

AGM Weekly Update

Hello AGMers,

The green remains on strong display at CPER as our key forage grasses move into and through their reproductive stages. The veg crews are in mid-season form as they sharpen their clippers in preparation for peak biomass harvest in late July and early August.

Highlights of Happenings

- **The steers seem happy and healthy in Nighthawk.** There were no health issues noticed as the herd was gathered this week for GPS collar and pedometer downloads. We will do our best to get you the latest map of cattle grazing patterns ASAP.
- **Only 0.22 inches of rain this week at CPER HQ.** This brings the July total up to 1.19 inches. The average for July is 2.05.
- **The average VOR in Nighthawk was 4.4 cm (~1,160 kg/ha).** This average includes readings of the forb, stiff greenthread, which dominates a large portion of two of our AGM plots in Nighthawk (see photo below) and seems to be avoided by cattle at this point in the season. The average VOR without stiff greenthread was 3.4cm (~900 kg/ha). In breaking the plots up into “burned” and “unburned” and excluding stiff greenthread, we get 2.4cm (~630 kg/ha) on the burn and 4.9cm (~1305 kg/ha) on the unburned.

For detailed precipitation data, maps, last year’s updates, scientist bios, and AGM documents, see our website:

Photos of the Week



Above: Kathryn hanging out in a stiff green thread dominated area (unburned) in Nighthawk.



Above: All of the AGM herd grazing the burned portion of Nighthawk.

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

Nick Dufek