

# Hybrid Rye for Forage

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Livestock Nutritionist

SEEDING  
THE FUTURE  
SINCE 1856



# Hybrid Rye

KWS



- Hybrid Rye breed program established in the 1980s in Germany
- Launched KWS hybrid rye in Canada in 2014 and in the USA in 2016
- New high yielding cereal crop!

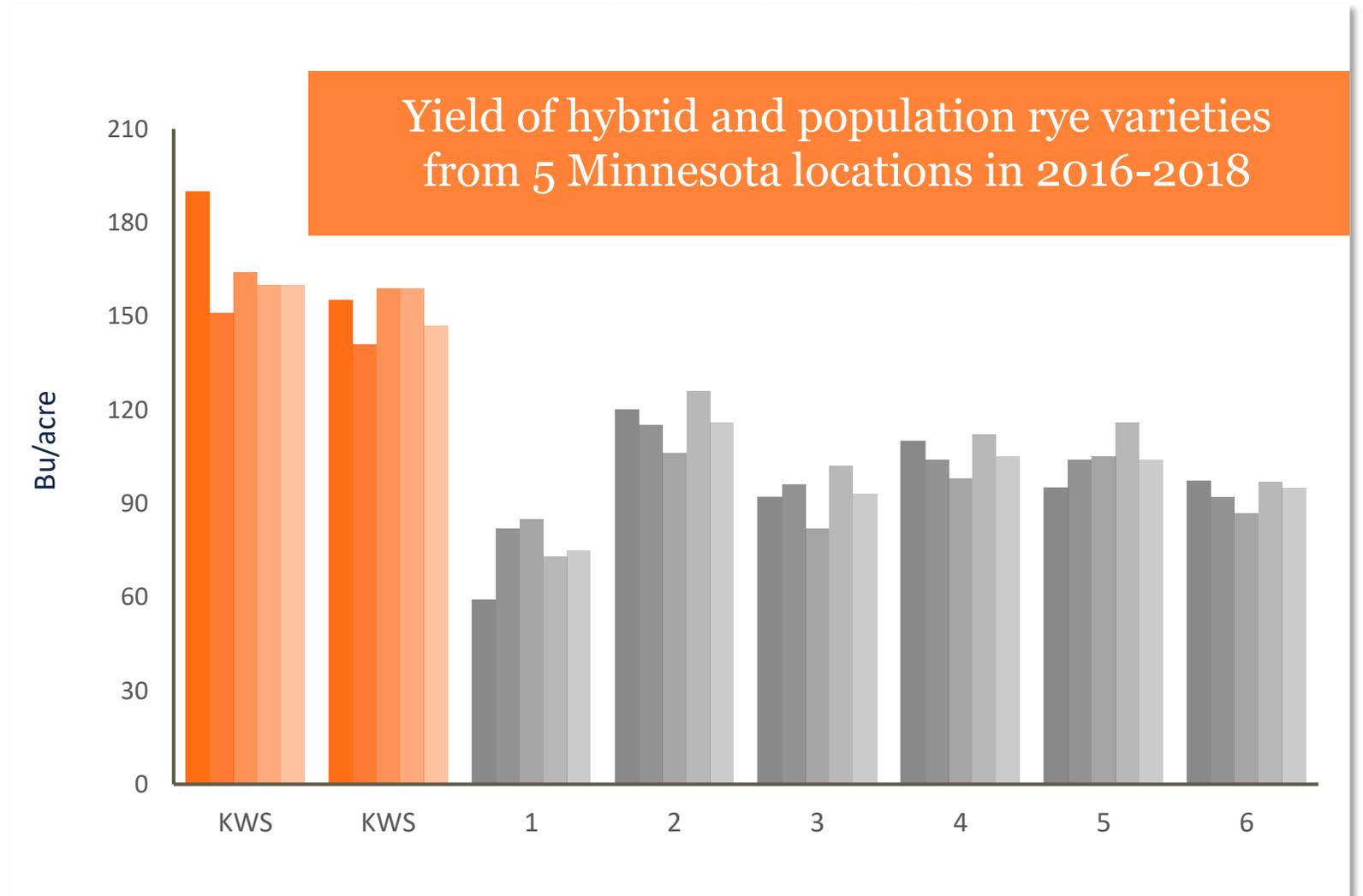


# Hybrid Rye

KWS



- Yield
- Ergot Resistance
- Standability
- Abiotic Stress



# Why Hybrid Rye?

KWS



- Crop Versatility
  - Grain
  - Silage
  - Grazing
- Minimized ergot risk – Pollen Plus Technology
- Profit potential
- Diversified production times
- Labor management



Pollen

**PLUS**



# Why Hybrid Rye?

KWS



## ■ Soil Health

- Recycles nutrients
- Builds soil
- Loosens topsoil
- Prevents erosion



## ■ Spring/Fall Feed Source

- Additional tonnage on idle acres
- Corn-soybean rotation
- Minimal effort



A wide-angle photograph of a lush green field of hybrid rye plants. The plants are densely packed and appear to be in the early stages of growth. The background shows a soft, hazy horizon under a bright sky, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. An orange rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

**Hybrid Rye for  
Silage**

# Hybrid Rye – Colorado



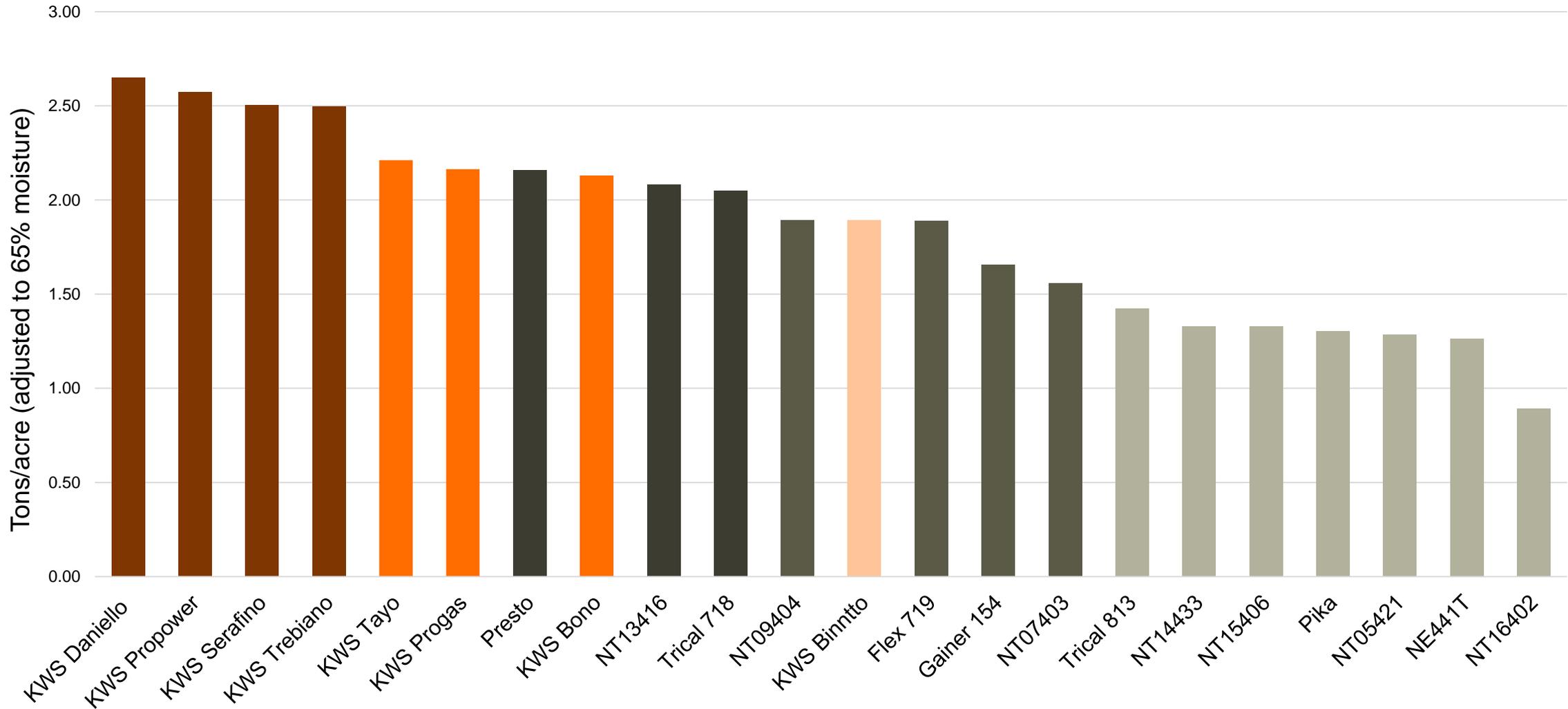
- USDA-ARS Central Great Plains Research Station
- Akron, CO
- Silage was harvested at 2 dates
  - May 31<sup>st</sup> – Ear emergence
  - June 10<sup>th</sup> – Flowering



# Hybrid Rye – Wisconsin Silage Yields



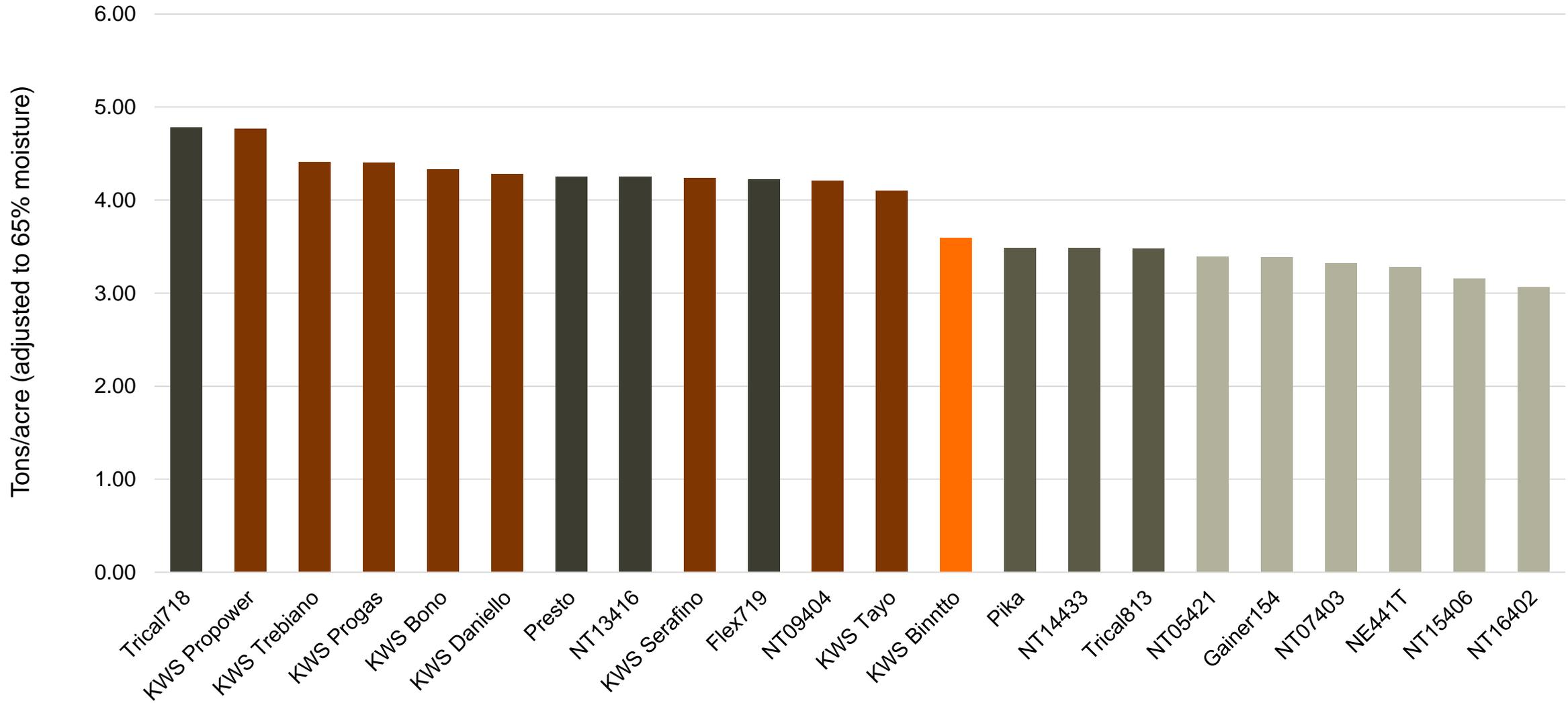
## May 31<sup>st</sup> Silage Yields



# Hybrid Rye – Wisconsin Silage Yields



## June 10<sup>th</sup> – Silage Yields



# Hybrid Rye – Colorado State University



Table 1: Analysis of variance showing P values for the effect of variety on rye forage dry yield at various sampling dates.

Source of Variation	df	Sampling date				
		April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
Block	3	0.1559	0.6399	0.6086	0.0973	0.5349
Variety	2	0.2296	0.7660	0.8218	0.0819	0.2673
Coefficient of Variation		12.3	37.6	24.3	14.4	15.7

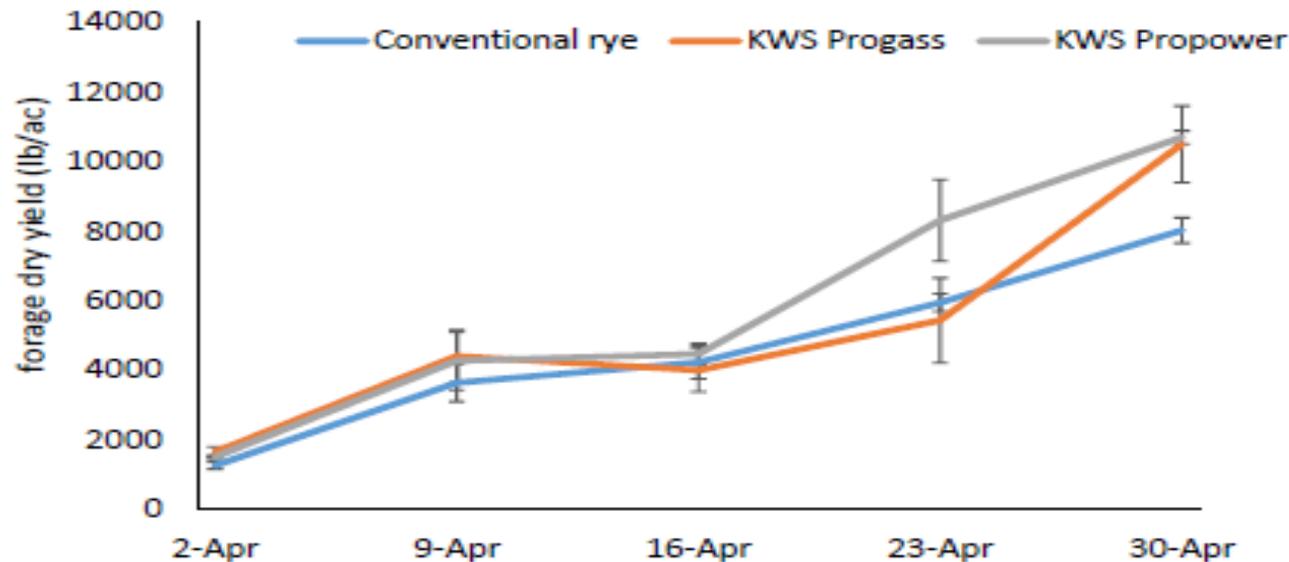


Fig.1: Forage dry yield at various sampling dates. Vertical bars represent standard error of the means ( $n=4$ )

# Hybrid Rye – Texas and Colorado

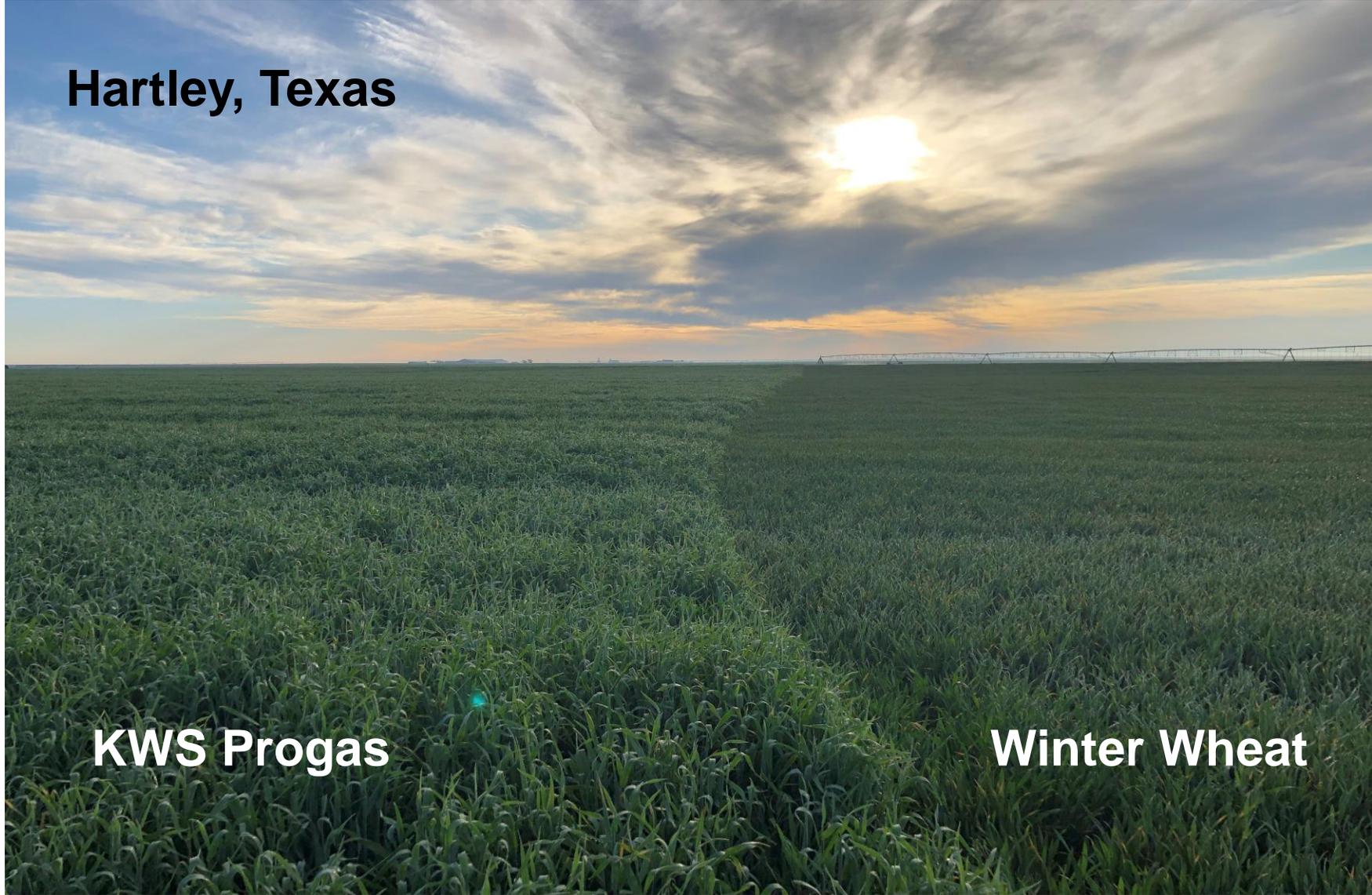


- 2 fields in Texas and 2 fields in Colorado
- 3 fields of hybrid rye vs. triticale
- 1 field of hybrid rye vs. wheat
- All crops were grown on irrigation pivots

# Hybrid Rye for Silage – Texas (April 24<sup>th</sup>)



**Hartley, Texas**



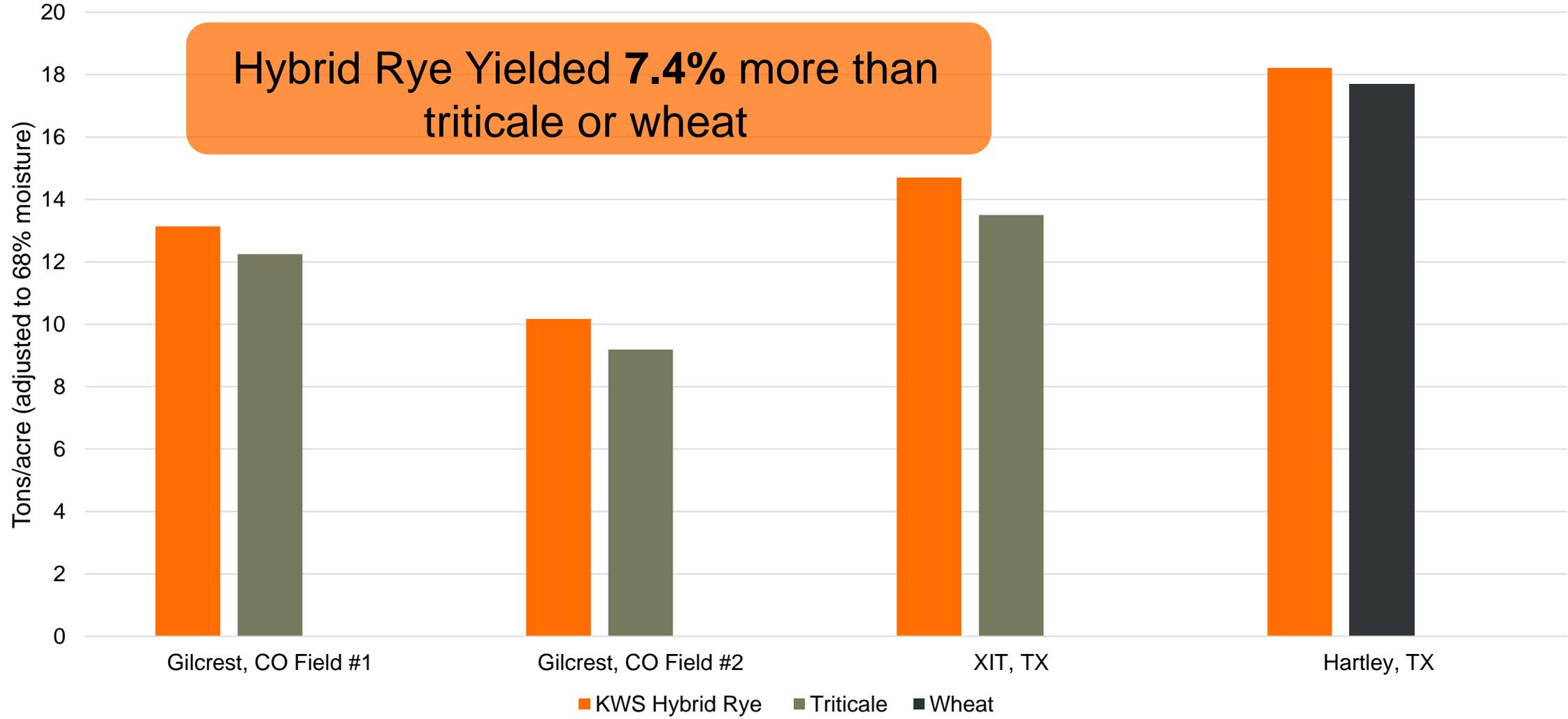
**KWS Progas**

**Winter Wheat**

# Hybrid Rye – Texas and Colorado



## Silage Yields



# Hybrid Rye – Texas and Colorado



Forage type	Field	Crude protein, %	%N	%P	%K	Nitrates*
Hybrid Rye	Gilcrest, CO #1	12.3	2.0	0.4	2.5	213
Triticale	Gilcrest, CO #1	11.4	1.8	0.3	2.1	60
Hybrid Rye	Gilcrest, CO #2	11.7	1.9	0.4	2.3	78
Triticale	Gilcrest, CO #2	13.1	2.1	0.3	2.0	213
Hybrid Rye	XIT, TX	9.9	1.6	0.3	2.8	70
Triticale	XIT, TX	12.4	2.0	0.4	3.4	400
Hybrid Rye	Hartley, TX	10.2	1.6	0.3	2.2	390
Wheat	Hartley, TX	10.6	1.7	0.2	1.7	160

\*Nitrate levels <1,000 are safe to feed under most conditions

# Hybrid Rye – Wisconsin



- Meffert's Homestead Dairy – Waunakee, WI
- Planted 9.23.18, no till following corn silage
- Seeding rate:
  - VNS – 100 lbs/acre
  - KWS Progas – 44.4 lbs/acre
- Cut 5.22.19 and chopped 5.26.19

# Hybrid Rye – Wisconsin (May 20th)

KWS



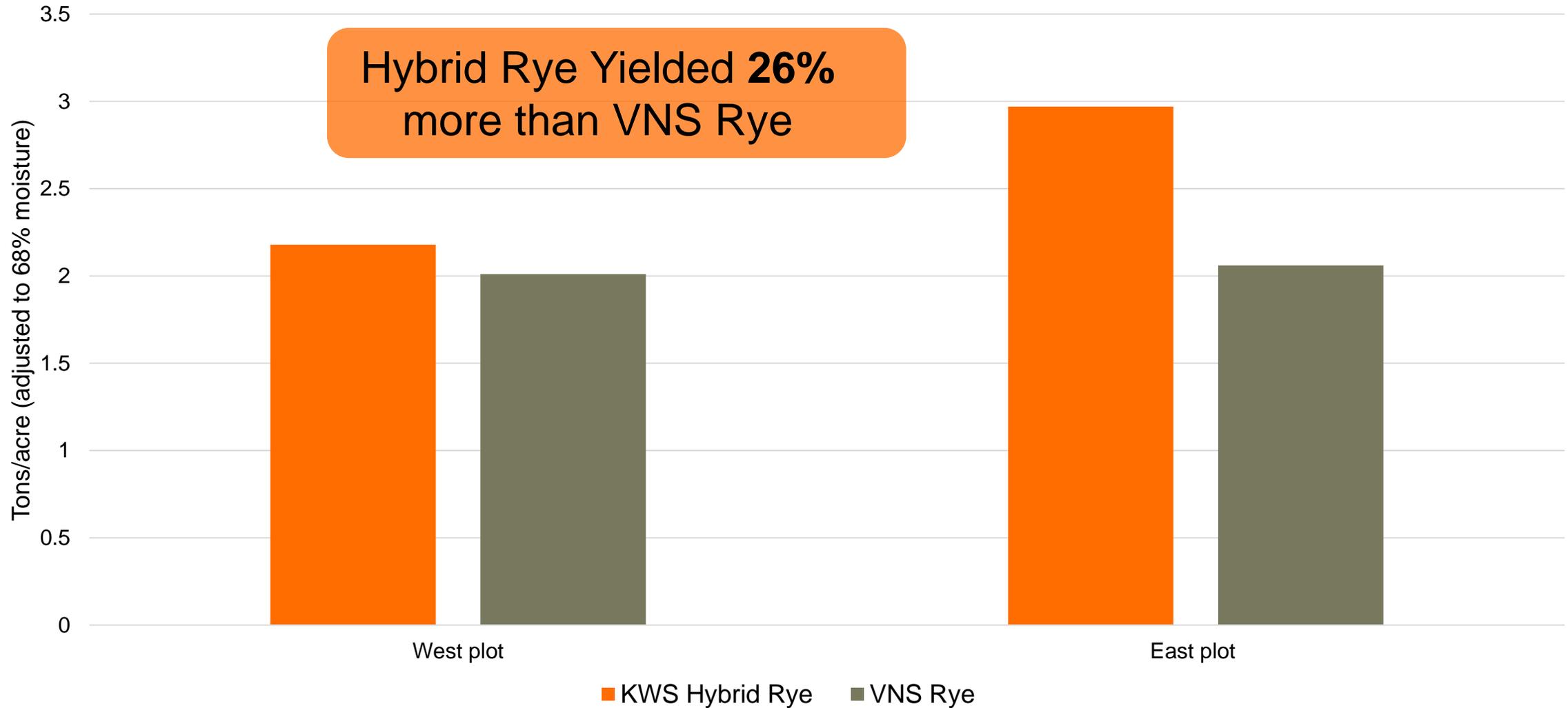
**VNS Rye**

**KWS Progas**

# Hybrid Rye – Wisconsin



## Silage Yields



# Hybrid Rye – Wisconsin



Forage type	Plot	NDFD	Crude protein, %	Milk (lbs/acre)
KWS Progas	West	60.81	7.4	<b>3520</b>
VNS Rye	West	60.78	7.8	3004
KWS Progas	East	59.97	8.4	<b>4376</b>
VNS Rye	East	61.16	9.1	3142

KWS Progas – Pre-boot, first heads emerging but most 2” below top of stem; height = 24-28”

VNS Rye – late boot, early heading; height = 23-26”

# Early spring silage source

KWS



## Two stages for cutting

- Flag leaf
  - for high protein – late May early June (15-20% protein)
  - Haylage
  - Double cropping
- Milky stage
  - Whole plant silage late June (8-10% protein)
  - Followed by grass or high quality cover crop
  - Or replanted with hybrid rye for autumn grazing



# Hybrid Rye for Silage – Considerations

KWS



- Moisture level will be high at cutting – leave in windrow for a day before chopping.
- Cut at flag leaf – be aware of how quickly rye grows!



# Hybrid Rye for Silage – Considerations

KWS



**Cut at Milky Stage  
and No Later!**



Milky stage

Early  
dough  
stage



Waiting too long also make it  
difficult to pack – DM will be  
too high!



**Hybrid Rye for  
Grazing**

# Hybrid Rye – Grazing Yields Georgia 2018



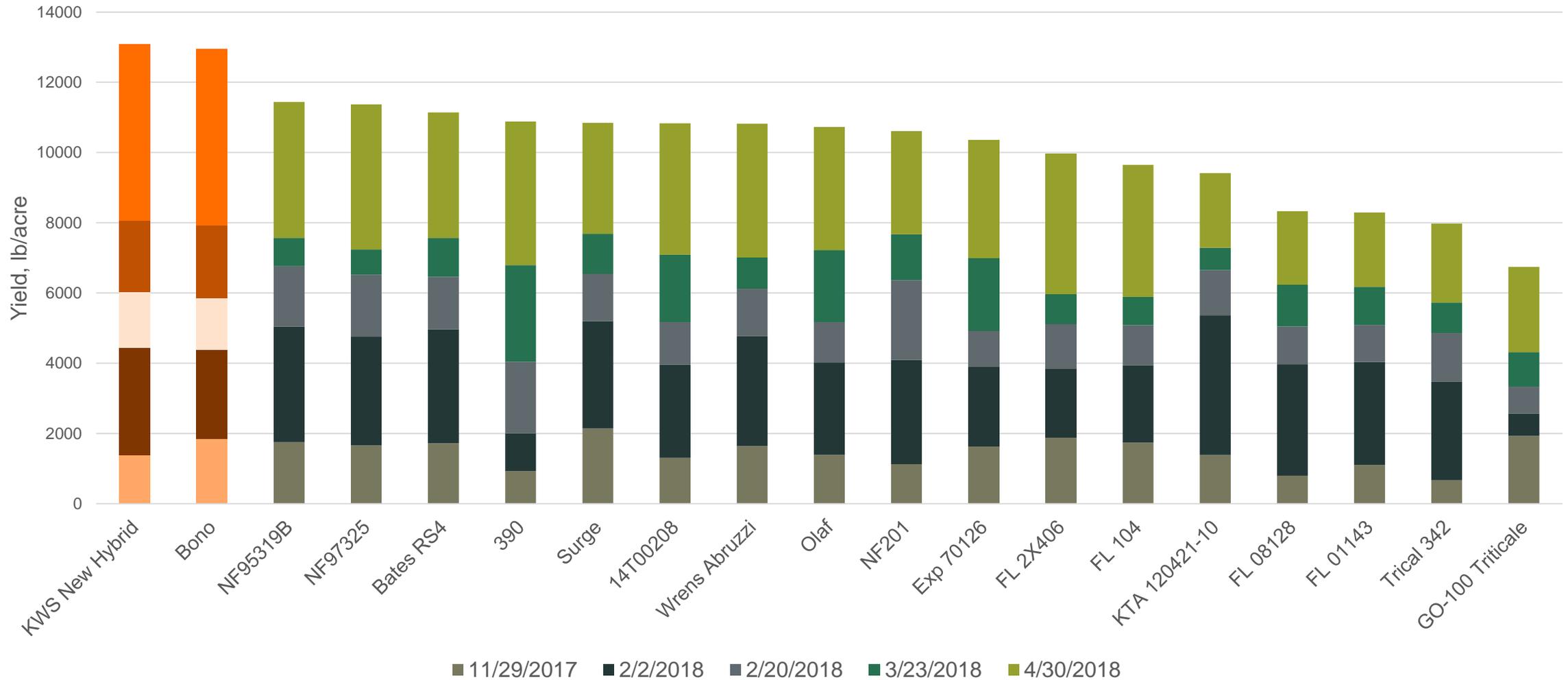
- Triticale and Rye Yield Results
- Athens, GA
- Forage harvested numerous times and lb/acre measured
  - Simulates forage available for grazing



# Hybrid Rye – Yields



## Athens, Georgia Yields





- Initial results, AAFC Lacombe fall 2018 – 1 year
  - Cows gained 2.2lbs/day on whole trial (annual cereal with hybrid rye) vs loss 0.9lb/day barley swath grazing
  - Crude protein
    - Rye - 18-30% crude protein, estimated 75-80% digestible
    - Barley - 12% crude protein, estimated 65% digestible
  - Forage yield
    - Individual yields still being calculated
    - Hybrid fall rye had the most dense dry matter by the eye

# AAFC Research – Hybrid Rye

KWS



- Preliminary work, AAFC Lacombe fall 2018



# AAFC Research – Hybrid Rye

KWS



# AAFC Research – Hybrid Rye

KWS



- AAFC Lacombe Spring 2019



# One day growth

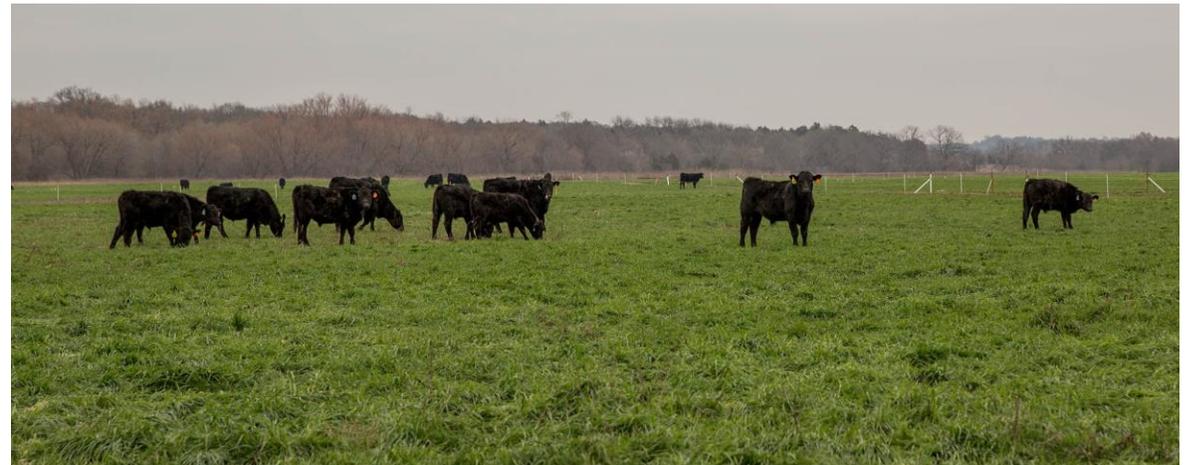
KWS



# Hybrid Rye for Grazing - Considerations



- Fall and Spring grazing options
  - Late forage available – some growth necessary for winter survival
  - Early emergence – first available forage
  - Good forage management is critical!
- To ensure plant survival graze prior to elongation
  - New tillers = High Crude Protein!
- Recommended grazing methods
  - Strip grazing
  - Mob grazing



A photograph of a vast field of wheat under a warm, golden sunset sky. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, while the background is softly blurred. A solid blue rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the word "Conclusions" in white text.

# Conclusions

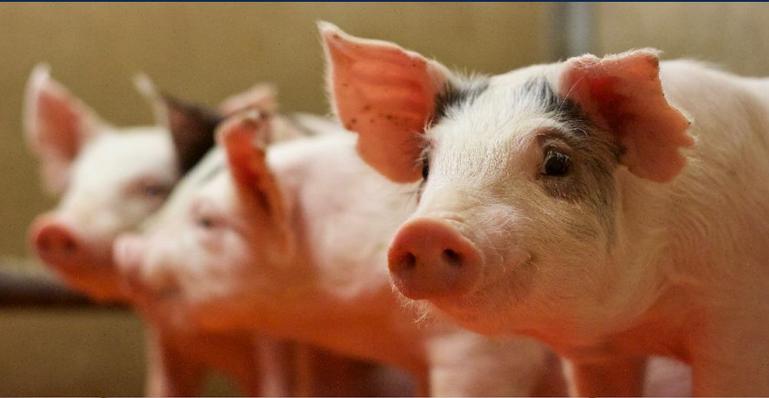
# Why Hybrid Rye?

KWS



- Higher biomass yield than any other winter cereal
  - more beef/acre
  - Higher stocking rates/acre
- Earliest spring feed source
- Possibility for double cropping
  - Silage or grazing
- Diversity
- Strong competitor to weeds
- Soil Health





# Nutritional Value of Hybrid Rye for Pigs

Molly McGhee

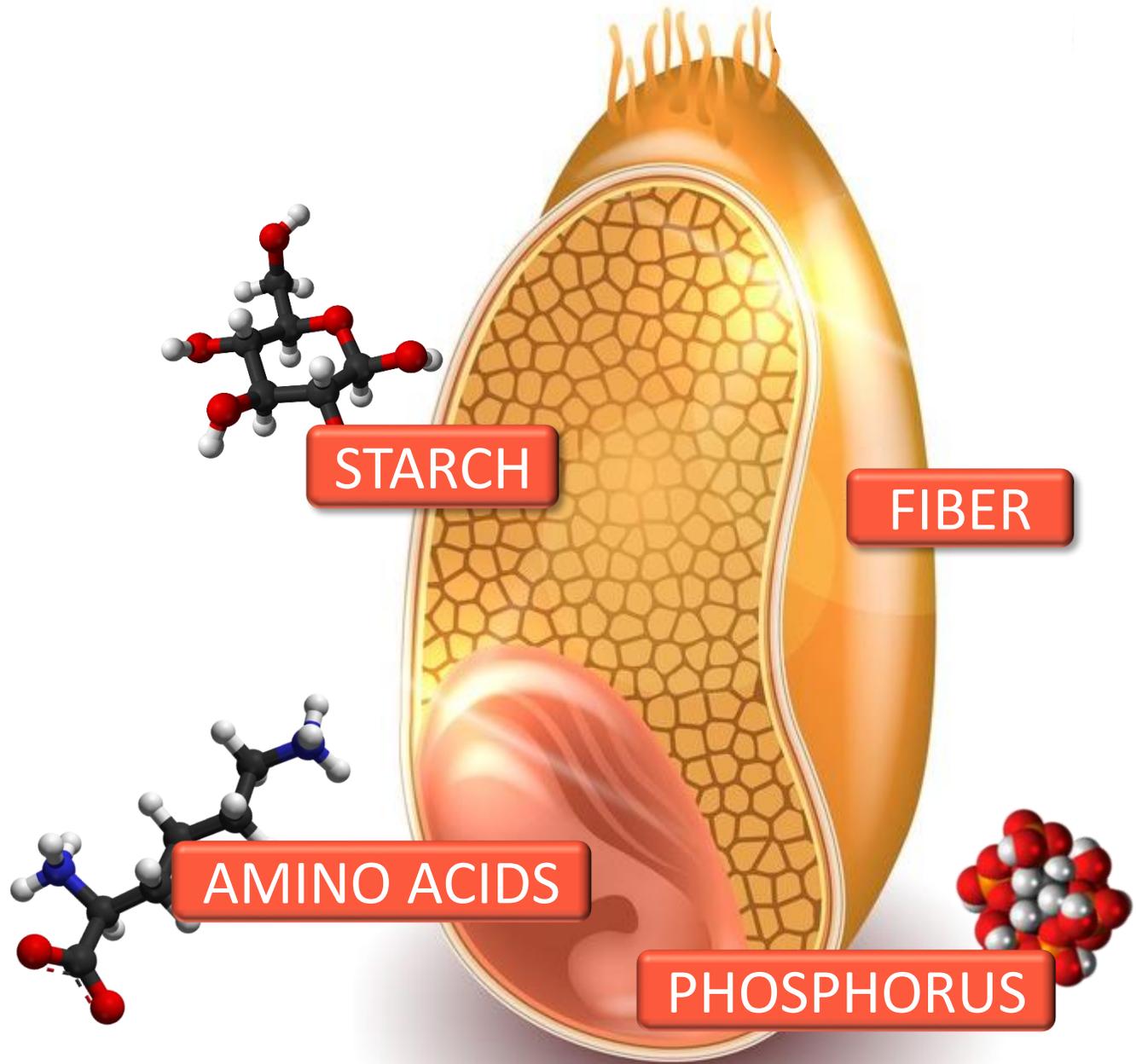
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

# Outline

BACKGROUND

DIGESTIBLE NUTRIENTS

PIG PERFORMANCE



# Hybrid Rye

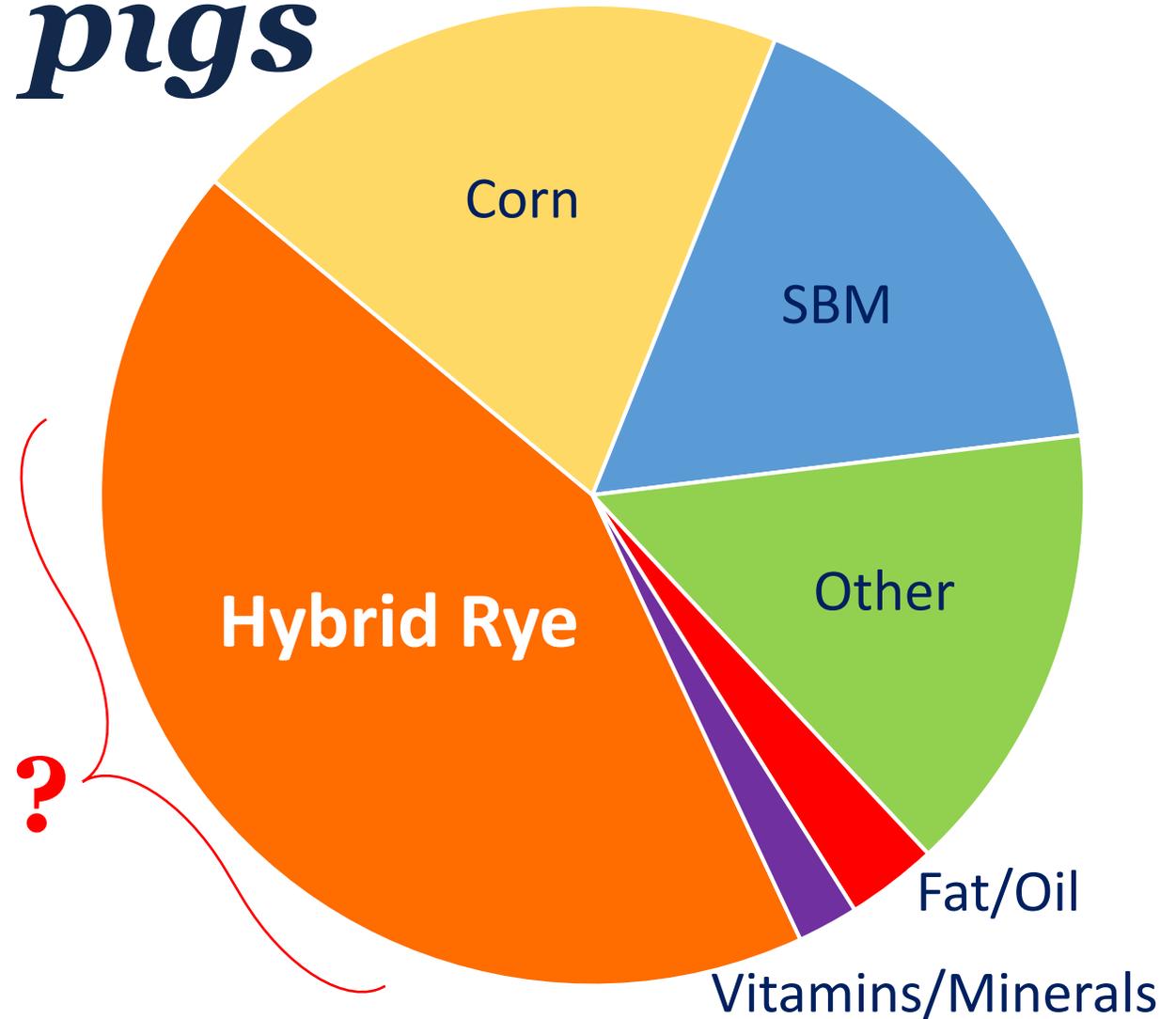


# Hybrid Rye *for pigs*

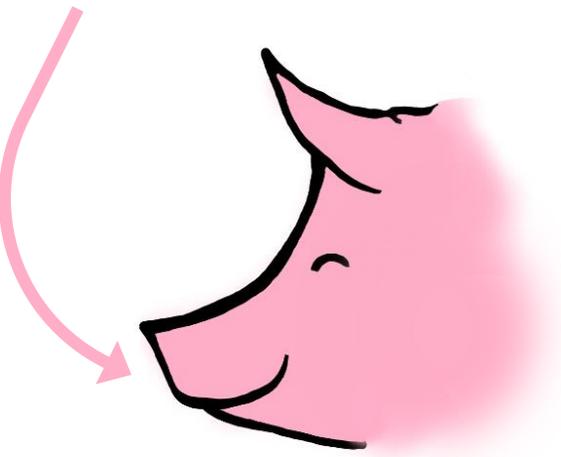
## Objective of swine nutrition

“Provide each nutrient in both quantity and form that will precisely meet the pig’s requirements for growth, reproduction, milk production, and if necessary, maintenance, at the least possible cost.”

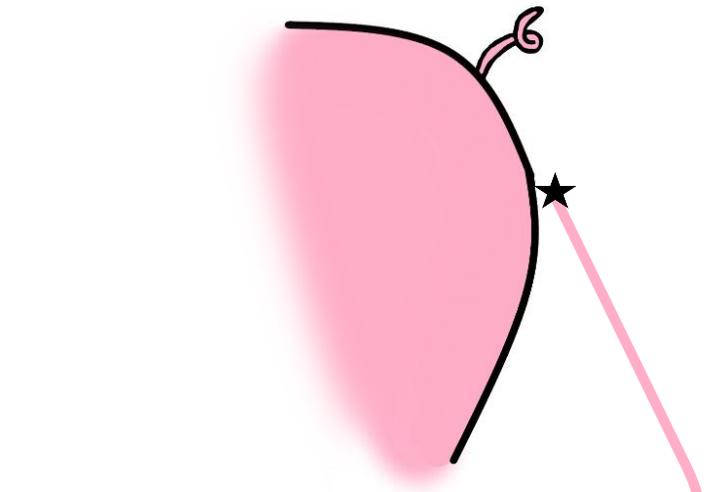
-Dr. Robert Easter



**FEED INGESTION**



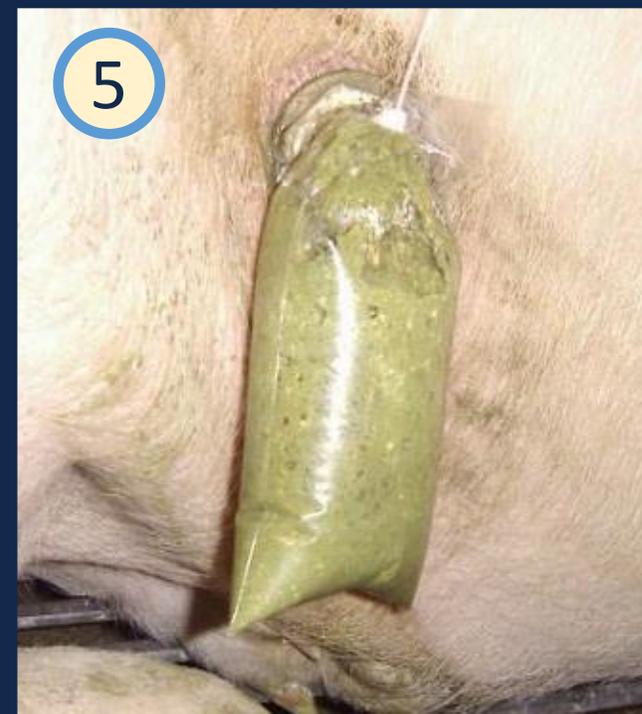
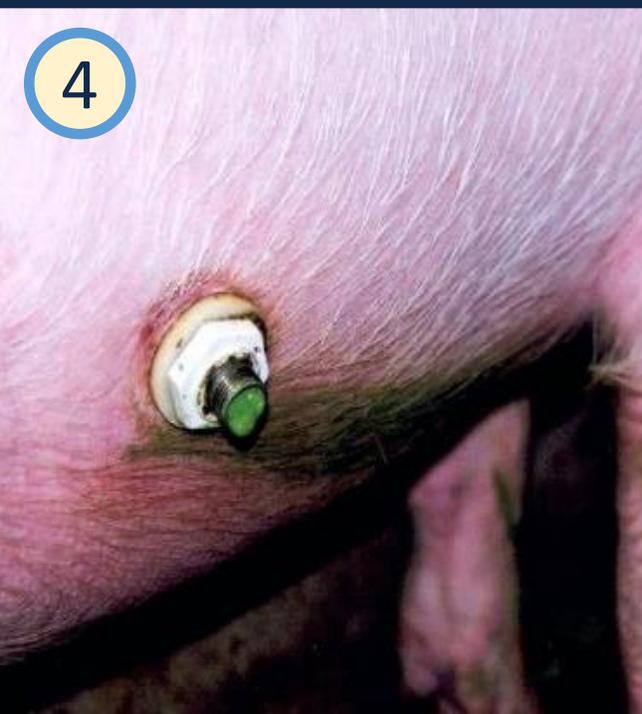
**ILEAL OUTPUT =  
ileal digestibility**



**FECAL OUTPUT =  
total tract digestibility**



Procedure for measuring ileal digestibility

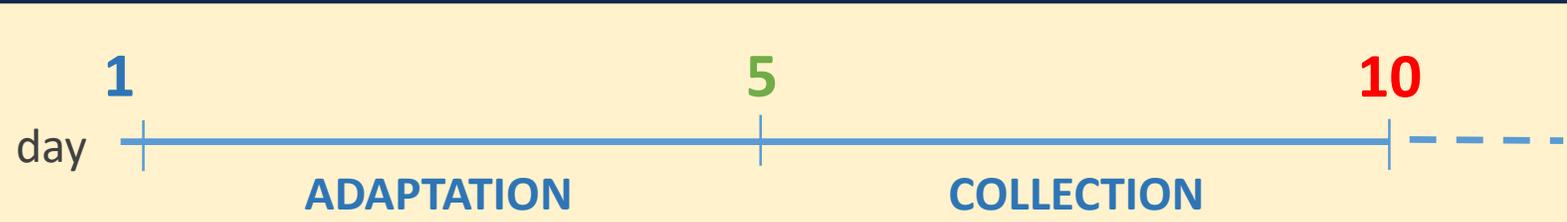


Used for:  
**AMINO ACIDS**  
**STARCH**



Procedure for measuring total tract digestibility

Used for:  
**ENERGY**  
**MINERALS**  
**FIBER**



**Apparent and standardized ileal digestibility of AA and starch in hybrid rye, barley, wheat, and corn fed to growing pigs<sup>1</sup>**

Molly L. McGhee and Hans. H. Stein<sup>2</sup>

Department of Animal Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

**ABSTRACT:** An experiment was conducted to determine the apparent ileal digestibility (AID) of AA and starch and the standardized ileal digestibility (SID) of AA in three varieties of hybrid rye and in one source of barley, wheat, and corn. Seven growing barrows (initial BW = 26.1 ± 2.4 kg) were randomly allotted to a 7 × 7 Latin square design with seven periods and seven experimental diets. Six diets included one of the grains as the sole source of AA, and an N-free diet was used to determine basal endogenous losses of CP and AA. In each period, ileal digesta were collected for 8 h on days 6 and 7 following a 5-d adaptation period. At the conclusion of the experiment, all ingredients, diets, and ileal digesta samples were analyzed for starch, CP, and AA. The AID of starch was greater ( $P < 0.05$ ) in wheat and corn than in barley or hybrid rye, but all grains had AID values

for starch that were above 95%. Wheat and barley contained more CP and indispensable AA than hybrid rye, but hybrid rye contained more indispensable AA compared with corn. The SID of CP and all indispensable AA was greater ( $P < 0.05$ ) in barley, wheat, and corn than in the three varieties of rye. However, because of the greater concentration of AA in hybrid rye than in corn, the quantities of standardized ileal digestible CP and AA were not different between corn and hybrid rye. In conclusion, hybrid rye has greater concentrations of most AA than corn, but the digestibility of AA in rye is less than in other cereal grains. It is likely that the reason for the reduced SID of AA in rye is that rye contains more fructans and soluble dietary fiber than other cereal grains, which may increase viscosity and reduce the efficiency of endogenous peptidases.

**Key words:** AA digestibility, cereal grains, hybrid rye, pigs, starch digestibility

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J. Anim. Sci. 2018.96:3319–3329

doi: 10.1093/jas/sky206

# EXP. 1

# Amino Acid Digestibility



SID = 64%

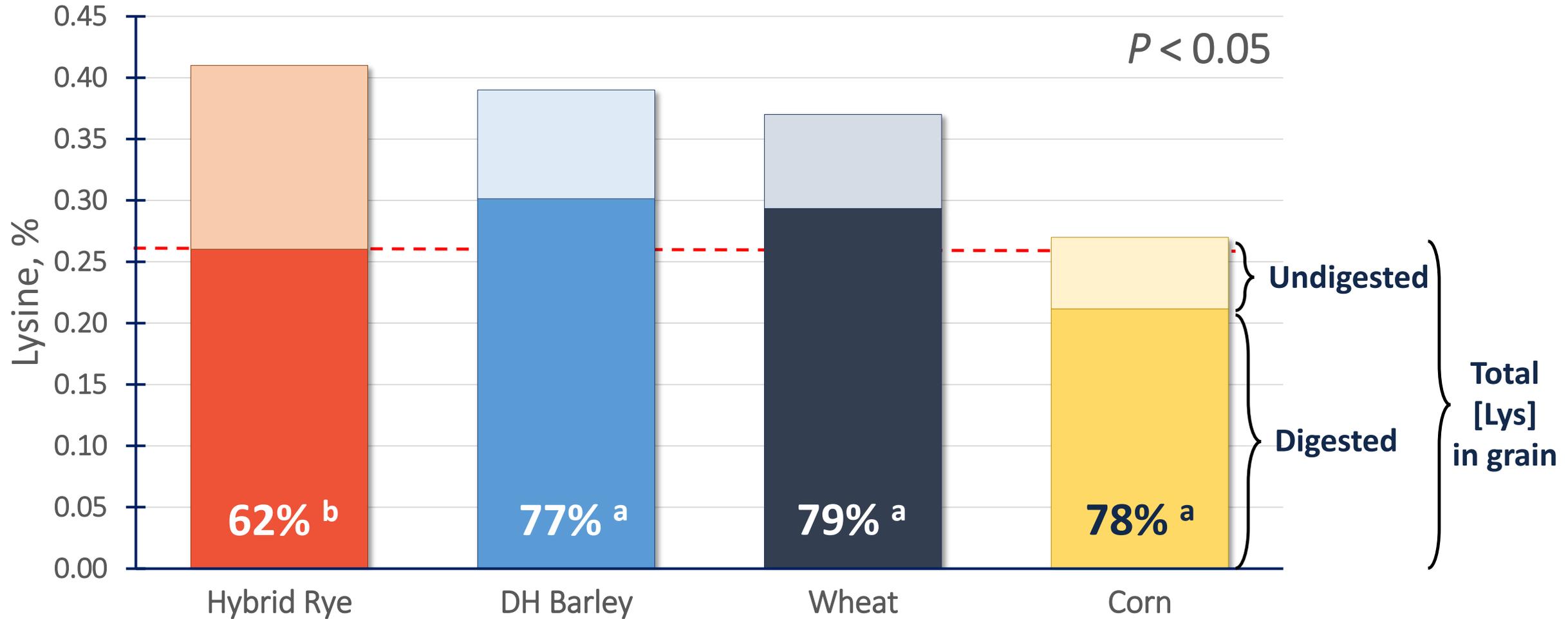


0.41% Lysine

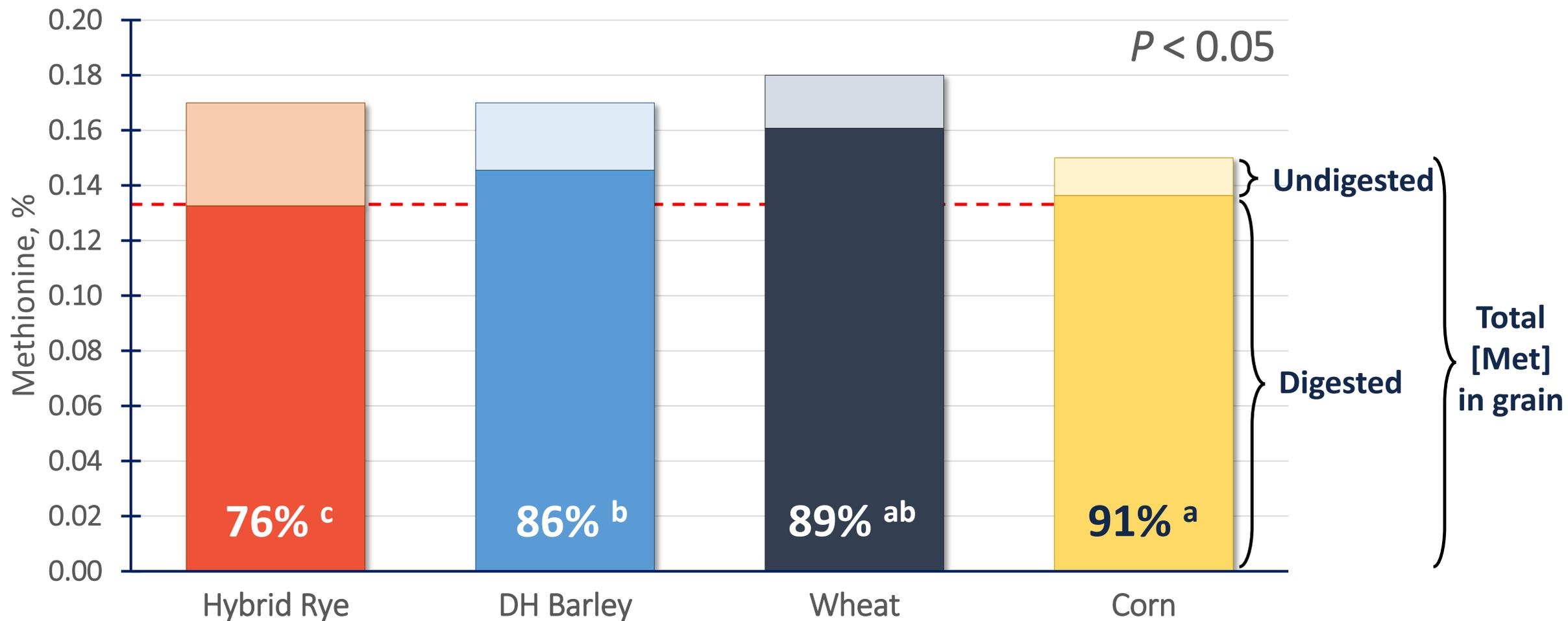
**0.26% *SID* Lysine**

**I**

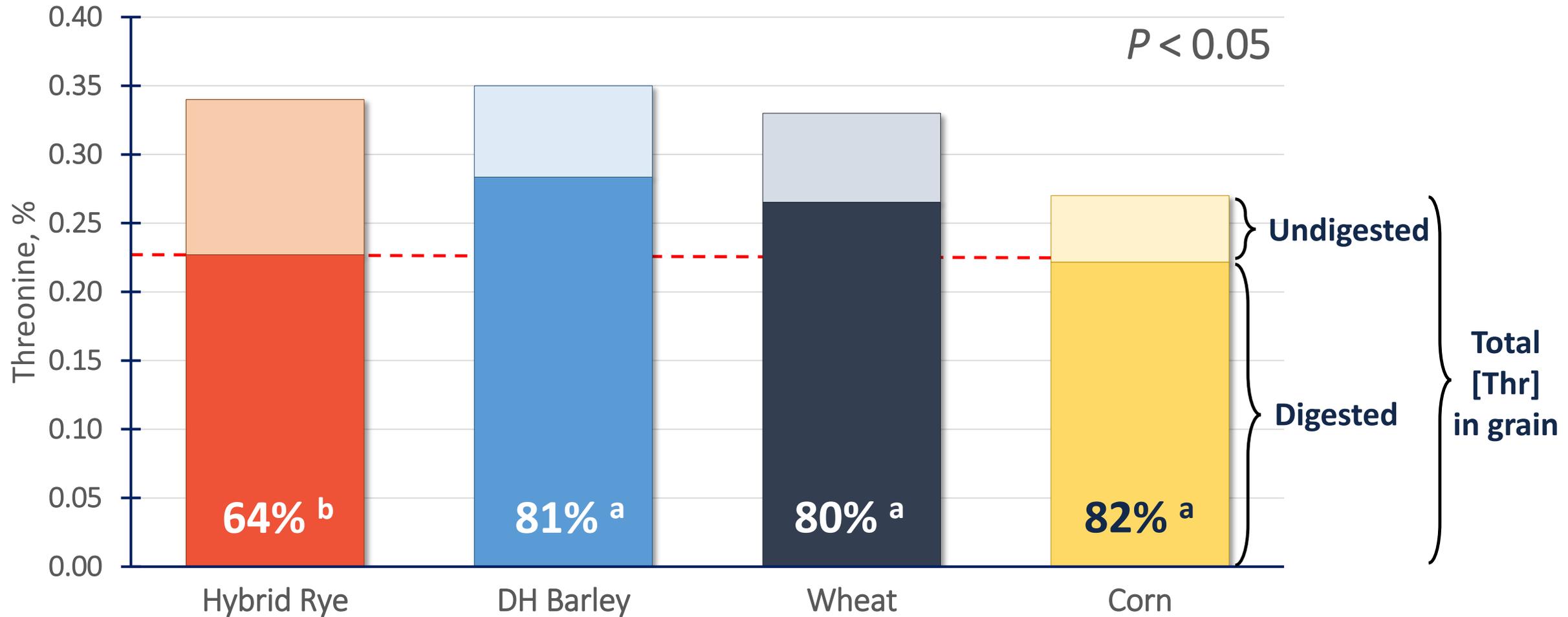
# Digestible Lysine (SID)



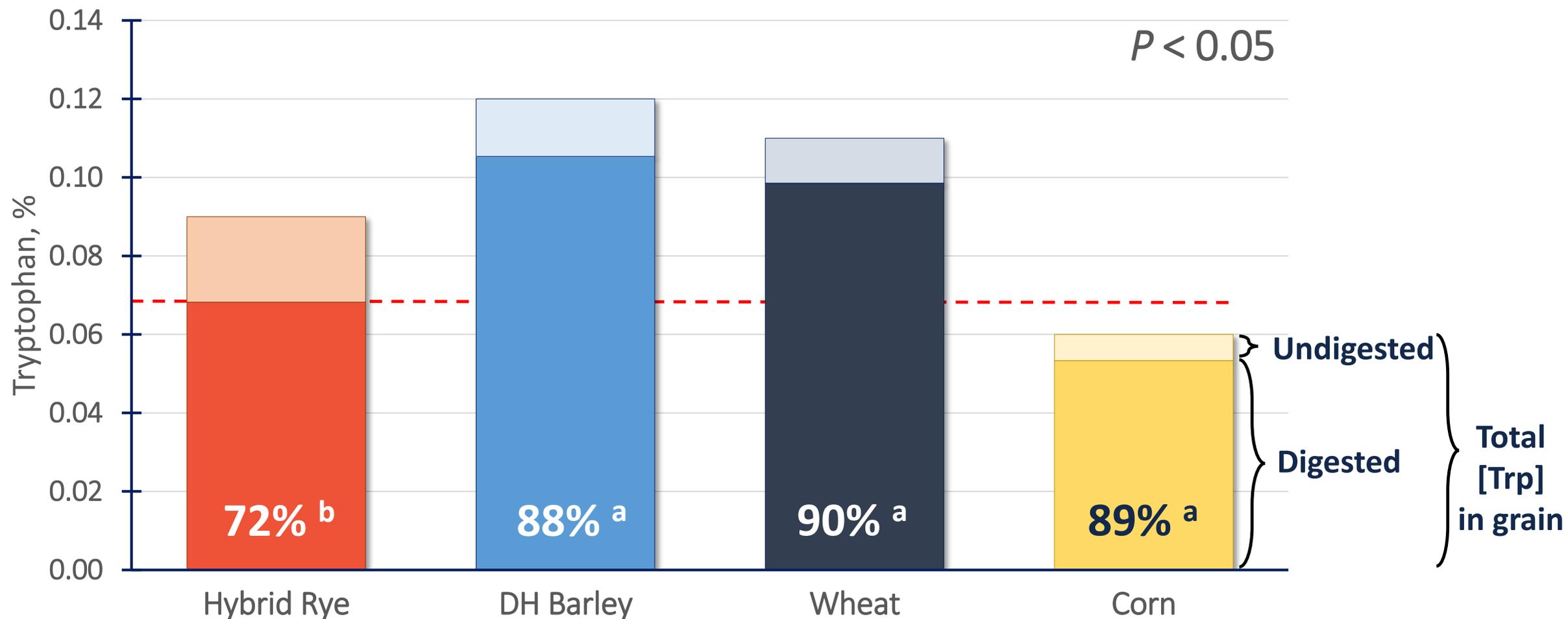
# Digestible Methionine (SID)



# Digestible Threonine (SID)



# Digestible Tryptophan (SID)



# Exp. 1 Conclusions

**AA digestibility:** Hybrid rye < Other grains

Antinutritive factors (insoluble fiber), viscosity

**Quantities of digestible AA:** Hybrid rye  $\approx$  corn

Similar diet formulations for corn & rye

## Effects of microbial phytase on standardized total tract digestibility of phosphorus in hybrid rye, barley, wheat, corn, and sorghum fed to growing pigs<sup>1</sup>

Molly L. McGhee and Hans H. Stein<sup>2</sup>

Department of Animal Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

**ABSTRACT:** An experiment was conducted to determine the apparent total tract digestibility (ATTD) and the standardized total tract digestibility (STTD) of P in three varieties of hybrid rye and in one source of barley, wheat, corn, and sorghum. The STTD of P in each cereal grain was determined both without and with addition of microbial phytase. In total, 112 growing barrows (13.7 ± 1.3 kg initial BW) were allotted to a randomized complete block design with four blocks of 28 pigs. Pigs were randomly allotted to 14 diets with two replicate pigs per diet in each block, resulting in a total of eight replicate pigs per diet for the four blocks. Each diet contained one of the cereal grains as the sole source of P. There were two diets with each cereal grain with one diet containing no microbial phytase and the other diet containing 1,000 units of microbial phytase per kilogram of diet. In each

period, fecal output was collected for 5 d following a 5-d adaptation period according to the marker-to-marker procedure. Among the diets that did not include microbial phytase, one hybrid of rye had greater ( $P < 0.05$ ) STTD of P than wheat, corn, and sorghum, which is likely a result of the greater intrinsic phytase activity in rye than in the other cereal grains. Without microbial phytase, there was no difference in the STTD of P in the three hybrids of rye and barley. Among the diets containing microbial phytase, there was no difference in STTD of P among the three hybrids of rye, barley, and corn. The STTD of P in the three hybrids of rye with microbial phytase was 61.9%, 70.8%, and 63.0%, respectively. Overall, microbial phytase improved ( $P < 0.05$ ) the STTD of P in all cereal grains, although the magnitude of the increase in STTD of P differed among the grains.

**Key words:** calcium, cereal grains, digestibility, hybrid rye, phosphorus, pigs

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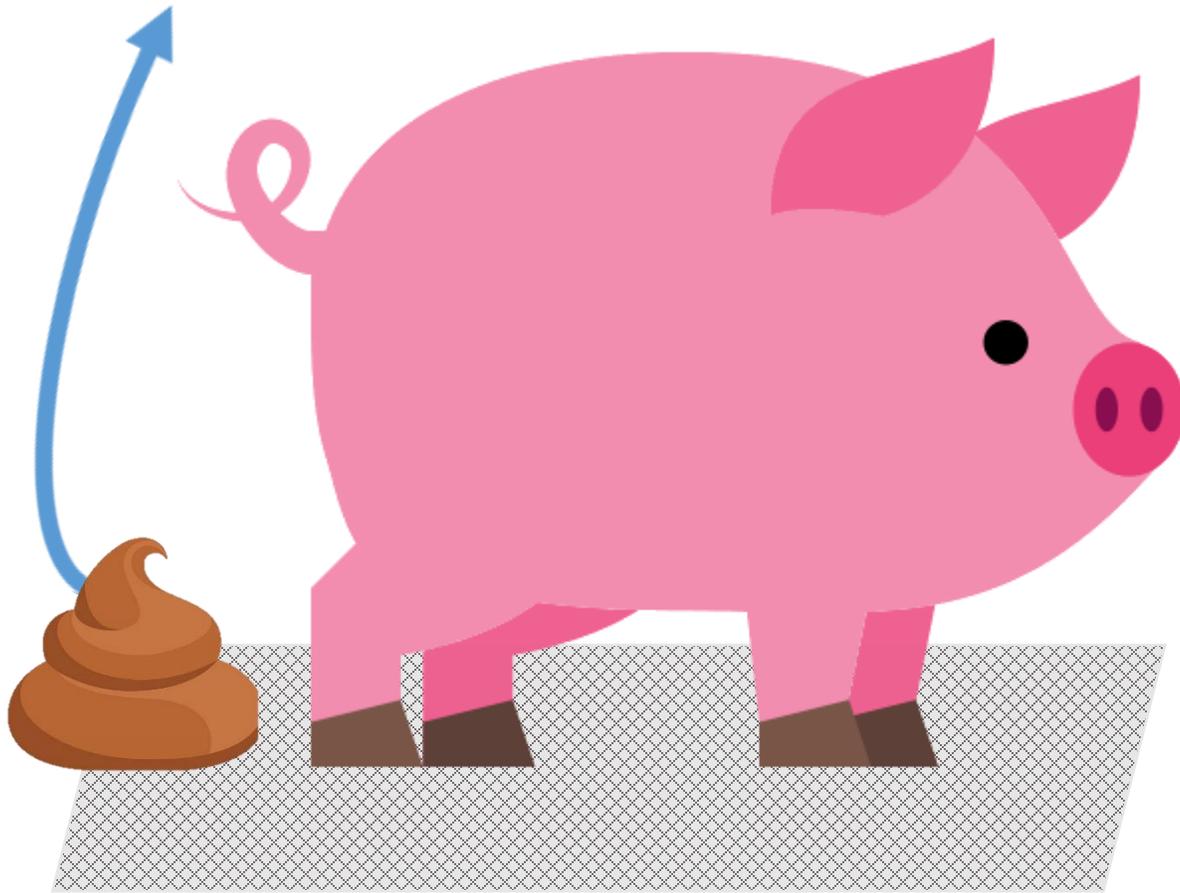
Transl. Anim. Sci. 2019.XX:0-0  
doi: 10.1093/tas/txz088

## EXP. 2

# Phosphorus Digestibility



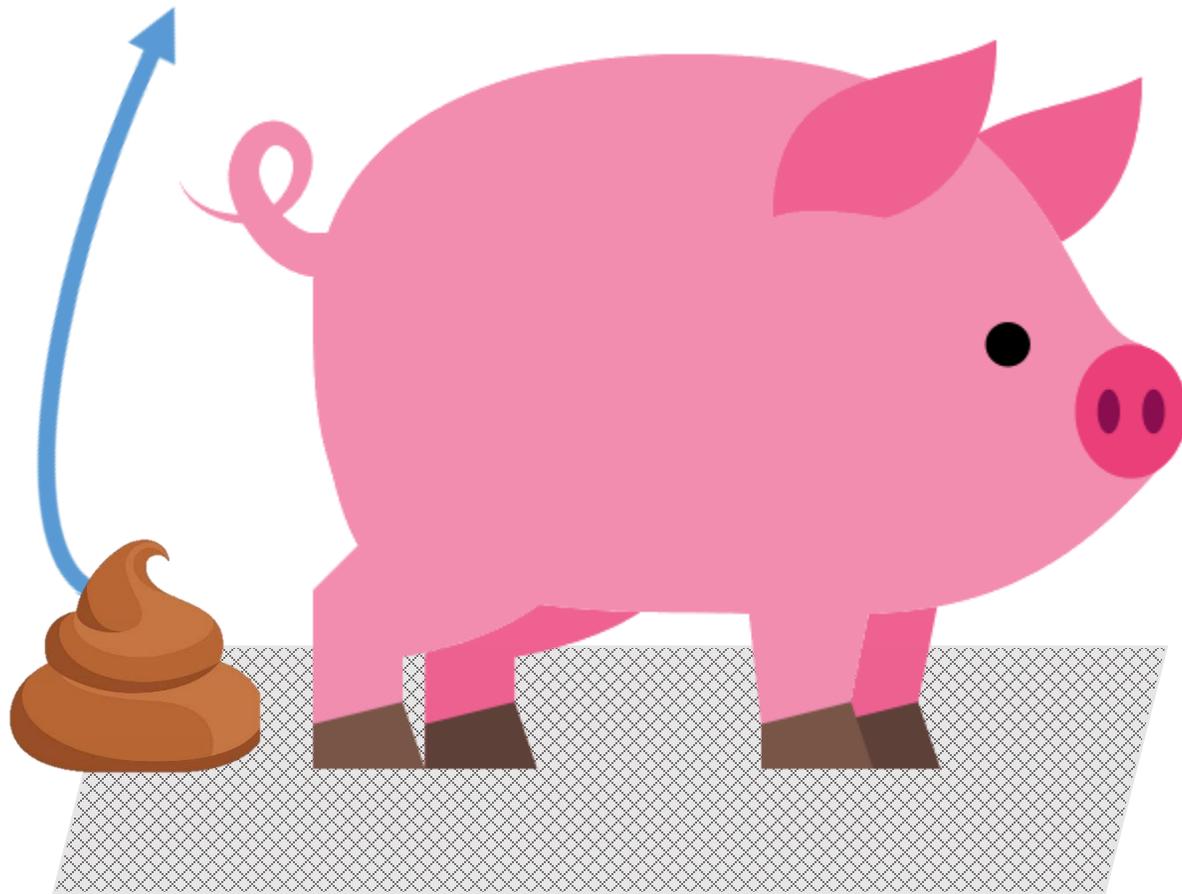
STTD = 49%



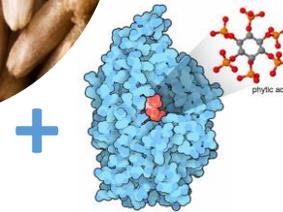
0.29% Phosphorus  
**0.14% *STTD P***

WHAT IF WE ADD  
PHYTASE?

STTD = ~~49%~~ 63%

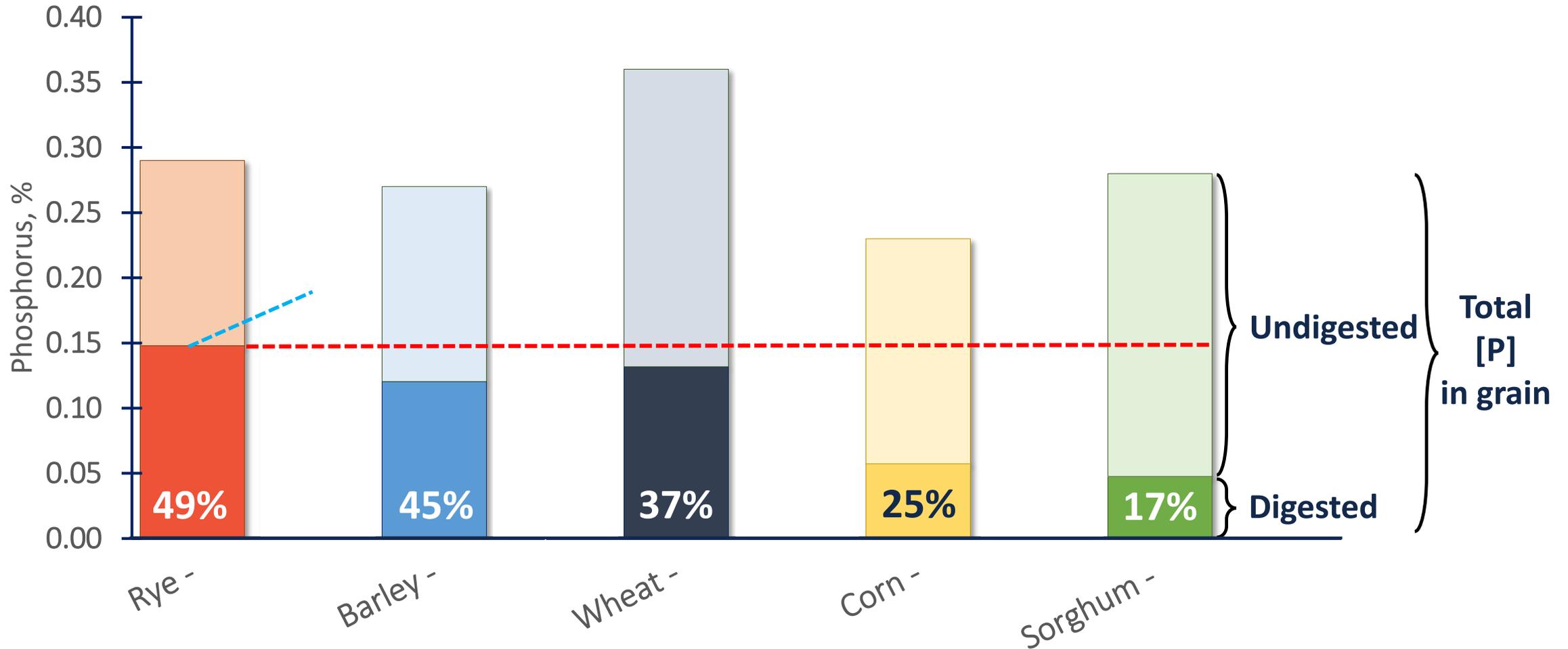


0.29% Phosphorus  
**0.18% STTD P**

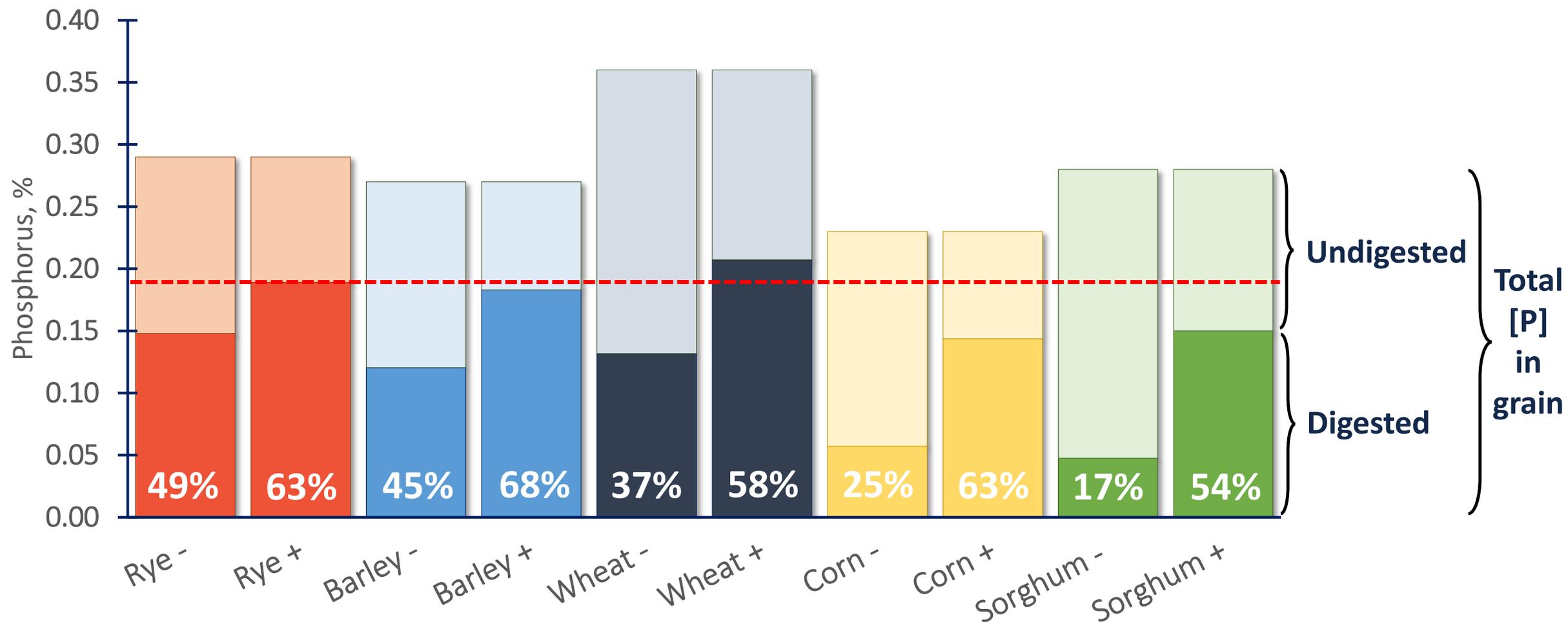


WHAT IF WE ADD  
PHYTASE?

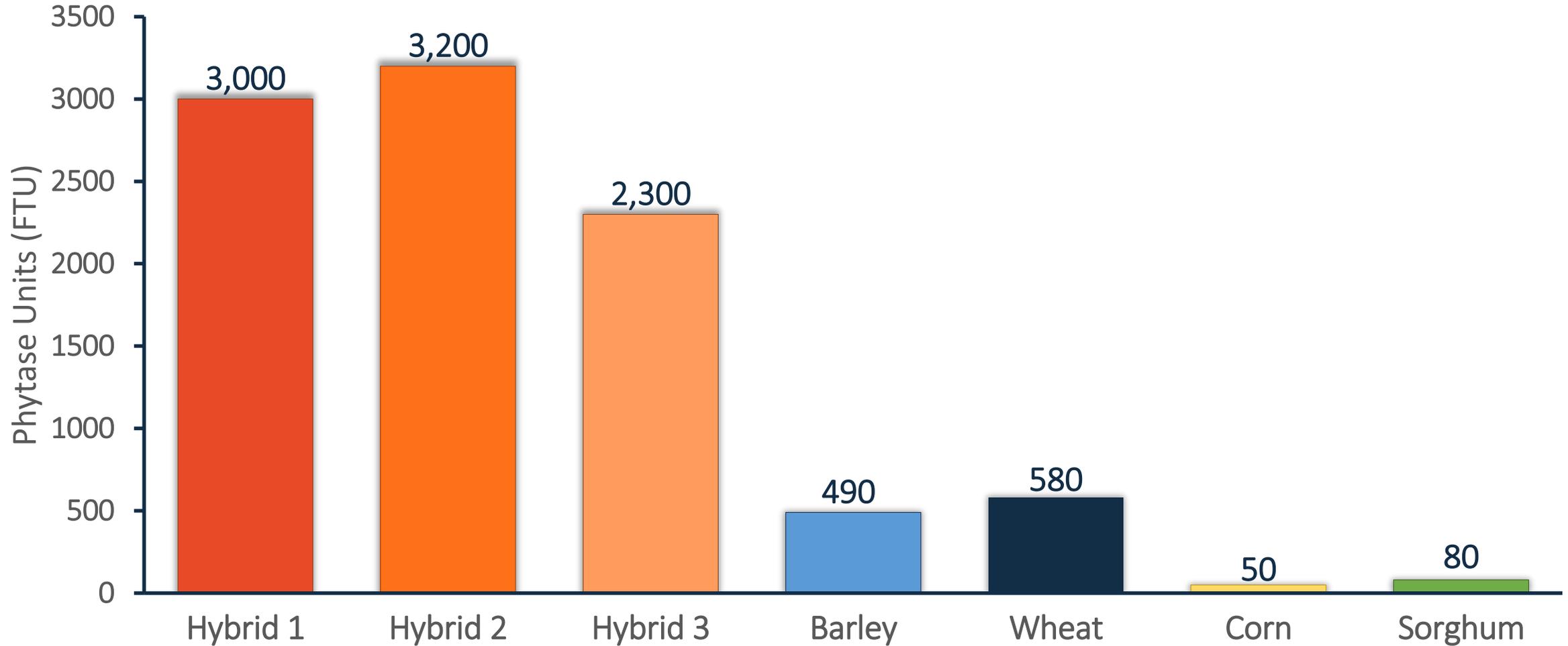
# Digestible Phosphorus (STTD)



# Digestible Phosphorus (STTD)



# Intrinsic phytase



# Exp. 2 Conclusions

Hybrid rye contains large amounts of **intrinsic phytase**.

Therefore, P digestibility is relatively high to begin with.

Microbial phytase **increased P digestibility in all grains**.

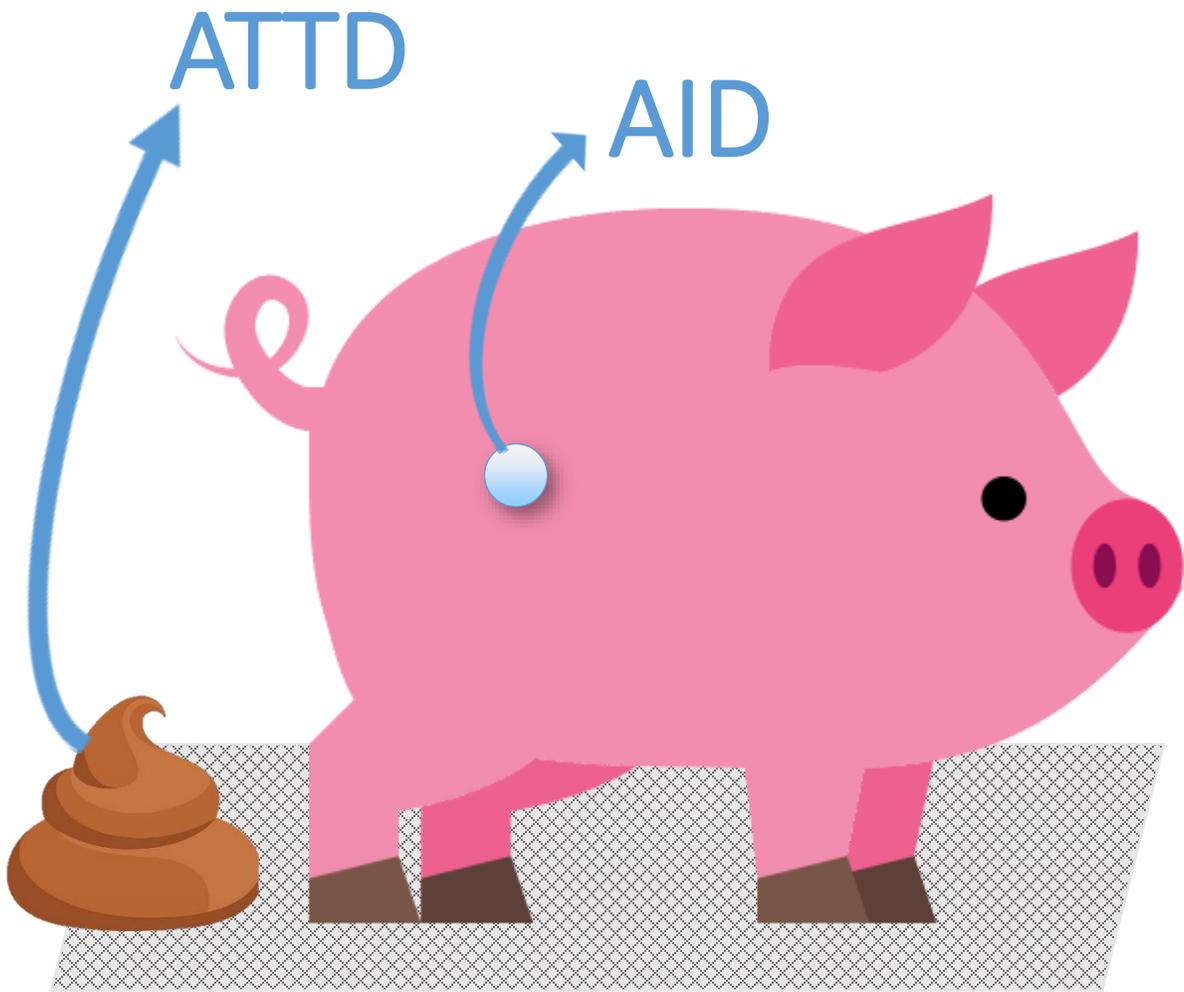
In rye, the increase was significant, but less pronounced.

Conc. of **digestible P** in hybrid rye greater than in other grains

Less inorganic P needed in diets, less P excreted in feces

EXP. 3

# Carbohydrate and Energy Digestibility



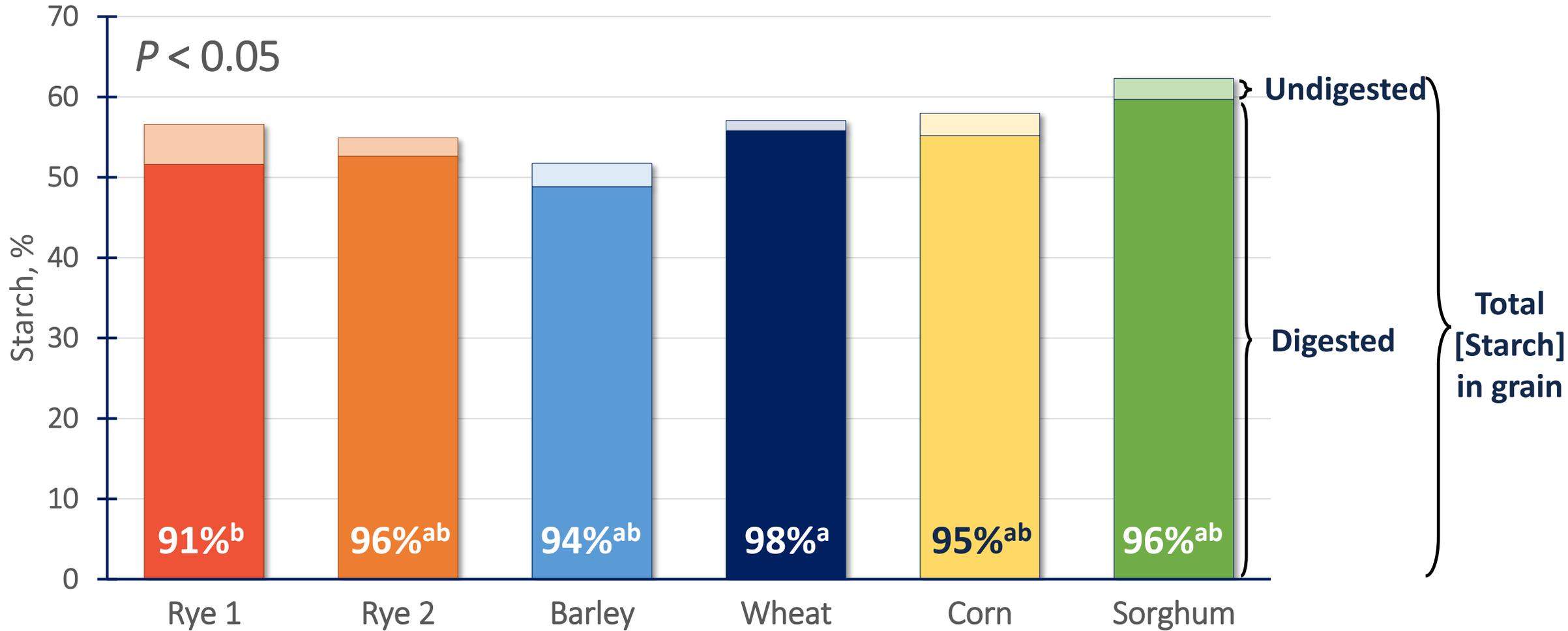
3,800 kcal/kg  
56% starch  
18% dietary fiber

**I**

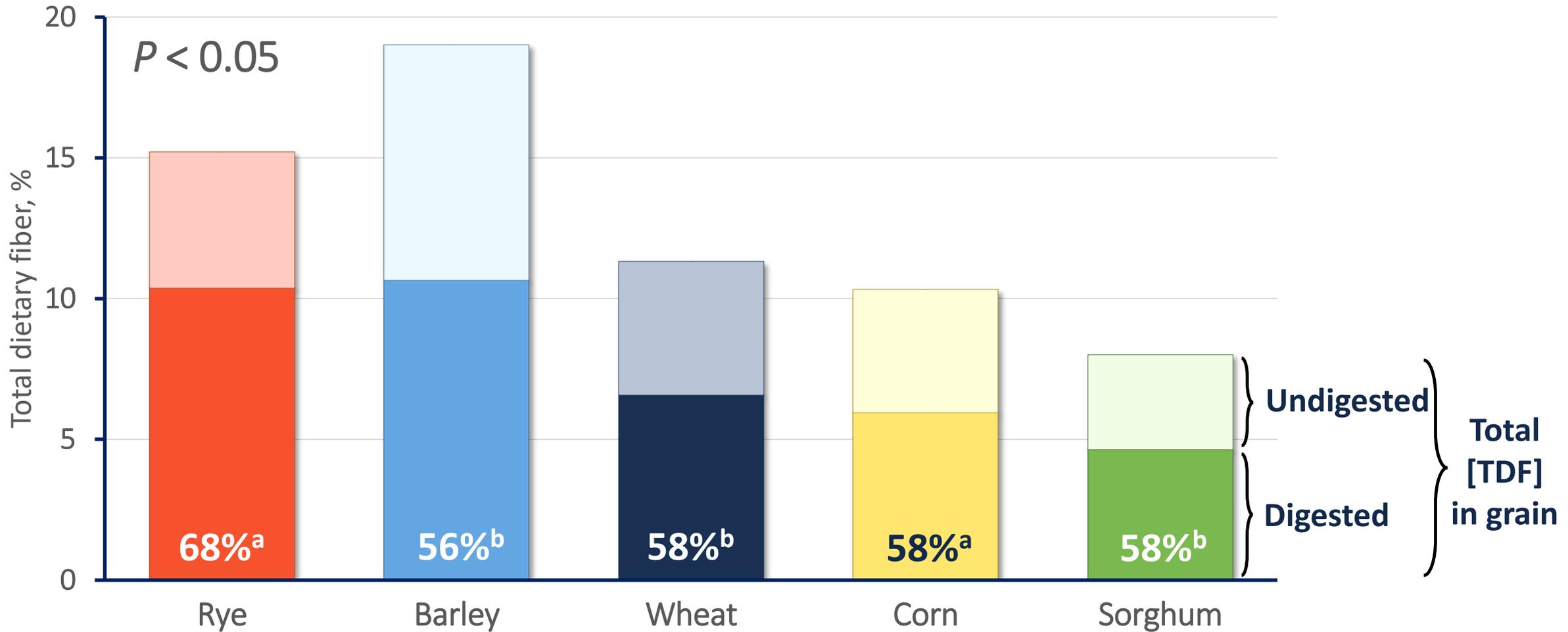


Metabolizable energy

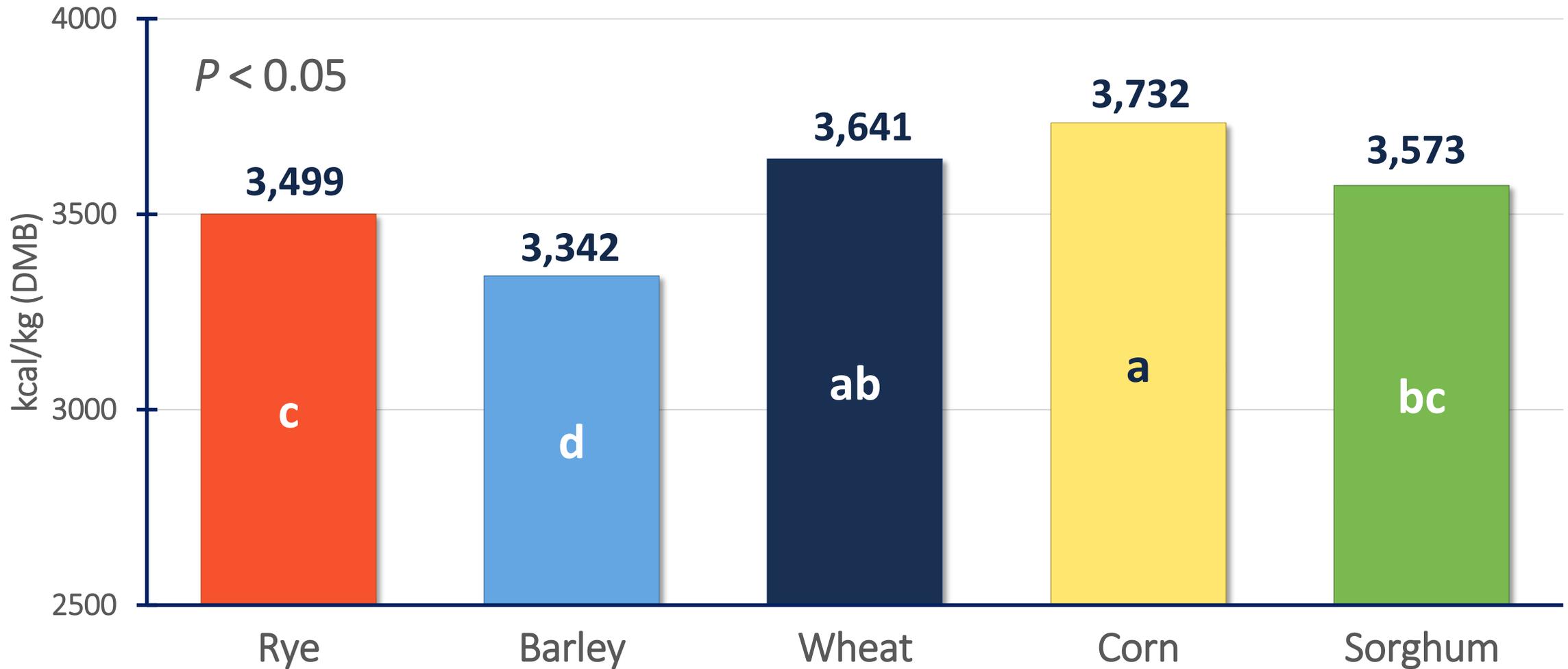
# Starch (AID)



# Total dietary fiber (ATTD)



# Metabolizable energy, kcal/kg DMB



# Exp. 3 Conclusions

Starch digestibility >90% in all cereal grains

Rye digestibility may differ among sources

Fermentation of rye fiber is **more** efficient than other grains

Contributes energy to pig via SCFA, may improve gut health!

Metabolizable energy in hybrid rye  $\cong$  barley  $\cong$  sorghum

(Less than corn and wheat)

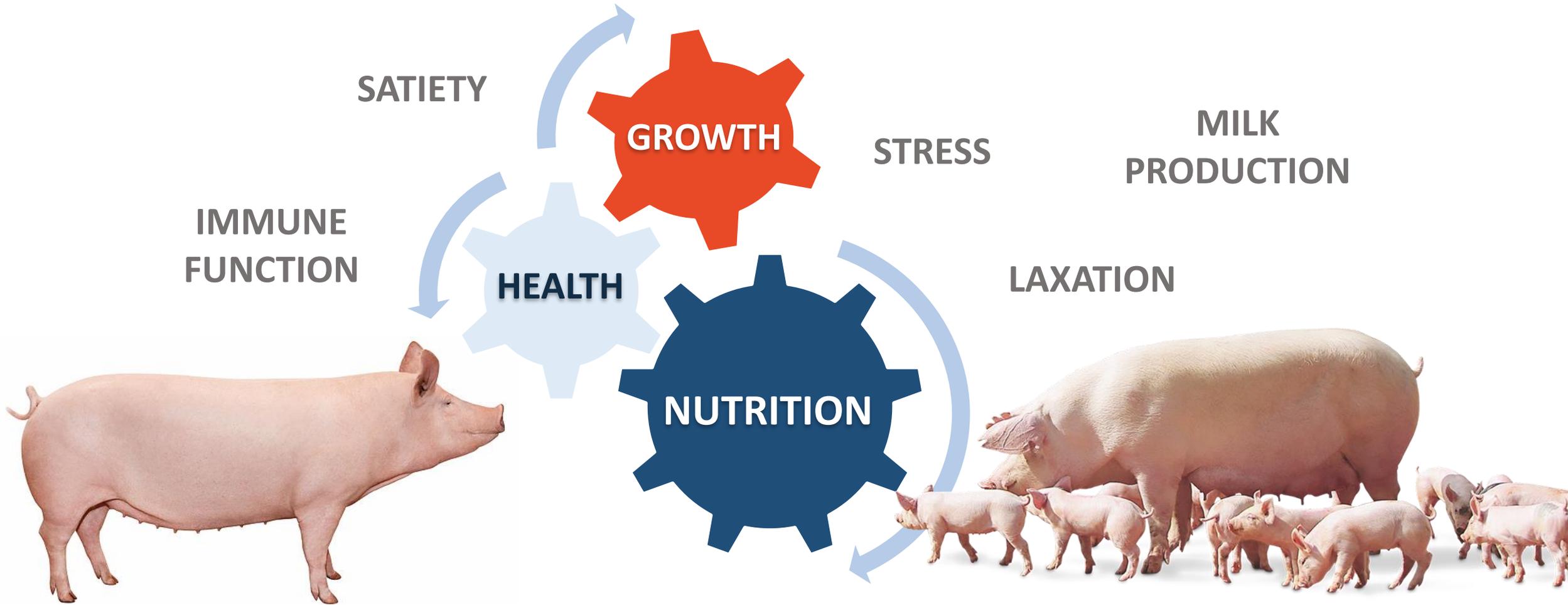
EXP. 4

# Sow performance

OCTOBER 2018 – AUGUST 2019



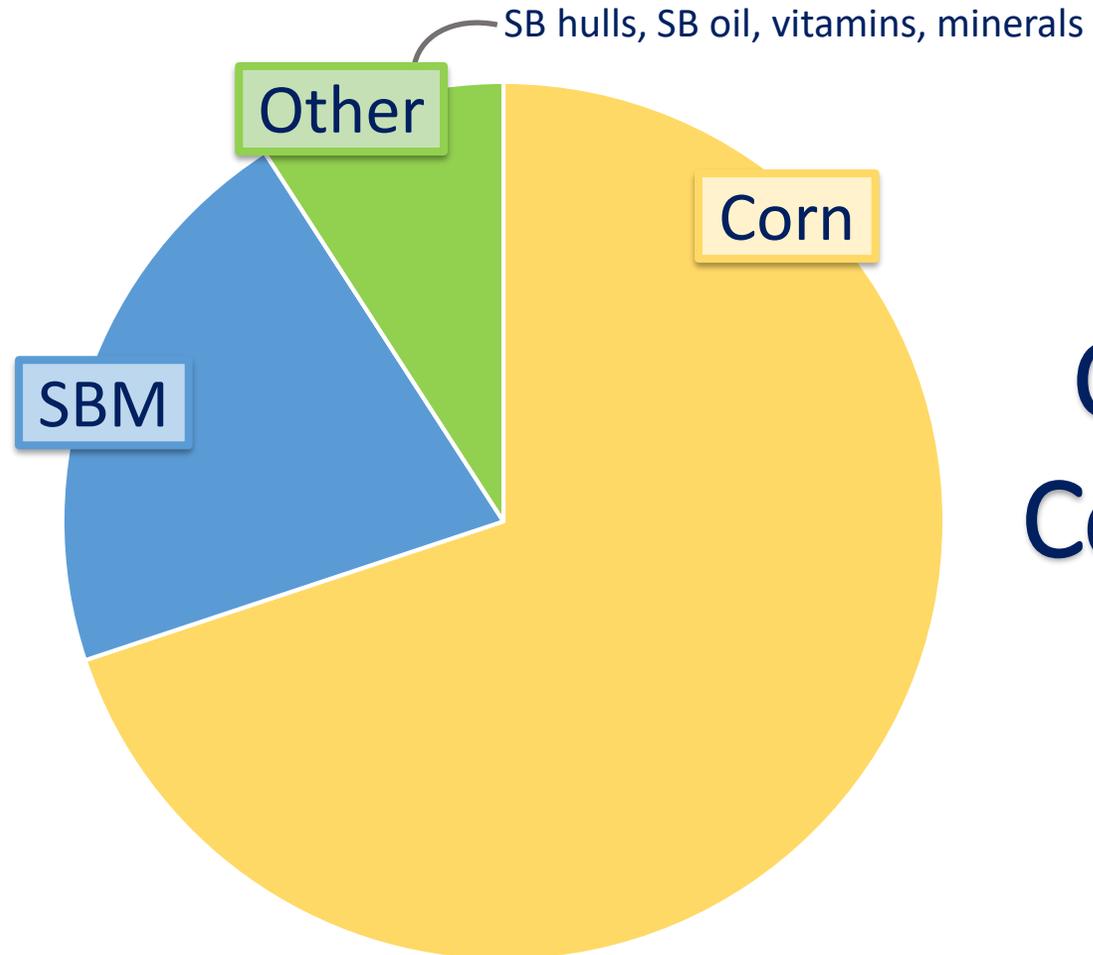
# Hybrid rye for sows





# Sow dietary treatments

FORMULATED FOR GESTATION + LACTATION

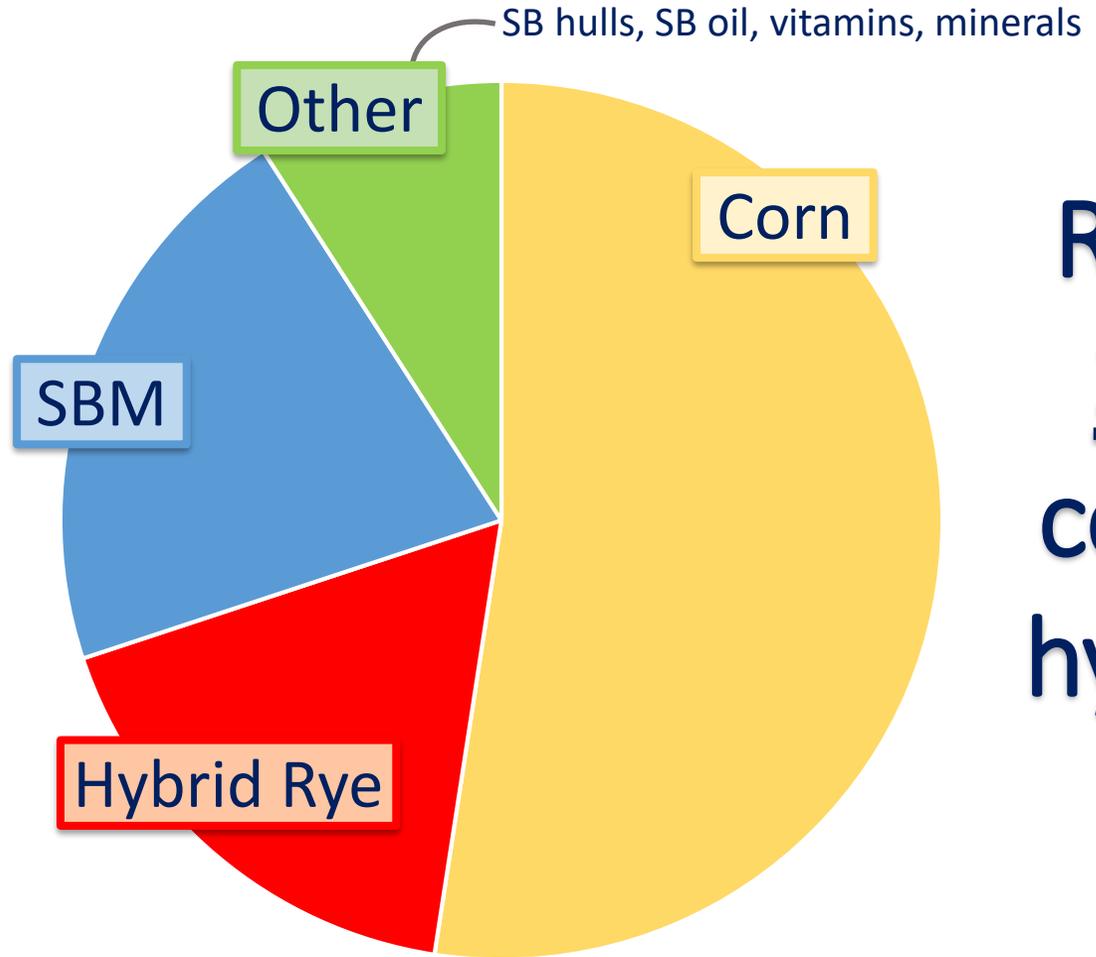


Control:  
Corn/SBM



# Sow dietary treatments

FORMULATED FOR GESTATION + LACTATION

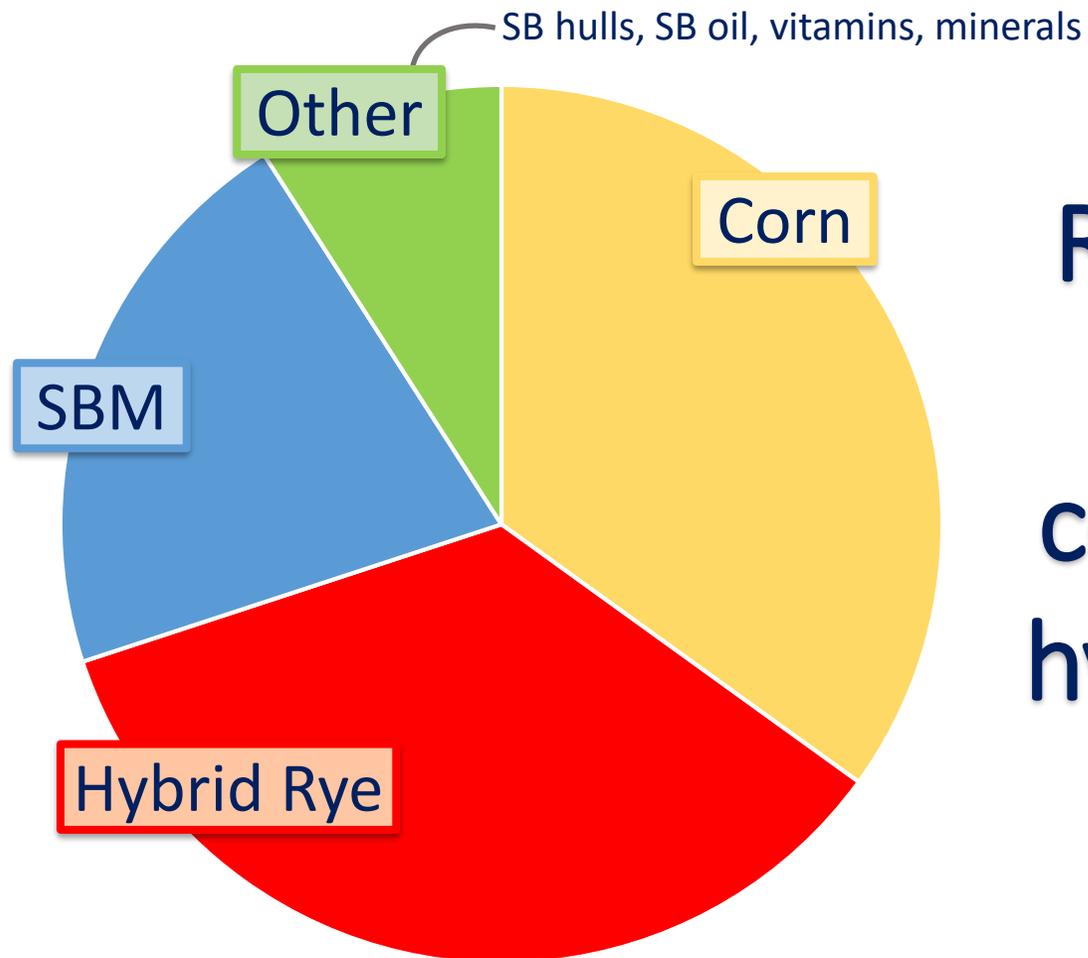


Replaces 25% of corn with hybrid rye



# Sow dietary treatments

FORMULATED FOR GESTATION + LACTATION

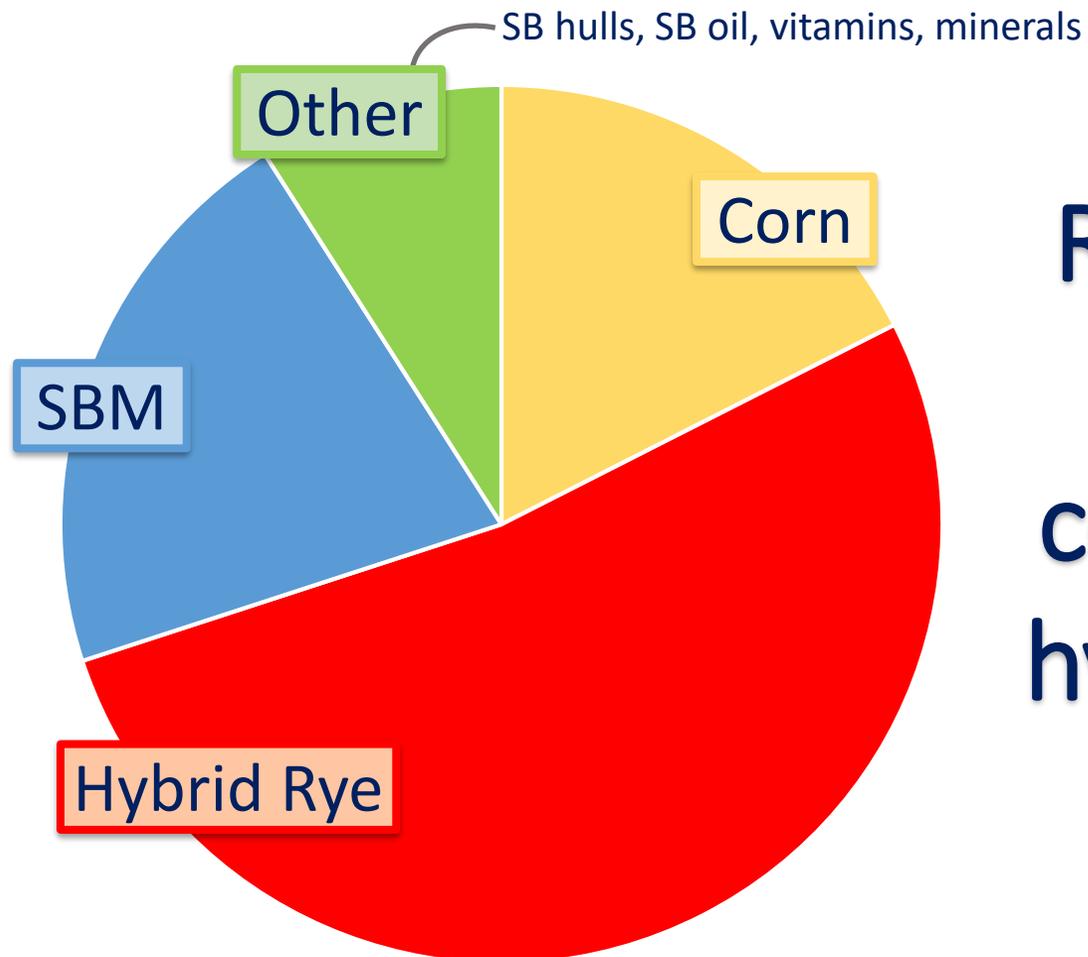


Replaces  
**50%** of  
corn with  
hybrid rye



# Sow dietary treatments

FORMULATED FOR GESTATION + LACTATION



Replaces  
75% of  
corn with  
hybrid rye

# Methods



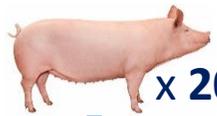
**Body weights:** Sows and/or piglets



**Serum:** IgG, IgA, IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$



**Milk:** IgG, IgA, SCC, MUN, fat, protein, lactose



x 200

0

BREED

7

ALLOT



90

BUMP FEED

105

MOVE TO LACTATION

~115

FARROW

13

SAMPLE

21

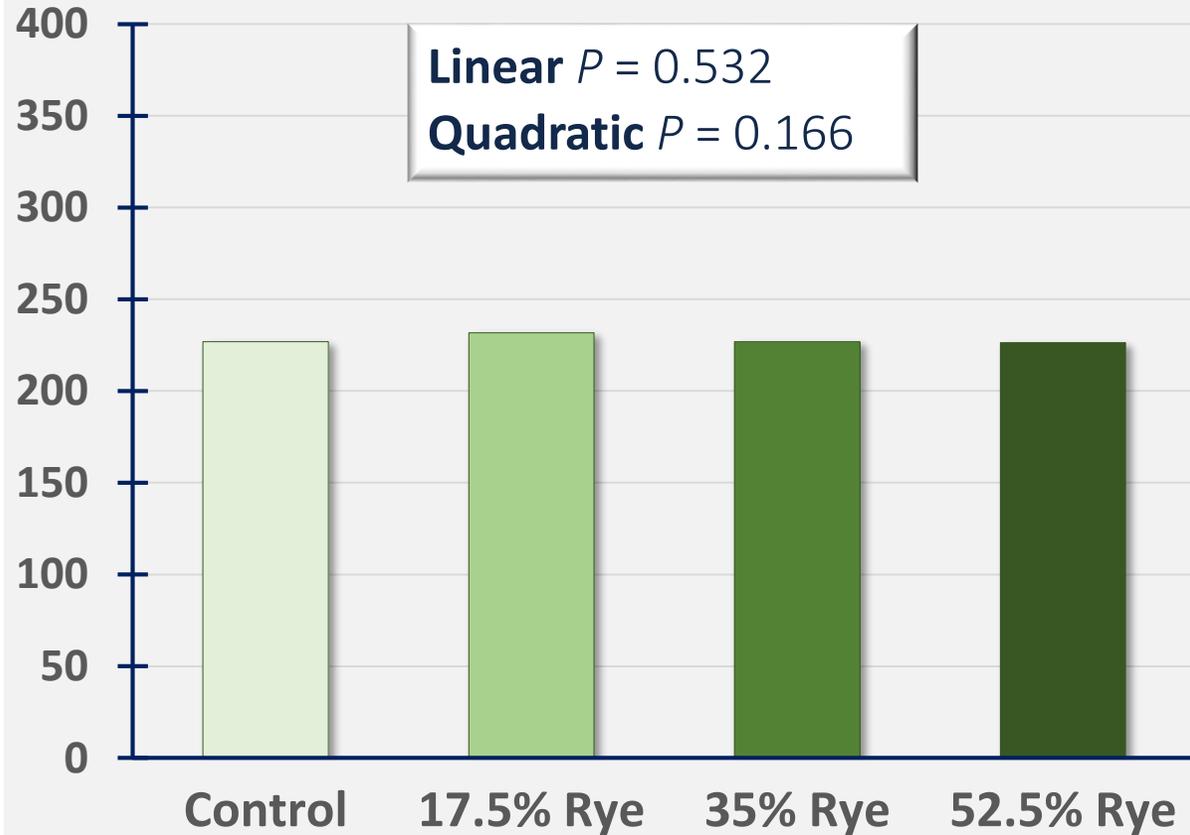
WEAN

days of gestation

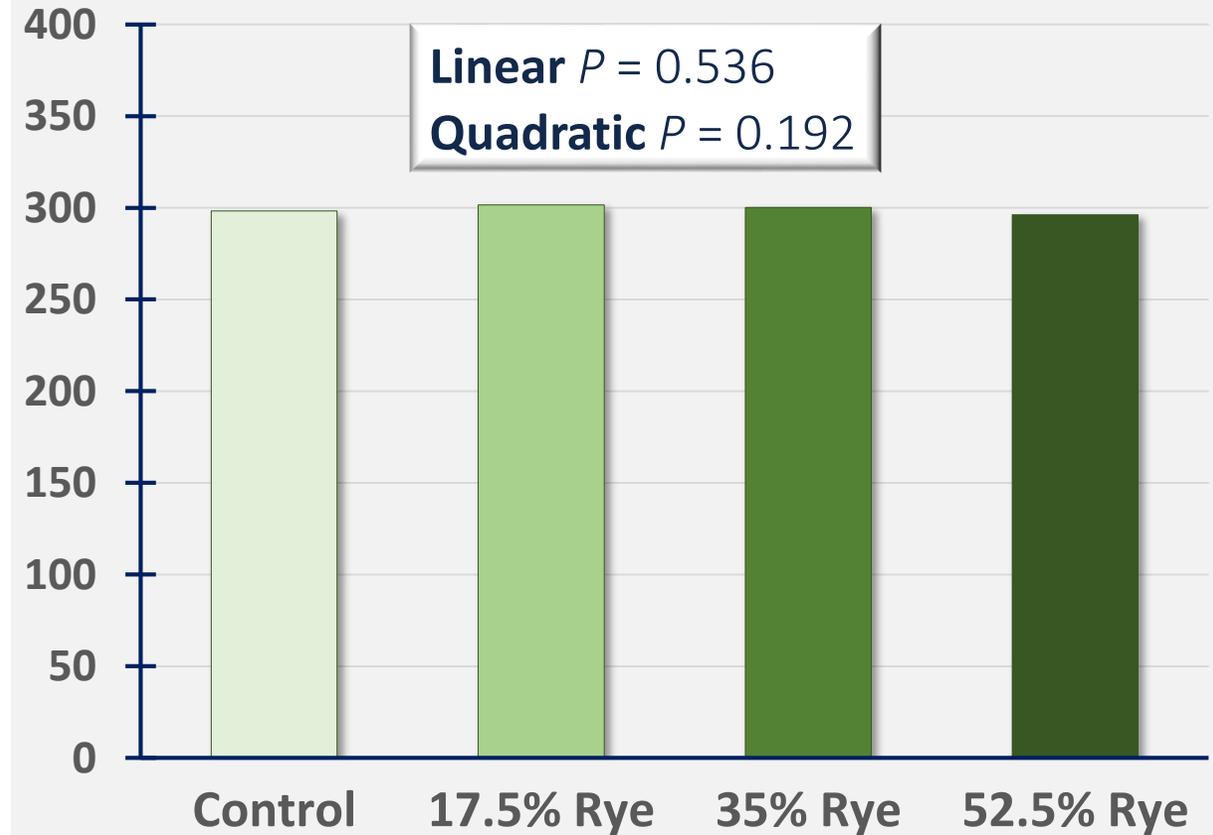
days of lactation

# GESTATION DATA

## Initial BW, kg

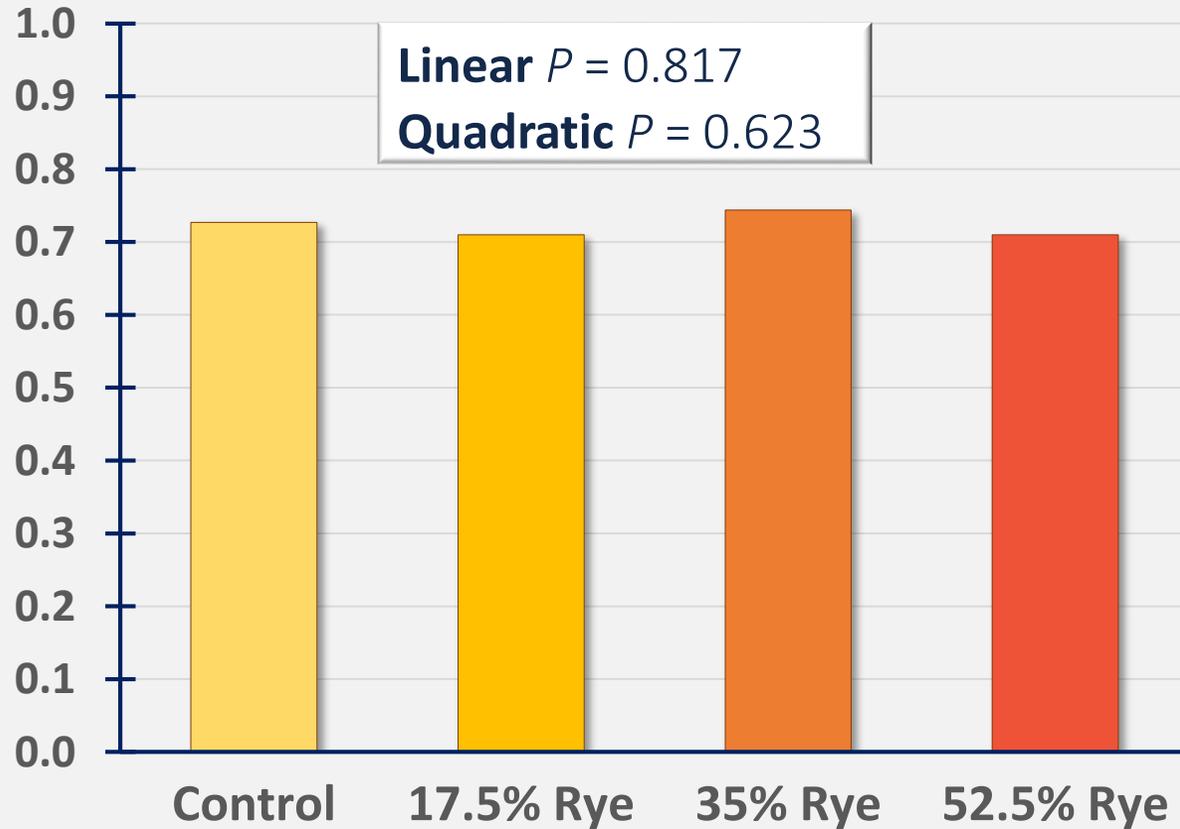


## Day 105 BW, kg

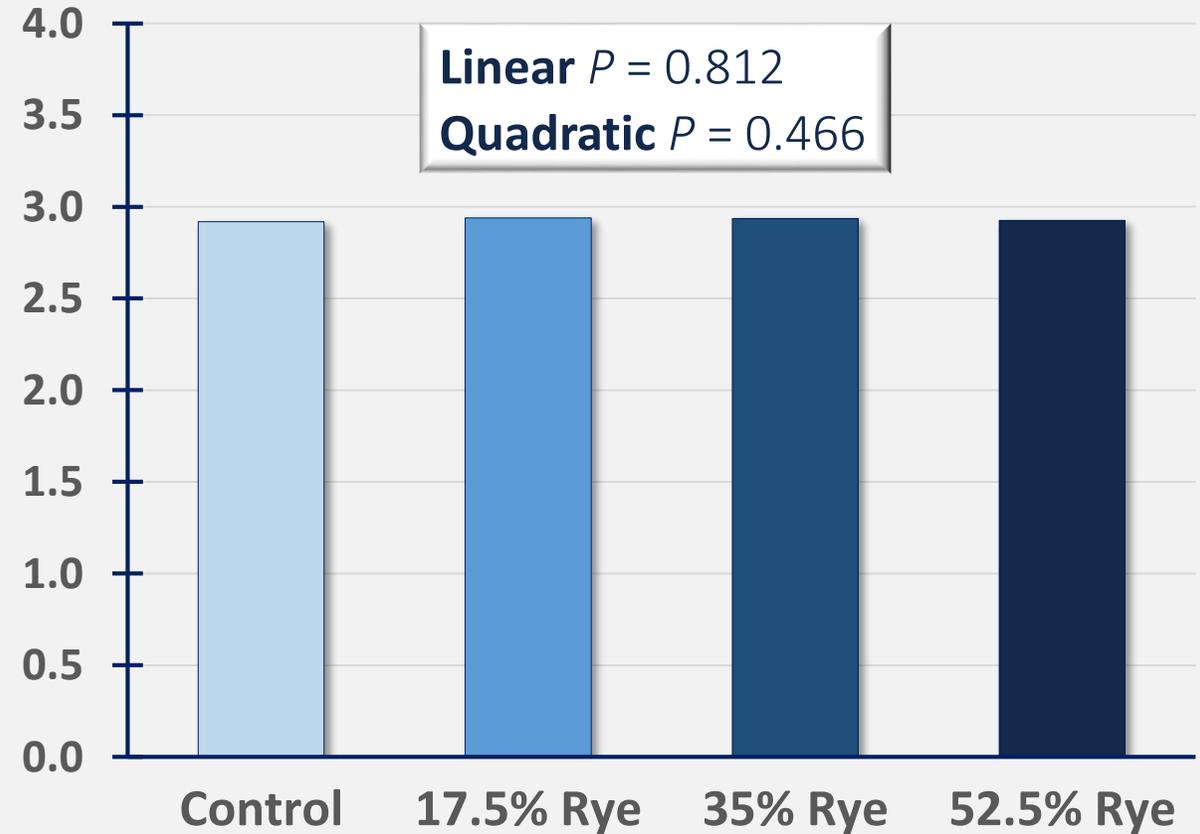


# GESTATION DATA

## Sow ADG, kg



## Sow ADFI, kg



# Results: Gestation

$P > 0.05$

INITIAL BODY WEIGHT, kg

DAY 105 BODY WEIGHT, kg

AVERAGE DAILY GAIN, kg

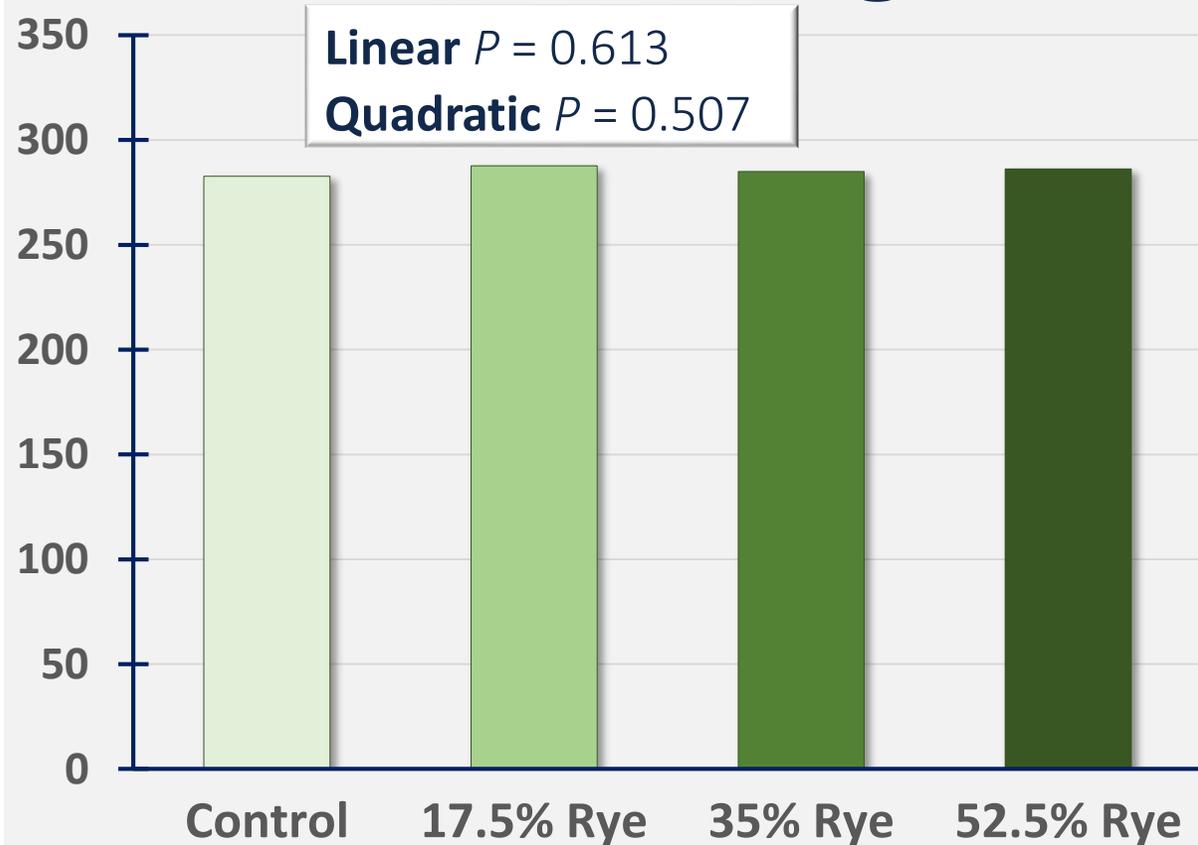
AVERAGE DAILY FEED INTAKE, kg

Hybrid rye **inclusion rate of 52.5%** appears to have little to no effect on gestation performance.

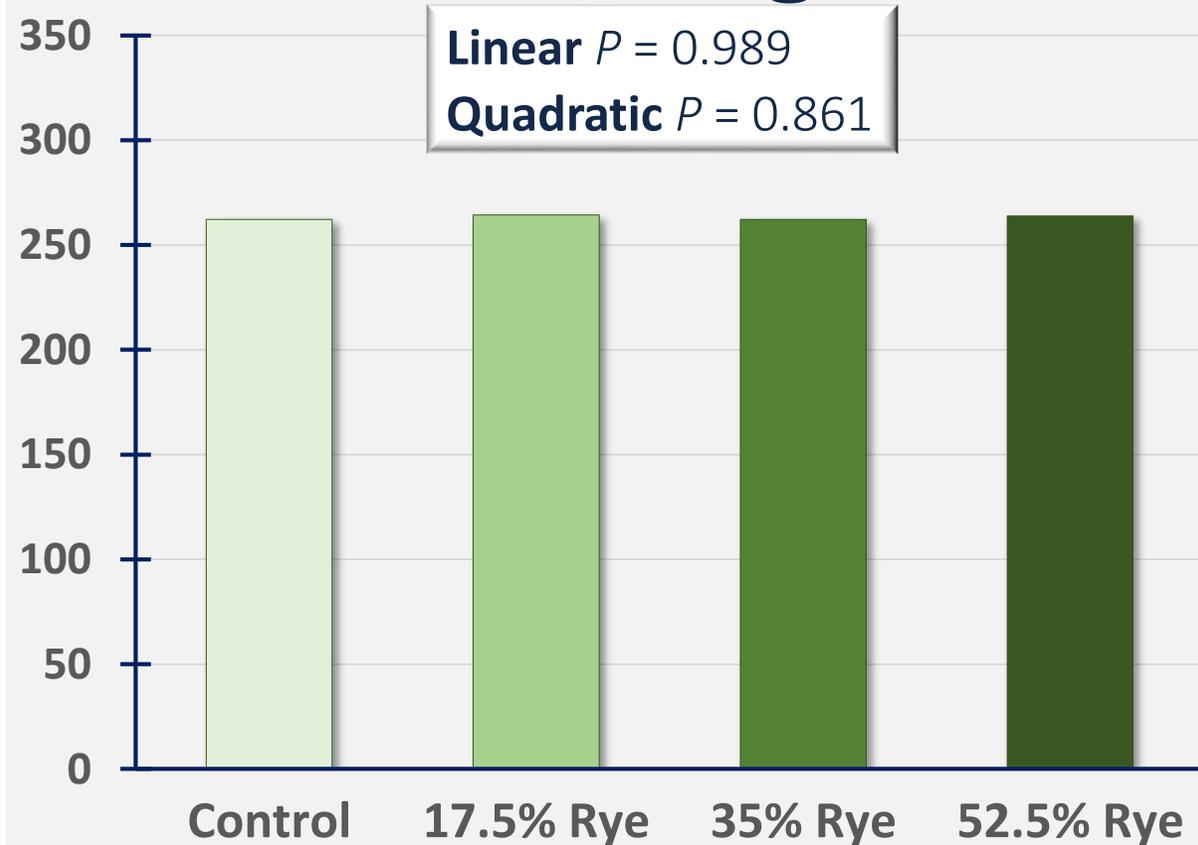
If no ergot is present, **it is predicted that 70%** hybrid rye in gestation diets would also be safe.

# SOW LACTATION DATA

## Farrow BW, kg

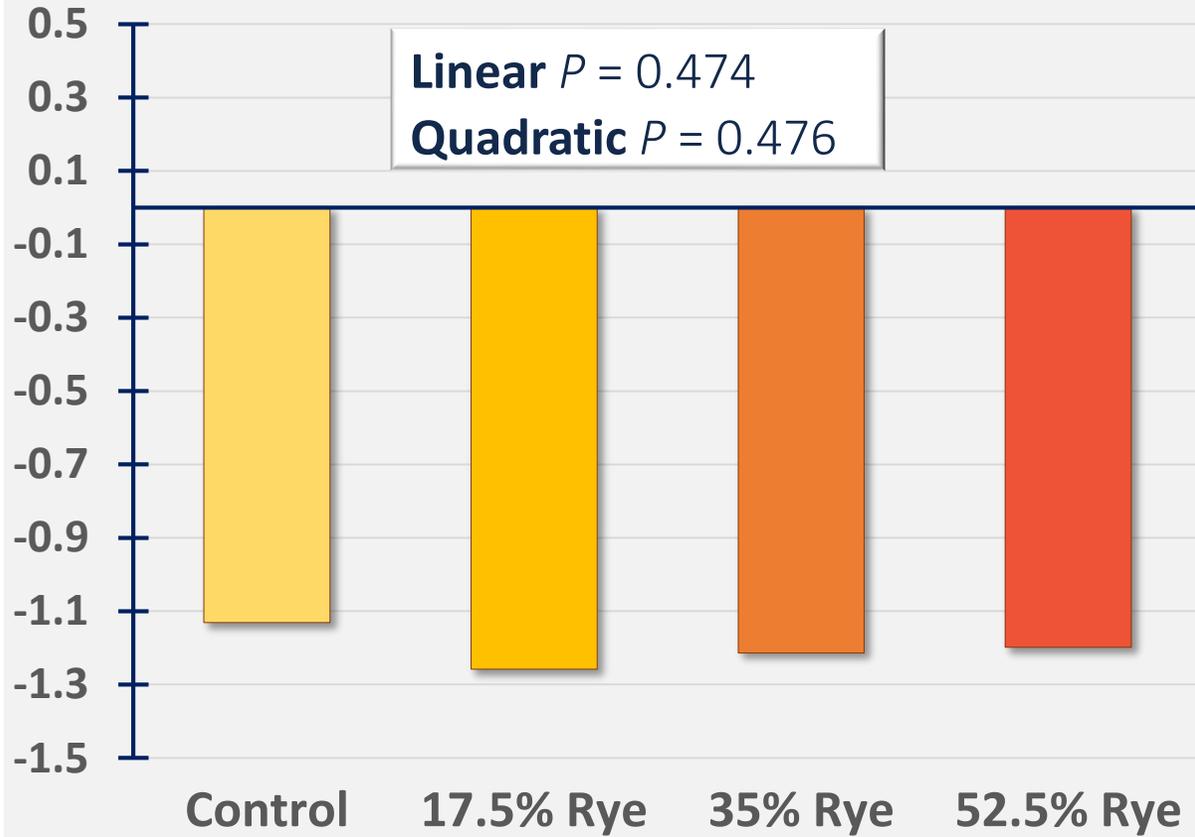


## Wean BW, kg

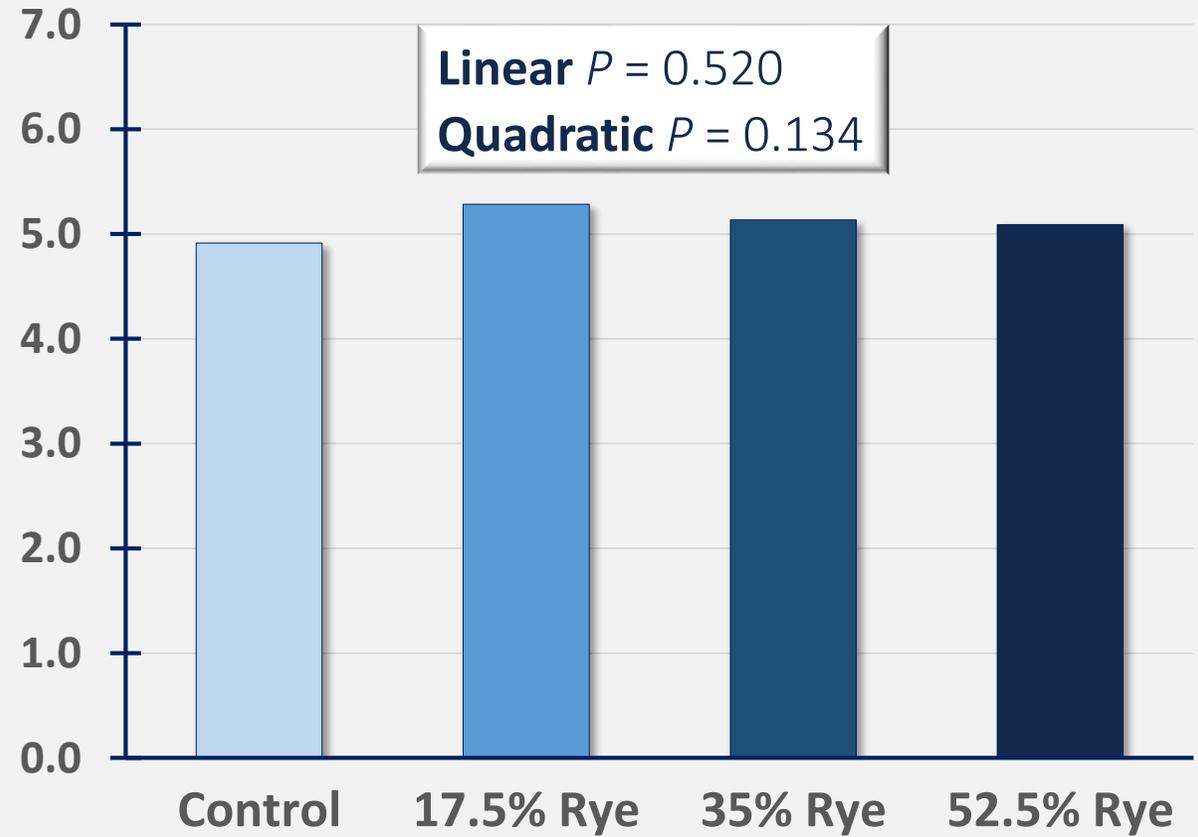


# SOW LACTATION DATA

## ADG, kg

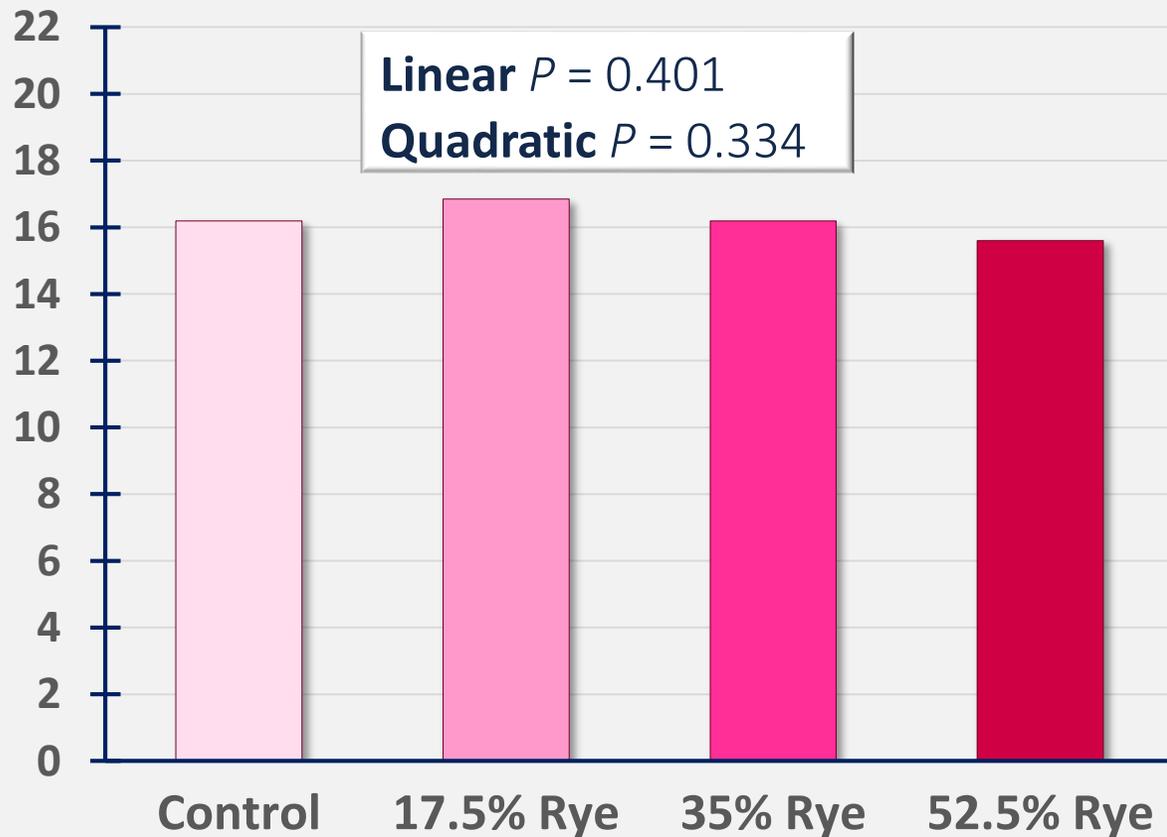


## ADFI, kg

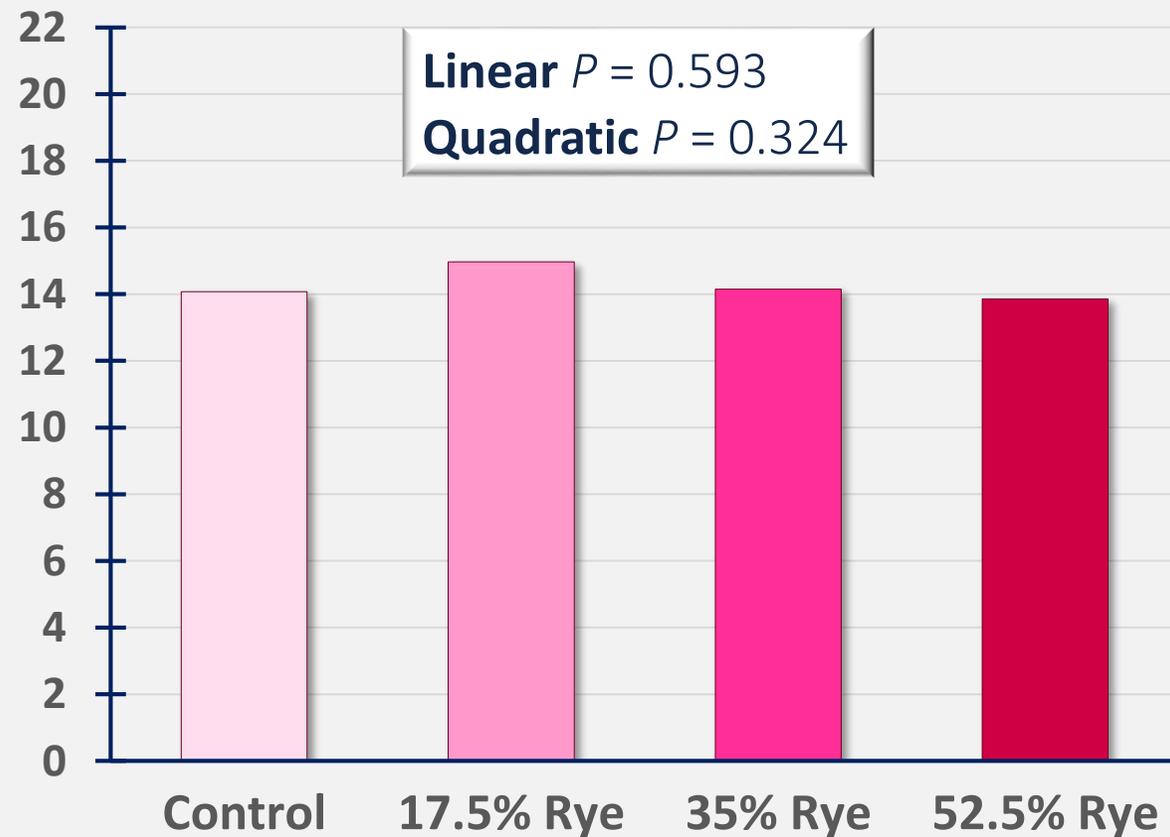


# PIGLET DATA

## Total born, pigs

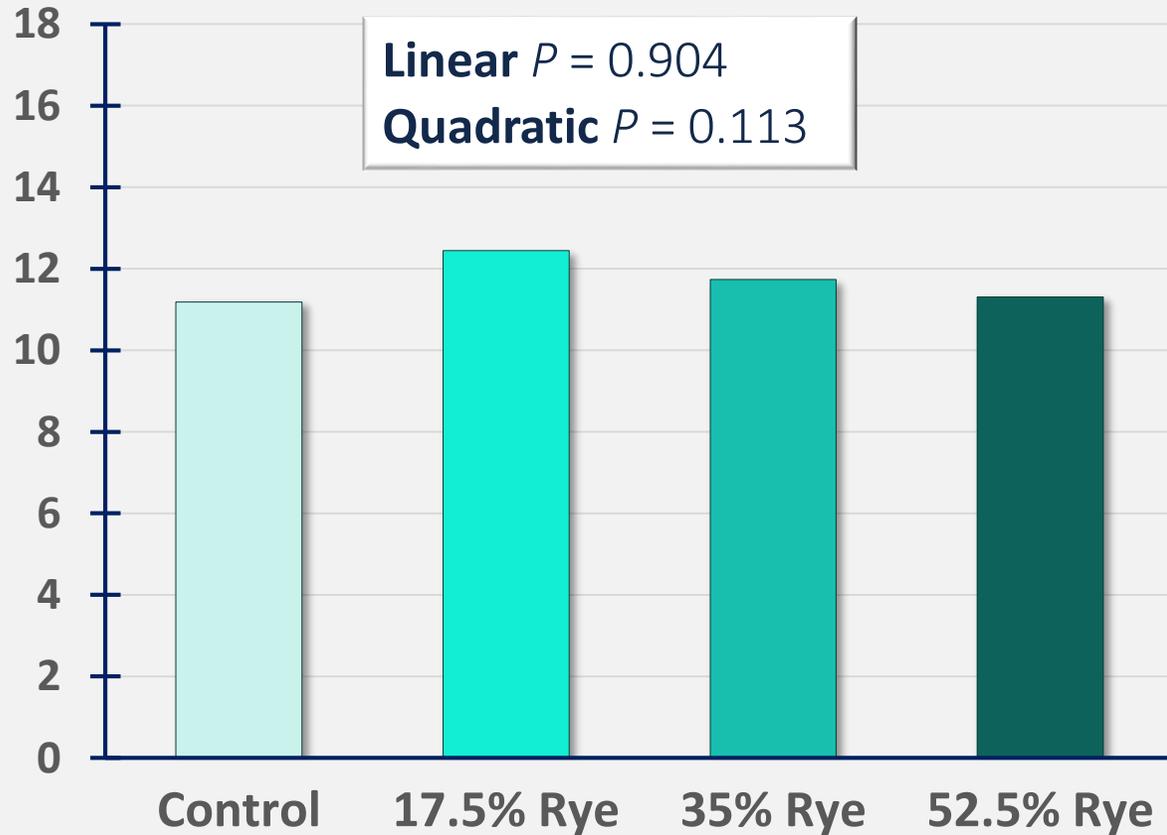


## Live born, pigs

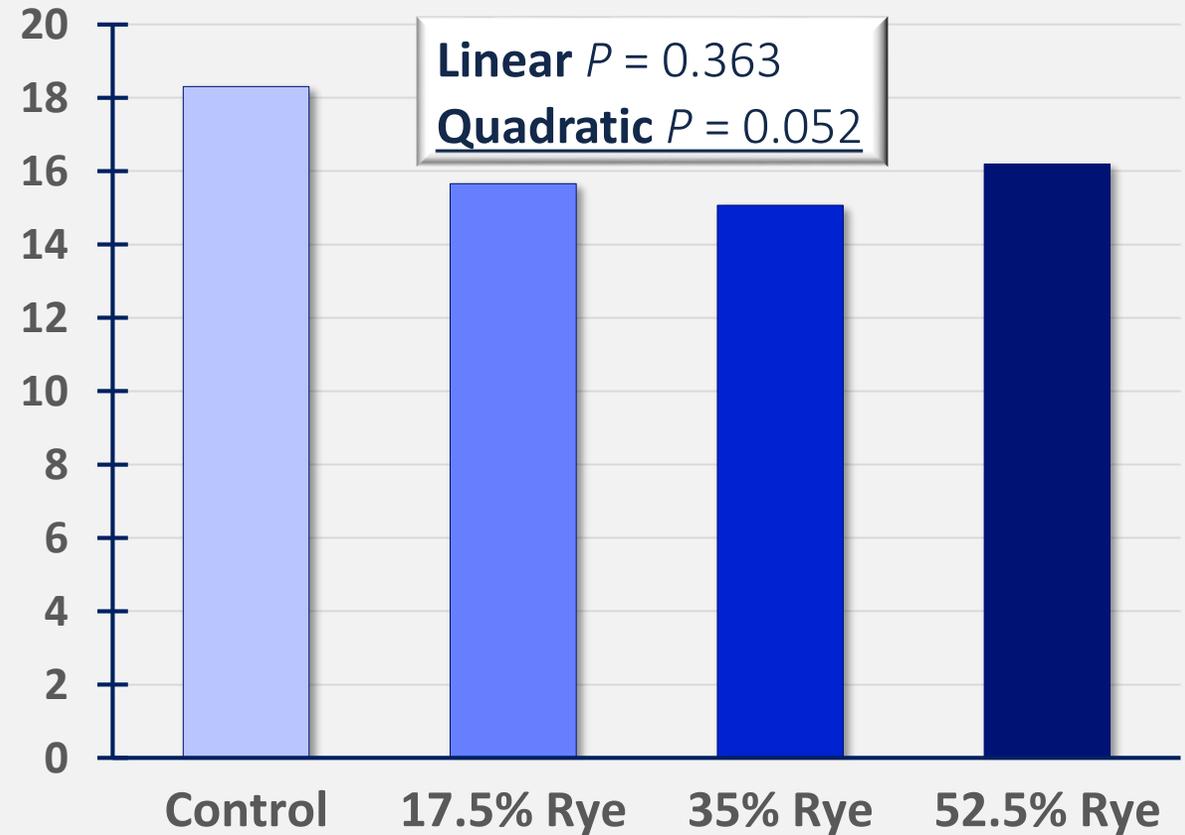


# PIGLET DATA

## Weaned, pigs

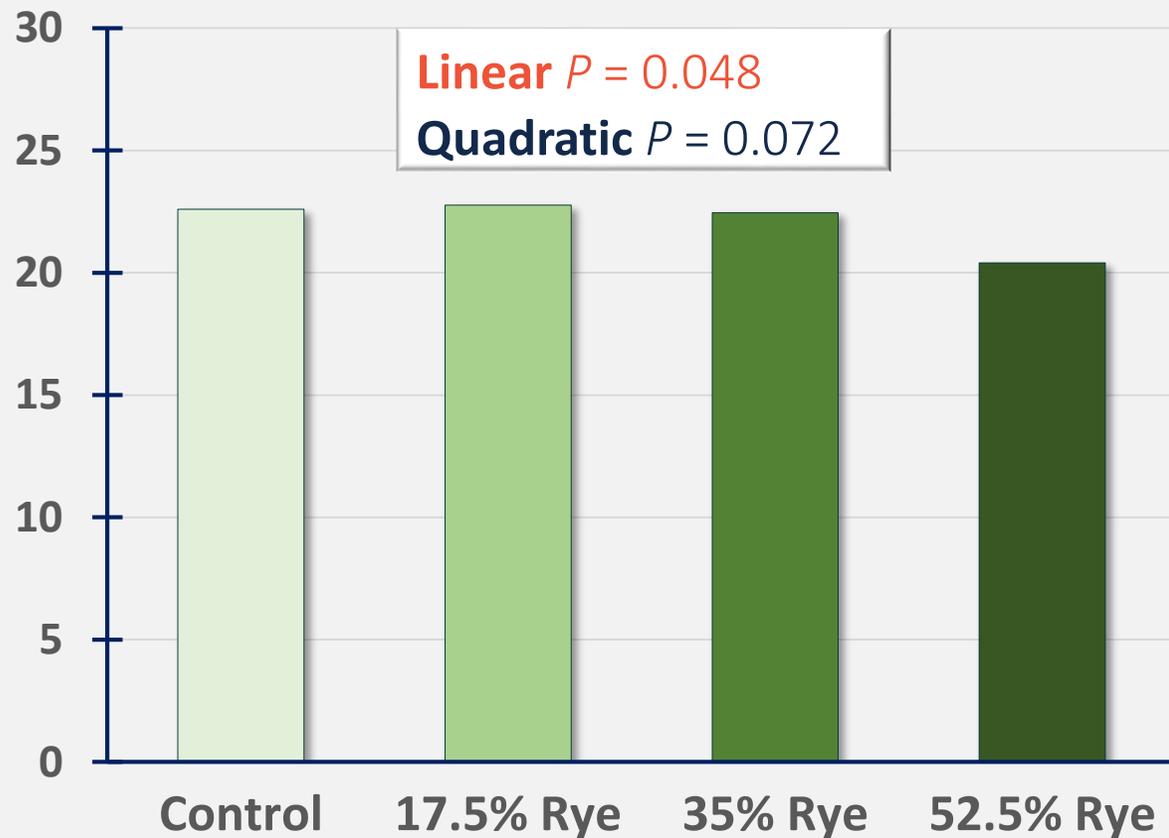


## Mortality, %

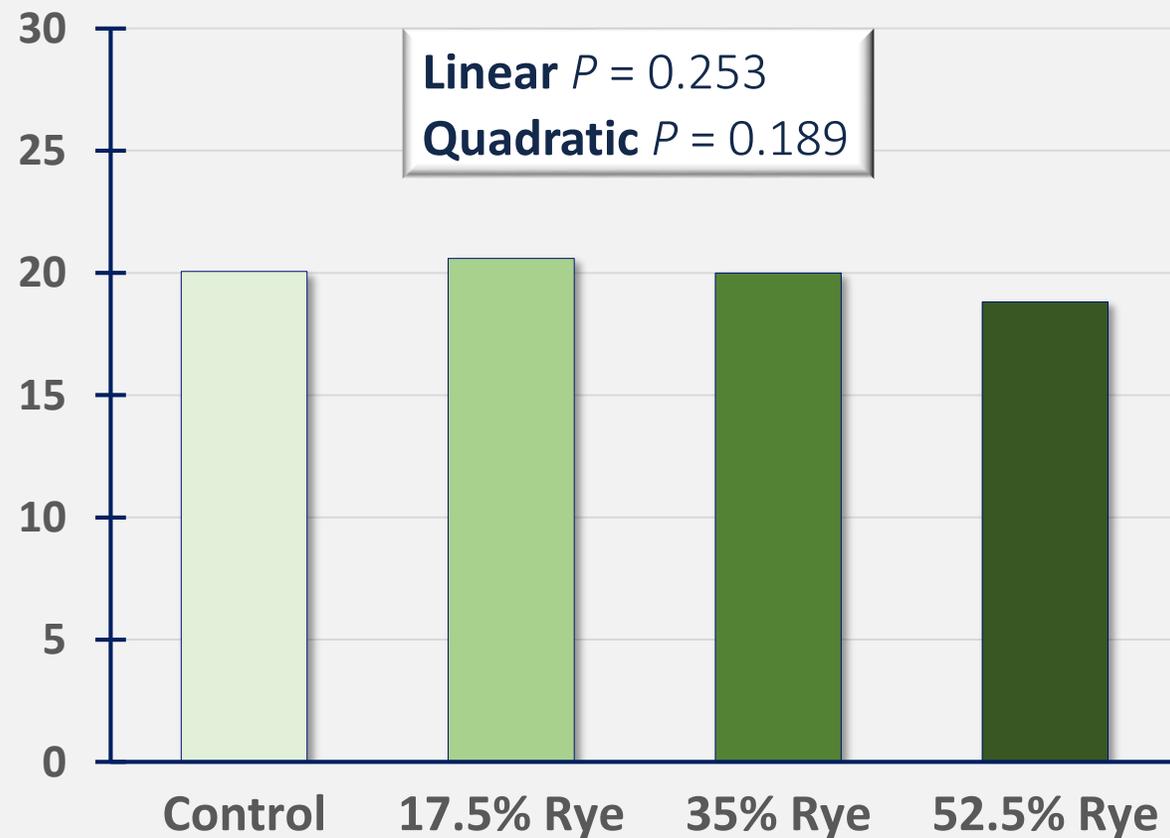


# PIGLET DATA

## Total litter wt., kg

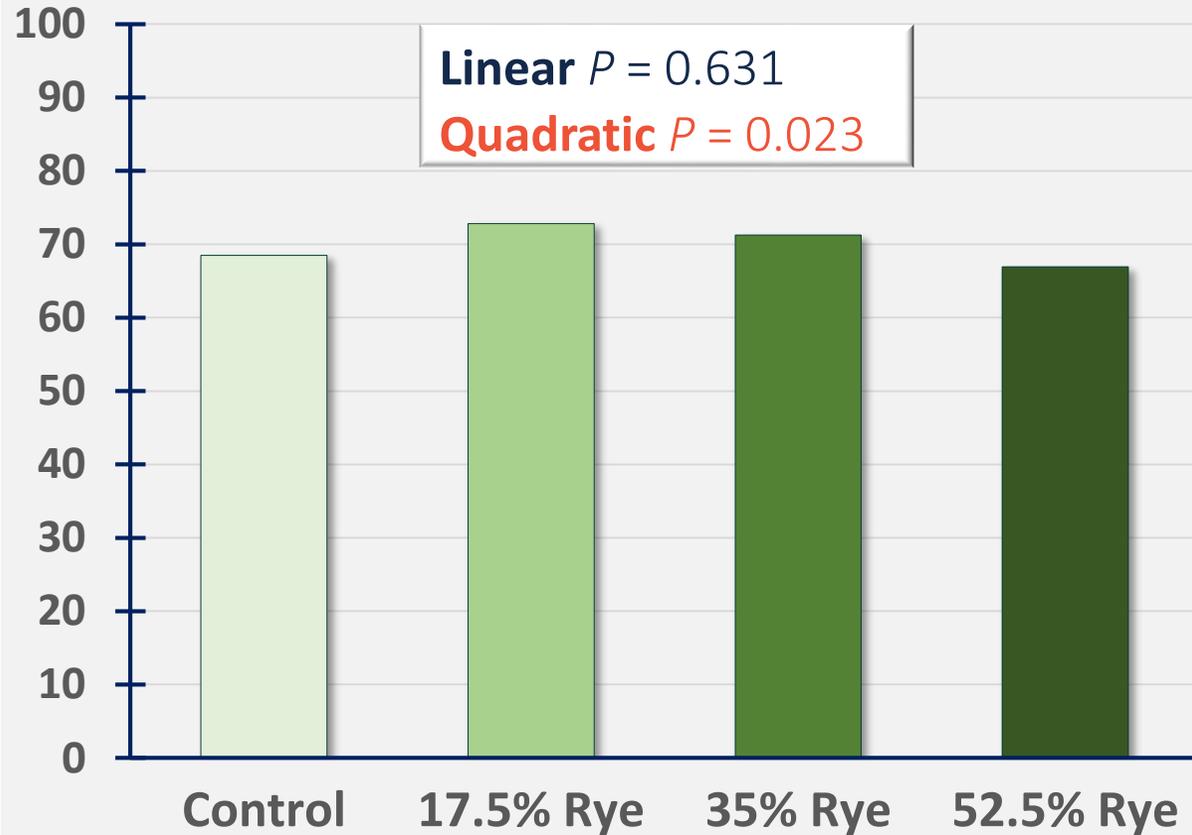


## Live litter wt., kg

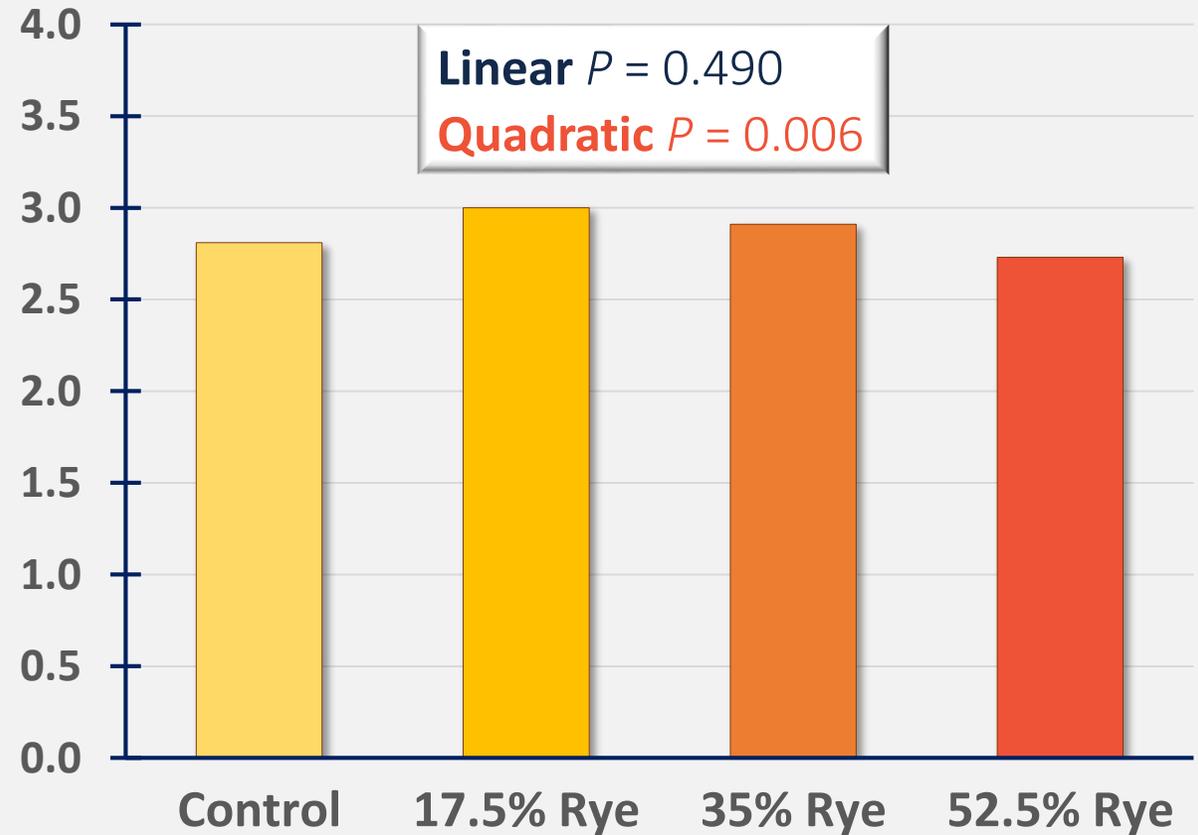


# PIGLET DATA

## Litter wean wt., kg

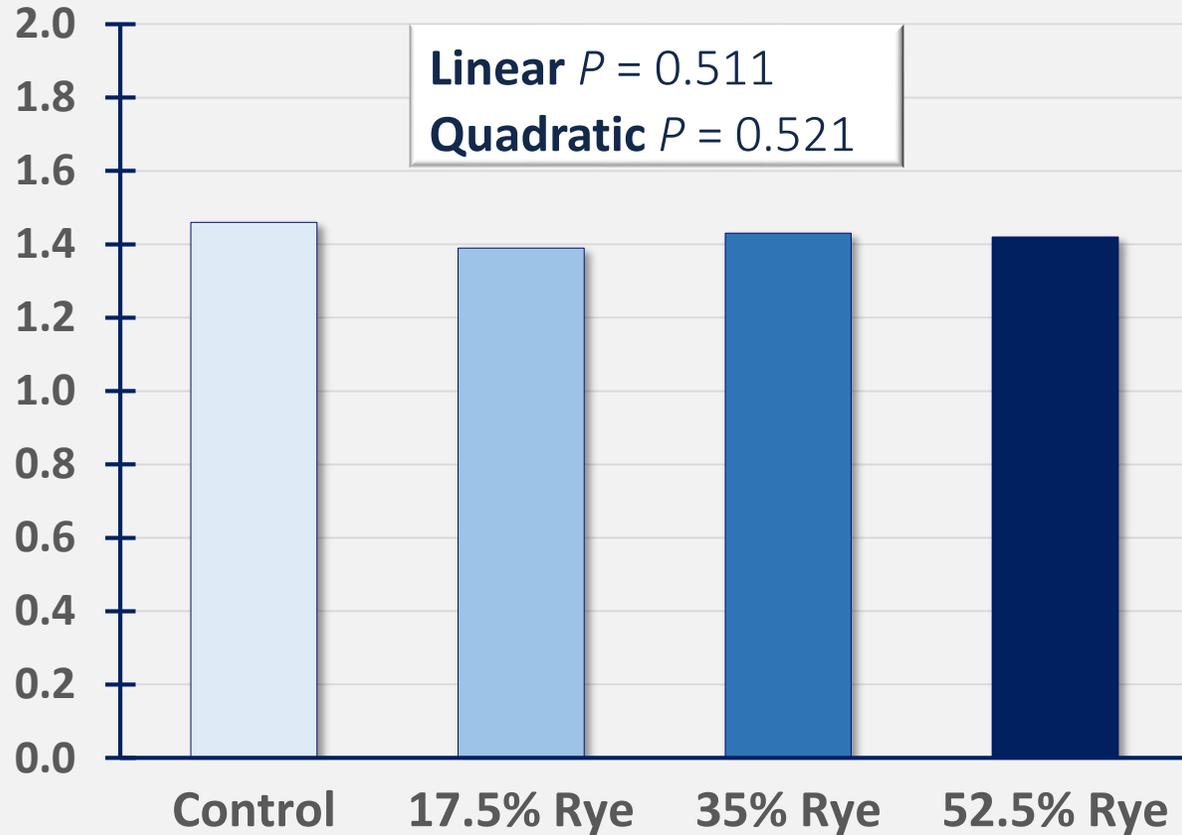


## Litter ADG, kg

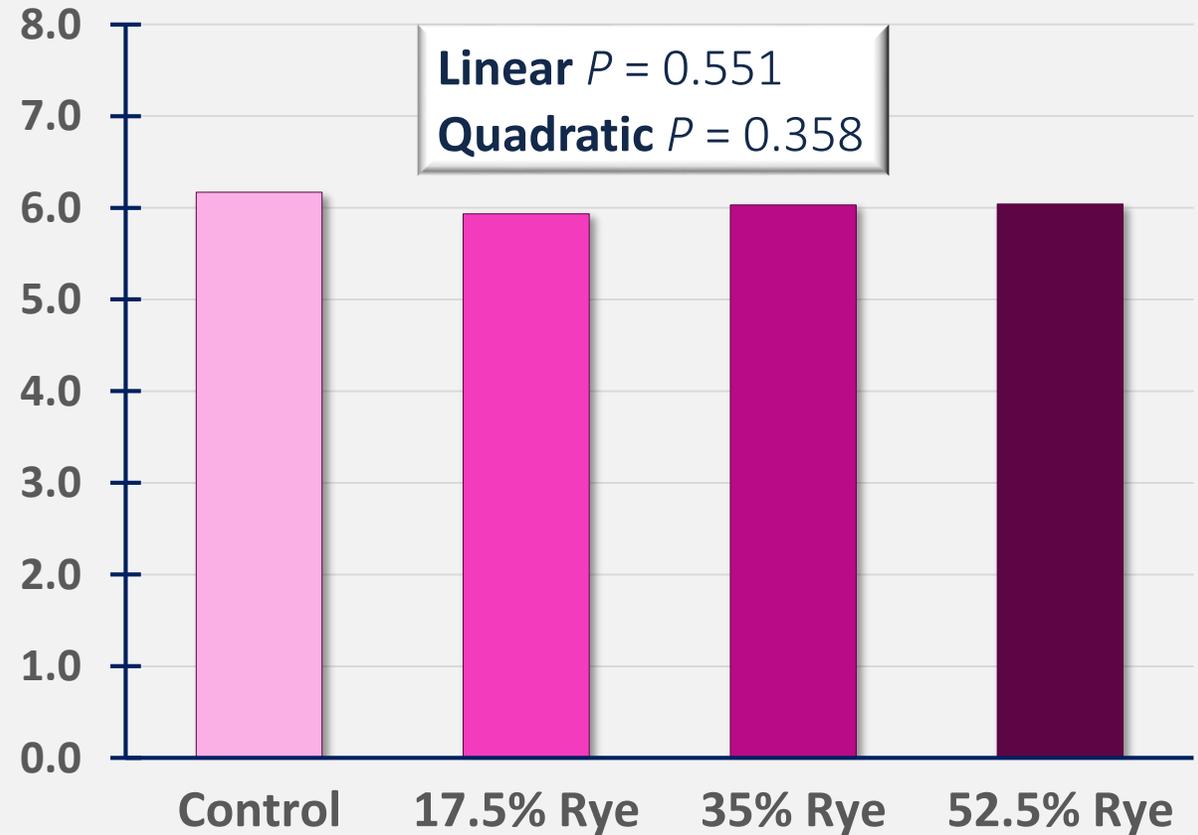


# PIGLET DATA

## Avg. live wt., kg

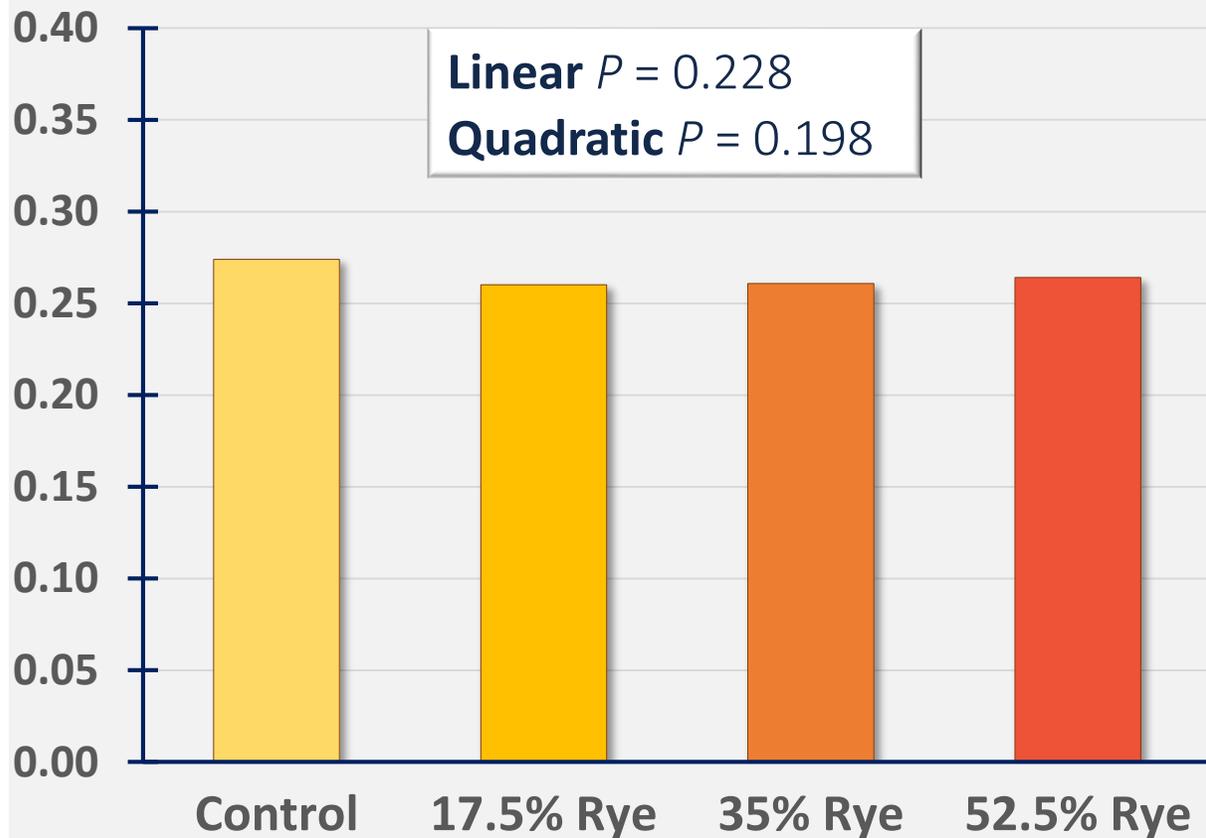


## Avg. wean wt., kg

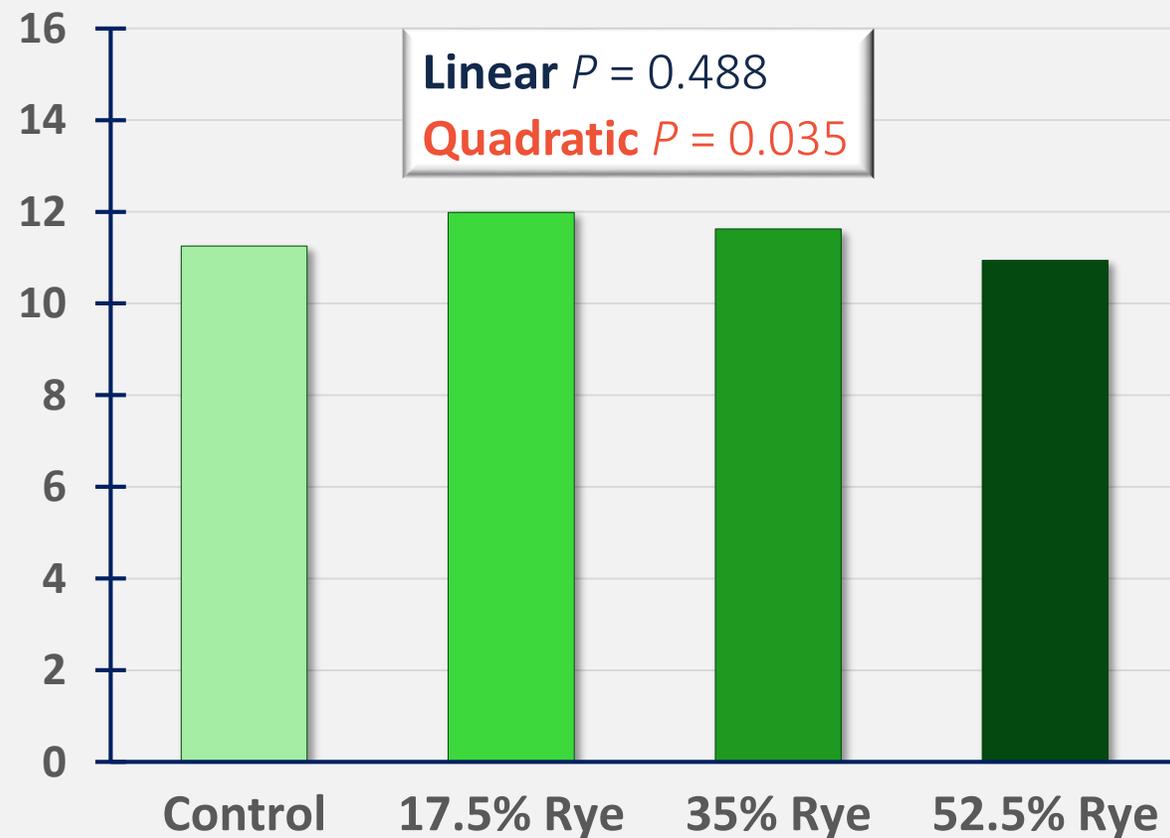


# PIGLET DATA

## Avg. pig ADG, kg



## Est. milk/d, kg



# Results: Lactation

Linear [ TOTAL LITTER WEIGHT, kg

LITTER WEAN WEIGHT, kg

LITTER ADG, kg

ESTIMATED MILK PRODUCTION, kg

Quadratic

Preliminary recommendation:  
**35% hybrid rye in lactation diets results in no reduction in performance.**

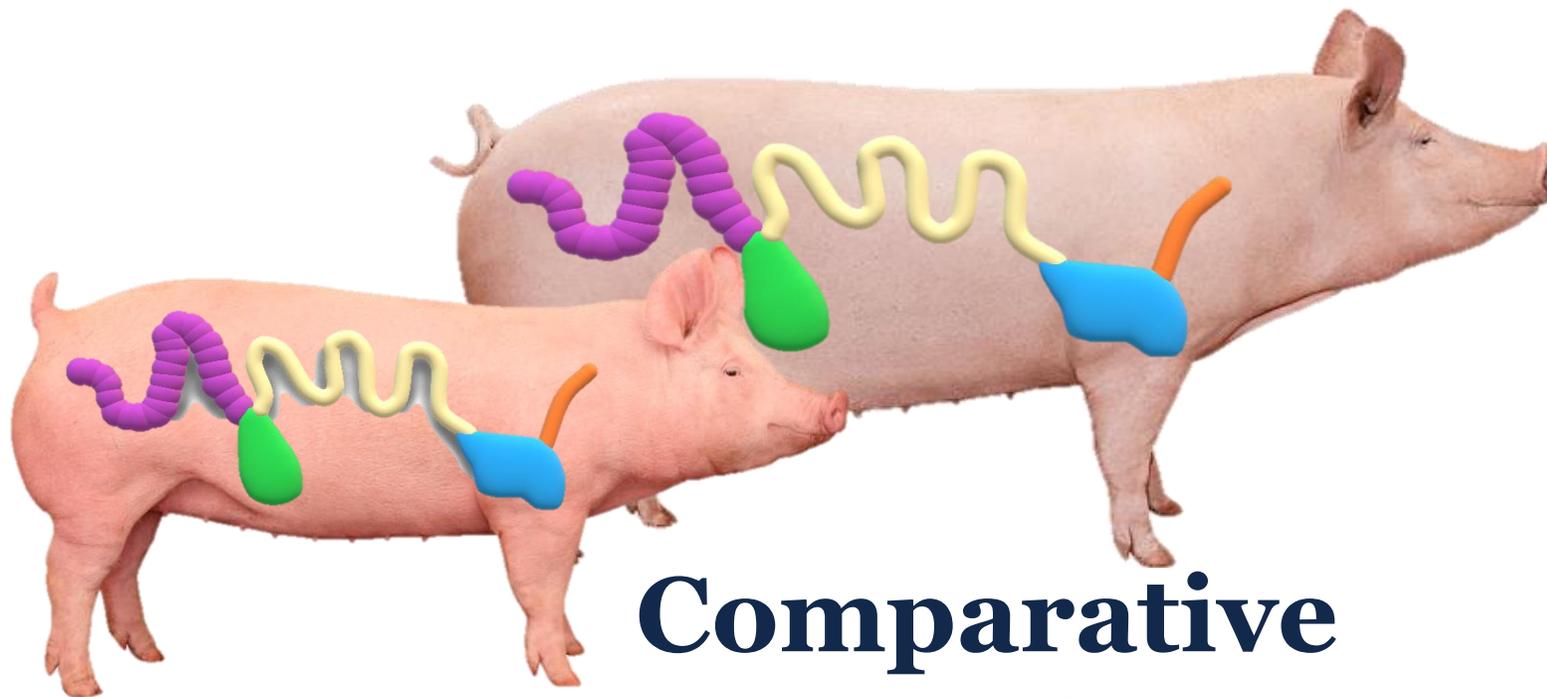
**52.5% hybrid rye** resulted in slight reductions in litter weight gain.

# Upcoming research



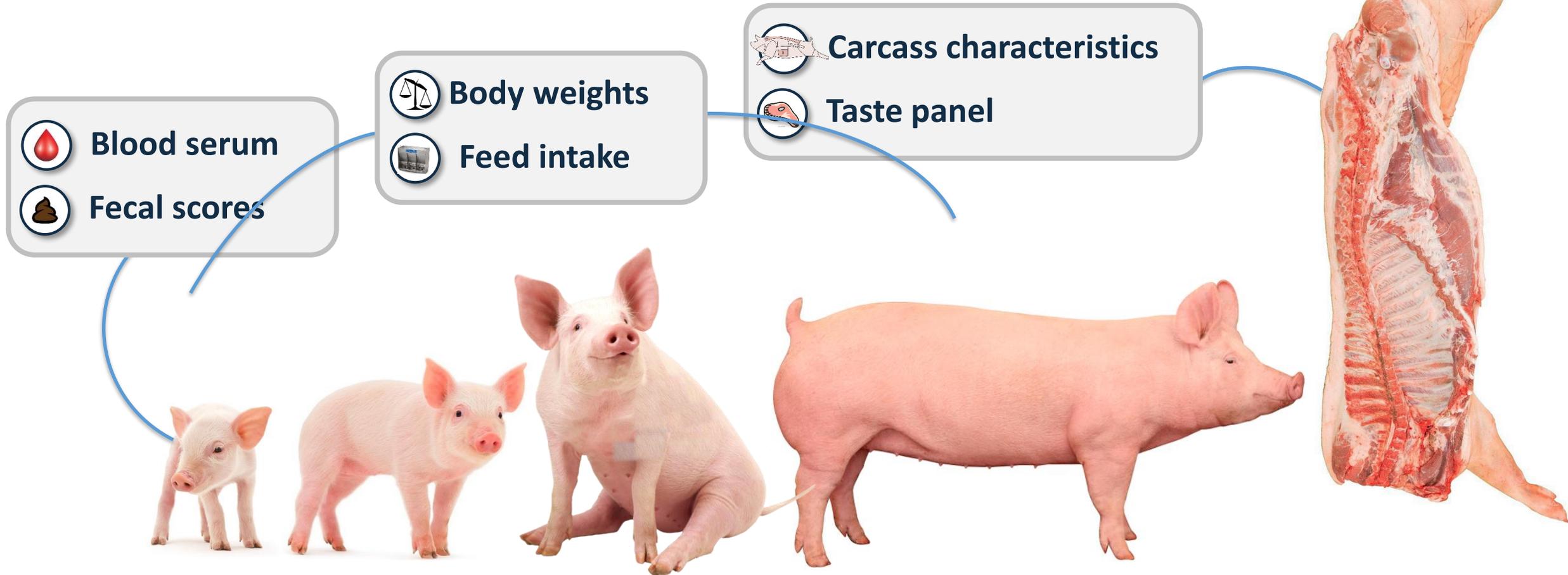


# Taste preference



# Comparative energy utilization

# Growth performance





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