



Pasture Profitability

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2008

- Fuel – \$4/gal
- Am Nitrate - \$500/ton
- Price for hay hardly changed and cattle prices ticked up only slightly.
- Result – hold on a wait for better times.

2010

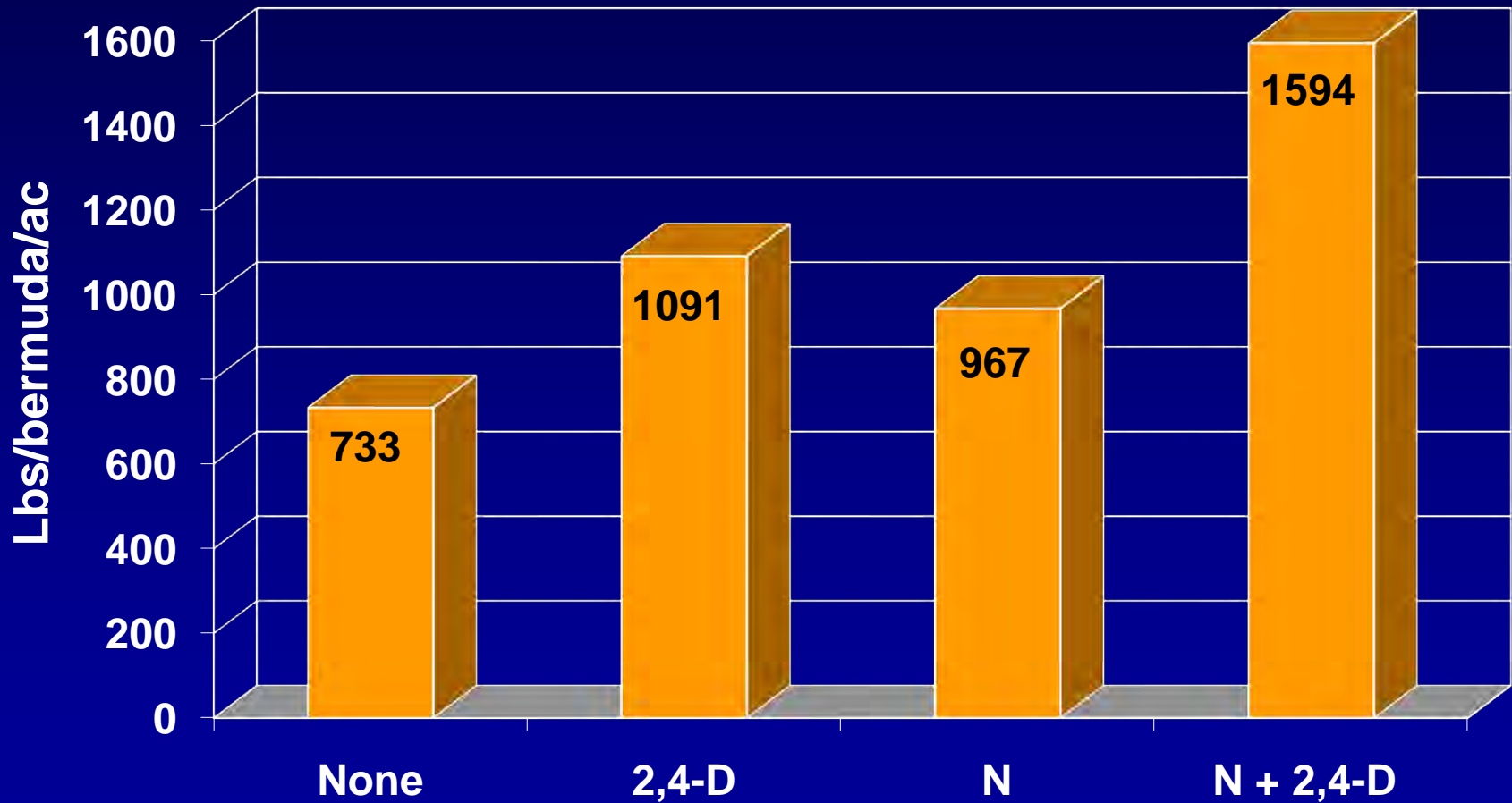
- Fuel and fertilizer prices are way down.
- Cattle prices down, but not greatly.
- Herbicide prices have been stable.

- Result – many of our pastures are in need of some attention

What now?

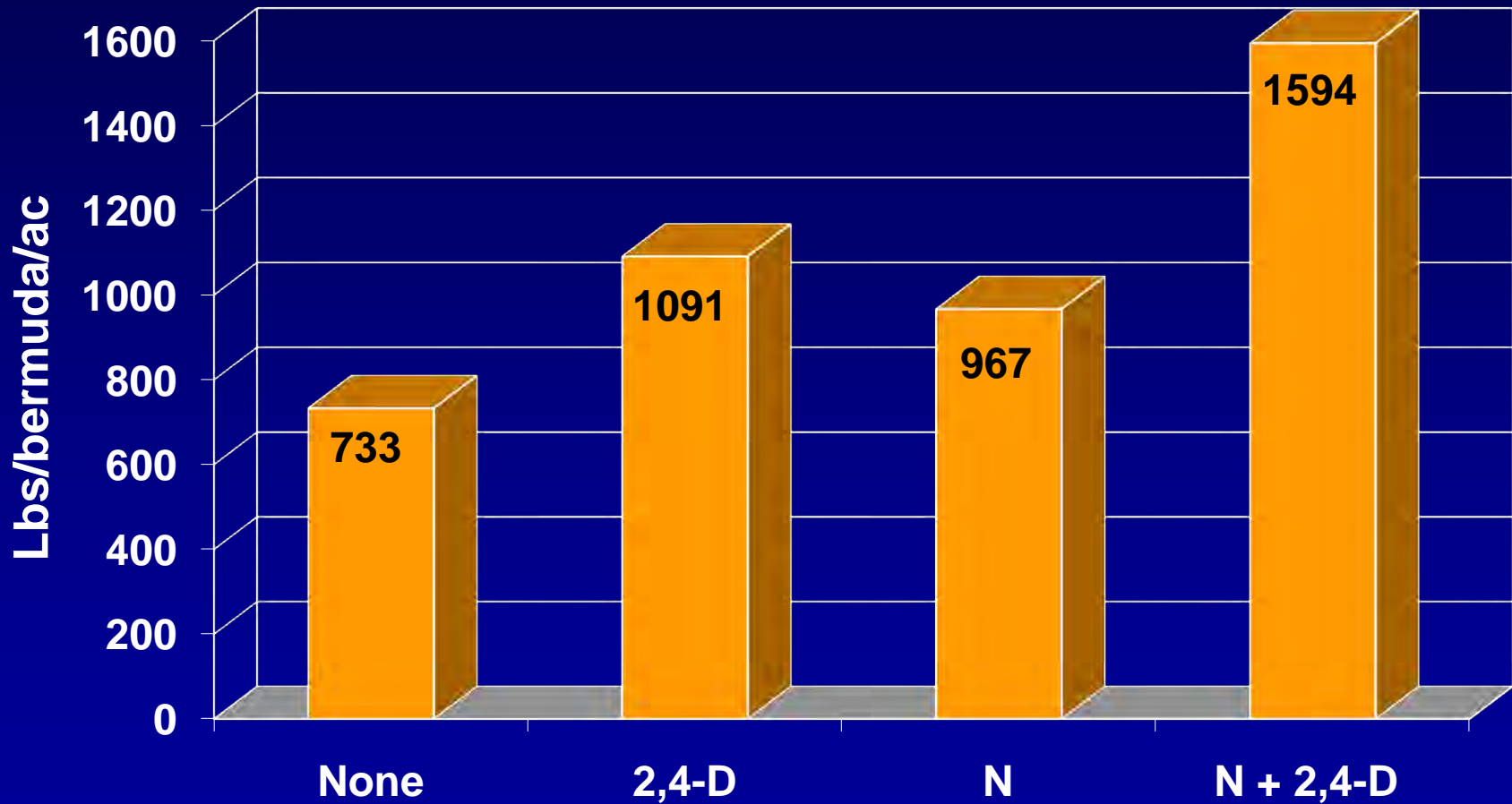
- What are the options?
 - Spray
 - Fertilize
 - Spray and fertilize
 - Mow
 - Do nothing

Bermudagrass, Ragweed and Nitrogen



N = 34 lbs/ac

34 lb N will cost \$15 - \$20/A
Herbicide will cost \$3 - \$20/A



N = 34 lbs/ac

Options

Herbicide	Rate	Cost	Weeds
2,4-D	1 qt	\$3.75	Annual broadleaf
metsulfuron	0.5 oz	\$6	Many broadleaf – bermuda only
Weedmaster	1 qt	\$8	Annual broadleaf
GrazonNext	1 qt	\$9	Thistle, pigweed, dogfennel, etc
Cleanwave + 2,4-D	1 pt + 1qt	\$11	dogfennel
Remedy	1 qt	\$20	blackberry

When should we spray?

- The earlier the better

Ona, FL

Dogfennel	Bahiagrass yield (lb/Acre)
None	5000
Removed April	3300
Removed May	3000
Removed June	2700
Removed July	1800
Removed August	2000

August dogfennel treatment – Useless, right???



5 months later – this field will exploded
with grass in spring



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Spraying late is better than not spraying at all

- So, weed control and fertilize will give similar yields, but weed control is cheaper.
- What about mowing??

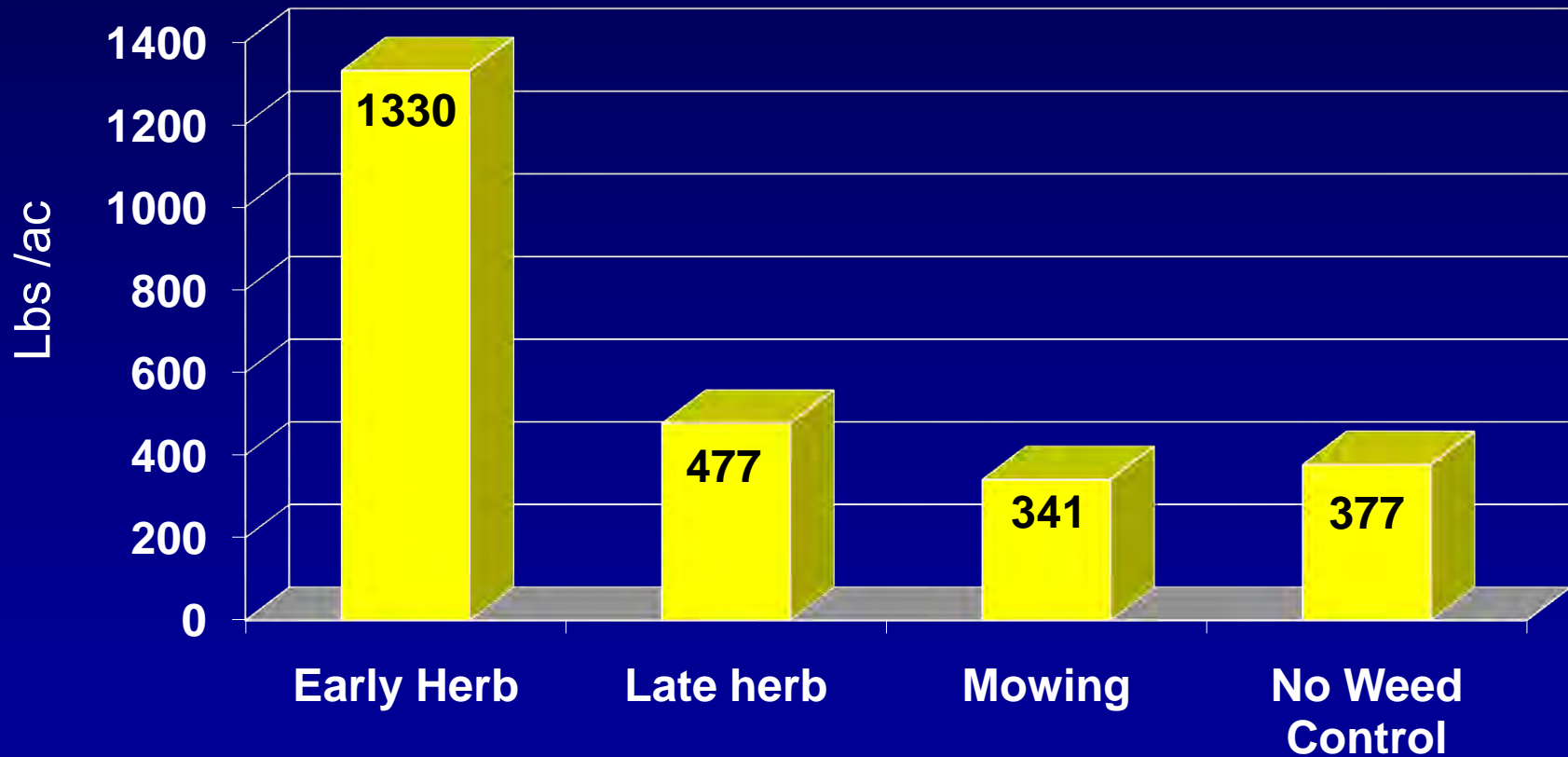


\$3 - \$20



\$8 - \$15

Herbicides, Mowing and Bermudagrass Yield



Heavily infested with wooly croton and ragweed

Mowing

CONS

- Too late to prevent competition.
- Perennials will regrow.

PRO

- May prevent weed seed production.
- May satisfactorily control of dogfennel.

Mowing

Take home point

Do you really want to spend \$8 - \$15/A
for inconsistent weed control?

Do I spray or fertilize first?

- Spray first.
- Control existing weeds.
- Begin soil-test based lime and fertilizer program.



Spray or Mow?

- I would only mow if it is for small areas.
- Large-scale mowing will cost more than it gives.



Questions?