

AGM Weekly Update

Hello from CPER,

A very exciting couple of weeks here where the steers and the antelope play. Our 214 steers were successfully sorted and safely sent southeast to the Elm pasture. As of today, there haven't been any reported mix ups or health issues and the solar pump and windmill are providing all our water needs. Thanks to all this rain and snow, the initial visual obstruction readings (VORs) tell us that the herd will likely be staying put in Elm for at least another week.

Highlights of happenings:

- Steers now occupy the Elm pasture and will likely stay put for at least another week.
- No major concerns with water, fences, or animal health and behavior.
- Since May 12th, CPER headquarters has received 1.12in of precipitation.
- Prior to steers being put to pasture on May 16th, the average high VOR was 15.1cm and the average low was 5.2cm. The next readings will take place on Tuesday May, 27th.

For more detailed precipitation data, maps, and whole host of great information about the AGM project see our website: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=24218>. Also, 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.

Too many great photos this week from all the folks who helped out with sorting the cattle. I can only include a few but I will make sure to put together a slide show for the next stakeholders meeting.



Cattle have arrived and are on the study.

Other Notables

- The summer help has arrived! We have a lot of new smiling faces at the station this week learning plants, collecting data, and taking in the majesty of The Short Grass Steppe ecosystem.
- In addition to the seasonal help, The Crow Valley Grazing association added a new member to the CPER field crew. Dylan Rose is a recent graduate of the University of Wyoming with a degree in Animal Science and a strong western work ethic.
- Forb of the Week: Whitest Evening Primrose (*Oenothera albicaulis*) is very prominent at CPER at the moment likely due to the above average winter and spring precipitation. This annual forb is very showy but unfortunately always loses its luster on my way home to give to my wife. I guess some things are just best enjoyed in a more natural setting. Check out a better description and some great images at <http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=OEAL>.

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

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