

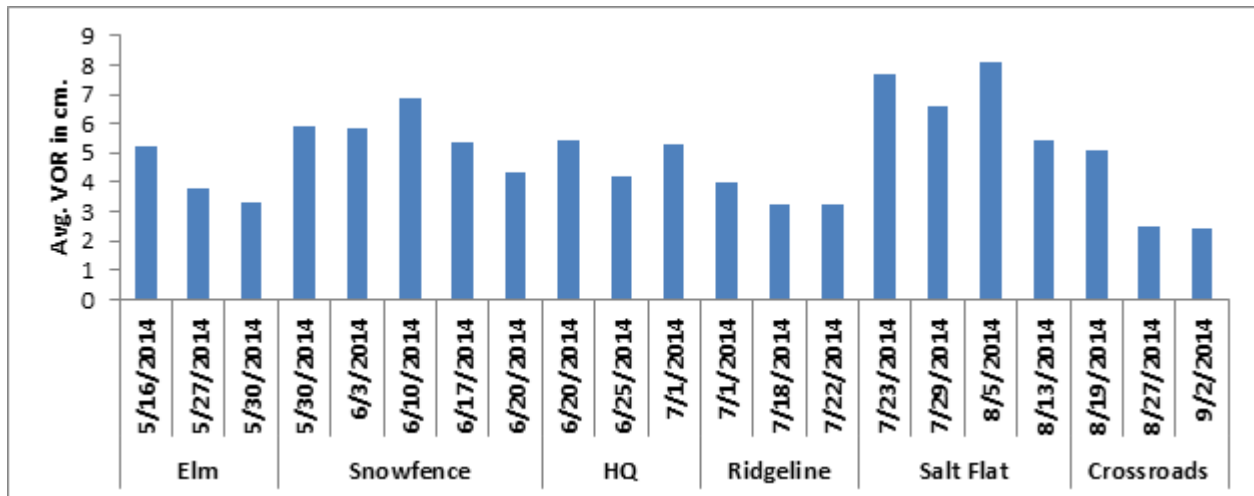
AGM Weekly Update

Hello AGMers,

In all our weeks of taking VORs this season, yesterday's readings were the most anticipated. If the average dropped to near 1.5 cm, we would have our first standing biomass induced move of the experiment. If not, the herd stays put for a while longer. **Spoiler alert:** The average VOR dropped only 0.1 cm, all but ensuring the herd will stay in the Crossroads pasture until the number-of-days threshold is met on Sept. 9th.

Highlights of Happenings:

- **No mix-ups in the AGM herd this week.** We did take a closer look at the herd while changing the batteries on the GPS collars this week and **treated two more foot-rots and one more pink-eye.**
- **Our weekly VOR fell only a little from 2.5 last week to 2.4 cm yesterday.** With this late August rain, it looks as though the herd will stay put until the number-of-days threshold is met on Sept. 9th. Next stop: Hilltank.
- **CPER headquarters received 0.45 inches of rain over the holiday weekend.** August ended with 1.21 inches, about a half inch below average.



VORs throughout the 2014 grazing sequence.

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.



Gathering the AGM herd in the Crossroads pasture for GPS collar exchange.



When horses or UTVs won't do the trick...

Other Notables:

- Forb of the Week: The common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) is not as cleverly named as one might expect. You can find it in every state and province in North America. Although rarely found on the interior of CPER's pastures, it towers out of the roadsides. This may be my laziest forb of the week.

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

Nick Dufek