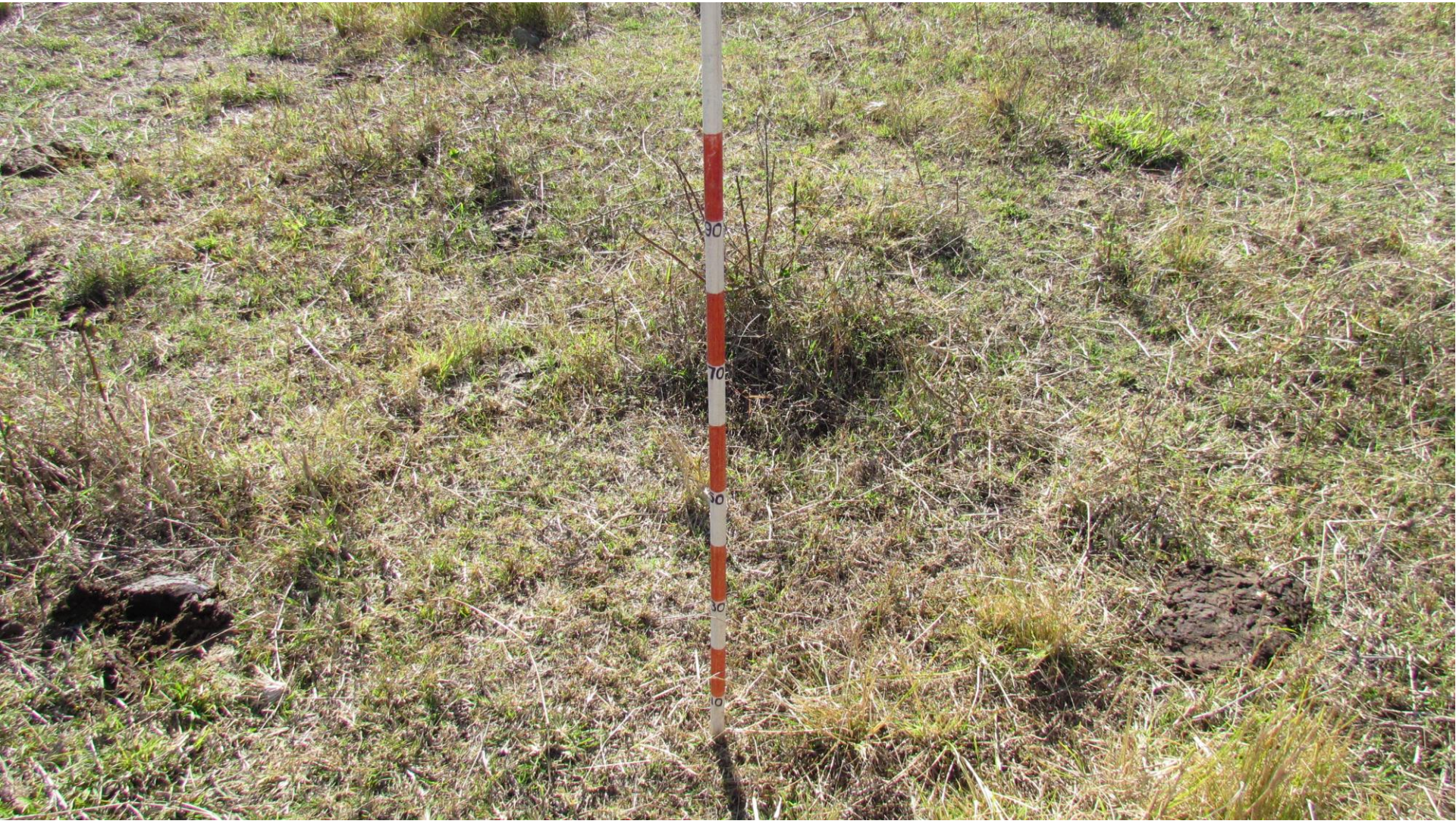
DIGESTABILITY


HOW MUCH DO YOUR ANIMALS EAT??

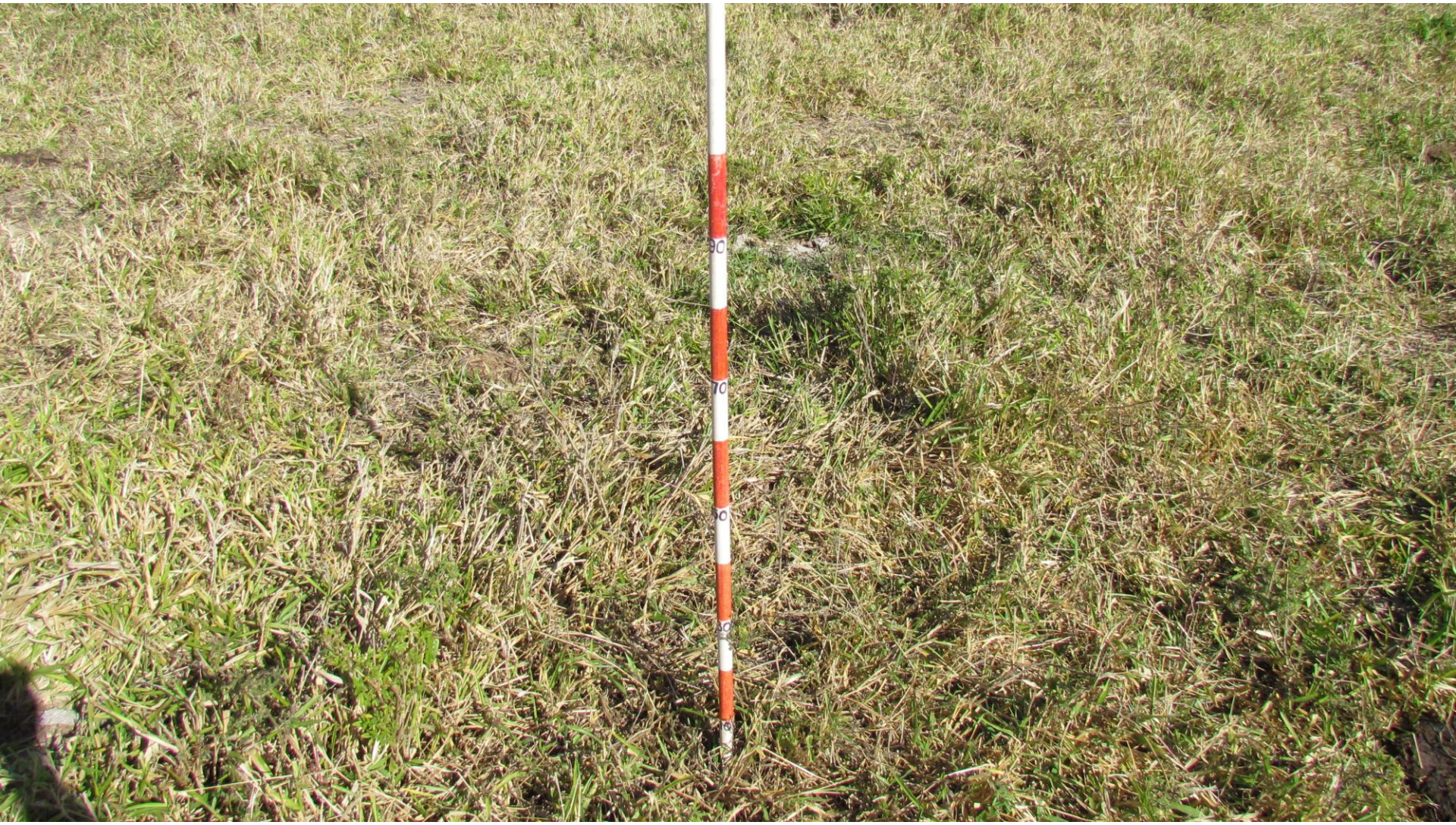


WHAT ARE THE NUTRITION ADVANTAGES OF MANAGING **LAND CONDITION?**

LAND CONDITION C



LAND CONDITION B



How do these pastures compare nutritionally??

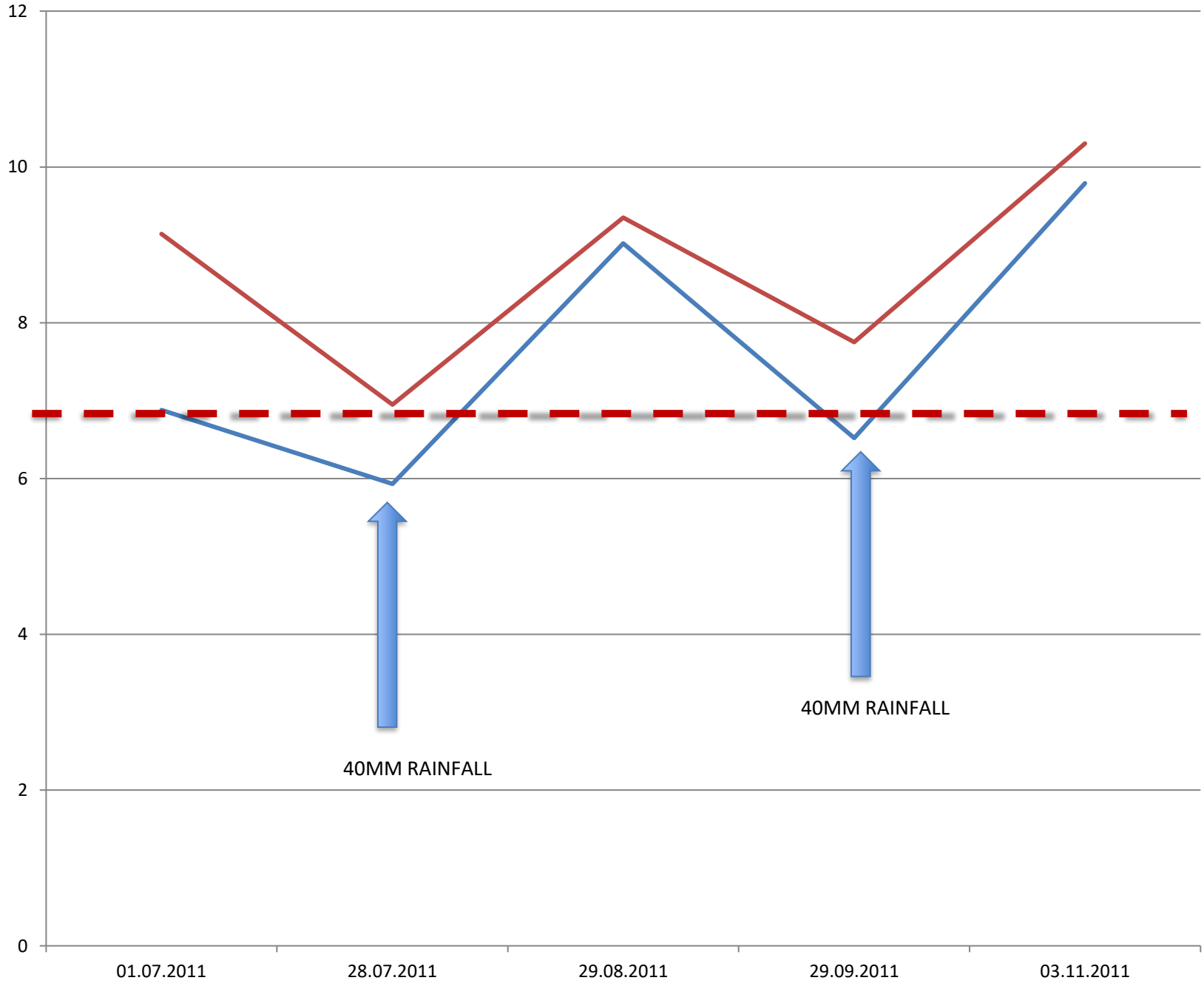
Faecal NIRS

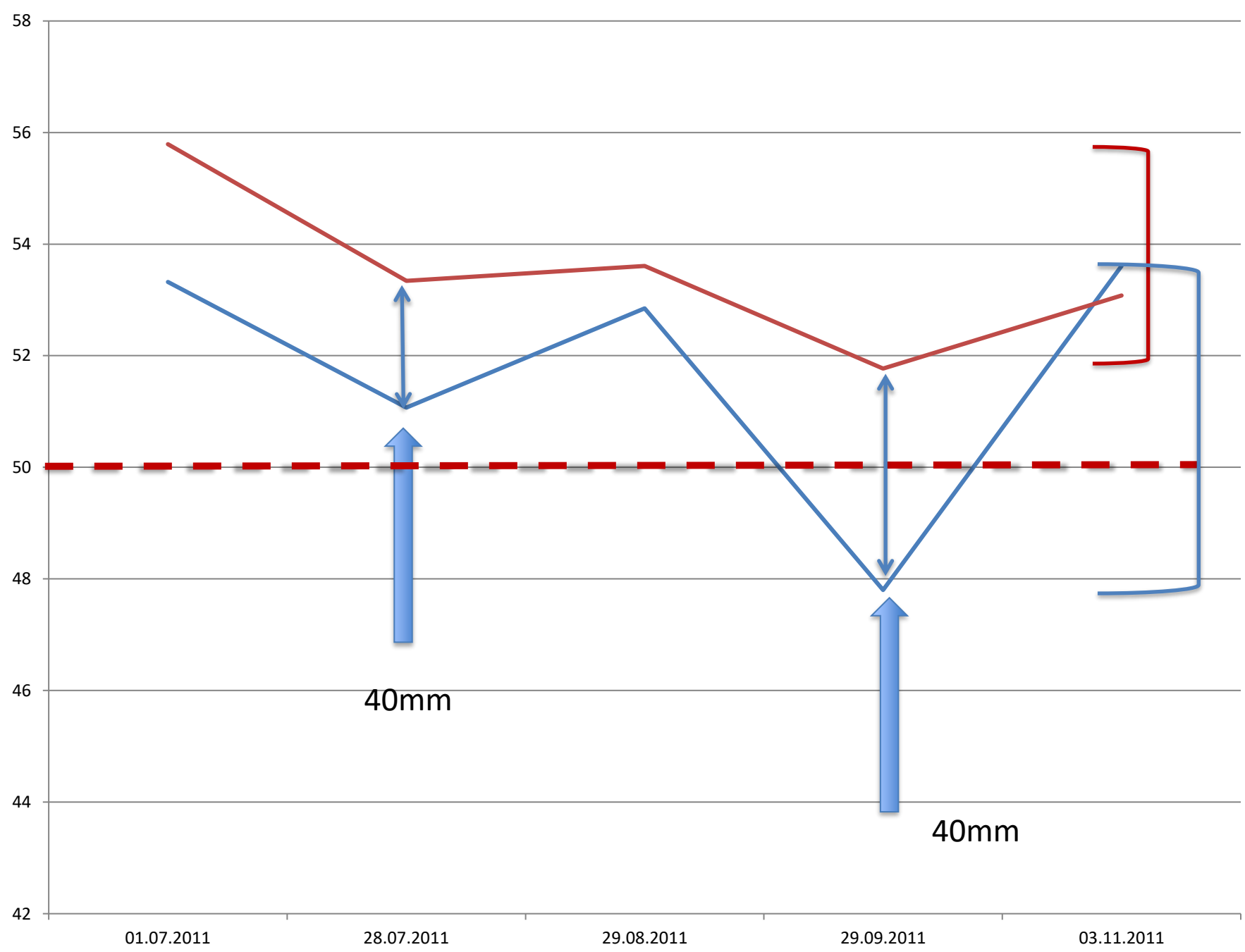
Forage Crude Protein

Dry Matter Digestibility

5 month period

July-November





WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE THOSE CATTLE GRAZING THE PADDOCKS?

	LAND CONDITION A	LAND CONDITION C
DMD (%)	52	48
ME/kg of grass	7.5	6.5
CP (%)	8	7
DM intake of 400kg cow (Dry/pregnant)	2.0% (8.0kg)	1.8 % (7.2kg)
Overall ME intake (MJ)	60 MJ	47 MJ
Overall CP intake (g)	640 g	504 g
Requirement of the cow (3rd trimester)	67 MJ 657 g	
Weight loss in B condition paddock	0.1kg/head/day	
Weight loss in C condition paddock	0.4kg/head/day	

DEFICIT =
20MJ ENERGY
140 G PROTEIN
2.5 kilograms of M8U/head/day

IN SUMMARY

MAXIMISING RUMINANT FUNCTION AND EFFICIENCY (INTAKE) IS VERY IMPORTANT TO MANAGING BEEF CATTLE.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE THIS BUT THE KEY IS THROUGH MANAGEMENT OF PASTURES.

SMALL INCREASES IN PASTURE YIELD, QUALITY AND DIVERSITY CAN HAVE LARGE IMPACTS ON RUMIANT PERFORMANCE.

CAN WE PROVE TO OURSELVES THAT WE ARE DOING A GOOD JOB ON THESE?

PLANNING IS THE KEY.