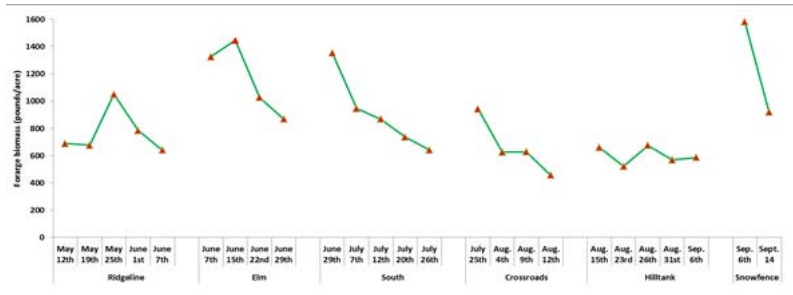


Good Day AGMers,

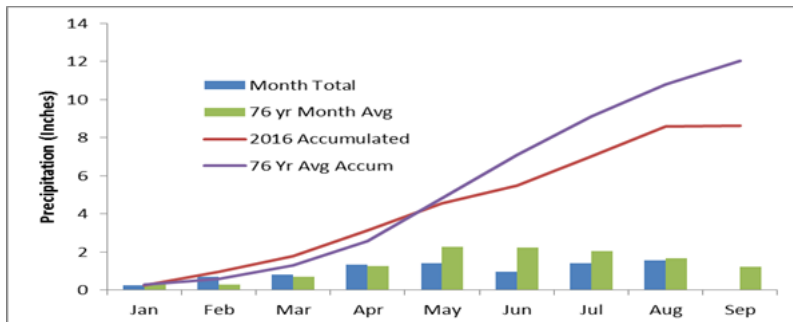
Cooler temperatures and a hint of moisture greeted us this week as we cartographed prairie dog colonies, collected dung, and counted cattle and tillers. All seems well on our experimental range as the steer grow, birds migrate, and the plant community puts forth its final floral display for the season.

Highlights of Happenings:

- The steers are eating good in the new neighborhood. **VORs in Snowfence averaged 3.9 cm or about 920 pounds/acre**, a drop of about 600 pounds per acre from last week. As predicted, the steers will be moving to the Headquarters pasture next Tuesday.



- **A whopping 0.04 inches of precip fell**, or I guess...settled, from the cloud of thick fog that descended upon the range Tuesday. This brings the September total up to 0.04. We are now about 2.75 inches below the annual average.



- **All is well in AGM herd as there are no new issues to report.** The cattle were very spread out as I measure the biomass on Wednesday. I noticed heavy utilization of needle and thread in the western part of the pasture. There is still a fair amount green in its bunches despite the dry surface conditions.

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: Landscape photos of Snowfence over the past two weeks. Gray skies on Wednesday account for the brown contrast in the grass.

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