

Changes in nutritive characteristics with plant height, and nutrient selection by cows grazing four perennial pasture grasses

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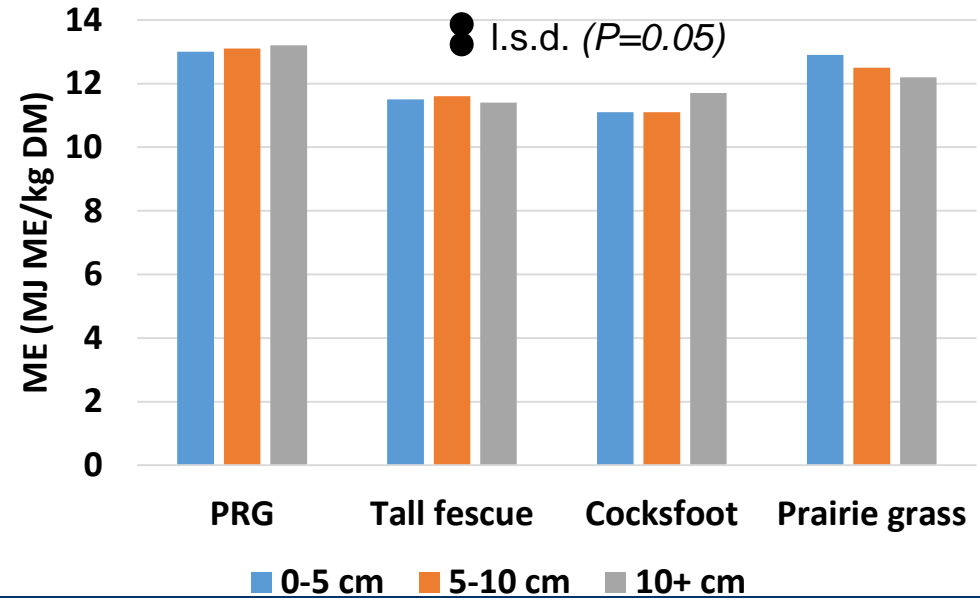
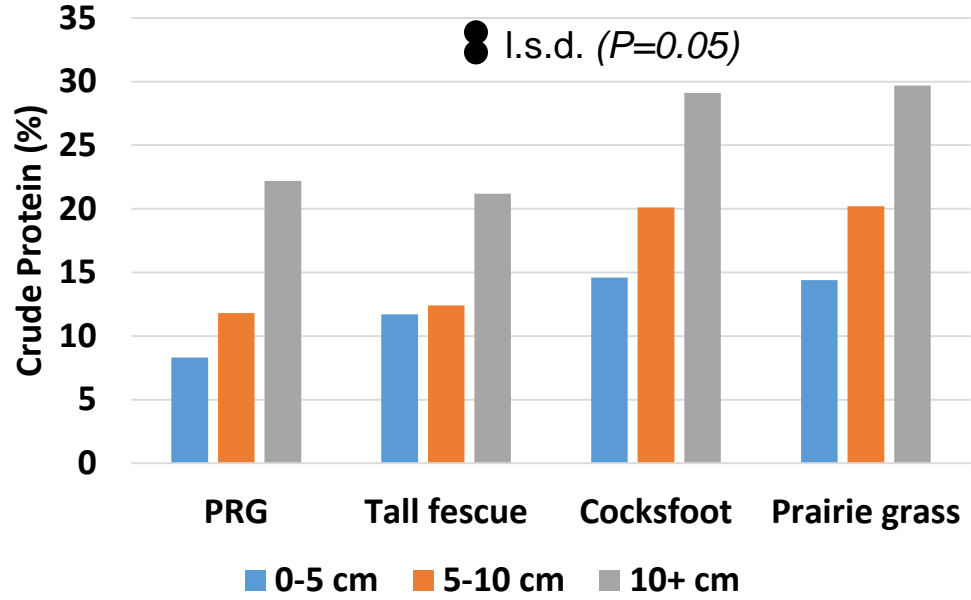


- Site at Ellinbank, west Gippsland
- 4 species compared:
 - Perennial ryegrass (cultivar Bealey)
 - Cocksfoot (cultivar Savvy)
 - Tall fescue (cultivar Jethro)
 - Prairie grass (cultivar Atom)
- 4 replicates
- Two sampling times in 2015:
 - Late winter
 - Late spring/early summer
- Individual tillers:
 - Harvested pre- and post-grazing to ground level
 - Pre-grazing dissected into 3 height classes: 0-5 cm, 5-10 cm, 10+ cm





Winter nutritive characteristics



- Perennial ryegrass had the highest ME concentration of the four pasture grasses.
- Crude protein was higher in elevated plant fractions (as expected), but there was little difference in ME between height categories (a little unexpected).
- Herd nutrient selection reflected changes with plant height.