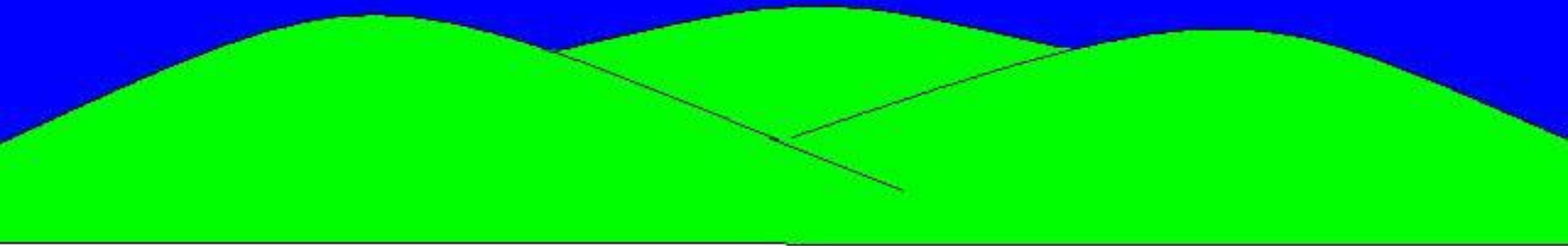


MID NORTH



HIGH RAINFALL ZONE

Research Focus Group

Jeff Braun, Agrilink

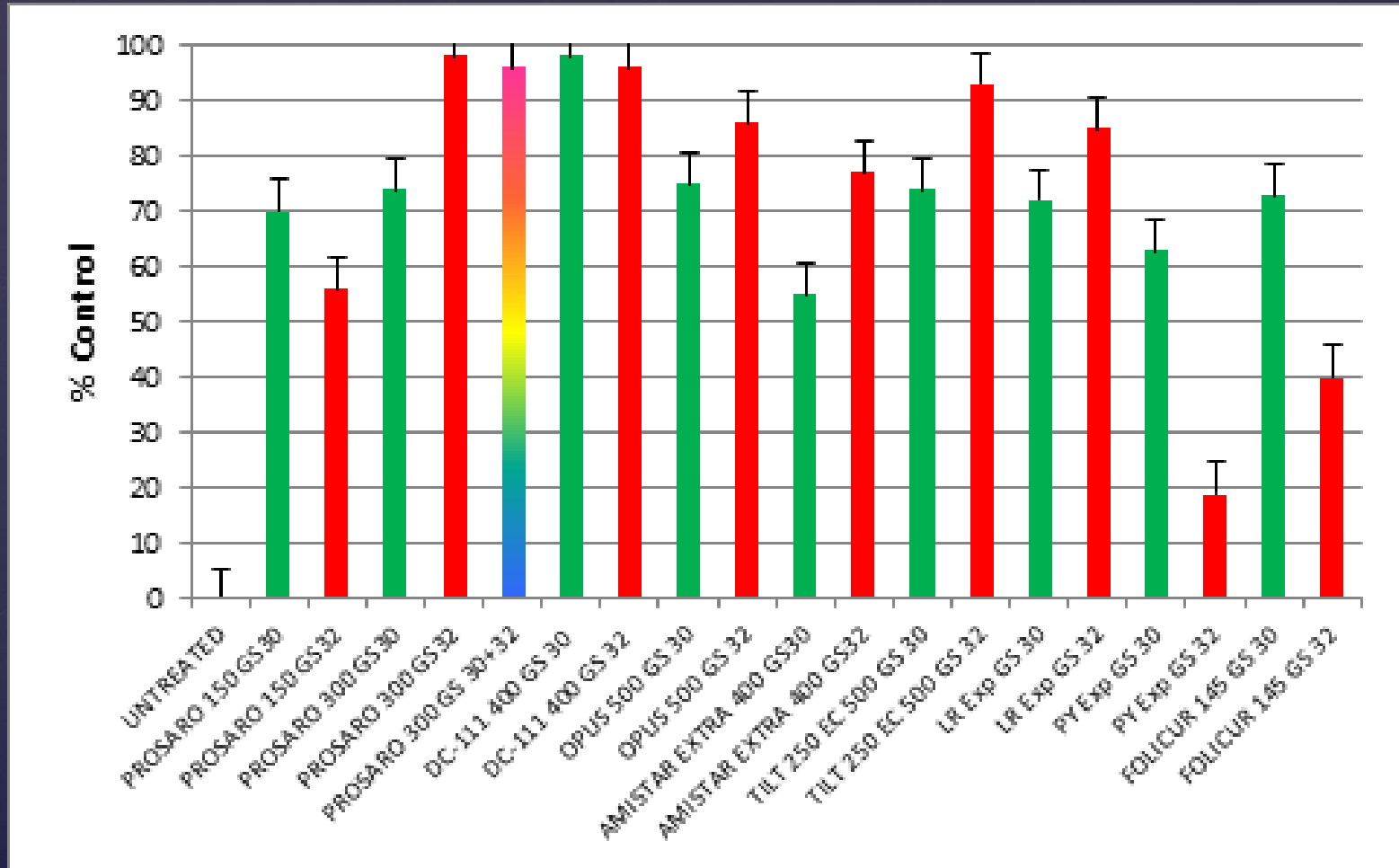
History...

- ⌘ Initial trial site established at Mintaro in 2005 to look at time of sowing x management interactions in wheat varieties, oats hay management and grain yield recovery following grazing
- ⌘ Ag Excellence Alliance provided an opportunity to form the MNHRZ group after the 2006 growing season
- ⌘ Coincided with C4oC funding (4 years)
- ⌘ Established a committee with a strong focus on local agronomists, consultants and farmers
- ⌘ Following workshop with Jeanette Long; Established sub-committees to deal with sponsorship, funding, trials etc

What we do...

- ⌘ The MNHRZ group meets the research needs of farmers in the area
- ⌘ Geographically spread out but covering a large range of soils and growing environments
- ⌘ Rely on input from local growers and consultants to steer research direction
- ⌘ Large amount of industry support through trials and sponsorships (site location helps!)
- ⌘ Provides an opportunity for partnerships with other organisations (SARDI, CSIRO) to centralise research

Example...



Source: GRDC Fast Track Project, MNHRZ & Bayer Crop Science

What we have achieved...

- ⌘ Collaboration with other groups to meet research needs
- ⌘ We now get approached about doing additional research
- ⌘ We have influenced thinking of farmers/consultants in the area
- ⌘ A reasonable following of local farmers and consultants
- ⌘ Growing biomass research has generated a lot of interest
- ⌘ Trials with CSIRO last year very successful
- ⌘ Eyespot research
- ⌘ Clethodim in canola

Where to from here?

- ⌘ Funding...need I say more!
- ⌘ Reporting requirements are becoming more substantial
- ⌘ Waning interest, need for key drivers, everyone is busy
- ⌘ Next 12 months challenging
- ⌘ May need to explore a different model, scaled down?
- ⌘ Independent research and good science is vital in an industry where “Muck & Mystery” products abound – we have a role

Acknowledgements...

- ⌘ Pat & Mary Connell – The best trial site co-operators a farming systems group could ask to work with
- ⌘ Ag Ex Alliance – for support and direction over our journey as a group