



# NZ Focus Vineyard Programme

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# Overview



- “Focus Vineyards: What is best practice and how to improve the adoption of this best practice?”
  - Concept from ‘Focus Orchard’ pipfruit industry over 6 yrs and the Sheep and Cattle Focus Farm over 12 years.
  - Improve adoption of sustainable fruit production; economic & environmental
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# Objectives



- Integrate appropriate research into existing vineyard management practice
  - Show how sustainable production works
  - Determine costs and benefits of best management practices
  - Provide a forum for exchange of ideas
  - Technology transfer
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# Funders



- Major funder is MAF Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF)
  - Receiving maximum allowable level of funding at \$200,000/annum
  - Significant in-kind contribution from industry
  - Total funding over 4 years \$1.1m
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# Funders



- Other funders include:
    - NZ Winegrowers
    - Gimblett Gravels Technical Group
    - HBGGA/MGGA
    - Marlborough Research Centre Trust
    - Hawke's Bay Regional Council
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# Project Structure



- Project divided into three areas:
    - Marlborough
    - Hawke's Bay
    - Gimblett Gravels
  - Directed by a National Steering Committee.
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# Marlborough



- Regional Coordinator - Richard Hunter
  - Grower chairman - Rob Hammond
  - Focus Vineyards:
    - Stembridge
    - Tyntesfield
    - Tohu Wines
  - Focus on blocks of Sauvignon Blanc
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# Marlborough



- Key Projects/Objectives:
    - Vine water requirements
    - Vine nutrient requirements
    - Pest & disease monitoring
    - Grape yield assessments
    - Economic and management benchmarking
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# Hawke's Bay



- Regional Coordinator Carla Emms
  - Grower chairman Mal McLennan
  - Focus Vineyards:
    - Prospect Vineyard
    - Fernhill Vineyard
    - Craggy Range Gimblett Gravels Vineyard
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# Hawke's Bay



- Key Projects/Objectives:
    - Soil quality
    - Agrichemical management
    - Economic benchmarking
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# Gimblett Gravels



- Coordinator Heidi Stiefel
- Site is Craggy Range Gimblett Gravels Vineyard
- Merlot block



# Gimblett Gravels



- “Better quality wines without environmental compromise”
  - Problem:
    - Soil – free draining gravel, low organic matter
    - Water – GG sits on unconfined aquifer
    - Nitrogen – low juice YAN, leaching risk
  - Economic and environmental solution
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# Tech transfer



- Regular field days in Hawke's Bay & Marlborough
  - Industry publications (national and local)
  - Website [www.nzw.co.nz/focus](http://www.nzw.co.nz/focus) vineyard
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# Research projects



- Take a look at several research projects within the FV project itself:
    - Case Study 1: Marlborough
    - Case Study 2: Hawke's Bay
    - Case Study 3: Gimblett Gravels
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# Case Study 1



- Marlborough
  - Project 'Vine Nutrient Requirements'
  - Aims:
    - To develop effective monitoring techniques with links between soil nutrient analysis, management and vine production
    - to provide updated guidelines for the application of nutrients
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# Case Study 1



- 3 vineyards selected
  - Blocks of Sauvignon Blanc
  - Mapped water holding capacity
  - Soil pits and profiles
  - Vine measurements
    - Trunk diameters
    - Petiole, blade, wood sampling & tests
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# Case Study 2



- Hawke's Bay
  - Project 'Economic Benchmarking'
  - Aim: to create benchmarks for the cost/profitability of growing several grape varieties in Hawke's Bay
  - 4 varieties: Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc
  - 3 wine price points
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## Case Study 2



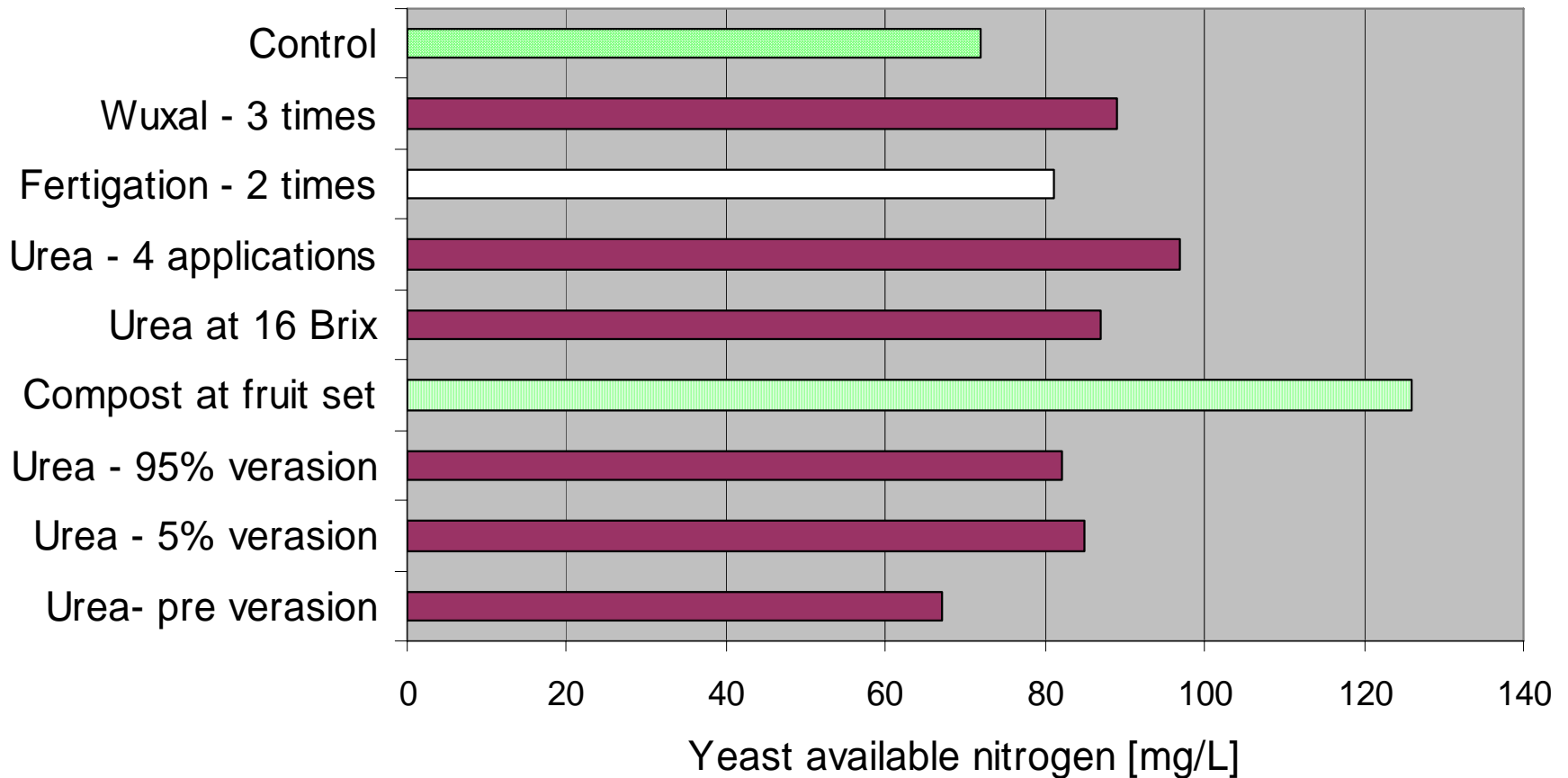
- Individual vineyard blocks surveyed
  - Yield, price, cost data collected
  - Database processes information
  - Data presented in 3 formats: per ha, per tonne, per row metre
  - Benchmark each block against average, upper quartile, lower quartile
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# Case Study 3

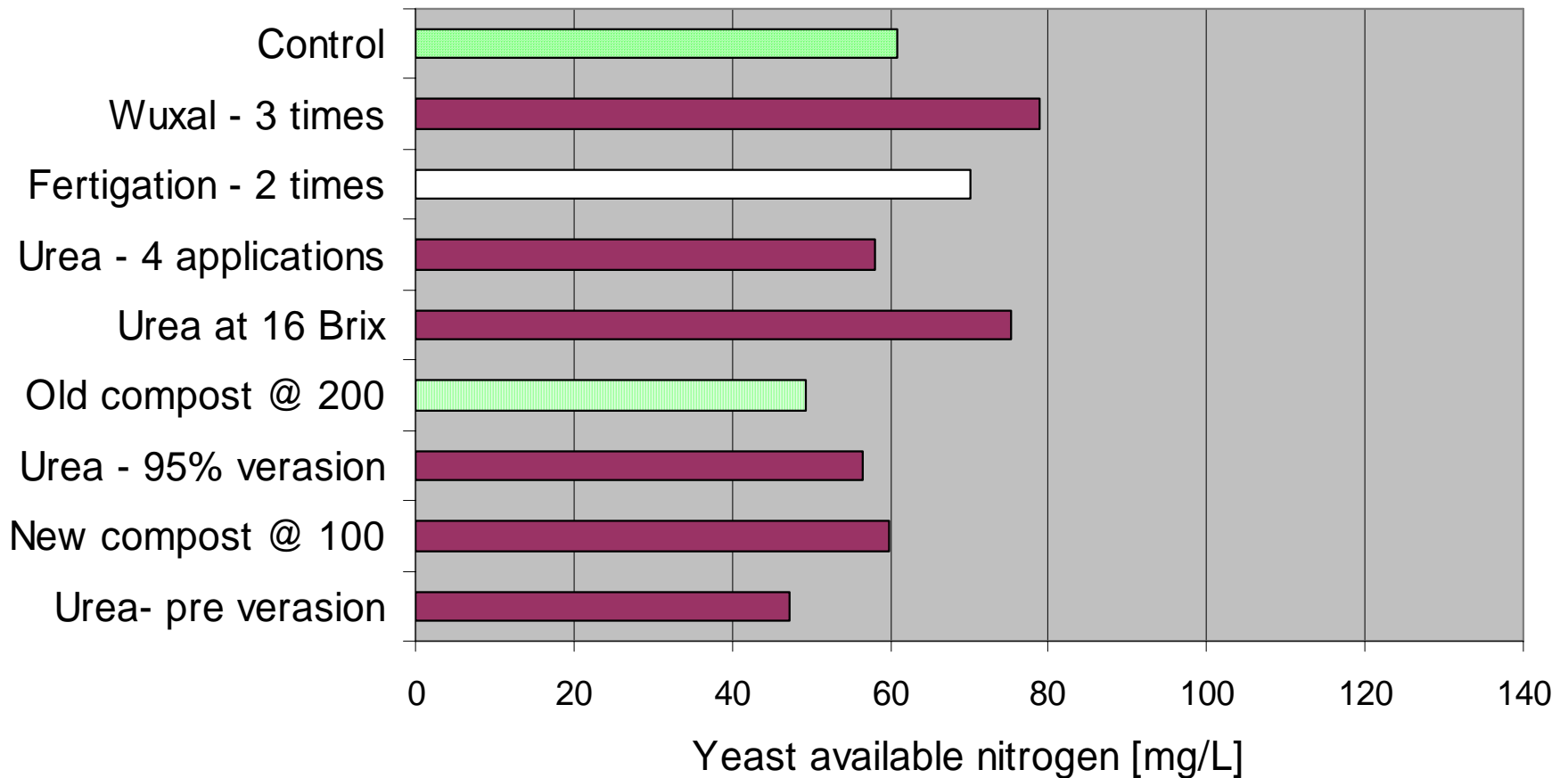


- Gimblett Gravels project
  - Aim to increase YAN to 140mg/L without environmental risk
  - Several nitrogen treatments:
    - Control
    - Compost
    - Fertigation
    - Foliar urea sprays
    - Wuxall-amino
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# Year 1 (2003/04)



# Year 2 (2004/05)



# Summary



- Objective of Focus Vineyard project is to improve the uptake of research and information in the industry and implement best practice techniques in NZ vineyards
  - For further information about the project refer to the Focus Vineyard website link at [www.nzwine.com](http://www.nzwine.com)
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