

Medusahead and beef cattle gains

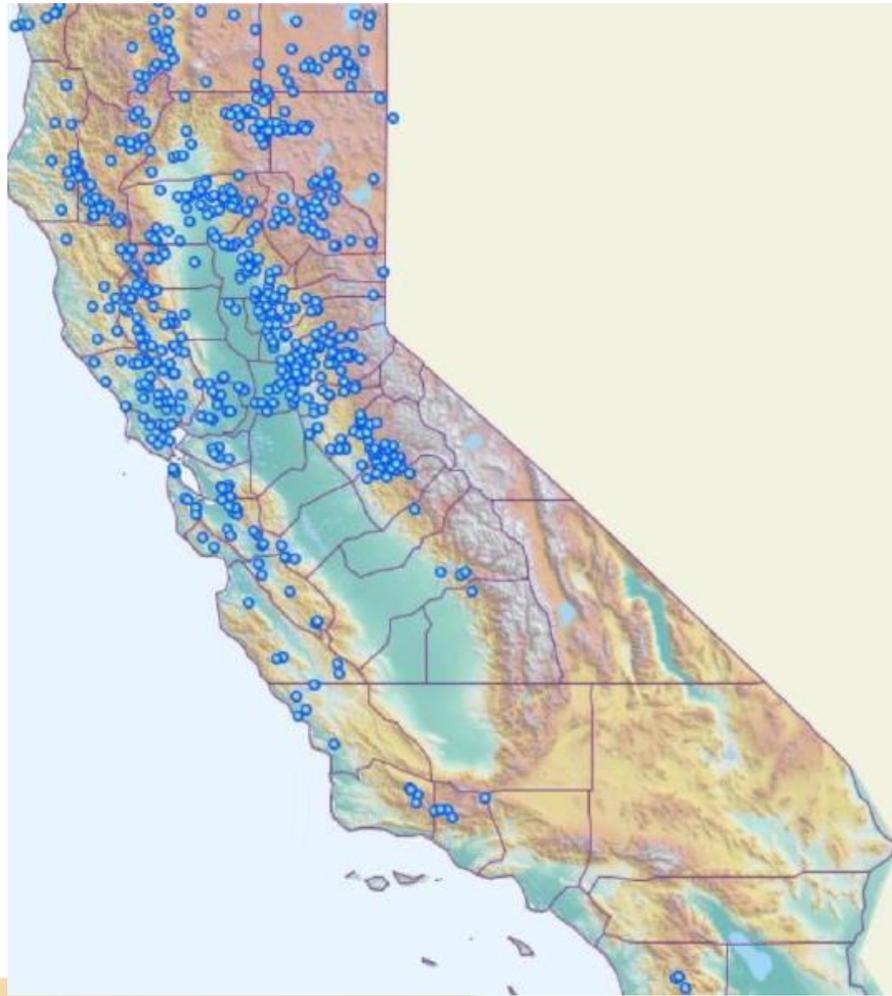
Jeremy James

UC SFREC



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Economic impacts of medusahead?

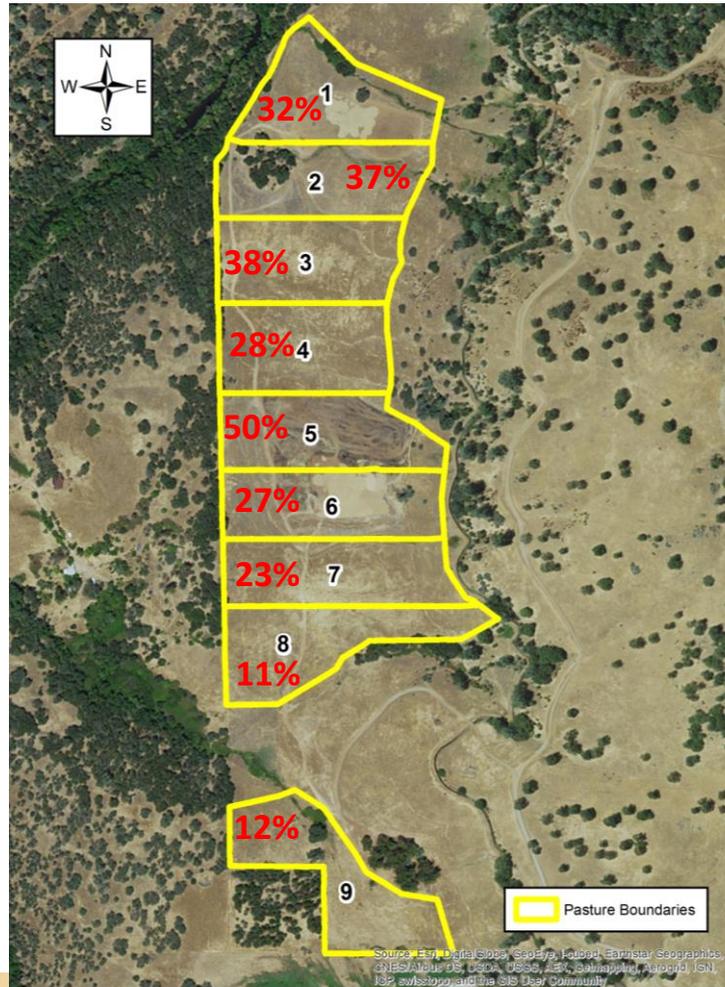


- Forage nutrition
- Forage quantity
- Avoidance



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Stocking

- Stocked pastures (5 acre) with 6 steers
March 1
- Weighed steers April 1 and put steers
back on trial
- Increased or decreased stocking
between April 1 depending on forage
availability
- Weighed steers May 15

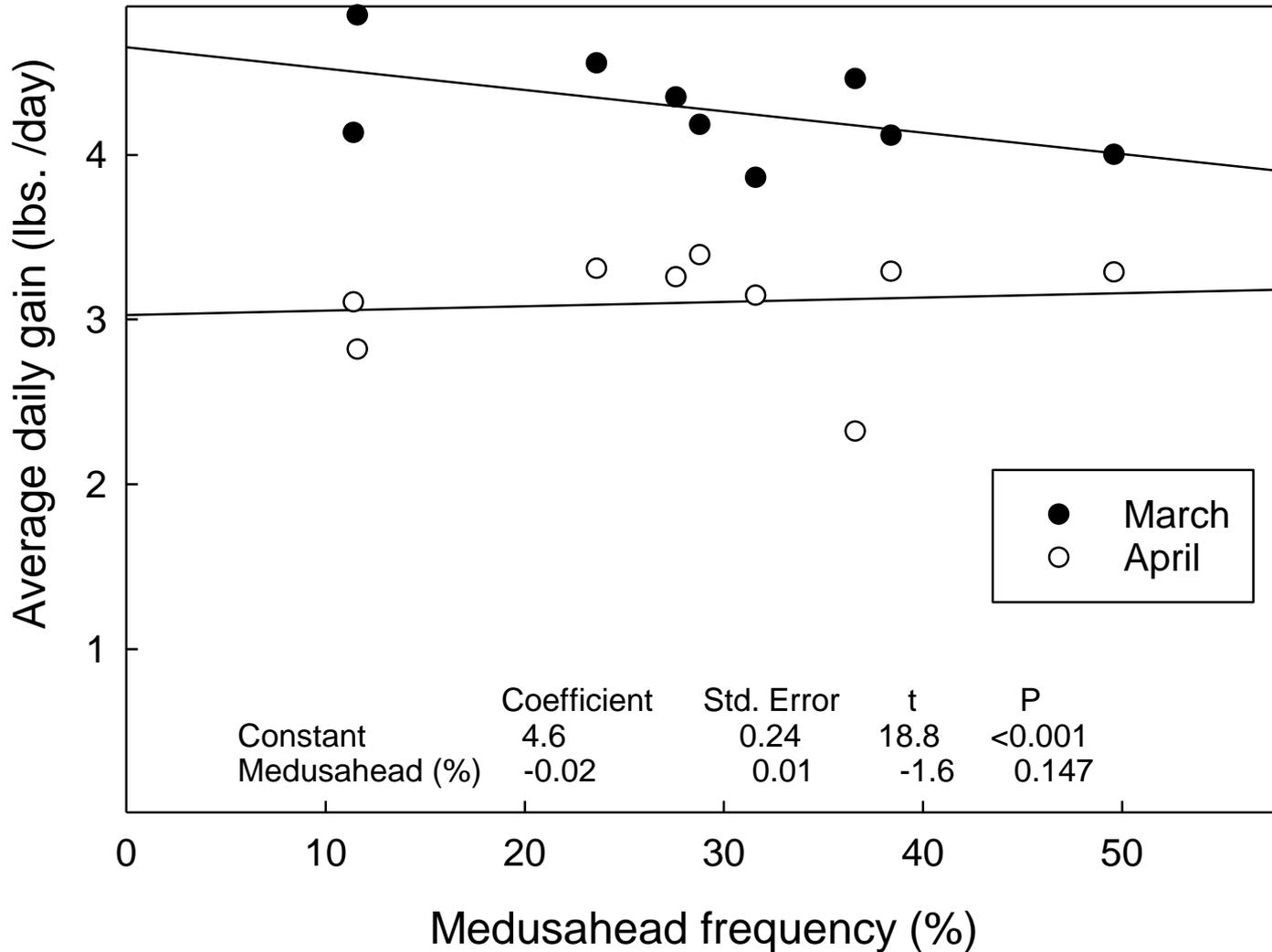


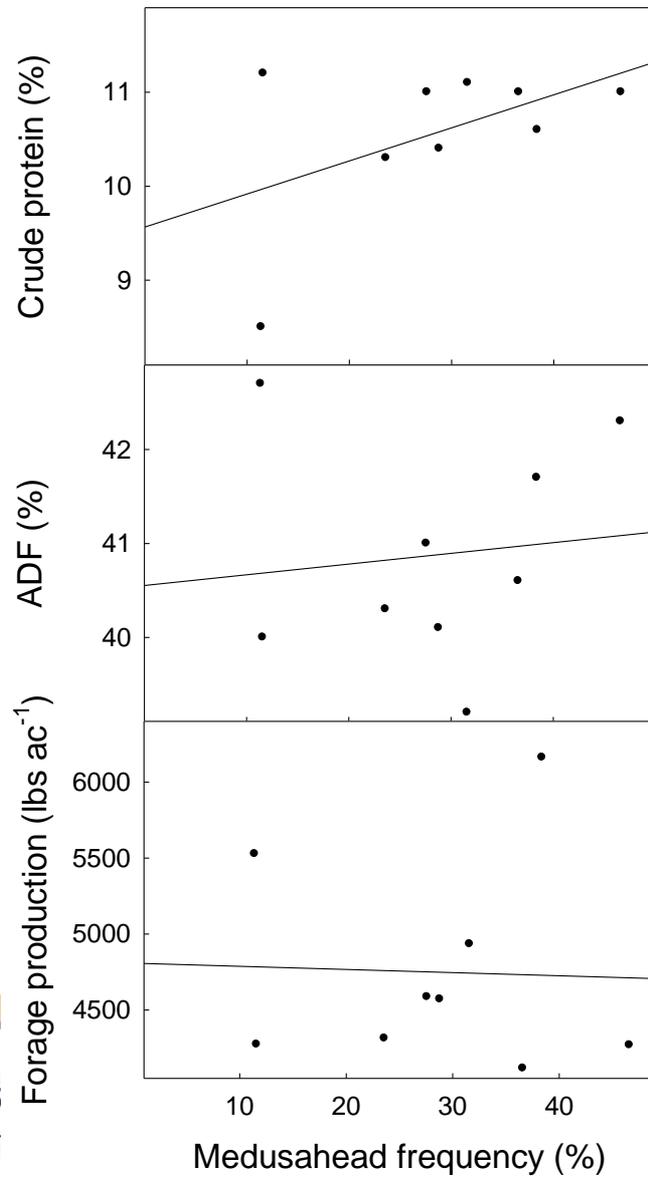
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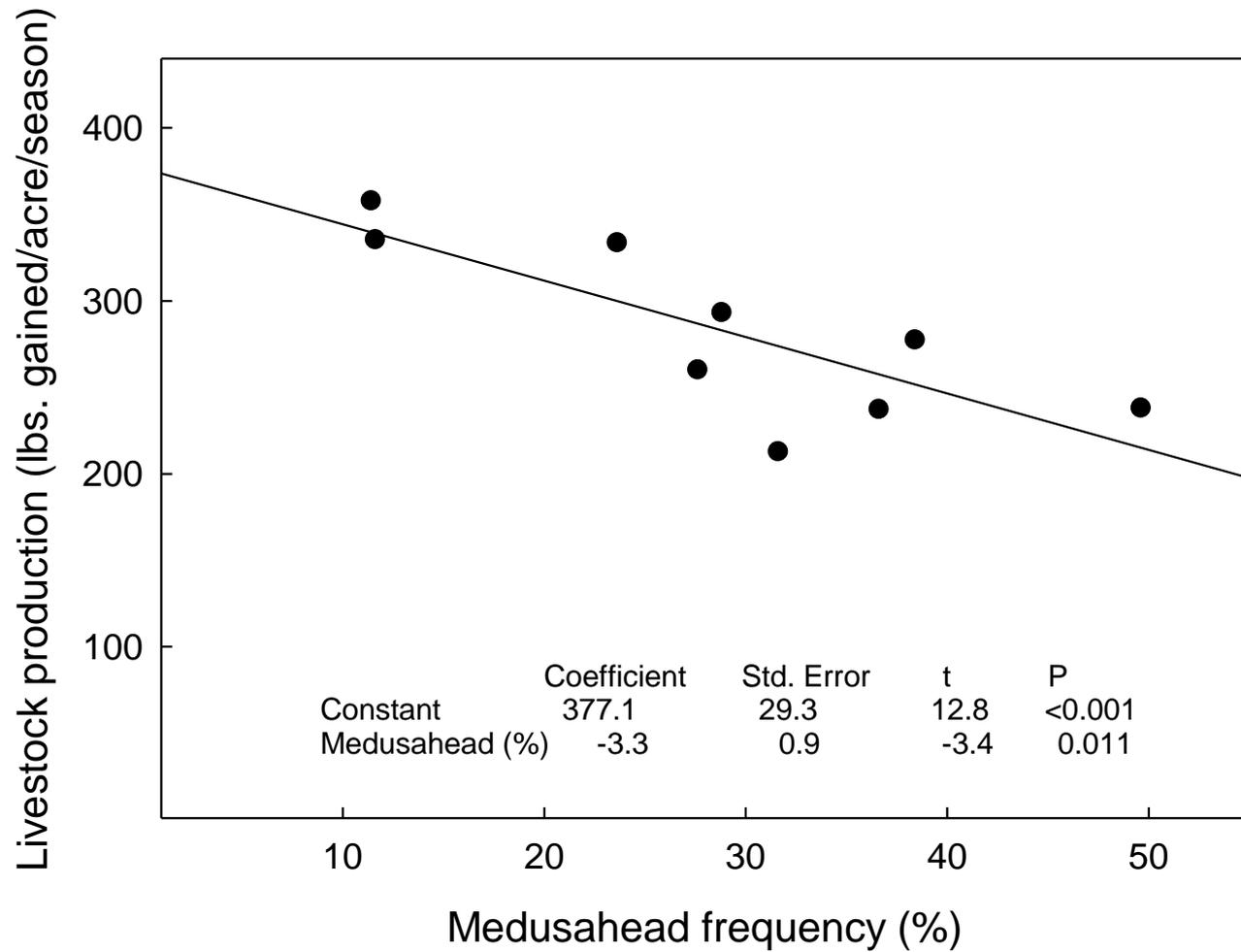
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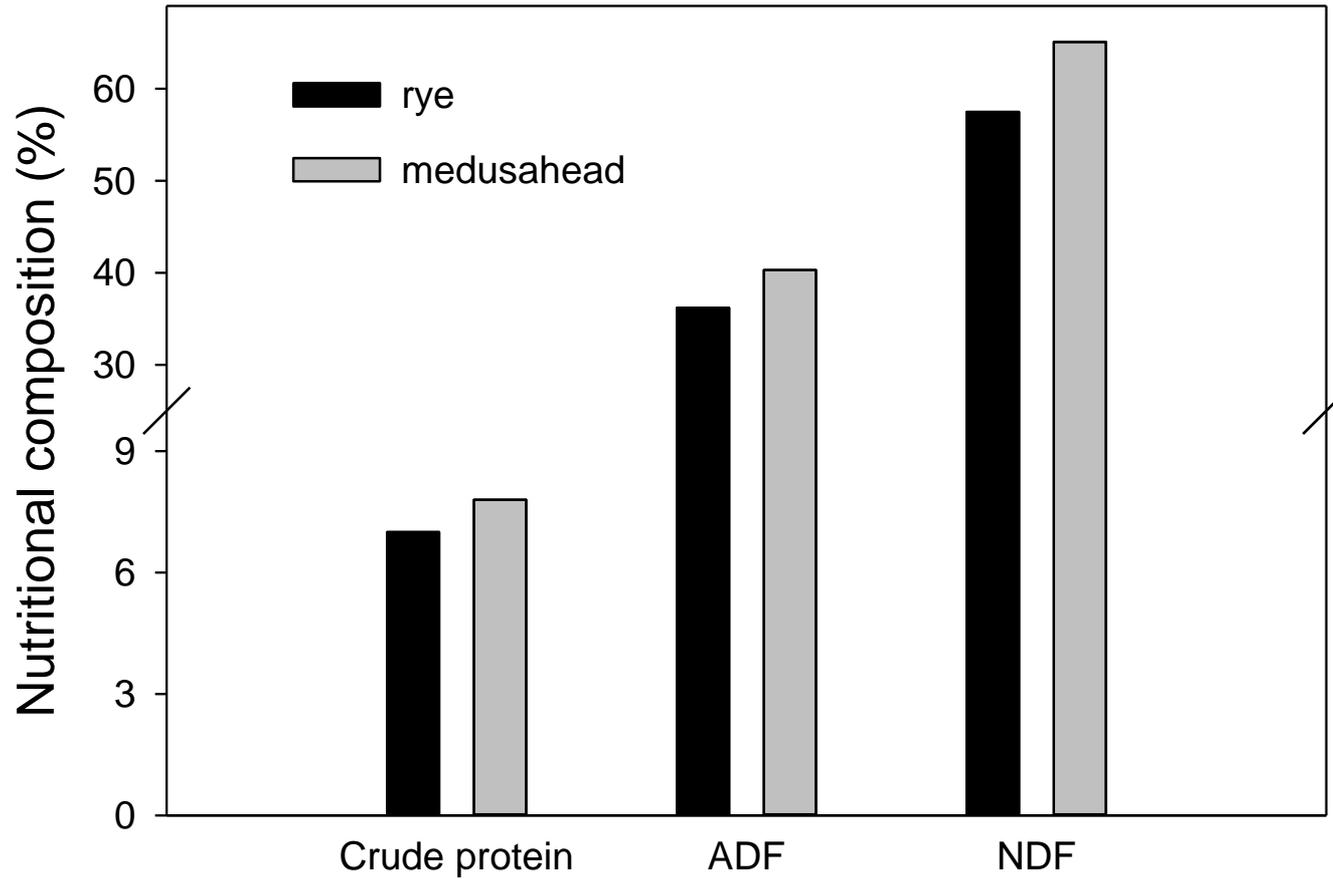






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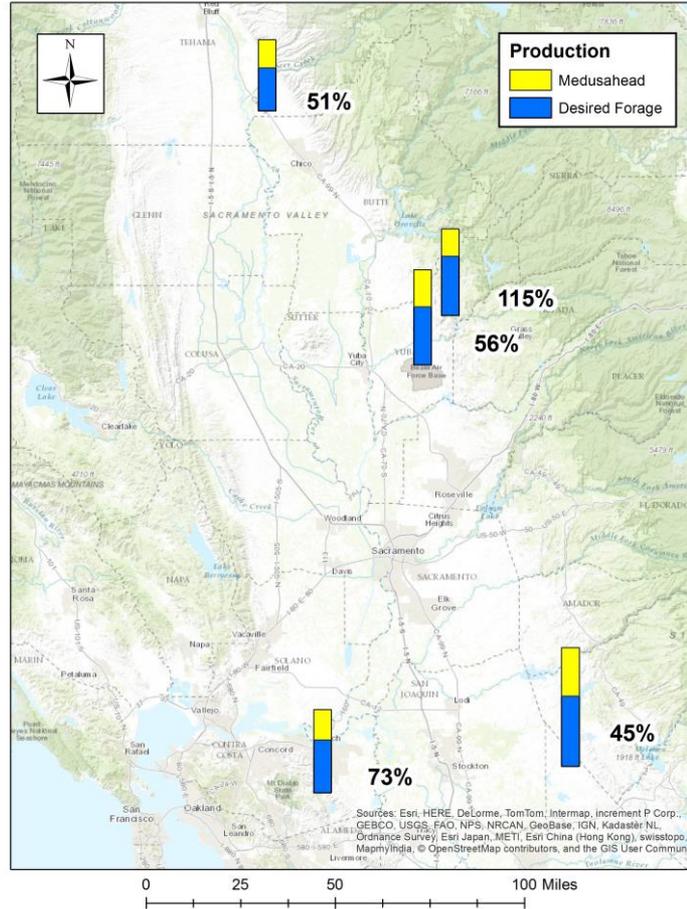




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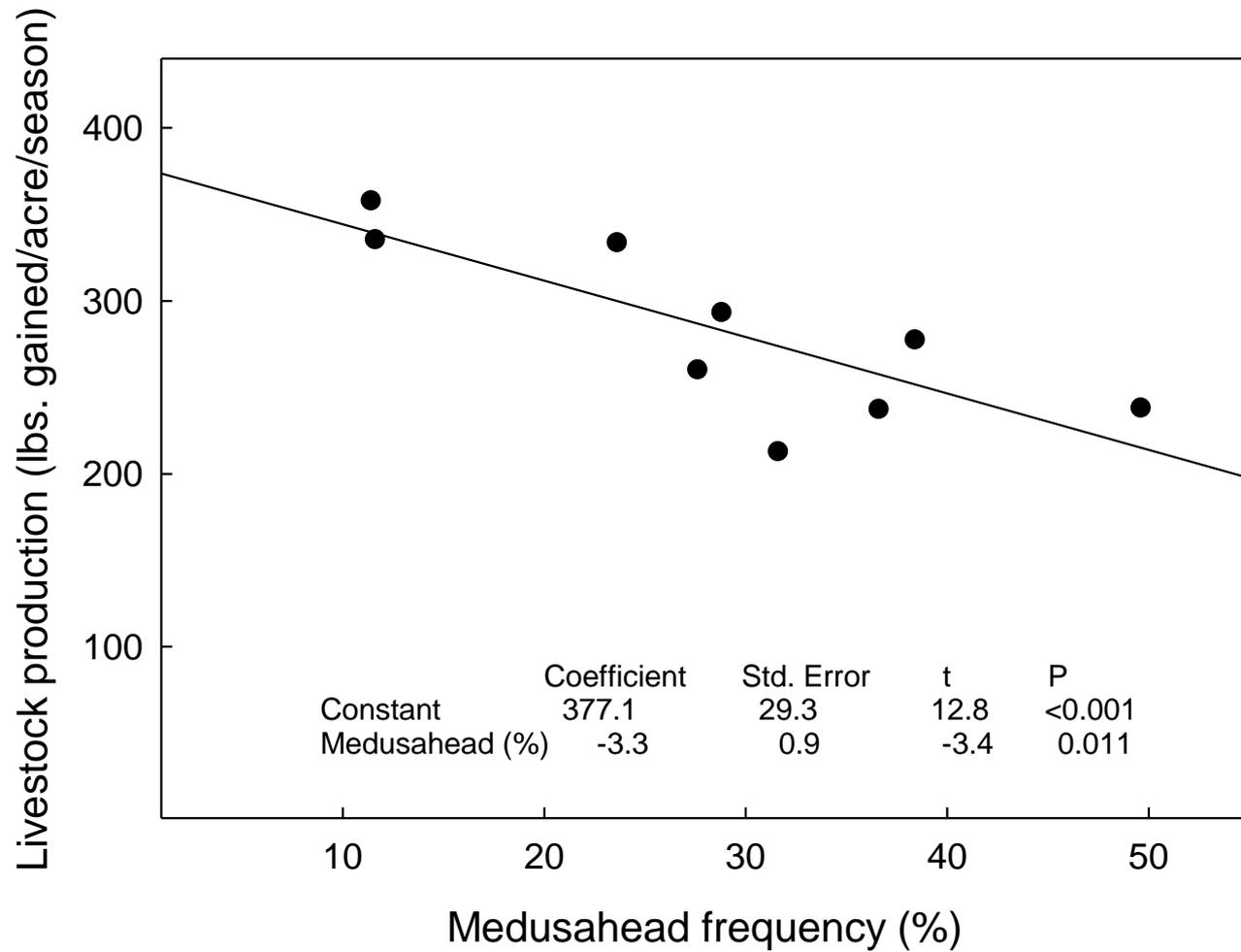
Production Comparison Across Sites



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Implications

Medusahead decreases gains by lowering overall carrying capacity rather than an effect on individual animal gain

At the time steers were shipped, 800-900 lb steers were selling for \$1.19 per lb meaning a 10% reduction in medusahead would have resulted in \$38 more per acre

Modest per acre inputs or changes in management that can progressively lower medusahead abundance are likely to produce significant economic and ecological benefits

