

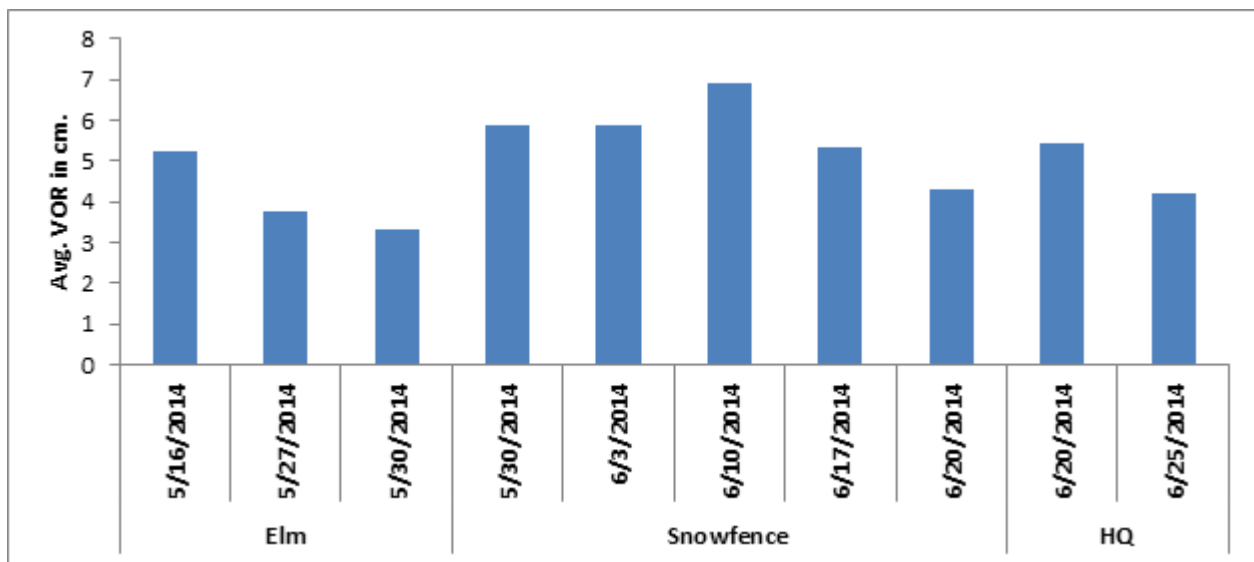
AGM Weekly Update

Happy Friday-Eve AGMers,

Lots of maintenance at the CPER-BWP (Central Plains Experimental Range and Bovine Water Park) so I have to keep this short or I'll miss out on all the fun. The AGM herd seems happy with their new stomping ground. The fences are holding and the warm-season grass, blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), is making its way up through the brown six-weeks fescue. As promised, we have some mid-season weight gains for everyone and boy, they are growing!

Highlights of Happening:

- After meeting the number-of-days threshold on Friday, June 20th, we moved the AGM herd from the Snowfence pasture to the Headquarters pasture. The maximum number-of-days in the Headquarters pasture is 19.
- Prompted by the fecal analysis results (see last week's AGM email), we decided to weigh the AGM and corresponding TGM herds to give you all some mid-season gains. The gains were as follows: AGM-3.33 and TGM 4.06 lbs/head/day. This fits the fecal analysis results quite well. With less competition in the TGM pastures, the steers seem to be selecting a higher quality diet.
- Since last Thursday, CPER HQ received 1.82 inches of rain. Some of our western pastures received over 3 inches in the past week (See photos below).
- While weighing the AGM steers on Friday, we doctored one lump jaw and one pink eye. No mix-ups this week...two in a row. Woo-hoo!
- The VOR upon exit in the Snowfence pasture was 4.3 cm. The entry VOR for the Headquarters pasture was 5.4 and the reading yesterday was 4.2. The plots that we measure VOR on in the Headquarters pasture have a great mix of cool and warm season grasses. It will be interesting to see how everything responds to all the rain and all these hungry mouths.



Low VOR for the season so far...

For more detailed precipitation data and maps, see our website: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=24218>. As always, please feel free to send any

questions, suggestion, or concerns relating to the project my way and I will do my best to respond in next week's email.



AGM steers entering the Headquarters pasture on Friday.



Fort Collins crew members preparing the GPS collars.



Landscape view of section 22 with lots of standing water following the week's downpours.

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

Nick Dufek