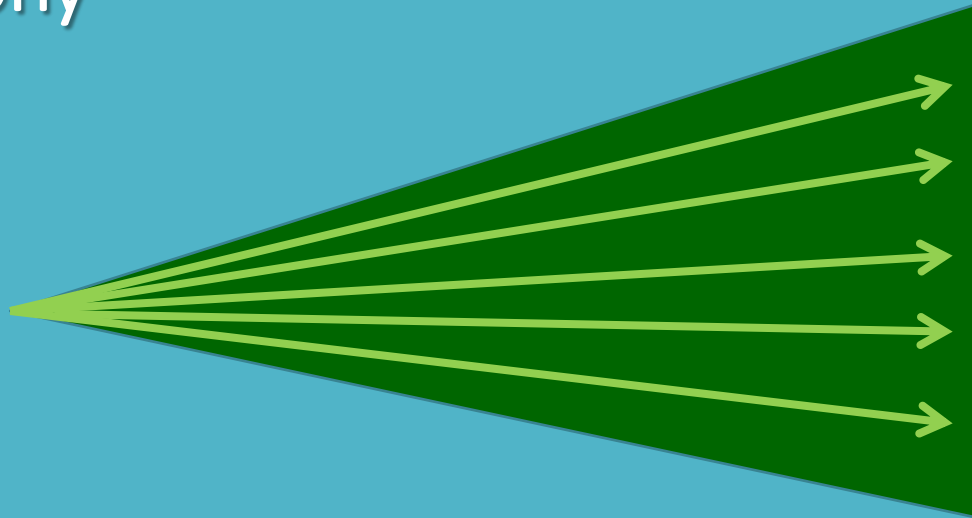


# History and development of the Australian cotton industry

Dave Anthony





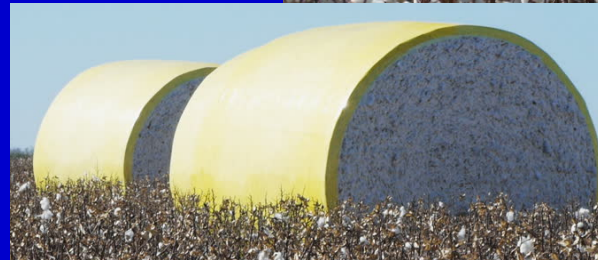
# **Key factors in the industry's history and development**





# Australian cotton & wool 2016-17

- 208,000 tonnes (clean)
- 1760 cents / kg (clean)
- \$3.7 billion
- 887,500 tonnes (ginned)
- 250 cents / kg
- \$2.5 billion (includes seed)

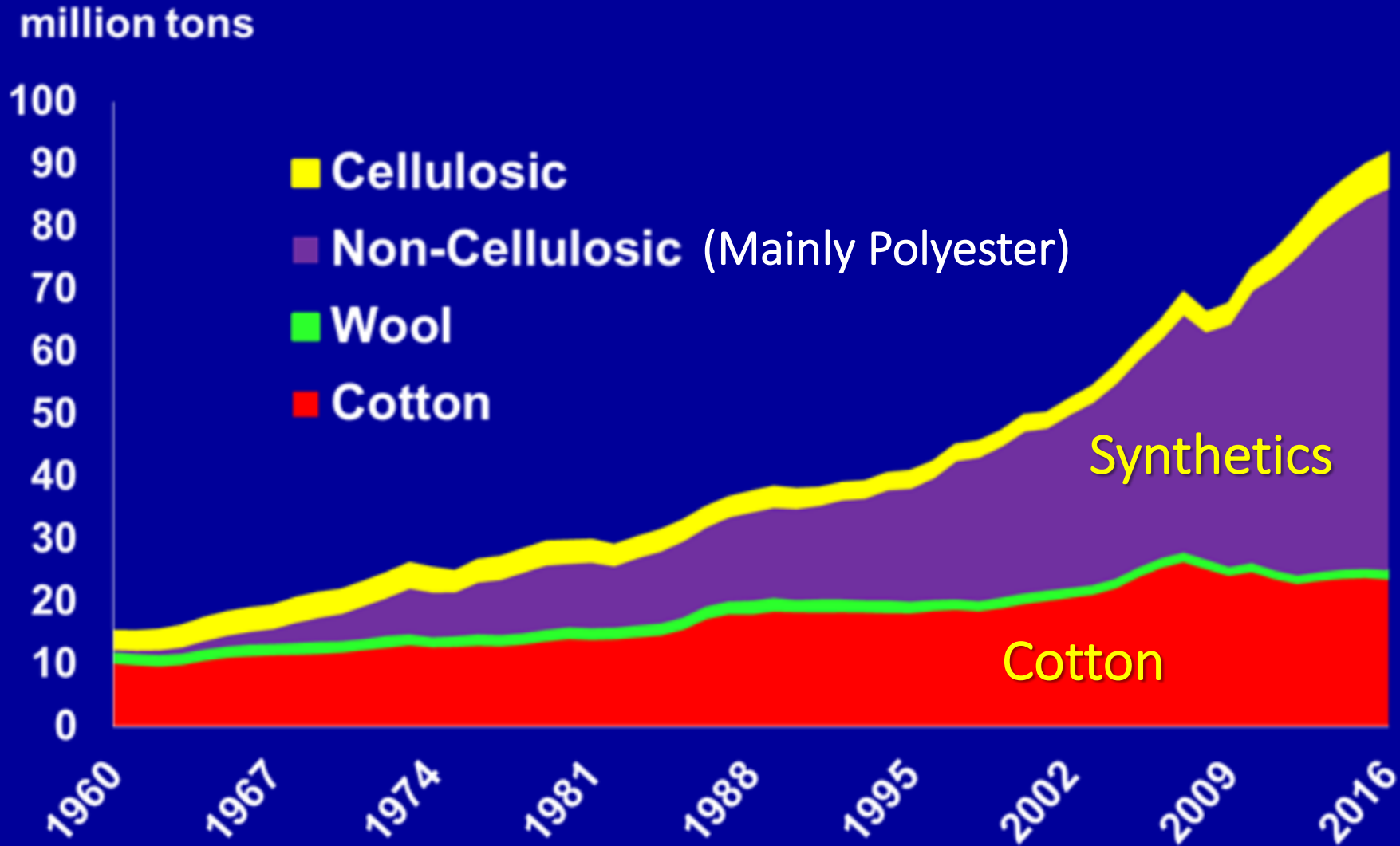


Australia's two major natural fibres



# WORLD CONSUMPTION OF TEXTILE FIBERS

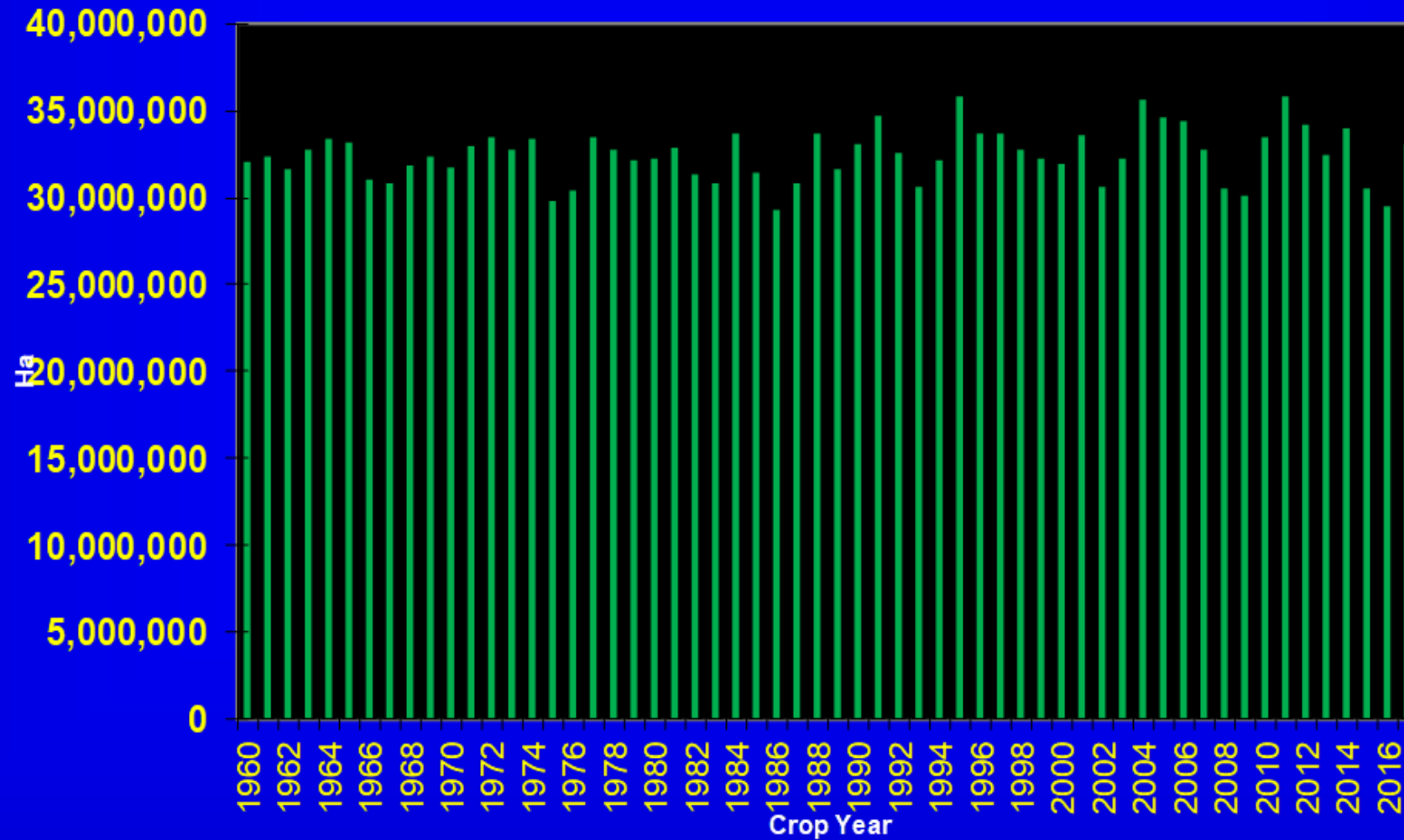
Source: ICAC





# World Cotton Area (Hectares)

Hectares grown

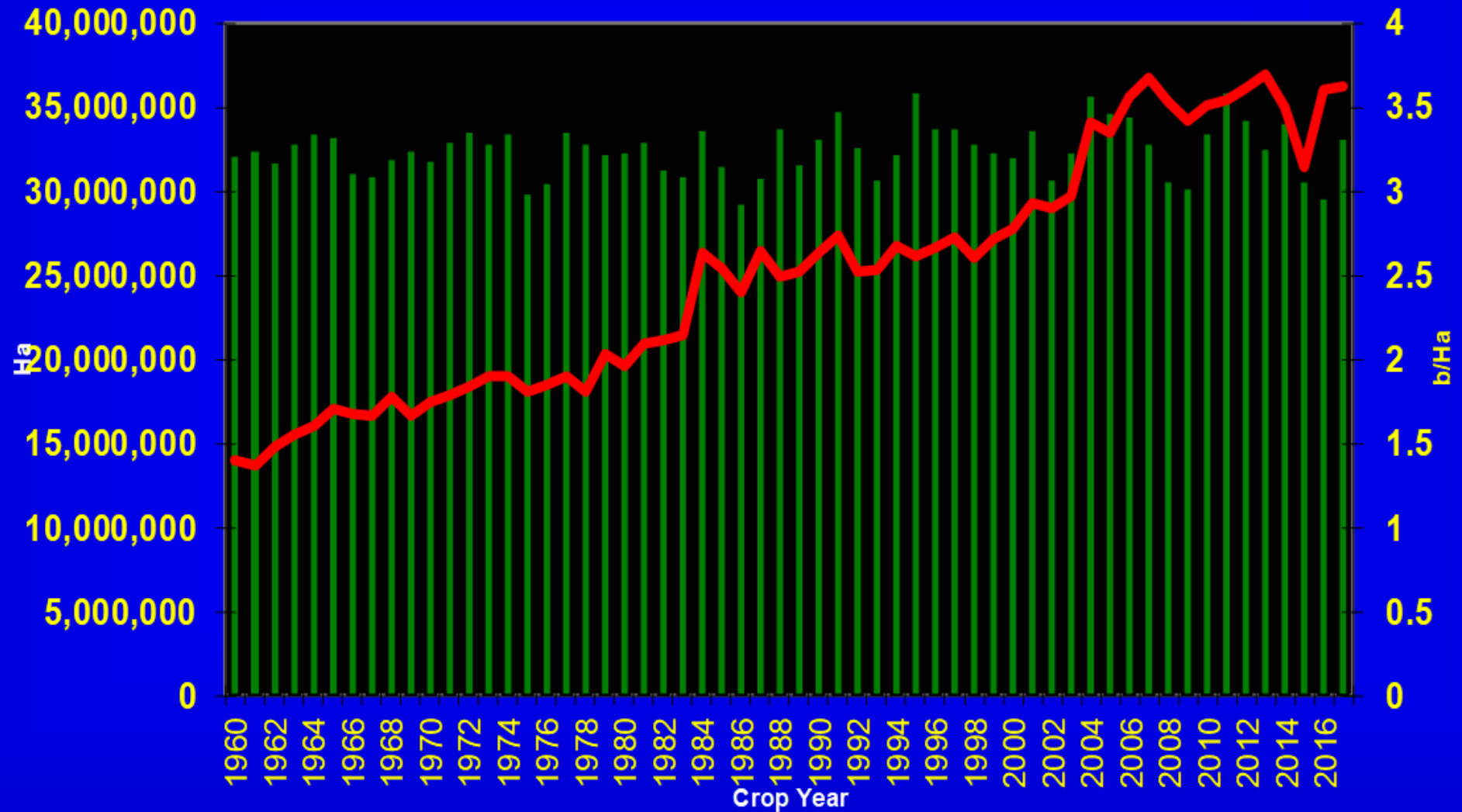




# World Cotton Area (Hectares)

Hectares grown

Yield

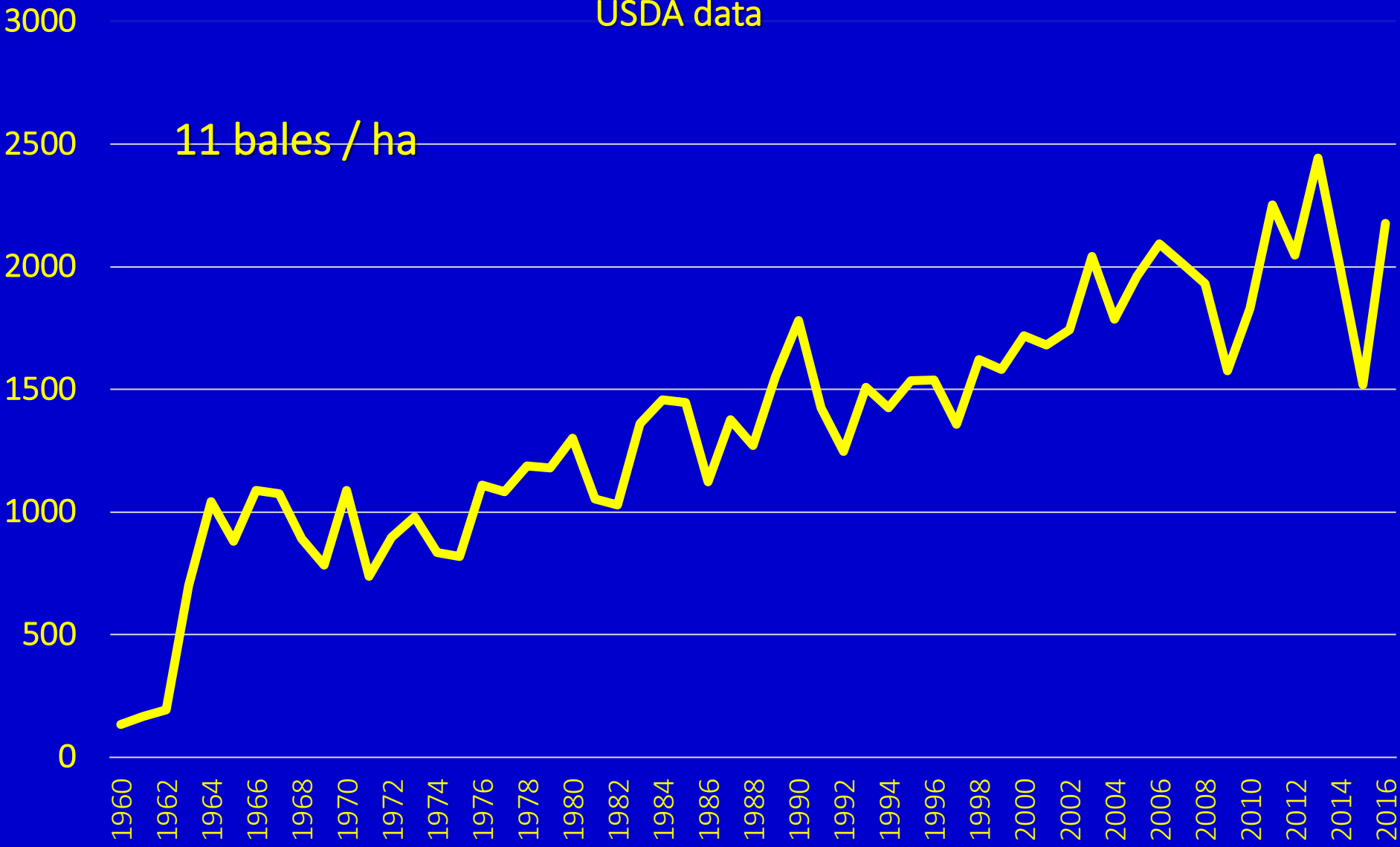


# Average Australian Lint Yields (kgs / ha)

USDA data

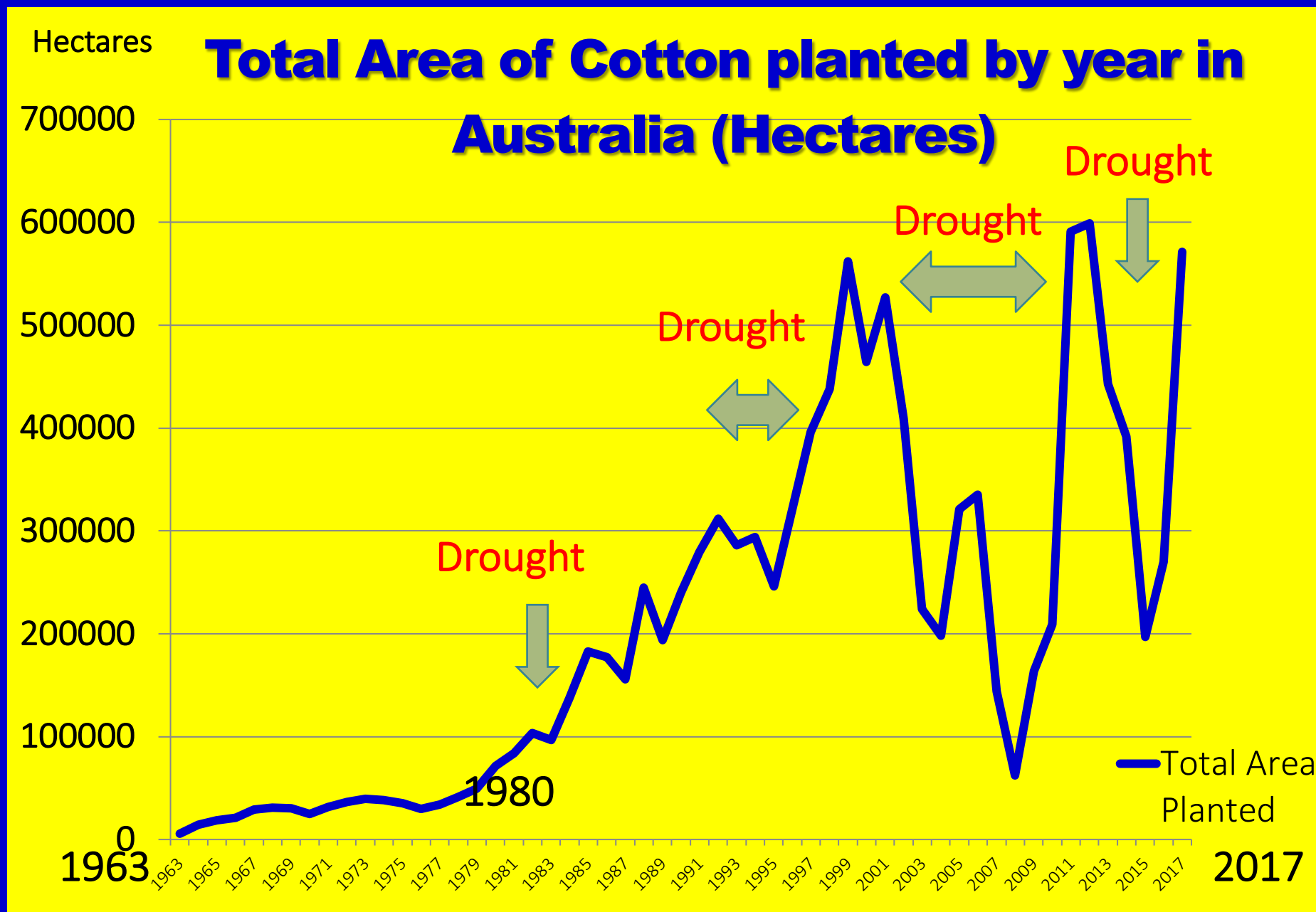


11 bales / ha



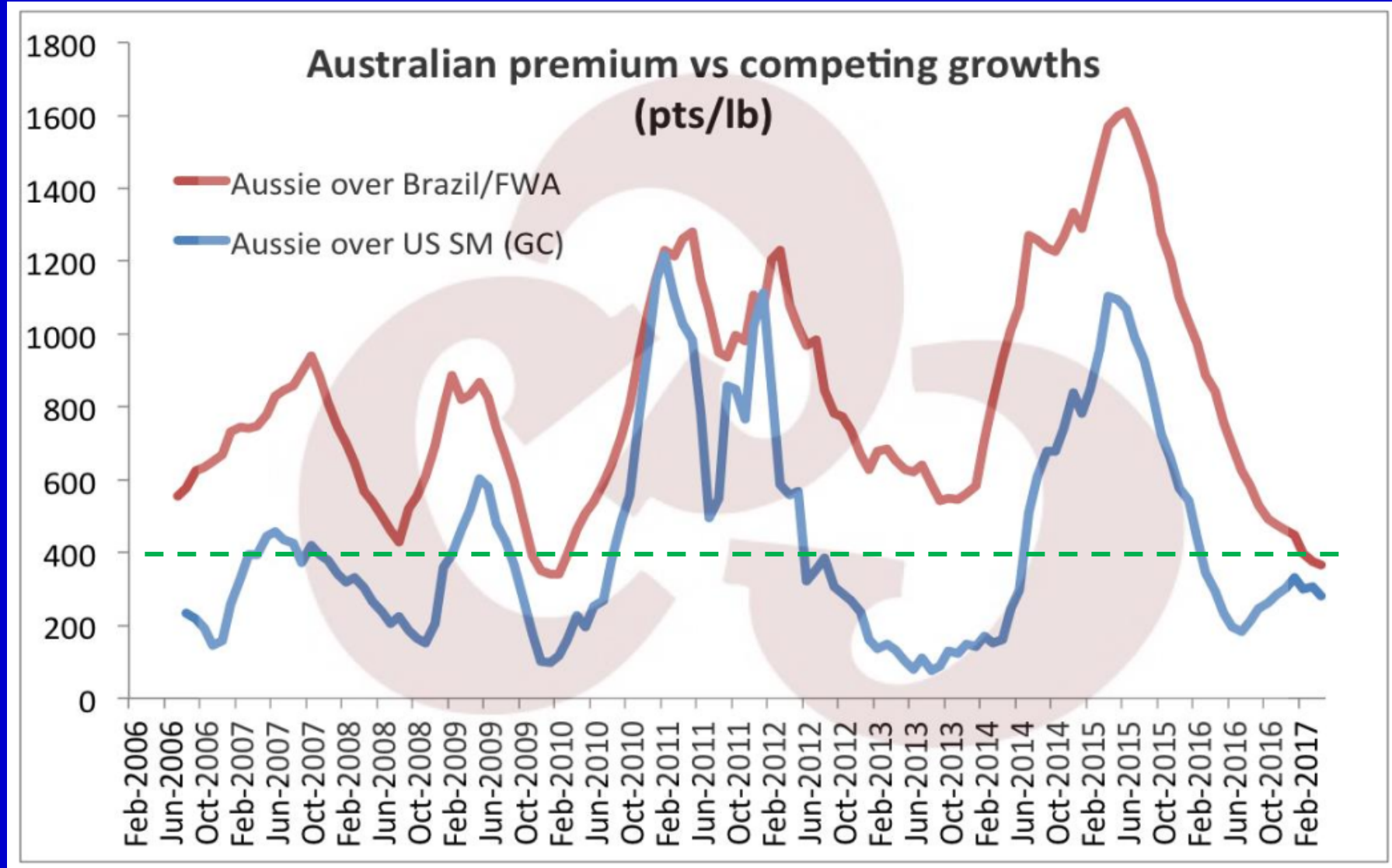
Yield





Data compiled from Dr Greg Constable; Cotton Australia; and Aust Cotton Grower Year Books

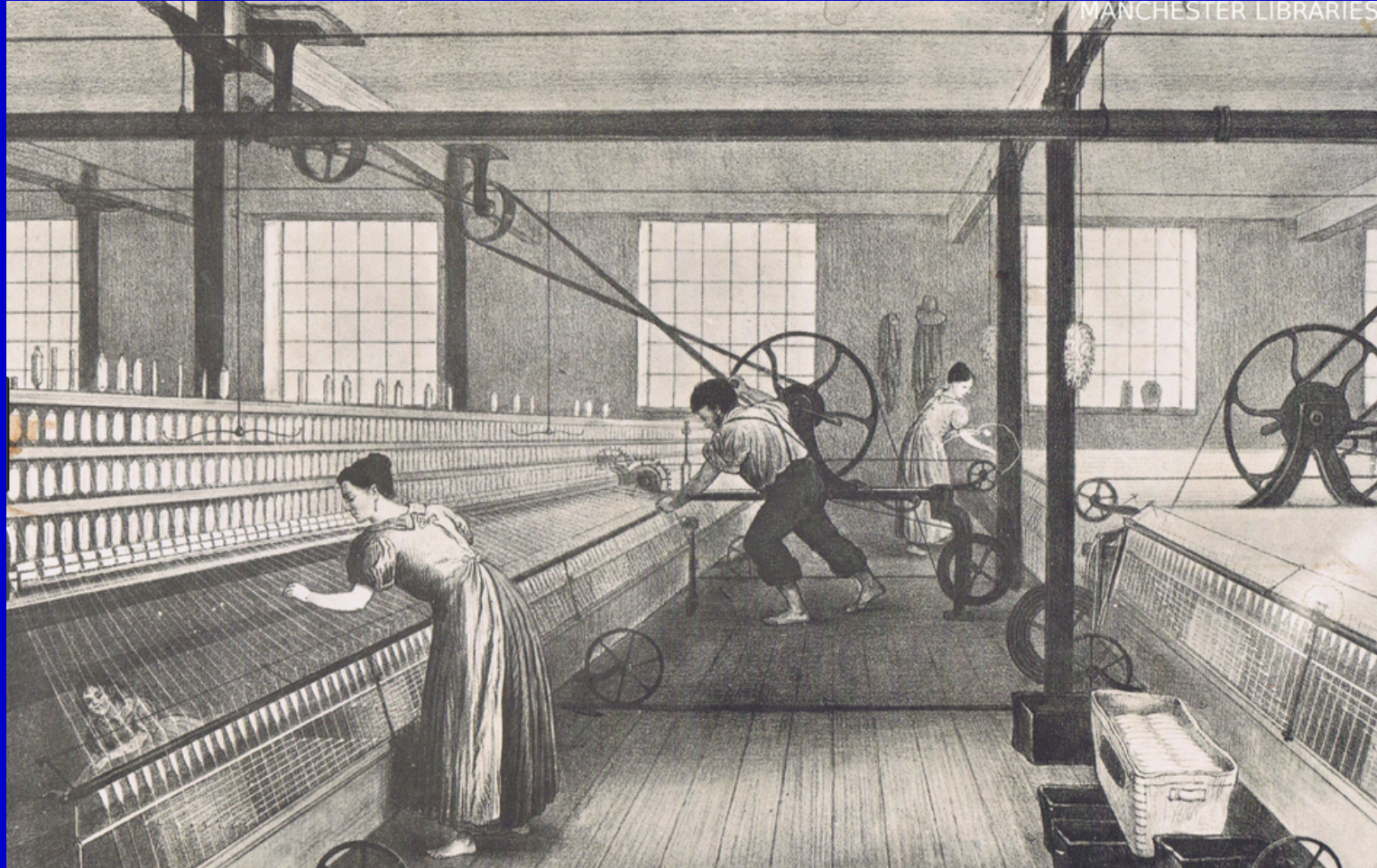
# Australian cotton premium



Note: 400 pts on a 12 b / ha crop = \$300 / ha increase in revenue

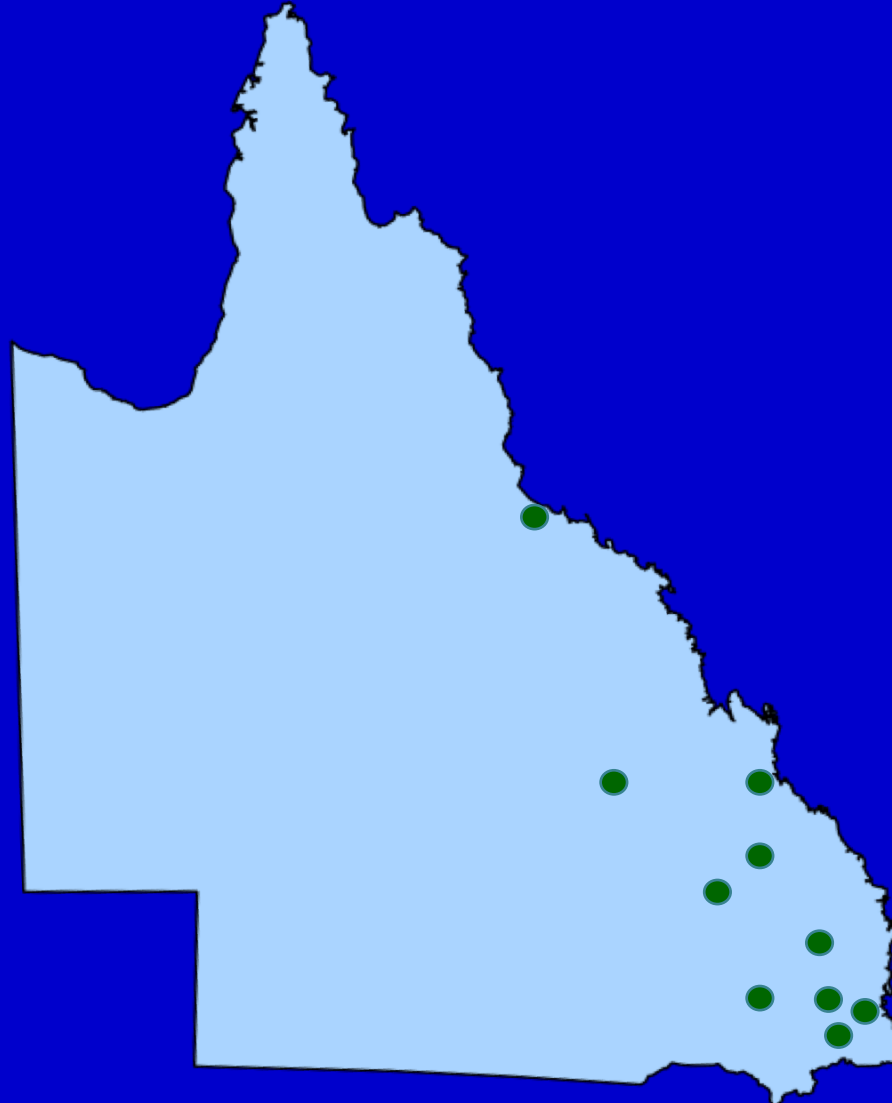


# Cotton was a major catalyst & driver of the Industrial Revolution



England was hungry for raw cotton

# The Australian cotton industry emerged in Queensland in the 1850s



- Early areas included:
- Emerald
  - Theodore
  - Capella
  - Townsville
  - Carrara
  - Ipswich
  - Beaudesert
  - Thornton
  - Laidley
  - Rockhampton
  - Wowan



# American Civil War 1861-65 disrupts supplies



**Minor boost to Australian production**

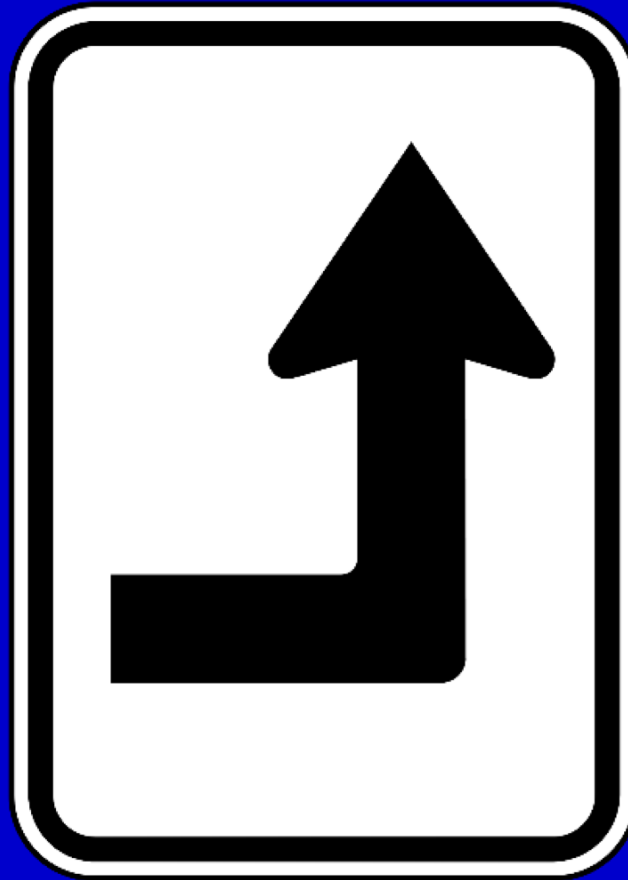


# Industry in decline.





## Turning the corner 1950-60s



**The “modern” industry arrives.**

# Mechanical harvesting available from 1949



# Irrigation, government encouragement & the pioneers.

1959 - 1963



Keepit Dam





# RAW COTTON BOUNTY.

---

**No. 86 of 1963.**

An Act to provide for the Payment of Bounty on the Production of certain Raw Cotton sold for use in Australia and for other purposes.

[Assented to 31st October, 1963.]

[Date of commencement, 28th November, 1963.]

Raw Cotton Bounty was removed in 1971.  
It was very effective in establishing the “modern” cotton industry.



# Getting started in the 1960s had its challenges

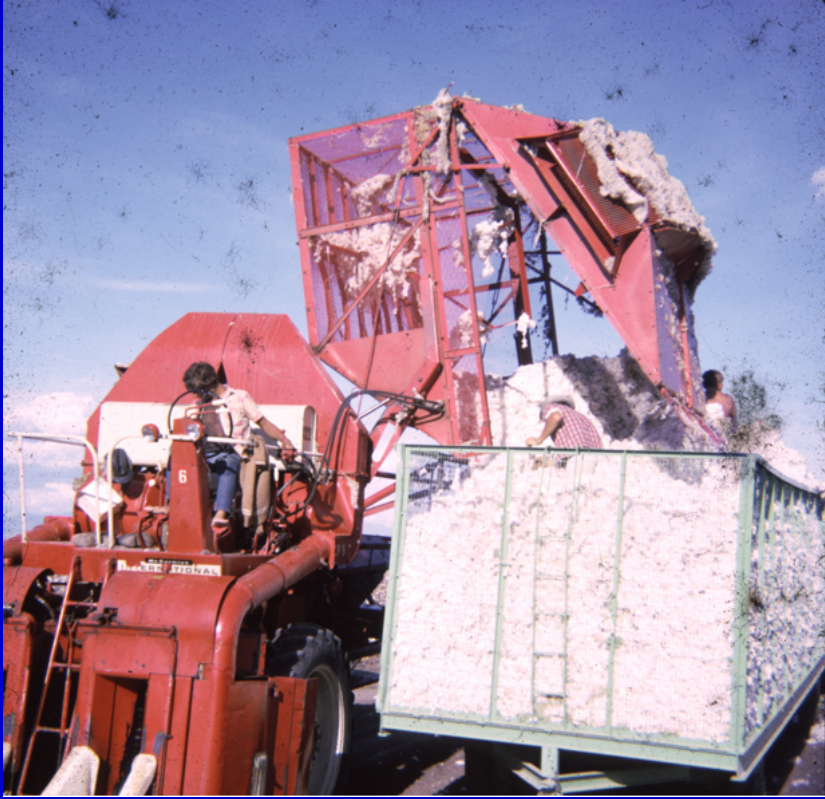


Weeds  
Grubs &  
Floods





**Materials handling was a key to industry expansion.**



**The era of cotton trailers.**

**Proximity to a gin important**





# The cotton module innovation – late 1970s

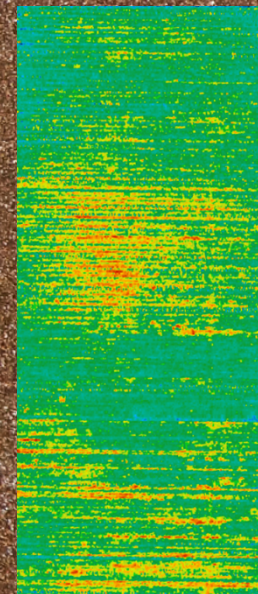






**The round module  
revolution in 2007**

Yield  
mapping





# Improving efficiency of field operations





# High field efficiency - 12 metre wide gear is common



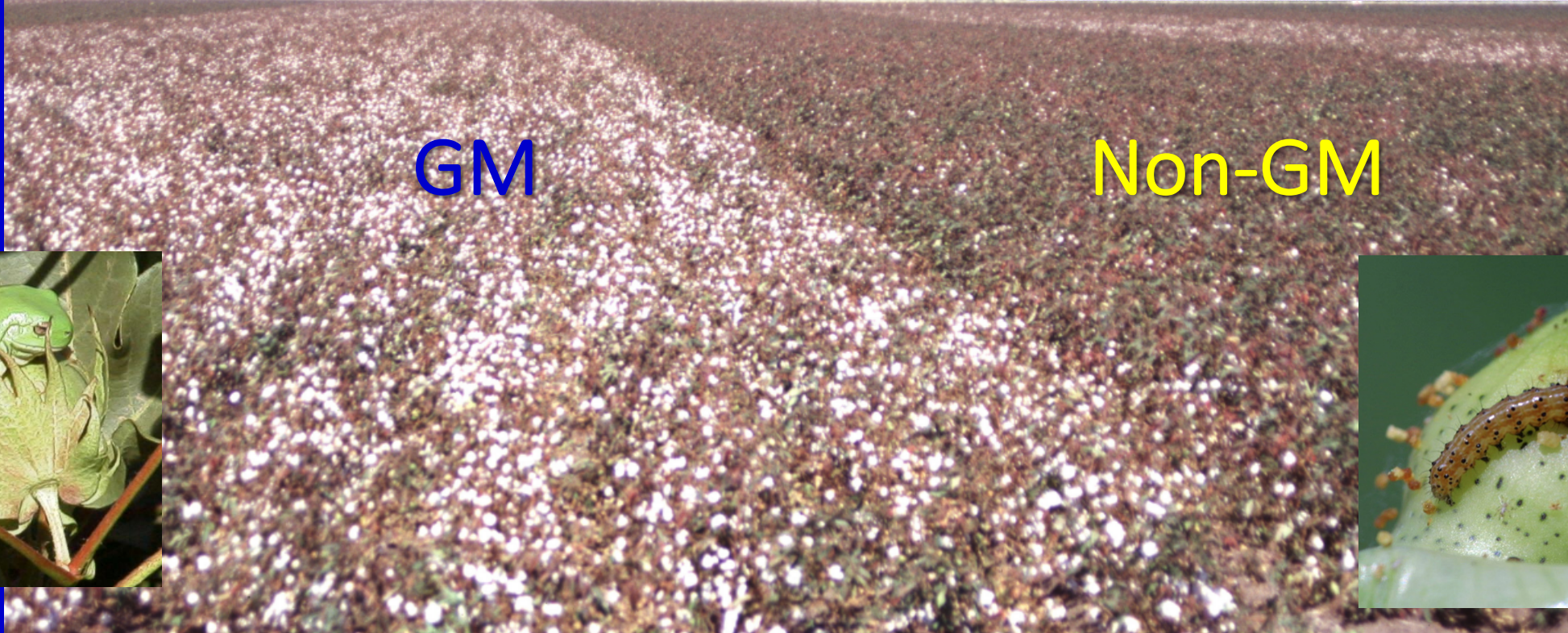
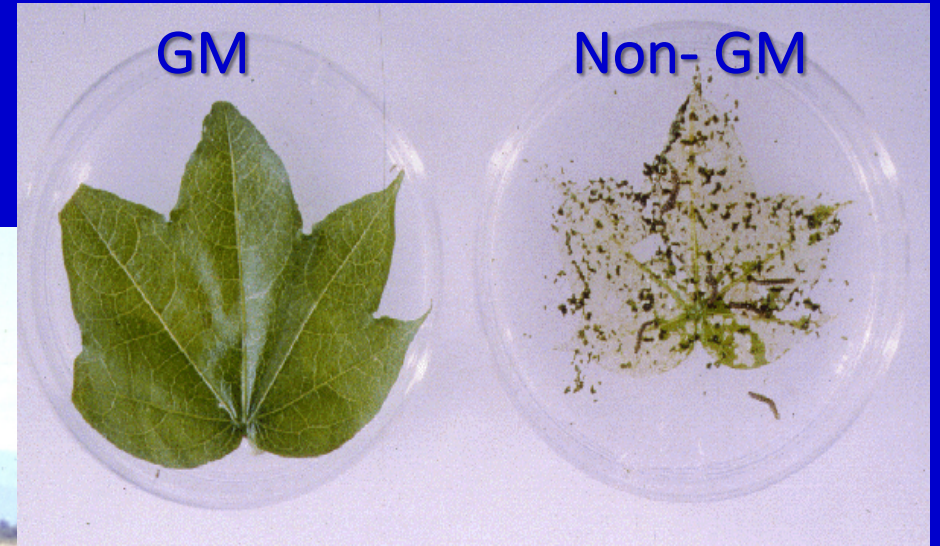
**GPS Guidance; Controlled traffic;  
crop and field monitoring; etc.  
Now looking to robotics.....**



# Insect management

## Science in action

- GM & IPM







*Life*