

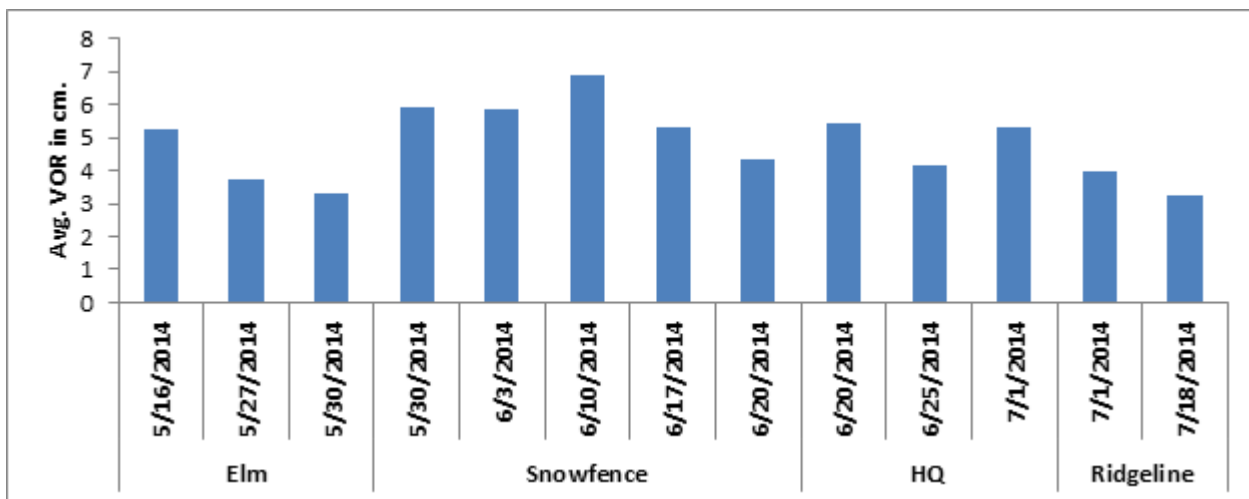
AGM Weekly Update

Calling all AGMers!

Since Jeff and I are taking a break from the action at CPER this week to help the crews in Cheyenne with some field work, I would like to use this introduction to invite everyone who is willing to give us a little feedback on the experiment so far. What makes this experiment so great is you, the stakeholders, and the input you provide. So please, let us know if there is anything else you would like to see in the updates, anything you would rather not see in the updates, thoughts about how the experiment is going so far, ideas for next year, questions, etc.

Highlights of Happenings:

- As of Wednesday, there have been no mix-ups with the AGM herd in the Ridgeline pasture. The solar pump and windmill are working well but, we still have to provide supplemental water to keep up with demand. A special thanks to Cody, our resident hero, for helping meet that demand over the past couple weekends.
- Our number-days-threshold for the Ridgeline pasture will be met near the middle of next week. Next in the grazing sequence is the Salt Flat pasture.
- We are happy to report no health issues with the AGM steers this week.
- The rains have returned! Since our last communication, CPER headquarters has received 1.09 inches. The 72 yr. average for July is 2.04.
- The VOR in Ridgeline today was 3.2 cm, down 0.8 from last week's reading.



VOR reading for the 2014 grazing season so far...



Google Earth image of the Elm (right) and Snowfence (left) pastures with points in yellow captured by the GPS collars showing movement throughout the grazing period.

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.



Our forb of the week, broomrape, doing its parasitic business on a patch of fringed sagewort.



Clipping and veg surveys on The High Plains.

Other Notables:

- Forb of the Week: In our veg work this week, I came across an interesting looking forb (see above picture) growing in a patch of fringed sagewort called broomrape (*Orobanche L.*). It's found very sporadically in this area but look for this parasitic forb growing with fringed sagewort patches. Notice the absence of green color.

More great information on foot-rot and pink eye including some possible preventative measures:

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/editorial/laura-mushrush/Cattle-health-during-the-dog-days-of-summer-Footrot-267161231.html?page=2>

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

Nick Dufek