



**Libby Salmon**  
CSIRO Plant Industry,  
GPO Box 1600, Canberra ACT  
2601 Libby.Salmon@csiro.au

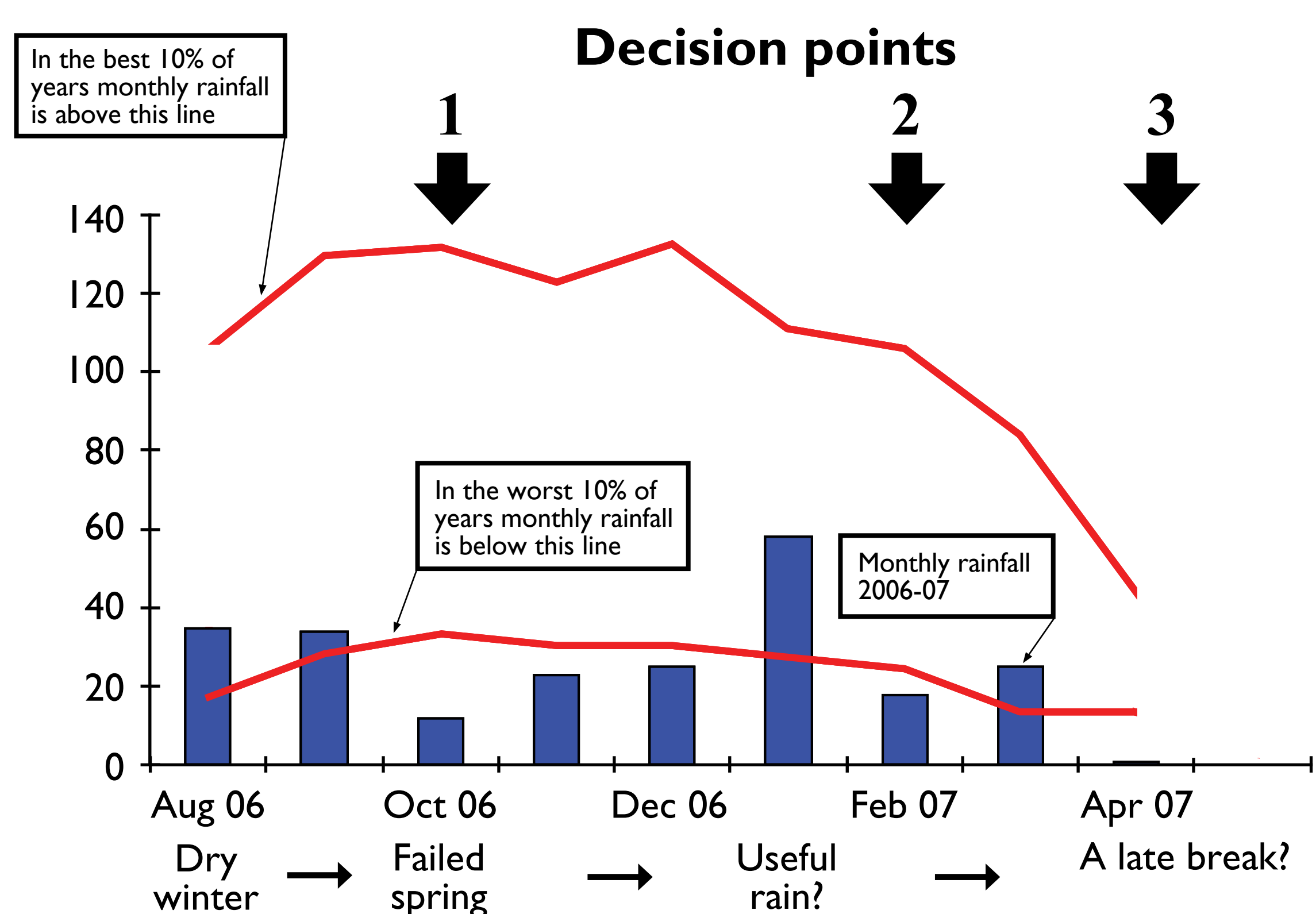
# What's ahead?

## successive seasonal outlooks for your farm



### Making decisions under uncertain conditions

In a poor spring, short-term (tactical) management decisions should be reviewed as the season unfolds. Recent developments in the GrassGro® computer decision support tool make it simpler and faster to download real-time weather data.



#### GrassGro version 3:

- simulates current soil moisture, pasture and livestock conditions
- shows the distribution of outcomes over the next few months

Variability in outcomes is based on the variability in weather from local historical records

### Sheep enterprise examined in GrassGro

A hypothetical fine wool Merino enterprise at Beaufort, VIC, grazing phalaris-annual grass-subterranean clover at a stocking rate of 12 wethers/ha.

48 years of daily weather data for Beaufort (1960-2007) were downloaded from the SILO Data Drill website.

### Test 3 key decisions over Oct 2006-Apr 2007 in response to seasonal conditions

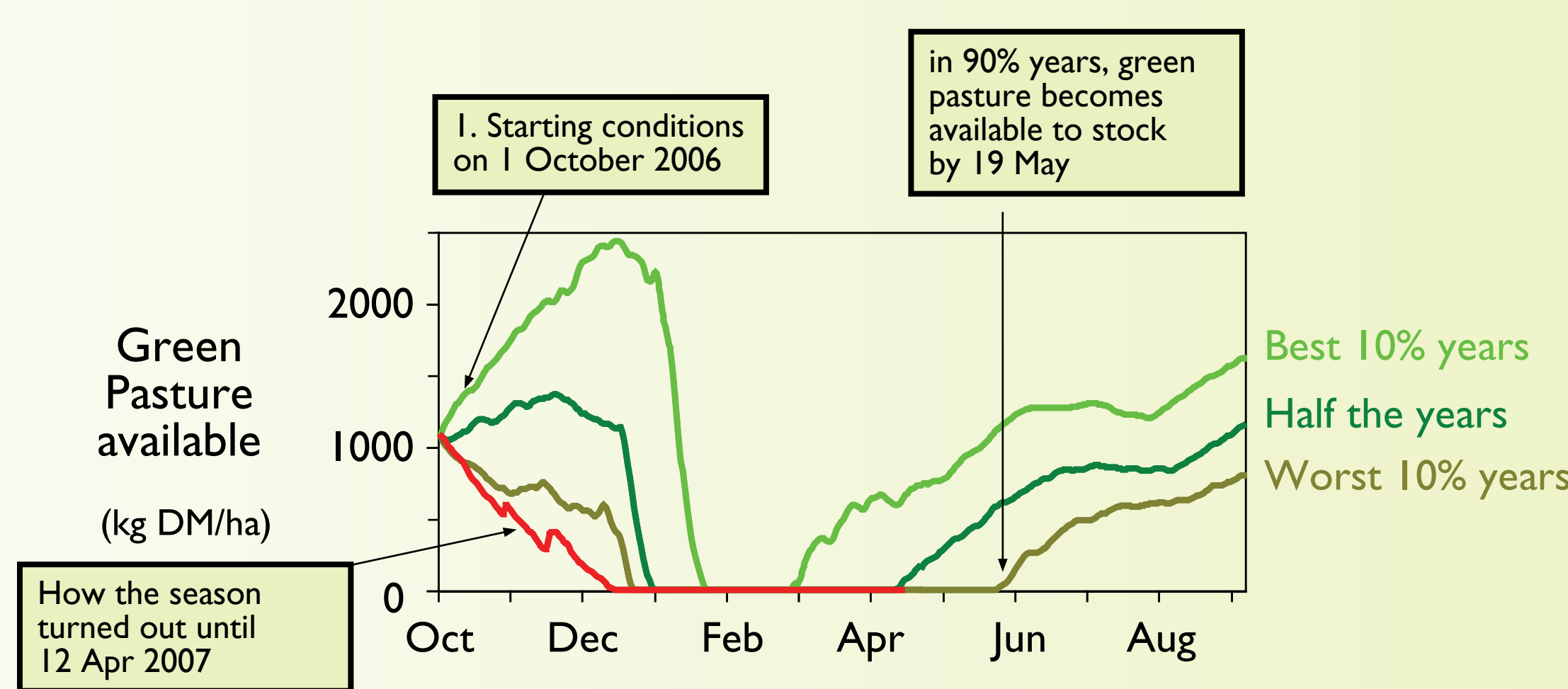


**1** ... Spring soil moisture lowest in 48 years...

#### 1 October 2006

What was the outlook until the "break" for:

- pasture supply
- stock numbers
- supplement requirements ?

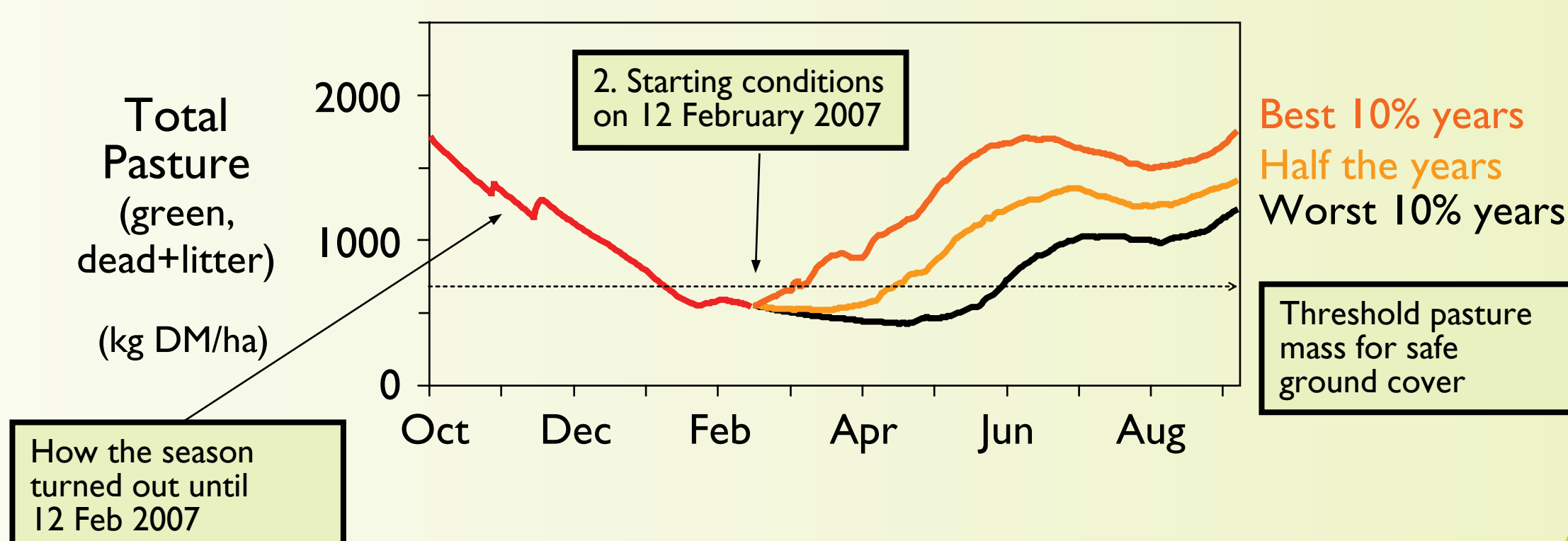


**2** ... Below average rainfall Oct-Dec, but 60mm rain in January...

#### 12 February 2007

Ground cover was getting low

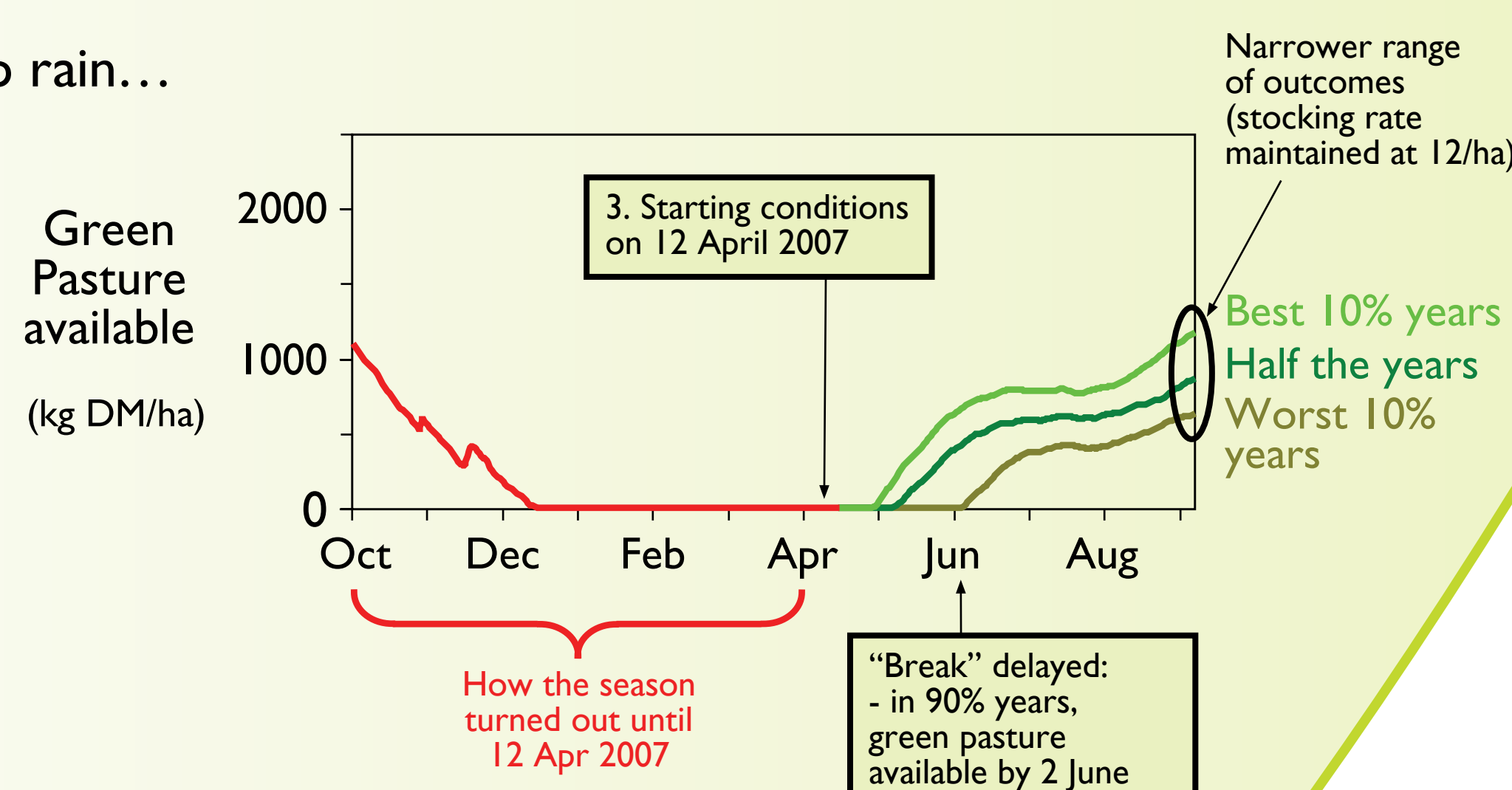
- what was the value of removing sheep to a feedlot ?



**3** ... No useful follow-up rain...

#### 12 April 2007

What was the likely effect on the "break" ?



GrassGro® 3



### Review decisions as the season unfolds

GrassGro can help producers and their advisors:

- review decisions rapidly
- minimise emerging risks
- focus on maintaining capacity to recover from a bad season

Better outcomes in the long run from informed and timely management actions

#### Acknowledgements

