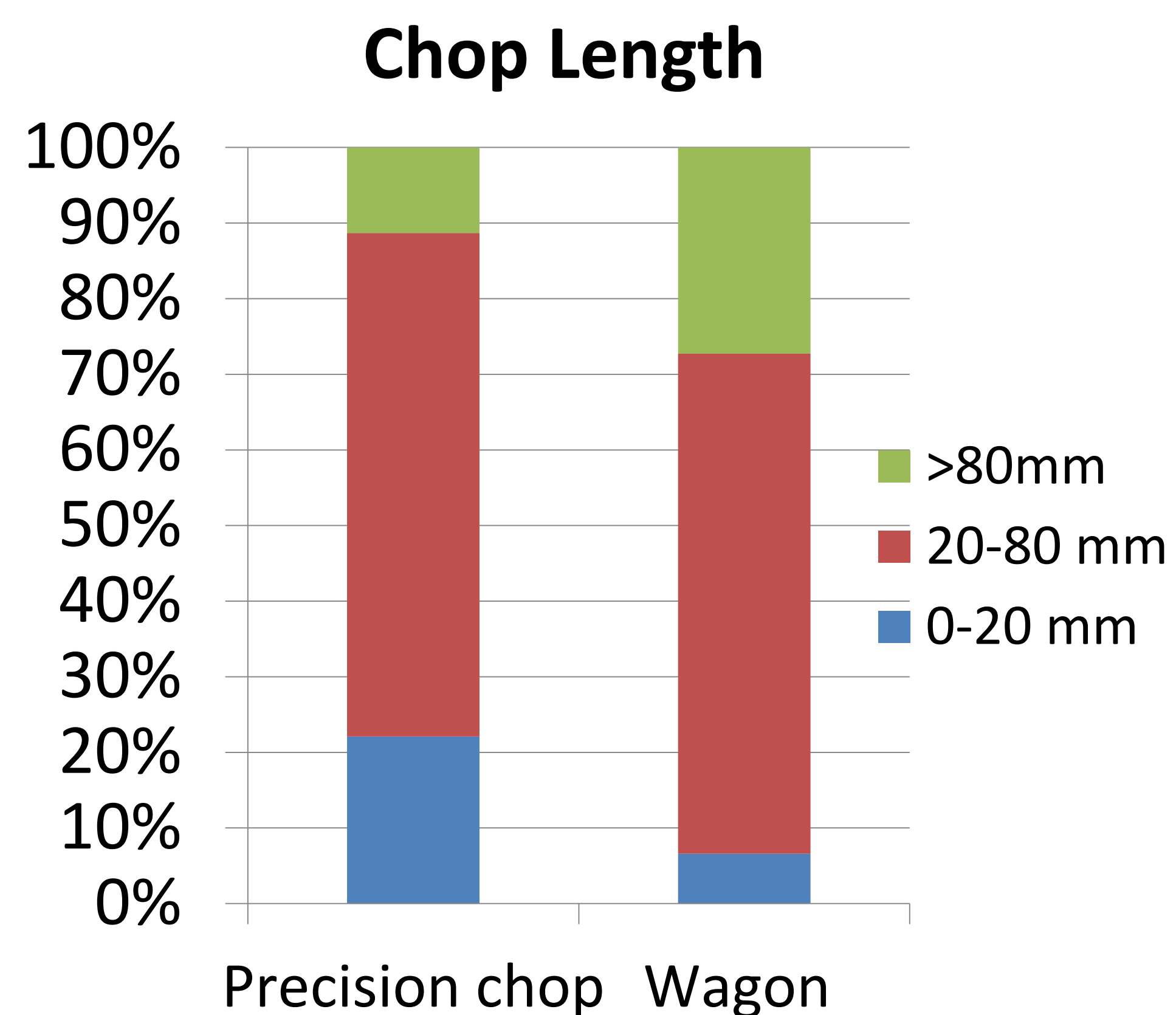


## What is fibre?

- NDF- neutral detergent fibre – total amount of cell walls in the feed
- Physically effective NDF (**peNDF**) stimulates rumination (forage only, particle size/chop length)
- Irish silages have adequate NDF and peNDF
- No benefit of longer chop length- reduces intake?

Minimum (forage) peNDF %	Minimum total dietary NDF %
19	25
18	27
17	29
16	31
15	33



## Maximising Intake

- Max NDF intake is limited to 1.1-1.25 % BW
- Use as a predictor- not always fibre limiting intake
- Highlights the importance of forage quality

Cow BW kg	Silage NDF %	Silage NDF intake (kg DM)	Silage total Intake (kg DM)	Diet NDF %	Total intake (kg DM)
600	45	7.2	16	35	21.4
600	50	6.6	13.2	40	18.8

## On farm assessment of Fibre/Intake

- Target FIM value (105+ ) and NDF (42-47%)
- Avoid long chop lengths- target 25-70 mm

## Take home messages

- High NDF limits dry matter intake – Straw??
- Need high quality forage 74 DMD+ to meet targets
- Need to maximise forage in winter diets (14 kg+ DM)