

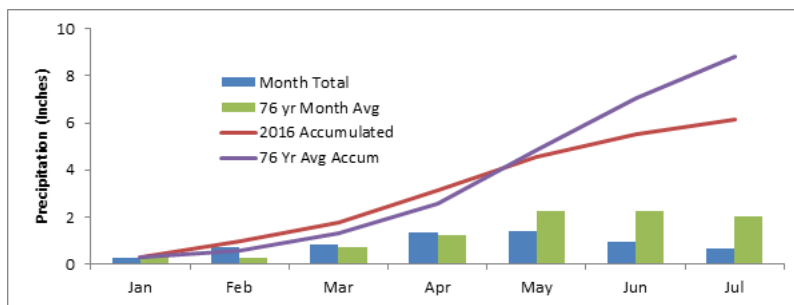
Good Day AGMers,

This summer, I'm getting a little tired of beginning this email with how hot and dry it is. Truthfully, it would be the story again this week along with the moving of the AGM herd from South to Crossroads. Lucky for us...there's more! The scientists associated with the AGM project escaped from the heat of the Colorado plains last week by travelling to Saskatoon, SK, Canada, to attend the International Rangeland Congress. They presented findings from the first 2 years of the AGM study, and met with other scientists studying similar issues in rangelands of South Africa, Argentina, and Australia.

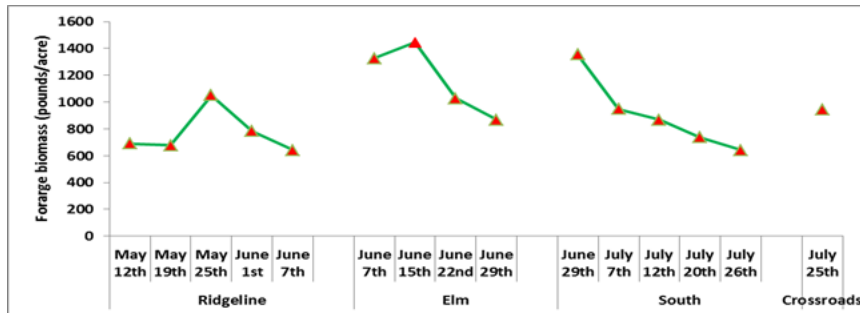
**Reminder for Stakeholders: If you haven't done so already, please respond to David's email regarding the pasture grazing order for the remainder of the season. Thanks!**

### Highlights of Happenings:

- **There are no health issues to report this week in the AGM herd.** The short move from South to Crossroads was smooth trailing.
- **No rain to report**, again, for the third straight week. July's total remains at .67 inches, about an inch and a half below the monthly average. For the year, we are about 2.5 inches below average.



- The exit-VORs in South showed a continuation of the decline from the previous weeks. **South's final VOR average was 2.7cm or 640 pounds per acre.**
- **The entry-VOR average for Crossroads was 4.0cm or 940 pounds per acre.**
  - Crossroads is visually dominated by six-weeks fescue. This has a major effect on our VOR readings, and how we estimate forage biomass. As we discussed at the recent field day, when we calculate weekly forage biomass, we exclude all VOR readings where fescue is causing the visual obstruction. This week, our measurements along 4 transects in Crossroads included 42% (42 out of 100 readings) with six-weeks fescue. Because so many readings were excluded from the forage calculation due to presence of fescue, we measured 4 extra transects (100 more readings) in Crossroads to improve our estimate. We will continue to measure all 8 transects (200 reading total) throughout the herds stay in this pasture. The value given in the graph below for Crossroads (~940 lbs/acre) is based only readings where the obstruction is caused by forage species (mainly blue grama, buffalograss, western wheatgrass, and palatable forbs).



For detailed precipitation data, maps, last year's updates, scientist bios, and AGM documents, see our website: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/Research/docs.htm?docid=25733> . Remember to send your questions, concerns, and ideas my way and I'll do my best to have them addressed in next week's email.

### Photos



**Above:** Range Conditions in South throughout herd occupancy.



**Above:** Range conditions in Crossroads. Landscape (left) and Close-up (right).

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

Nick Dufek  
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 USDA-ARS-Rangeland Resources Research Unit