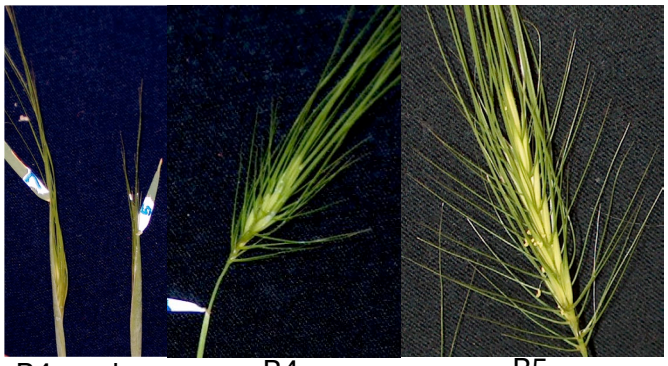
Grazing for Invasive Species Control (Yellow Starthistle and Medusahead control with grazing)
Central Coast Rangeland Coalition, April 18, 2024
Theresa Becchetti, UCCE Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties, tabecchetti@ucdavis.edu

Key Points

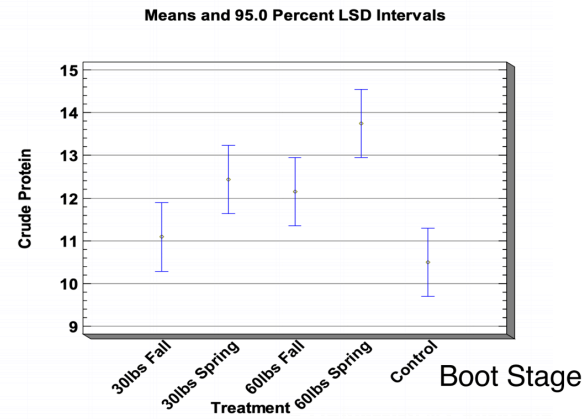
- Timing is critical to effective control

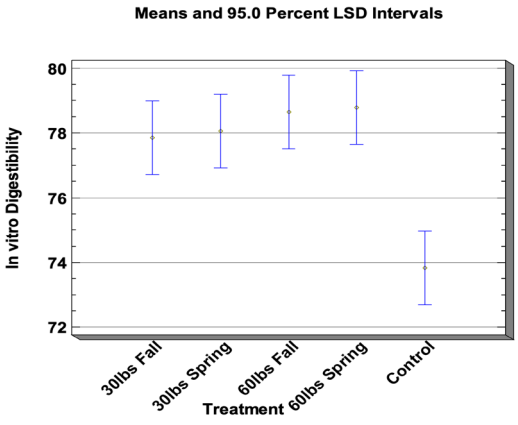


R4, early R4 R5

- Livestock need people, water, fencing, dogs.
- Not all grazing is created equal.
- Use Attractants.

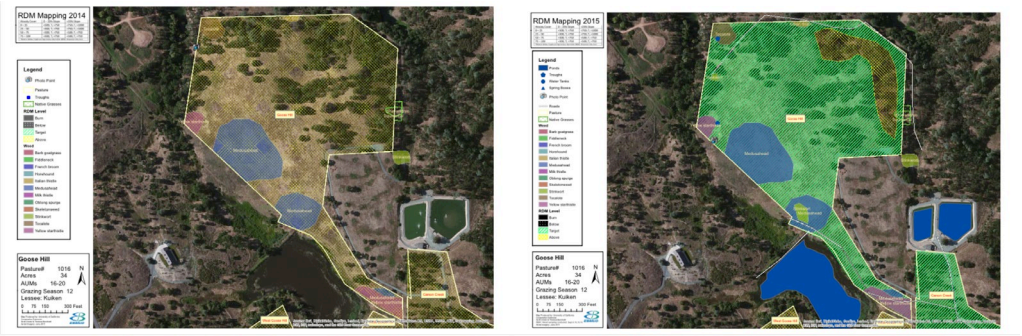
Crude protein from fertilization



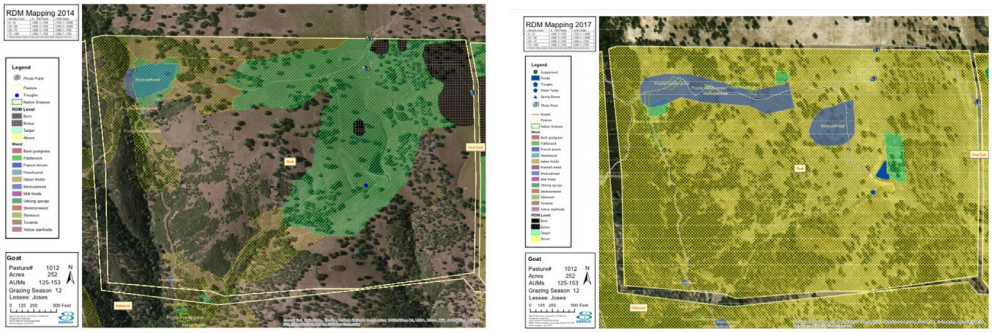


- New technology

- Monitoring should be a part of annual assessment of range conditions



- New weed populations should be acted on immediately before weeds seeds can spread



Key take aways: Total production per acre (not individual animal performance) negatively affected as Mh abundance increases. Mh lowers overall carrying capacity.
A 10% reduction in Mh translates to an increase of $38/acre in market value (at market rate of $1.19 for 8-9CWT steers.). Any management practice costing less than $38/acre and will result in at least 10% reduction will pencil.

Resources:
Barb Goatgrass : https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8315.pdf
Medusahead Management Guide:
https://wric.ucdavis.edu/publications/medusaheadmanagementguide_pub_2014.pdf
Plant ID Field Guide : https://pubhtml5.com/sucj/lode/
Barb Goatgrass and Medusahead : https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/Details.aspx?itemNo=8567
Methods for Managing Weeds in Wildlands: Non-chemical Control- Grazing :
weedcut.ipm.ucanr.edu, scroll to Grazing
Controlling medusahead with intensive grazing : https://ucanr.edu/delivers/?impact=387
Medusahead, State of the weed :
https://wric.ucdavis.edu/PDFs/medusahead_state%20of%20the%20weed_presentation.pdf