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Integrating lucerne into a high country merino system

D. Anderson, L. Anderson, D.J. Moot and G.I. Ogle

New Zealand's specialist land-based university

Publication details



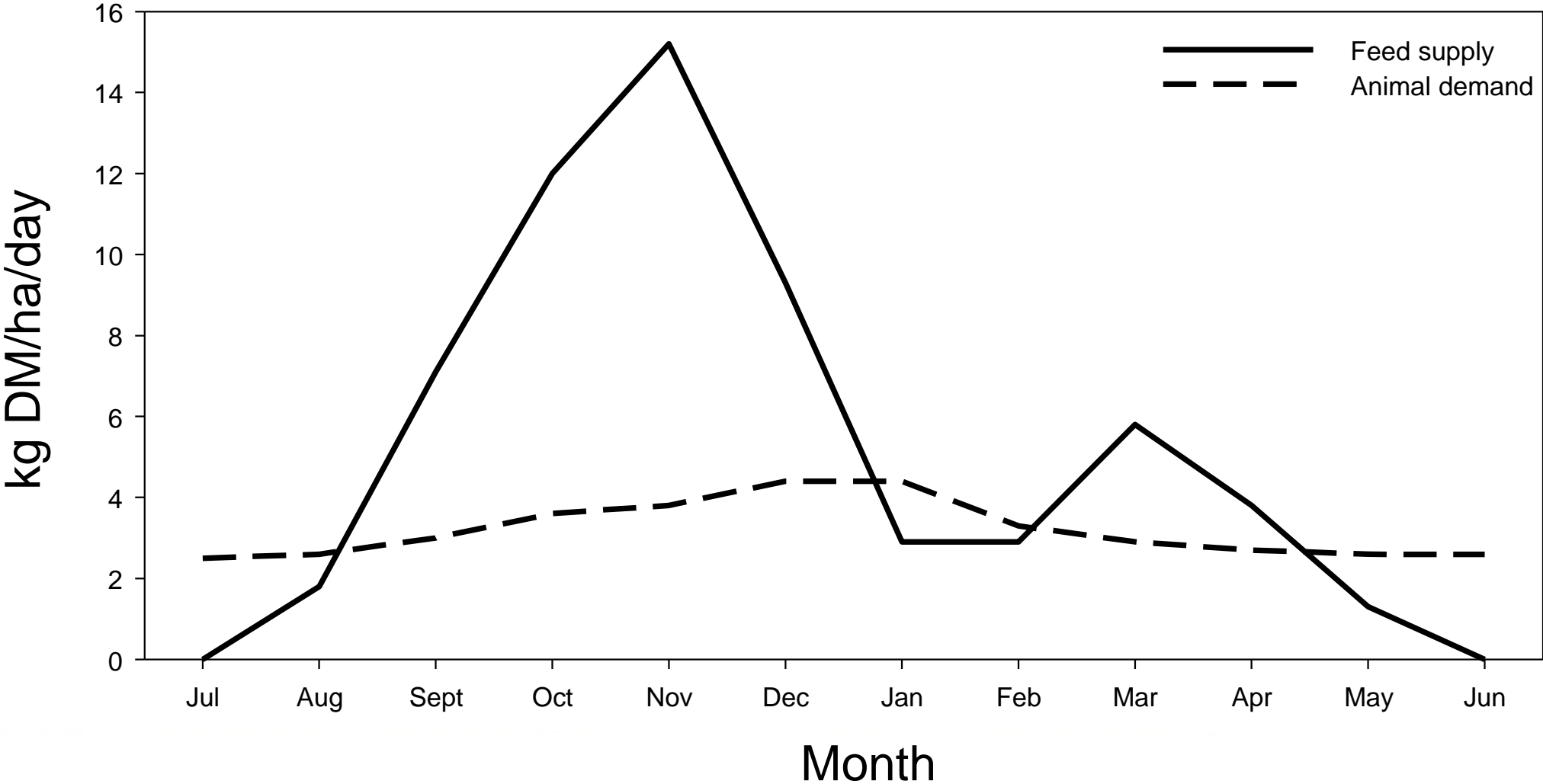
This presentation was made at the 76th Annual New Zealand Grasslands Conference held Alexandra, Napier from 5-7 Nov 2014.

It is associated with the following publication:

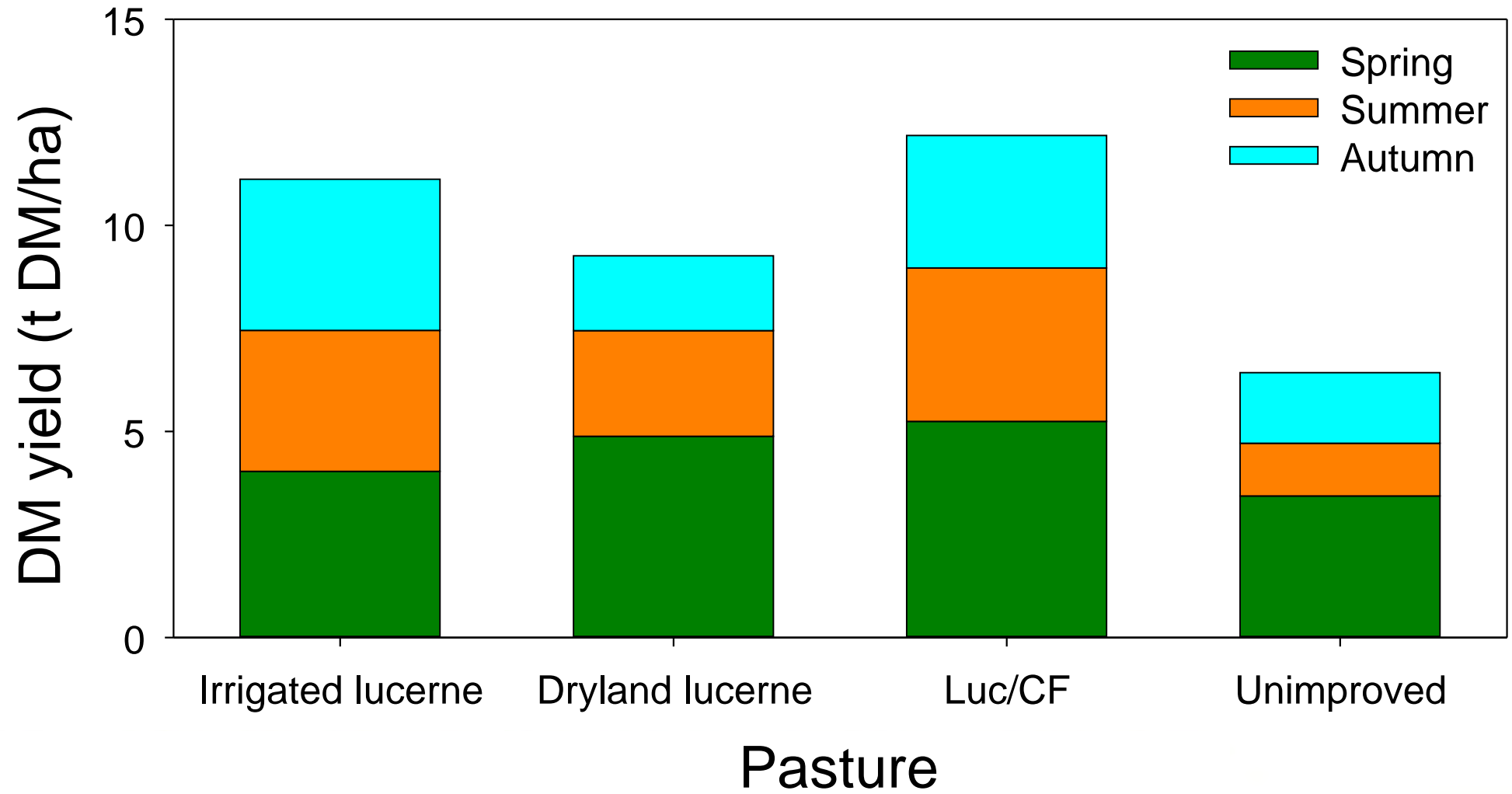
Anderson D, Anderson L, Moot DJ, Ogle GI. 2014. [Integrating lucerne \(*Medicago sativa*\) into a high country merino system](#). Proceedings of the New Zealand Grassland Association 76: 29-34.

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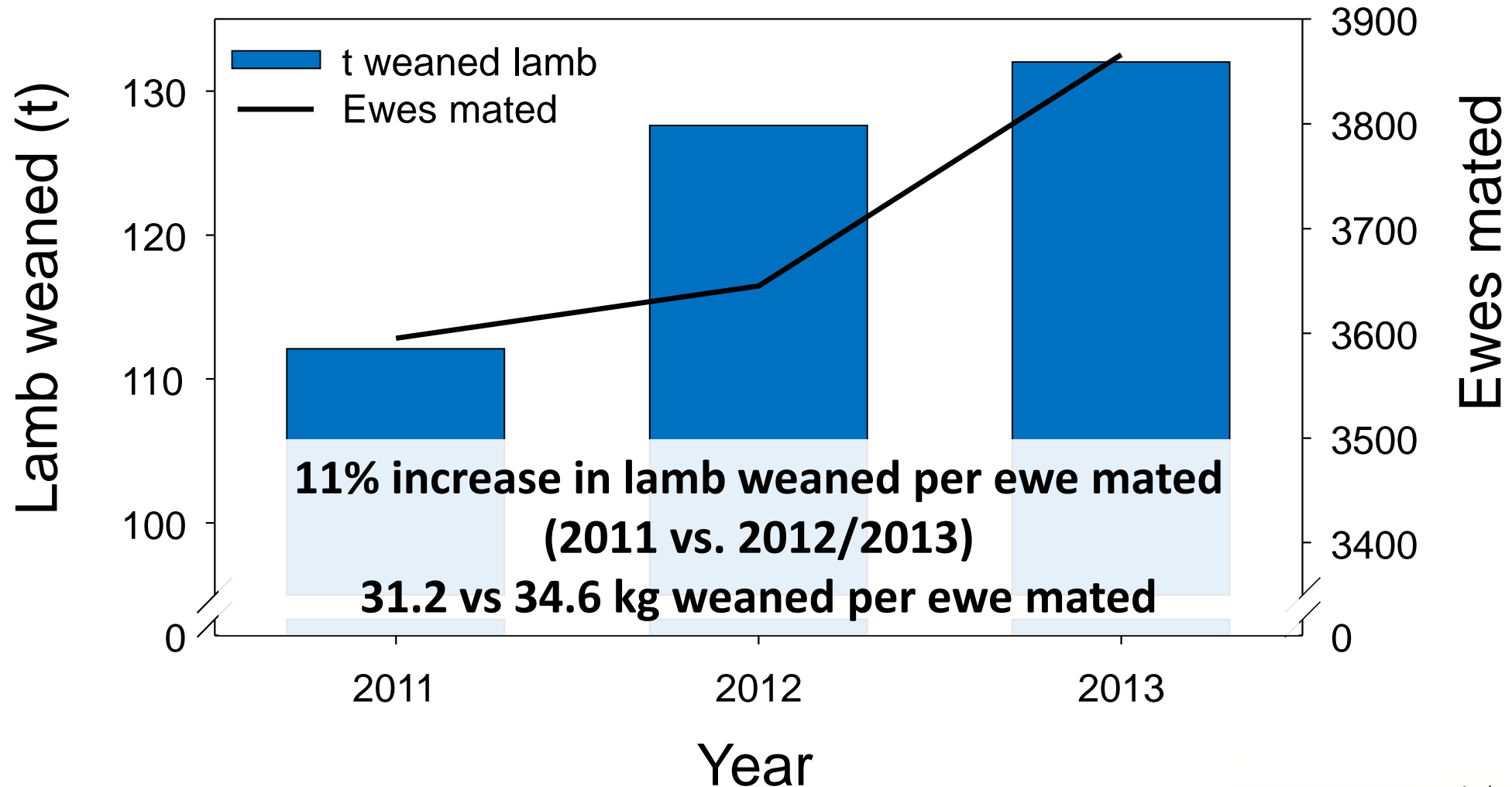
Pasture supply & Animal demand



Seasonal pasture production (3-yr average)



Lamb weaned and Ewes mated



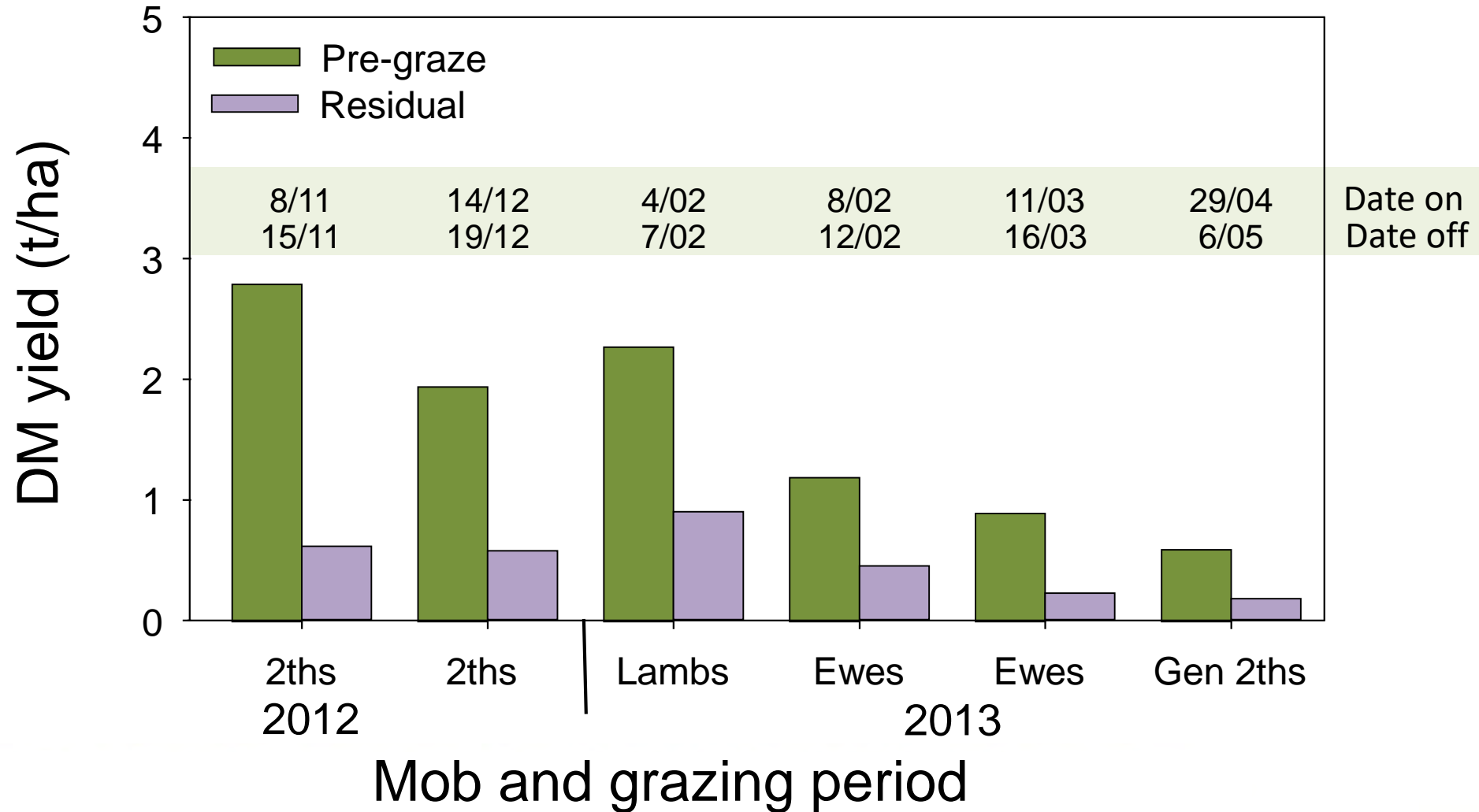
Change in system performance

	Historic (Pre 2010)	Year 3 (target)	Year 3 (actual)	% Change
<u>Young stock</u>				
Ewe lamb weight May (kg)	35.0	37.0	38.0	↑ 8.6
Two tooth scanning (%)	111	115	129	↑ 16.2
Two tooth weaning (%)	84.0	92.0	100	↑ 19.0
Two tooth lamb mortality (%)	24.0	20.0	22.0	↓ -8.3

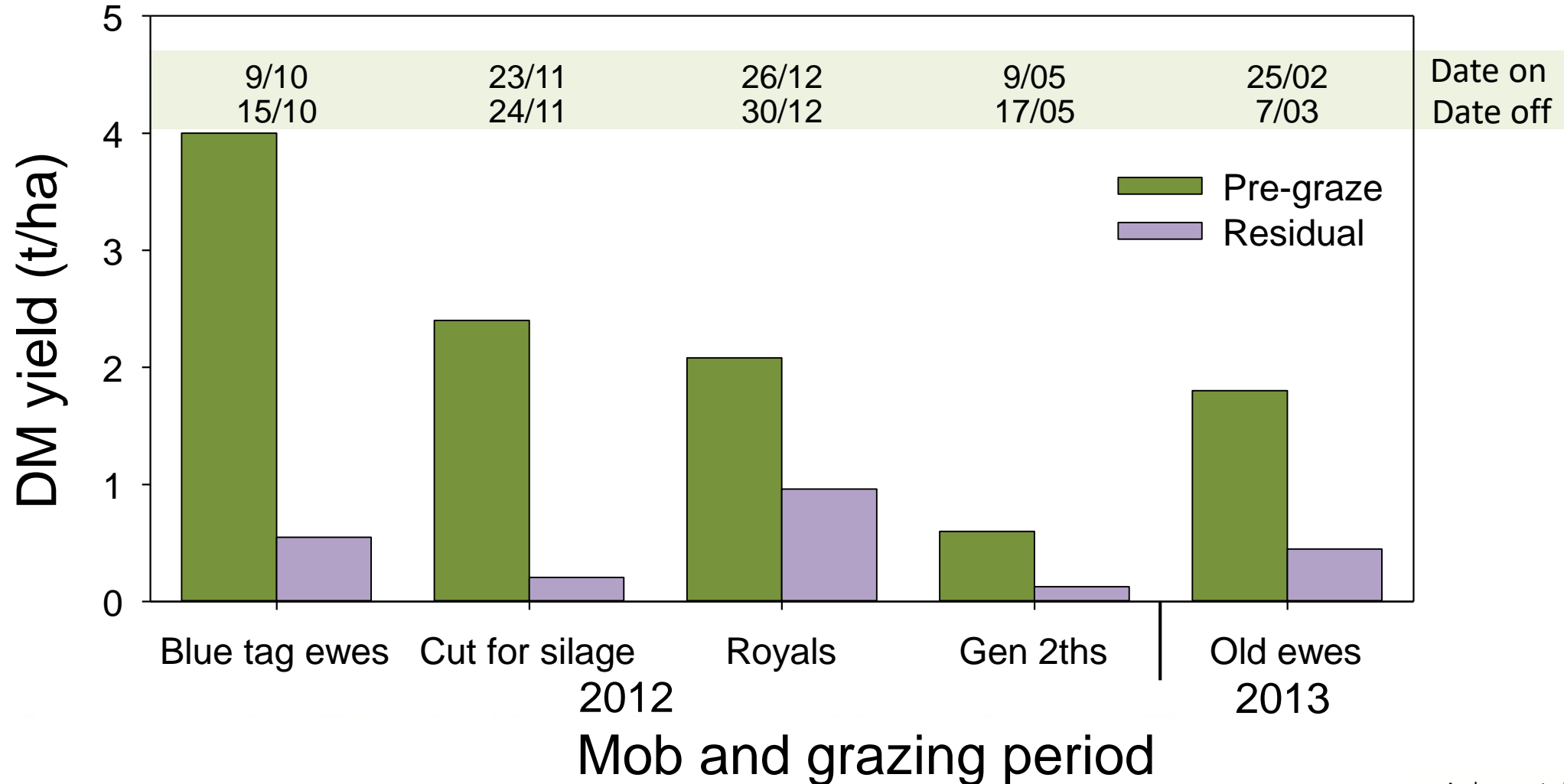
Change in system performance

	Historic (Pre 2010)	Year 3 (target)	Year 3 (actual)	% Change
<u>Mixed age ewes</u>				
Tupping weight (kg)	57.0	60.0	59.5	↑ 4.3
Ewe scanning (%)	165	165	165	-
Ewe weaning (%)	115	125	130	↑ 13.0
Ewe lamb mortality (%)	30.0	25.0	21.0	↓ -30.0
Lamb weaning weight (kg)	27.0	29.0	29.0	↑ 7.4
Lamb growth rate (g/hd/day)	205	235	235	↑ 14.6

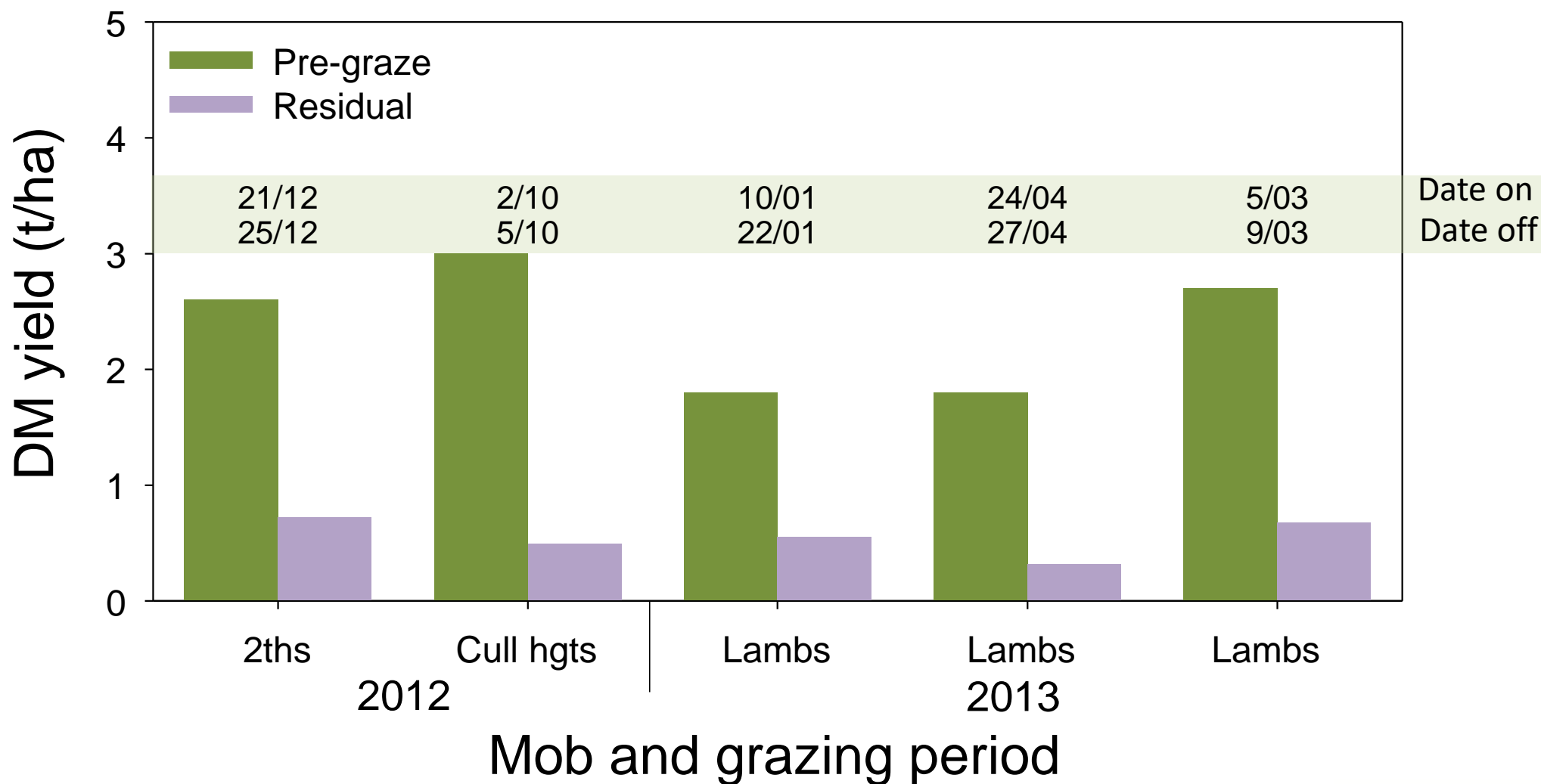
Yield - RG2 (Luc/CF)



Yield - Wheatgrass (lucerne)



Yield - Bottom Davids (lucerne)



Bog Roy flock performance

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	
Lambing %	101	106	104	107	118	123	
Lamb weaning weight (kg/hd)	27	30	28	29	29.5	29	
Age at weaning (days)	124	119	104	111	103	107	
LWt gain (g/hd/d)	181	214	226	221	243	229	
100 day LWt (kg/hd)	23	26	27	27	29	27	
Current hogget weight (kg/hd)	39	37	-	36.75	36.5	39.5	
	Date	13 May 09	28 Apr 10	-	26 Mar 12	12 Mar 13	14 Mar 14
Mating weight of MA ewes (kg/hd)	56	57	58	60	60	59.6	