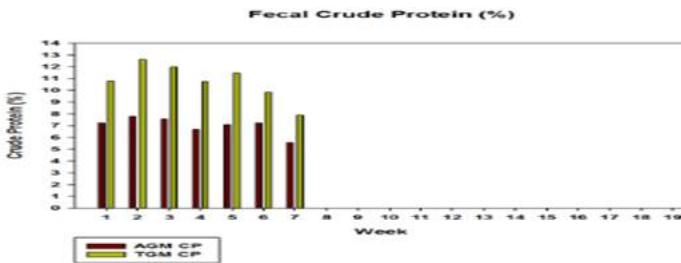


Good Day AGMers,

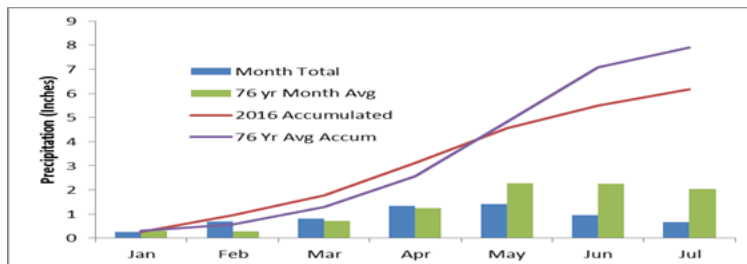
The prairie is getting pretty crunchy as the high temps and low humidity persist. Despite the desert-like conditions, the crews are grateful for the dip in biting, flying insects. The nighthawks, swallows, and kingbirds, on the other hand, are not so happy.

Highlights of Happening:

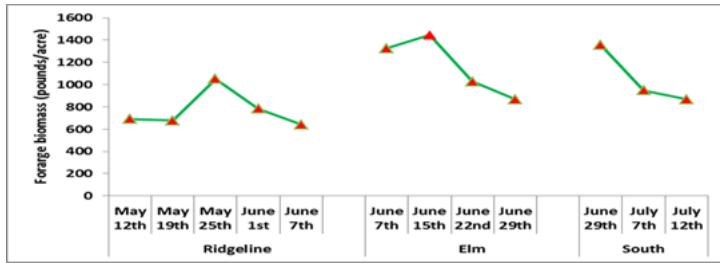
- **Below is the first 7 weeks of fecal crude protein analysis from our friends at the GAN lab.** Weeks 1-4 are from Ridgeline and Weeks 5-7 are from Elm. We see really striking differences that are consistent between treatments each week for the AGM vs. TGM.



- No rain since our last communication. **July's total remains at 0.67 inches.** For the year, we are about an inch and three-quarters below average.



- **All seem healthy and happy in the AGM herd this week** as we have no issues to report.
- We gathered and weighed steers from the **Long-Term Grazing Intensity experiment** last week and the midseason (June 9th – July 7th) gains were as follows in pounds/head/day :
 - **Light: 2.9**
 - **Moderate: 2.8**
 - **Heavy: 2.2**
- There was only a slight drop in the VORs for the South pasture this week. **We measured and average of 3.7cm or 870 pound/acre.** This is down from 4.0cm or 950 pounds/acre from last week.



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 the South pasture over the past three weeks.



Above: Happy trails as the Long Term Grazing Intensity steers move to the scales.

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

Nick Dufek
 Biological Science Technician
 USDA-ARS-Rangeland Resources Research Unit