



**Focus Farm Update**  
**On-farm happenings**  
**Summer/Autumn 09**

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# Including...

Sediment trap finished

Waterway below silage fenced off

The season's effect

Weaning weights

Johnes testing deer

Johnes testing cattle

# The seasons gone...

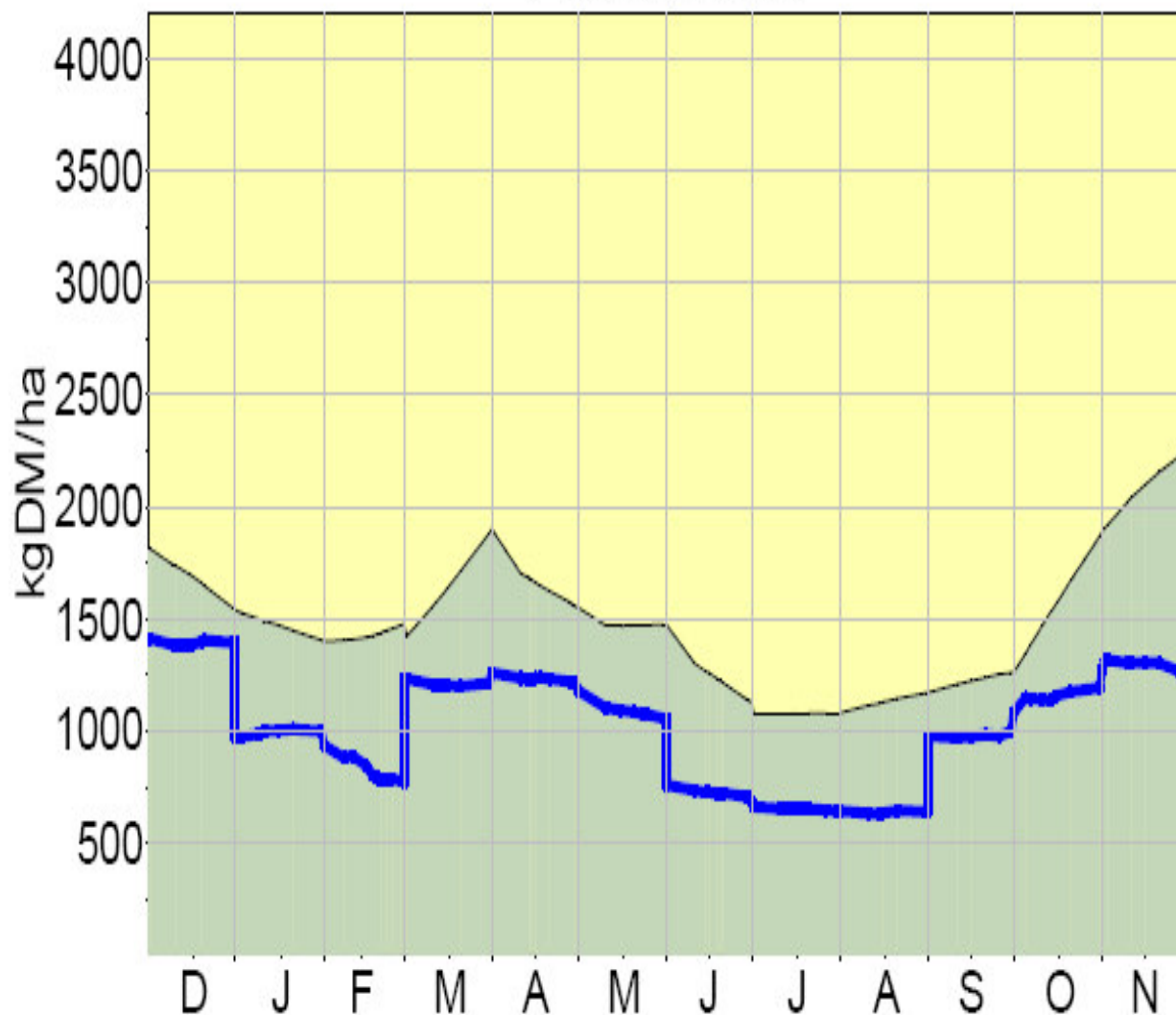
- Awfully dry summer
- Weaned 20 February
- Late rain in February
- Great early autumn growth
- Sudden stop again- March and April very dry
- Coldest May on record
- Deer grew well and in good condition!



# Pasture Cover Plot for The Steyning Breeding And Finishing

Dec 08 - Nov 09

## Pasture Cover



Cover

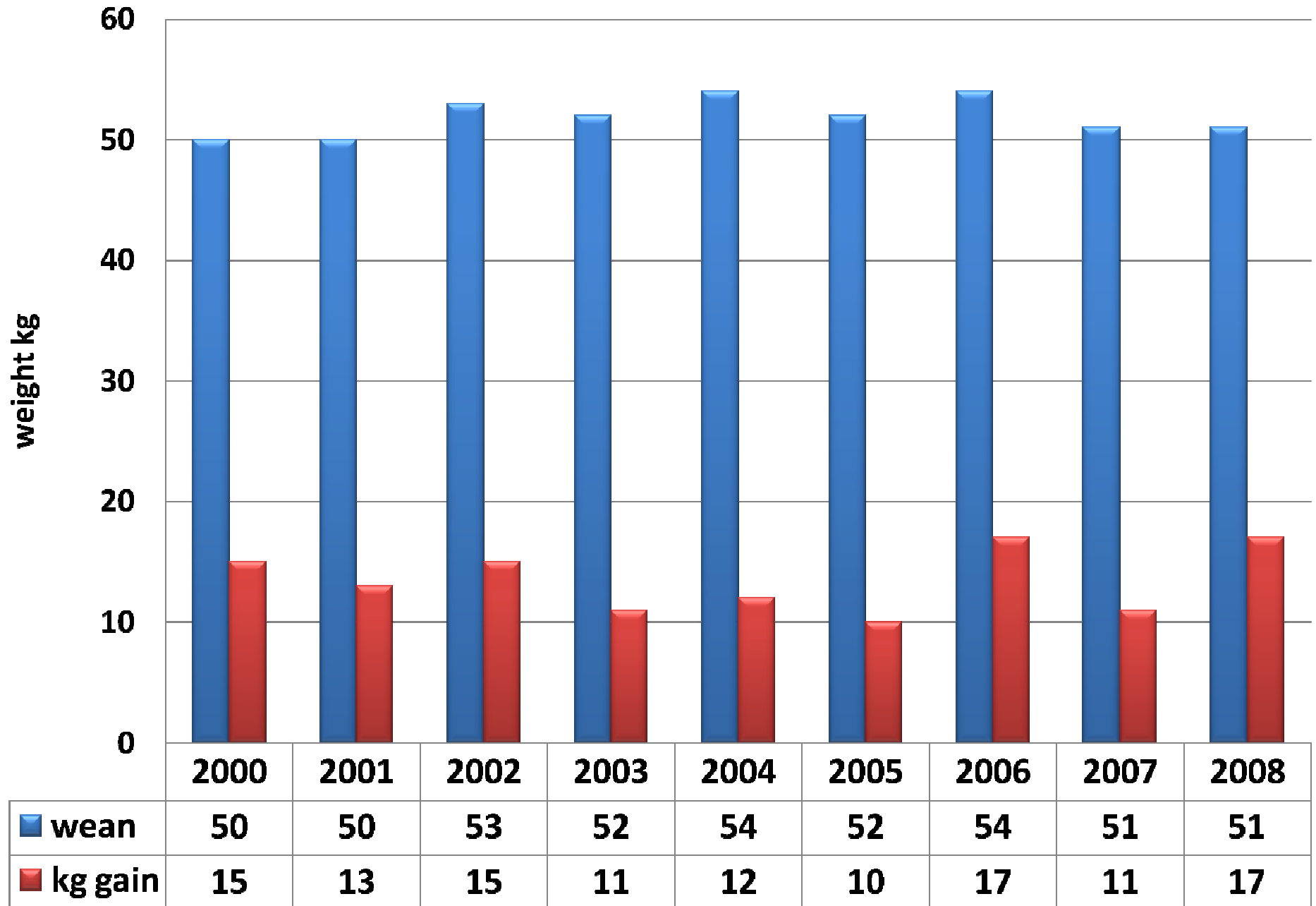
Min. (feasible)

Min. (not feasible)

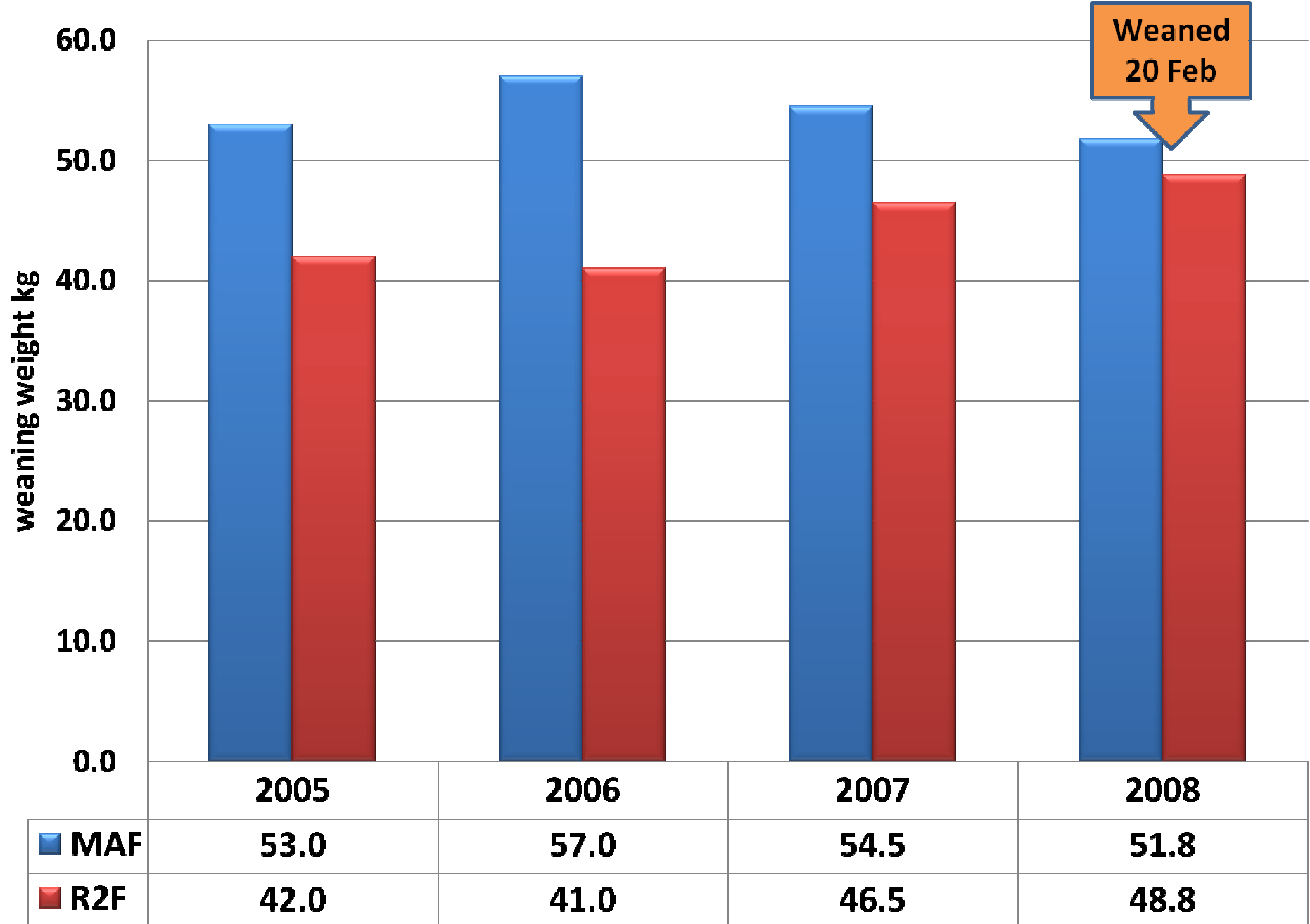
# Weaning weights

- Little overall change since 2000 records
- Severely limited by summer dry
- Used crops in 2008/09 to counter that for selected groups
- First fawners on crop early Jan to mid Feb
- Weaned early- 20 February
- FF fawns well up: stags 50.9kg & hinds 46.6kg
- Wapiti and (Euro) Reds virtually identical weights but wapiti later born
- Johnes weaners about “average”!

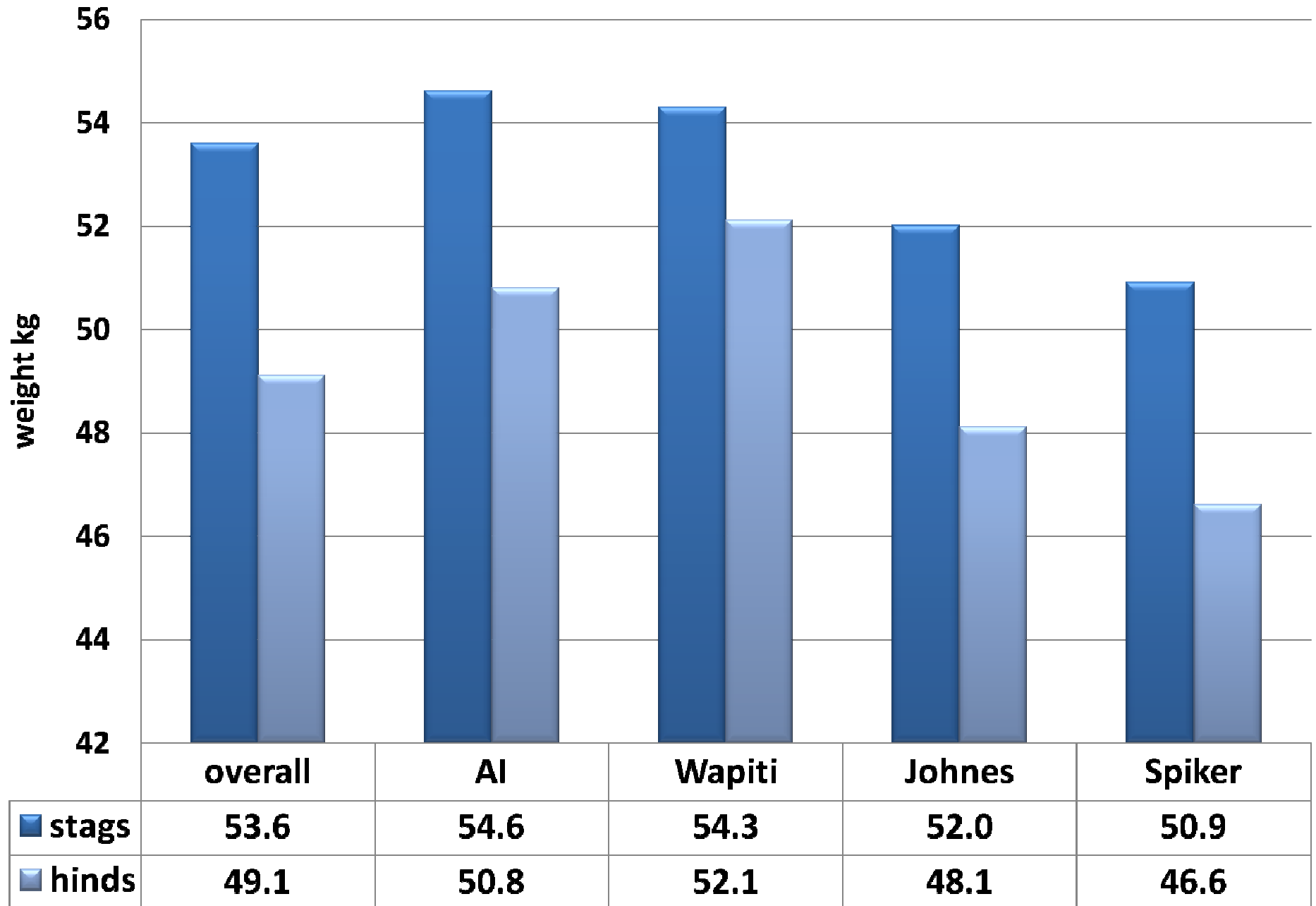
# Wean weights and autumn gain (kg)



# MA v. R2 weaners 2005-2008 born



# Wean weights 08 born (kg)

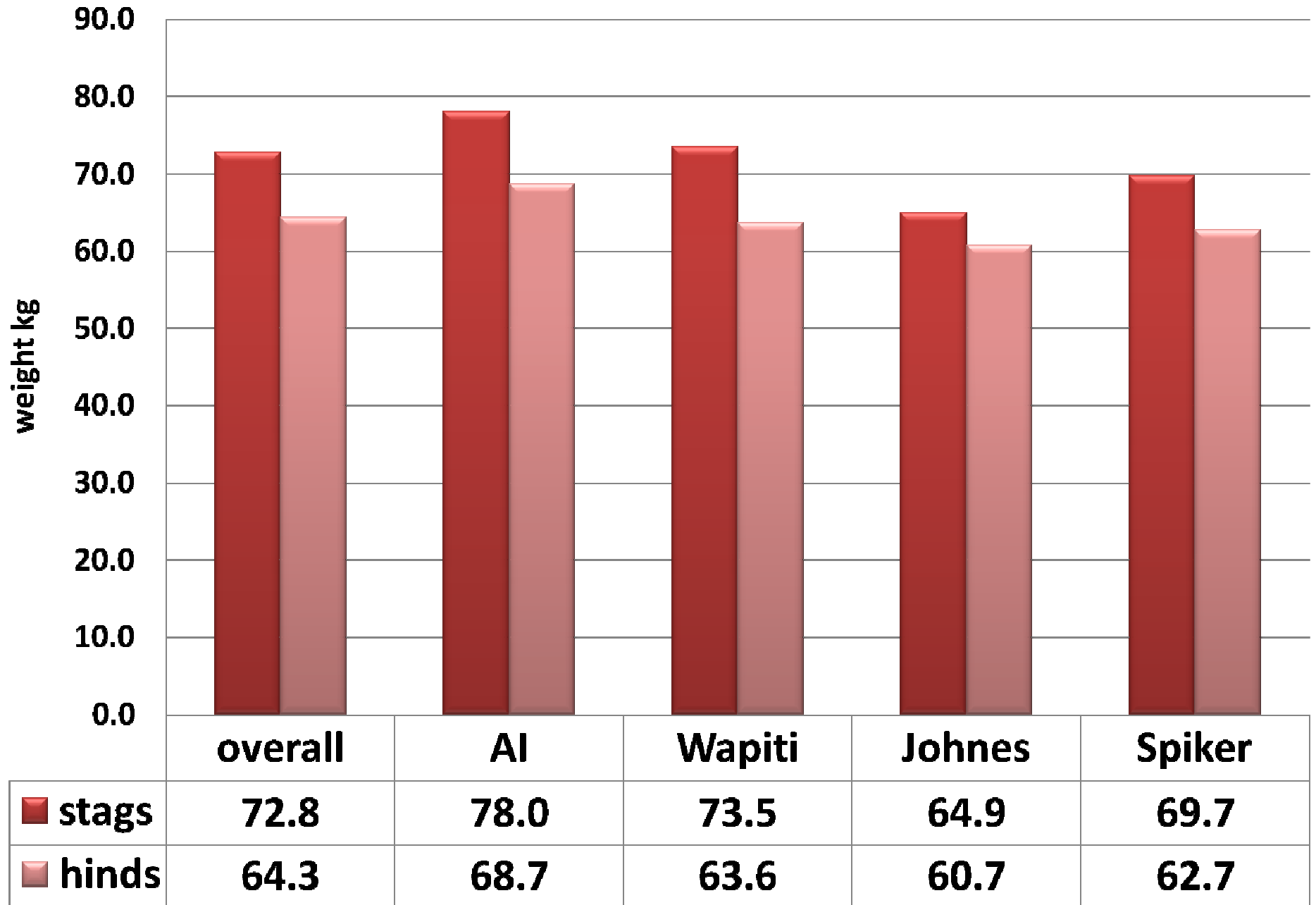


# Autumn growth rates

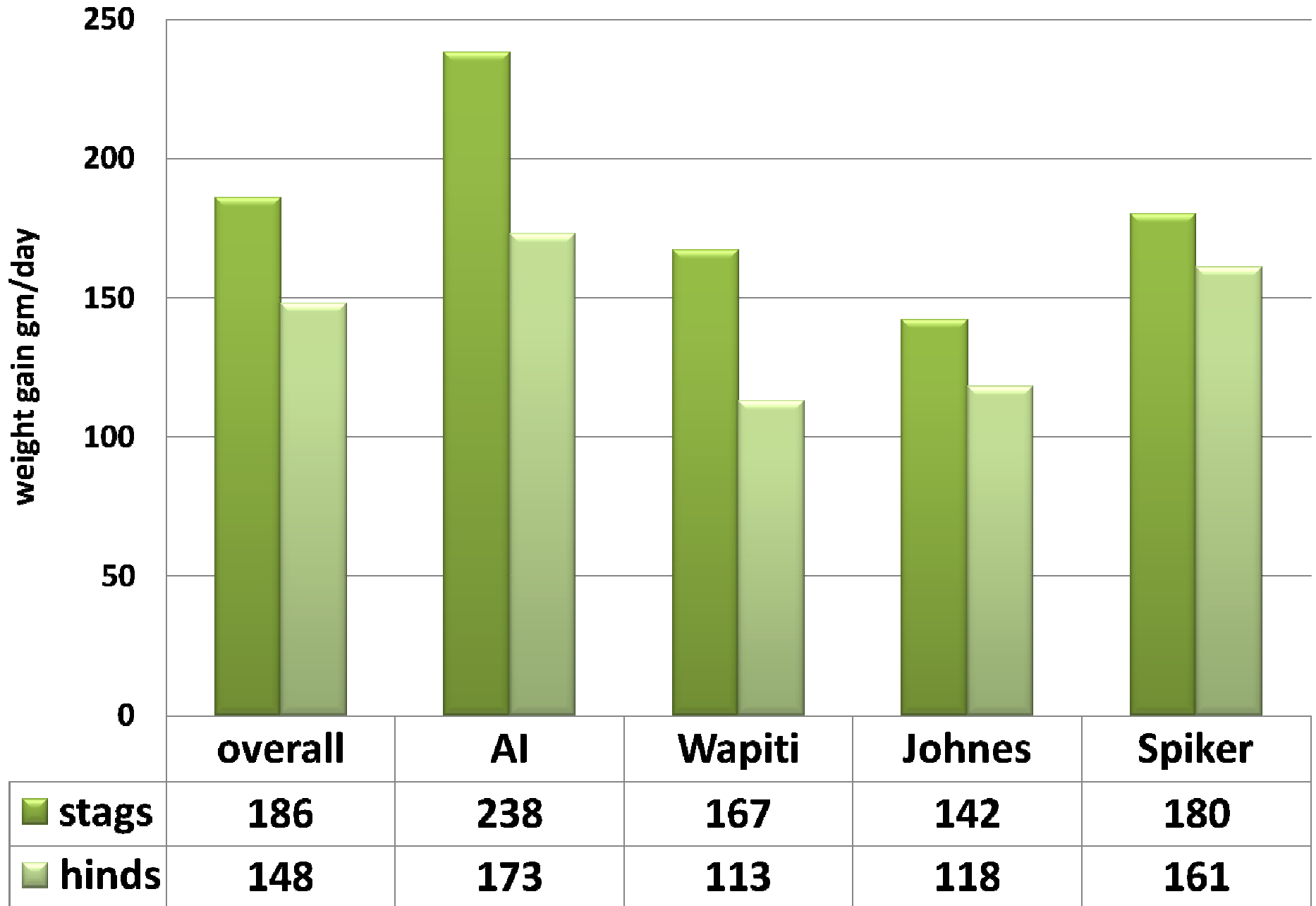
- Whole district did well- February rain
- Crop: 60 Red Stags and 33 Wapiti Stags
- Grass: Balance of Reds including R2 fawns
- Drench trial: Wapiti Hinds and Johnes fawns
- Reds outdid Wapiti on crop
- Reds on grass matched Wapiti on crop
- Undrenched deer much slower

**DIFF aim is 250 grams/day in autumn- achieved**

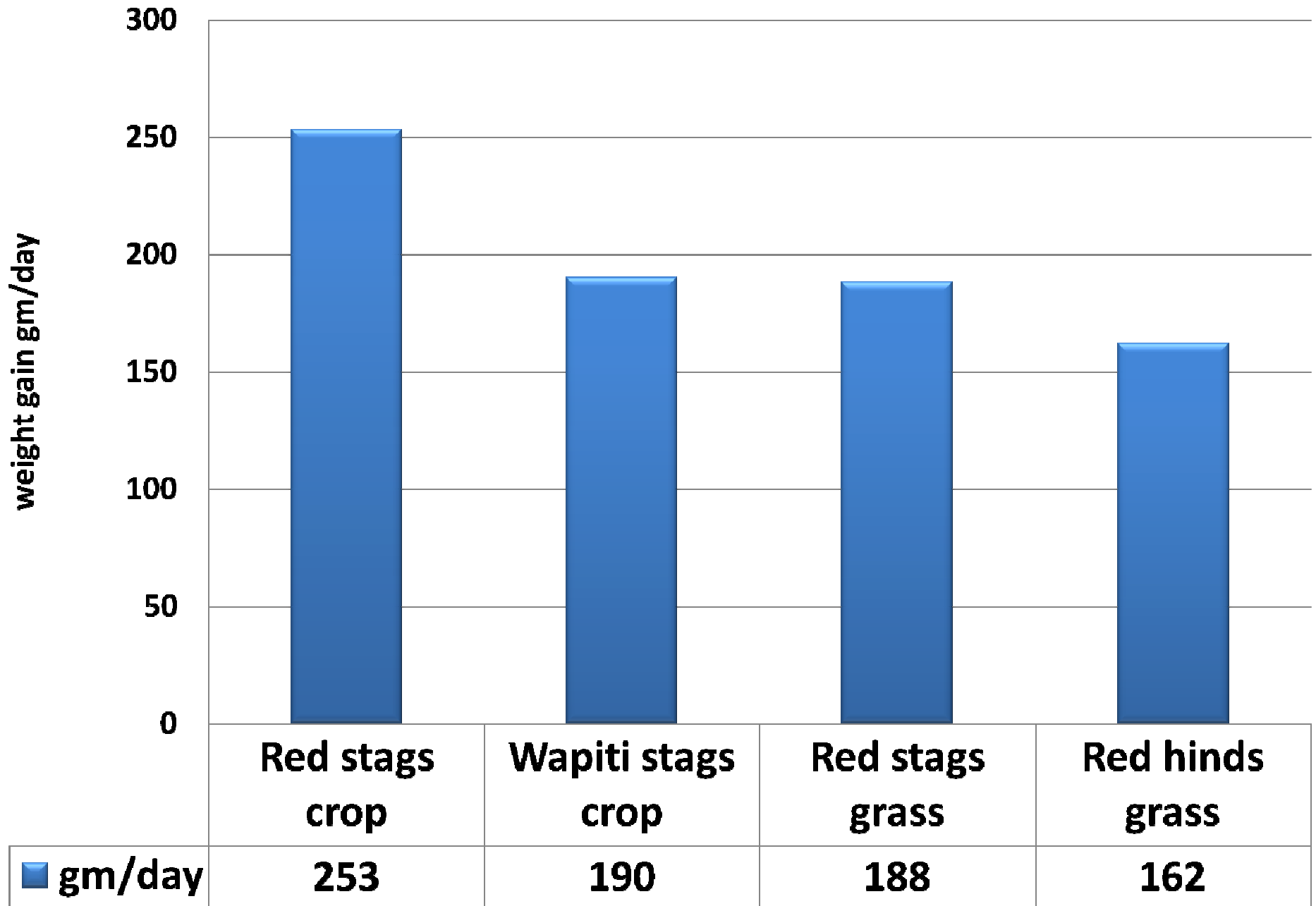
# June weights 08 born (kg)



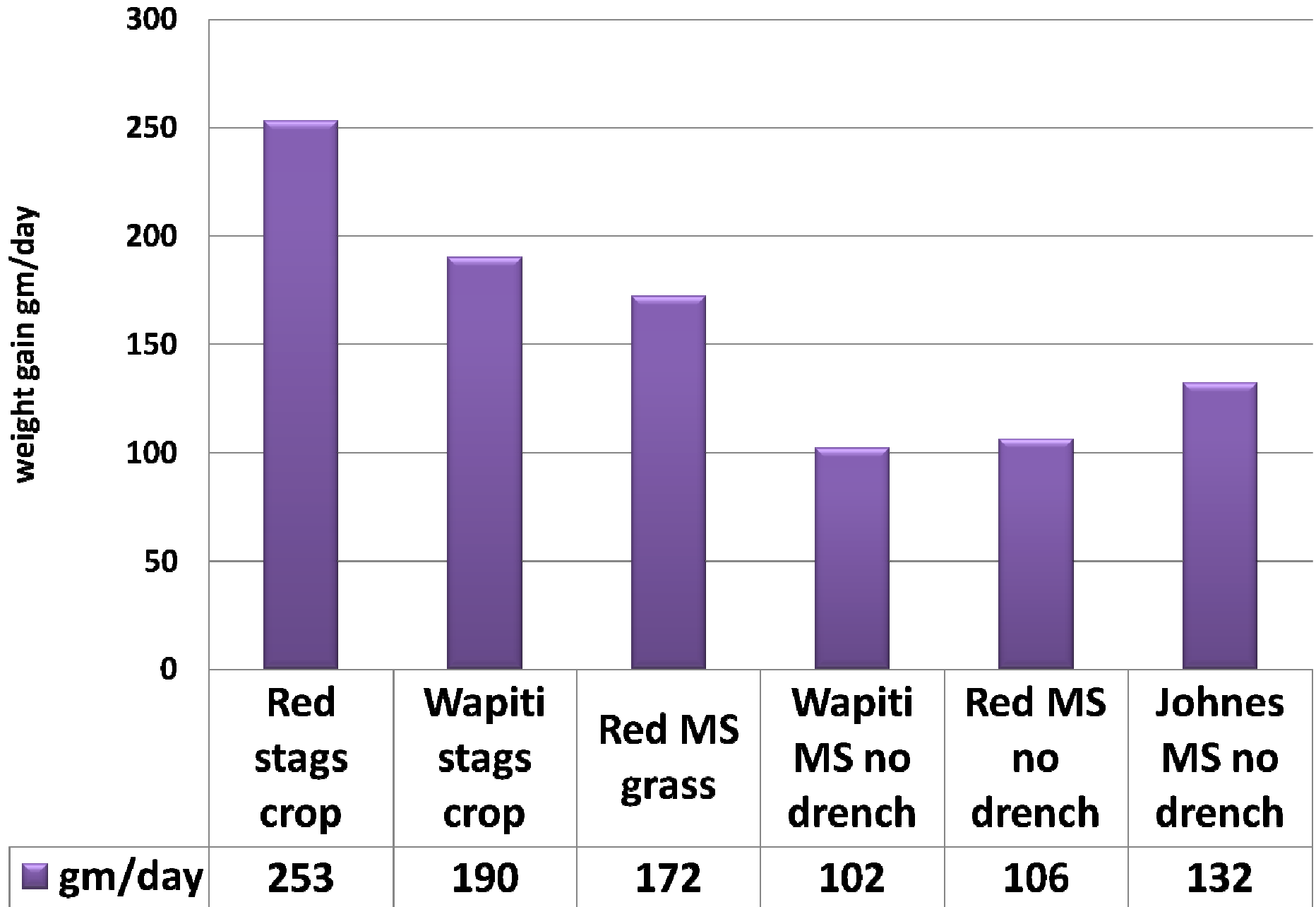
# Weight gain 08 born (gm/day)



# Gain: crop v. grass/Red v. Wapiti



# Gain: crop/grass v. no drench/johnes



# Effect of crop and drench

- Crop grew extra 60 g/d = 6.2 kg
- 90 animals at 6.2kg worth about \$3000 extra
- Paid for 4ha crop at \$600/ha cost \$2400
- Lack of drench cost 70 g/d after being undrenched for 85 days
- Triggered yersiniosis too

# Johnes testing

- Tested 90 R2 bulls in May
- Represented 3 herds but no Johnes found
- All R2 hinds tested in June after scanning
- Two clinicals noted at blood testing- positive
- 28 positive and 3 suspicious from 166
- More clinicals noted at drafting

**Watch out Lower NI!!!**

# Johnes fawns

- Tested in March
- 6 positive and 2 suspicious from 46 tested
- Retested July- blood from all and faeces from above eight animals
- Now 8 positive and 6 suspicious. But different animals now
- Appear to need 12 more months to see the full clinical picture. Won't be here then
- Watch this space- to be continued...