

AGM Weekly Update

Hello AGMers,

We have lots of great data for you all this week as the AGM steers stopped by the scale on their way to the Crossroads pasture to give us some mid-season gains. The green pastures are beginning to brown again but there is still plenty of forage to be had. With all the precipitation this year, it looks as though we'll have a few more rested pastures for further management consideration. Please keep this in mind as you gather your thoughts and suggestions for the next stakeholders meeting on September 29th.

Highlights of Happenings:

- **As of Monday, the AGM steers have been grazing the Crossroads pasture.** There have been **no reported mix-ups** as of today, however, **two more steers were treated for foot-rot** while at the headquarters scales. The number-of-days threshold for Crossroads is 21 days.
- Before being sent to pasture on Monday, the AGM herd (213 head) and 2 TGM herds (44 head) were weighed to estimate gains so far this season. The gains were as follows:
 - **AGM steers average daily gain from May 15 to August 18 was 2.52 pounds/head/day (or 237 pounds gained per head to date).**
 - **TGM steers average daily gain from May 15 to August 18 was 3.01 pounds/head/day (or 283 pounds gained per head to date).**
- CPER headquarters has received **0.58 inches of rain** since our last update. This brings the August total up to 0.69 inches.
- Our **entry VOR for the Crossroads pasture was 5.1**. Our readings were dominated by the warm season grass, blue grama.
- We had a **huge drop in fecal crude protein for the AGM steers in week 13** while the **TGM CP rose slightly (see Chart 2)**. It will be interesting to see how CP in the AGM herd responds to the move to the warm-season grass dominated Crossroads pasture.

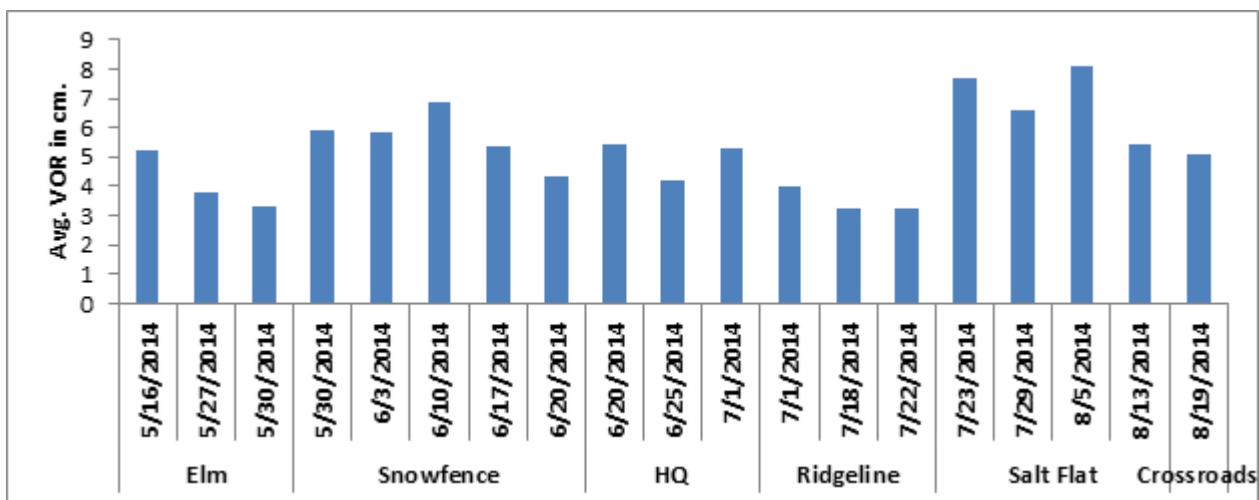


Chart 1: VORs for the grazing sequence this season.

Crude Protein

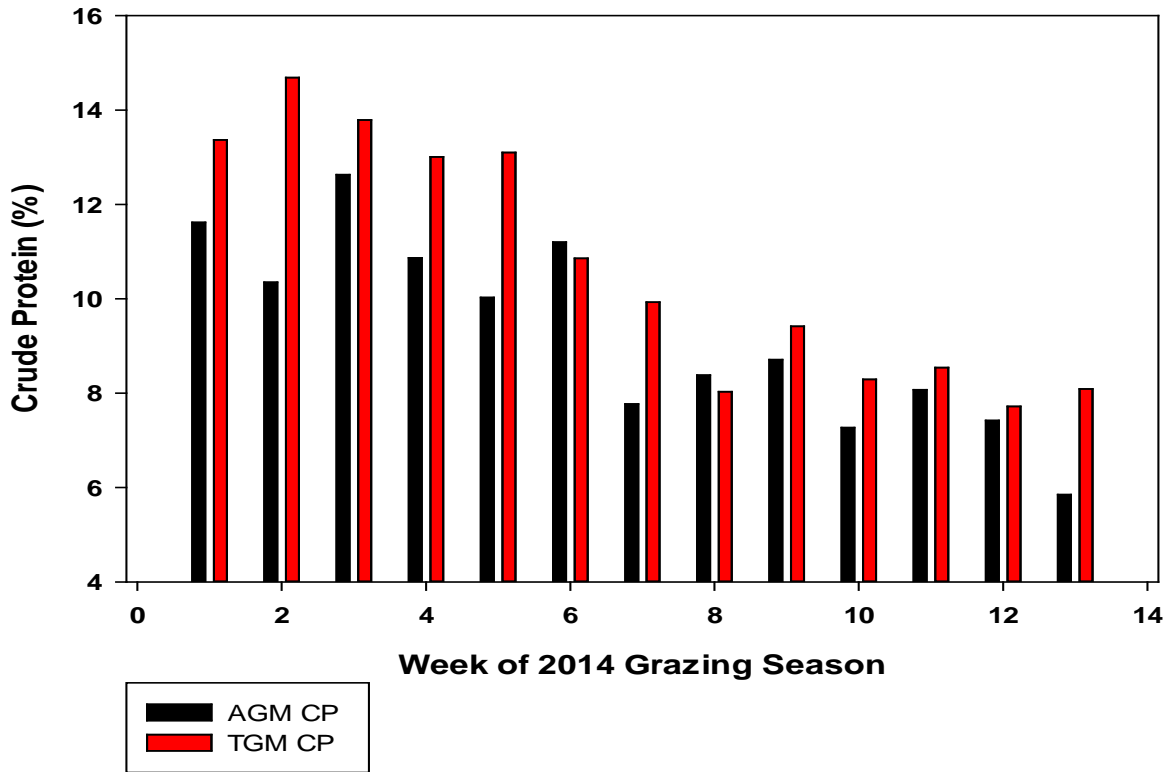


Chart 2: Fecal crude protein through week 13 of the 2014 grazing season.

For more detailed precipitation data and maps, see our website:

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=24218>. Remember to send your questions, concerns, and ideas my way and I do my best to have them addressed in next week's email.



Tami applying the brand new cattle pedometers for a test run at CPER.



A wounded juvenile golden eagle seeking refuge near one of our windmills. This guy was later captured by our friends at the Rocky Mountain Raptor Association and is hopefully on its way to recovery.

Other Notables:

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- Forb of the Week: Deathcamas (*Zigadenus venenosus*) rears its gorgeous but deadly head on the CPER in the early part of the grazing season. The poison contained in almost every part of this forb is believed to be more potent than strychnine. We try to pull this plant on site to prevent consumption by cattle. Check out some great pictures and more info at: http://montana.plant-life.org/species/zigaden_vene.htm

On behalf of the USDA-ARS-Rangeland Resources Research Unit, I thank you all for your continued participation in this project.