

Rotary Mowing vs Herbicide vs Roller/Crimping

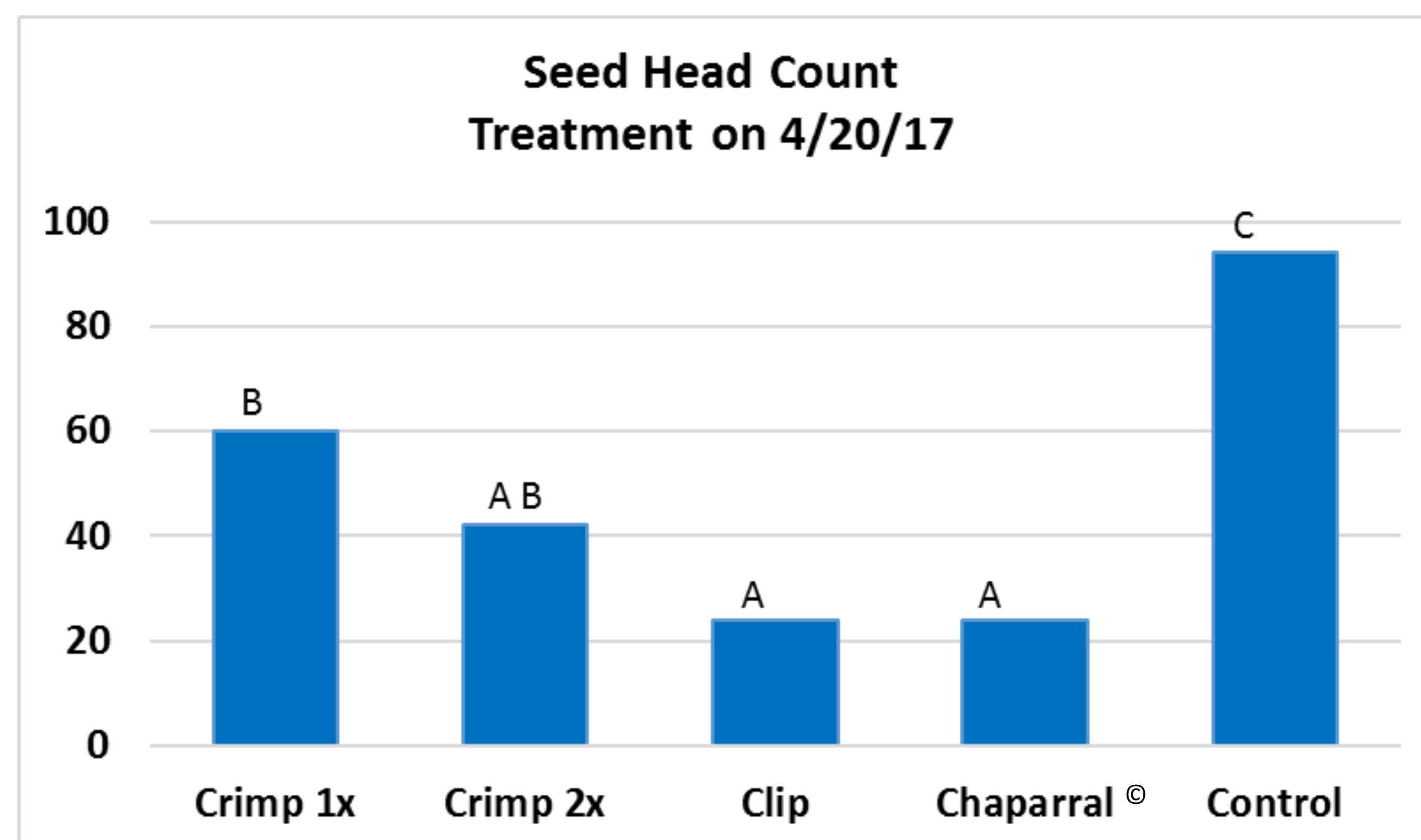
Impact of Fescue Toxicosis

Even with the positive attributes for Tall Fescue, (stand persistence, drought tolerance, tolerance of insect pressure, over-grazing) management of the effects of toxicosis is critical to the survival of a grazing livestock operation. There are 17 million acres of Tall Fescue in Missouri and over 40 million acres in the US.

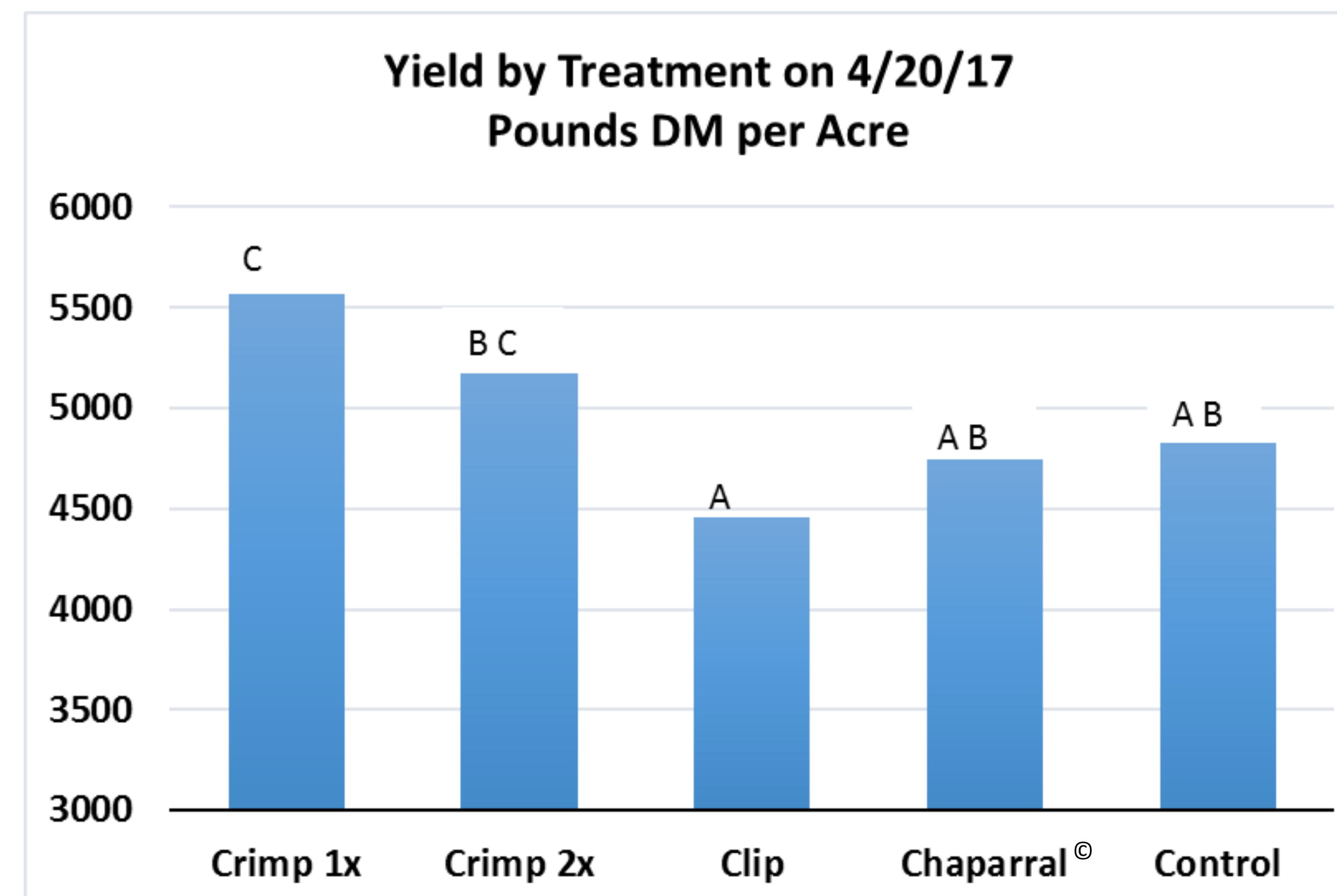
Estimates from 1990 are for \$609 million a year in losses to the US beef cattle industry due to the negative animal health impact of infected Tall Fescue.

This project is evaluating management of fescue toxicosis by reducing seed head production of the grass. Methods evaluated on three partner farms were clipping with a rotary mower, chemical herbicide, and stalk crimping with a roller/crimper.

Total Seed Heads for 3 tosses of 0.5m quadrant at Plant Maturity



Forage Yield by Treatment



Results

- Clipping and Chaparral® were similar with 75% reduction in seed heads compared to a Control of no treatment.
- One pass with the Crimper reduced seed heads 36% compared to Control.
- Clipping, Chaparral®, and Control had similar yield.
- One pass with the Crimper had highest forage yield with a 13% increase over Control.