

AGM Weekly Update

Greetings AGMers,

We are entering late-season mode here at the CPER as the vegetation work winds down and preparing the pastures for next year ramps up. Our VOR for the week is at a season-long low in the Crossroads pasture. With the herd not meeting its number-of-days threshold until Sept. 9th, we may have to consider a move to the Hilltank pasture earlier than expected. Stay tuned...

Highlights of Happenings:

- Our AGM herd seems content in the Crossroads pasture. **No mix-ups or doctoring** to report since the move.
- Despite the dark clouds looming this week, CPER headquarters has received only **0.13 inches of rain**.
- **Fecal crude protein** continues its decline in both the **AGM (5.6%)** and **TGM (7.1%)** in week 14 (Salt Flat pasture). See Chart 1.
- **VORs took a sharp drop from 5.1 cm last week to 2.5 cm this week**. We did notice a large portion of the six-weeks fescue being trampled or uprooted by the herd in the measurement plots this week. See Chart 2.

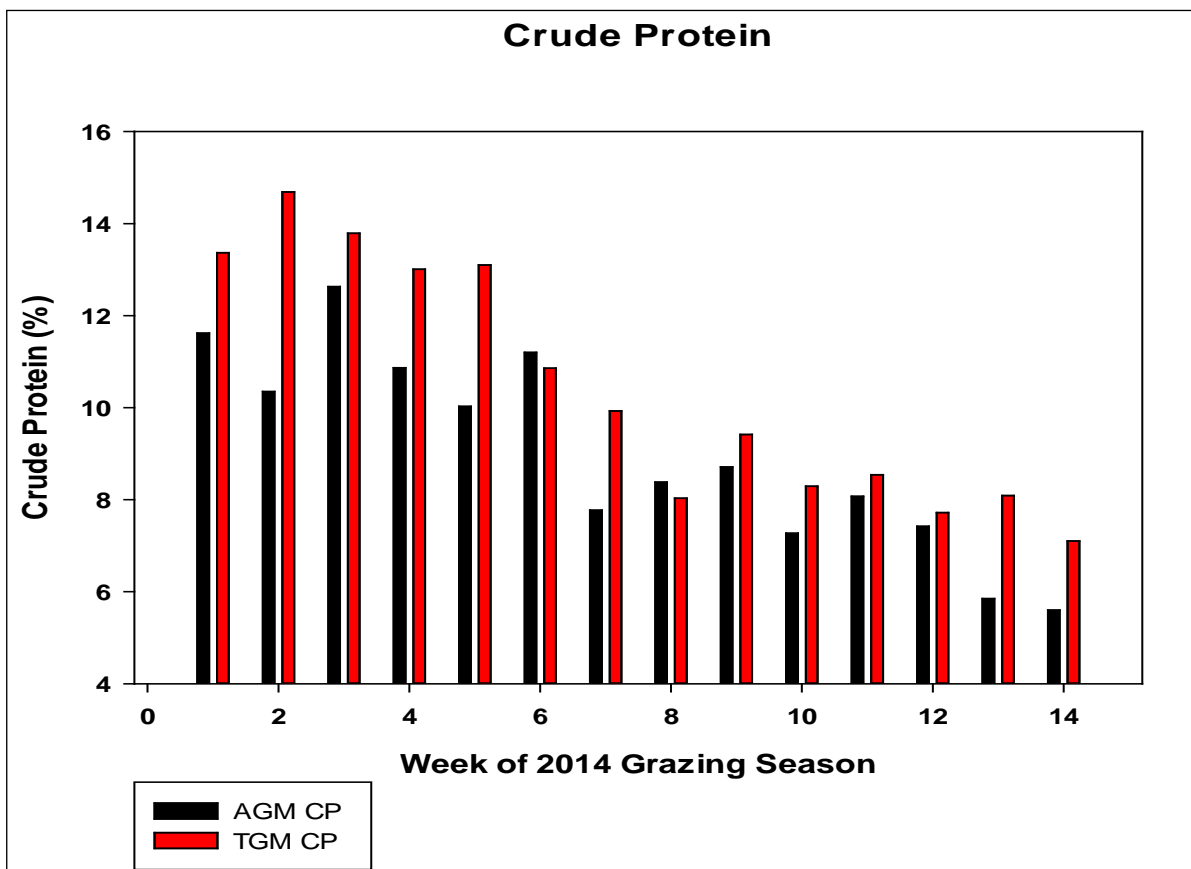


Chart 1: Fecal crude protein for the first 14 weeks of the grazing sequence.

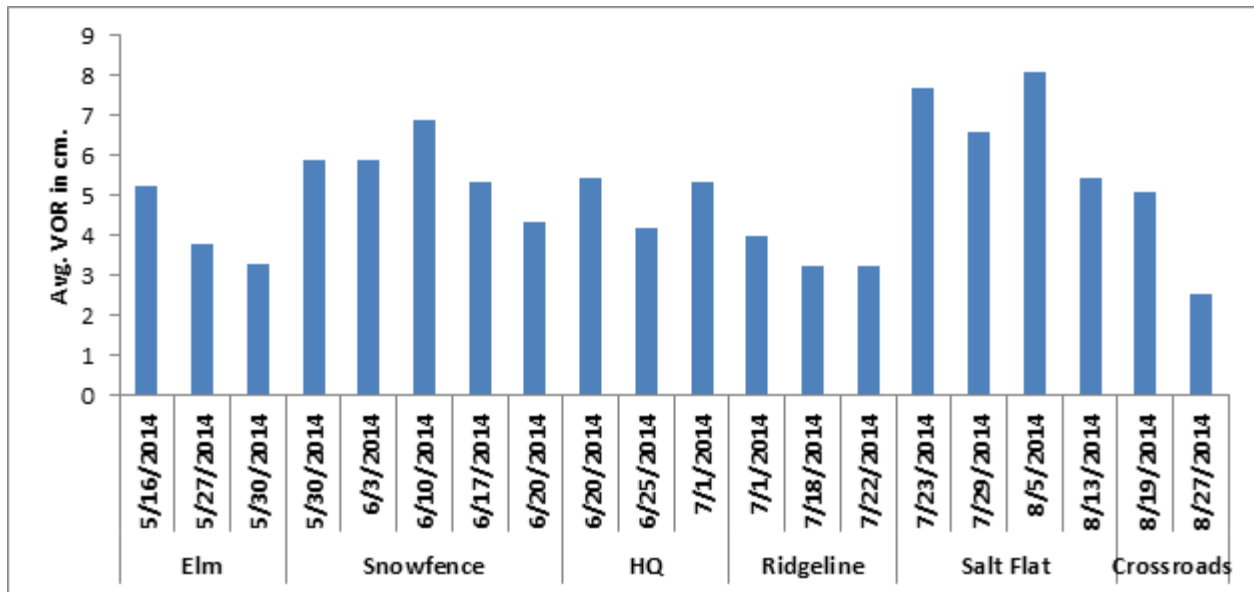


Chart 2: VORs for the grazing season so far.

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.



Uprooted six-weeks fescue among blue grama.



Forb of the week: Buffalobur

Other Notables:

- Forb of the Week: Buffalobur (*Solanum rostratum*) is on full display near roadsides, corrals, and other areas with exposed soil. This tap-rooted annual is host to the notorious Colorado potato beetle.
- This week we bid farewell to our Crow Valley comrade, Cody Jensen. Cody has been a “go-to guy” for all of the AGM cattle handling, facilities maintenance, and general scientific support. Thank you for your service and we wish you the best of luck.

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

Nick Dufek