

AGM WEEKLY UPDATE

Hello AGMers,

In this week AGM report: A rise in crude protein, a season low VOR, and a Google earth image that will boggle your mind. As the CPER grazing season winds down, we are looking forward to hearing everyone's thoughts at the upcoming meeting on Sept. 29th. Please don't hesitate to send questions, concerns, and comments our way in the coming weeks.

Highlights of Happenings:

- **The AGM herd now occupies the Hilltank pasture.** The herd looks healthy and happy as they graze, what may be, the final stop in the 2014 grazing sequence.
- We've measured **0.19 inches of precipitation** at CPER headquarters since our last communication.
- Our **exit VOR for the Crossroads pasture was 1.6 cm**, very close to the low forage threshold. Our **entry VOR for the Hilltank pasture was 2.6 cm** (see Figure 1). Like the initial readings in the Crossroads pasture, six-weeks fescue was the dominant visual cover in Hilltank. I also noticed a high frequency of the forb, stiff greenthread (*Thelesperma filifolium*).
- In the latest results from the AGM/TGM fecal analysis (see Figure 2), we see a **substantial jump in crude protein in weeks 15 and 16** in the AGM steers, which lines up with the first two weeks of the herd occupying the warm-season grass dominated Crossroads pasture.

Be sure to check out the **Google Earth image of the Salt Flat pasture with the GPS collar points** showing cattle movement (Figure 3). Very neat stuff! Thanks to David Smith for putting this all together for us!

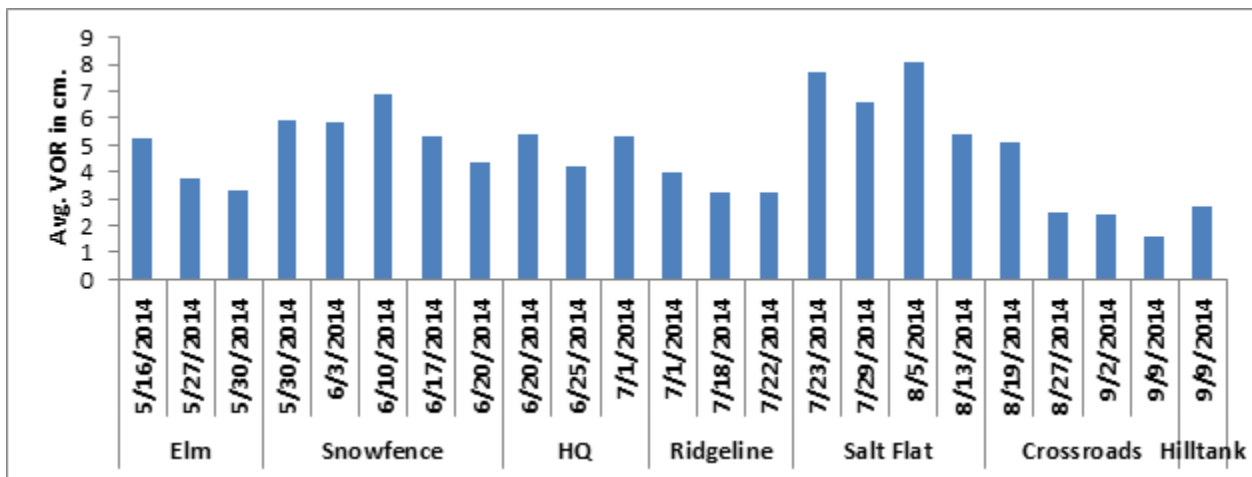


Figure 1: VORs for the 2014 grazing season.

Crude Protein

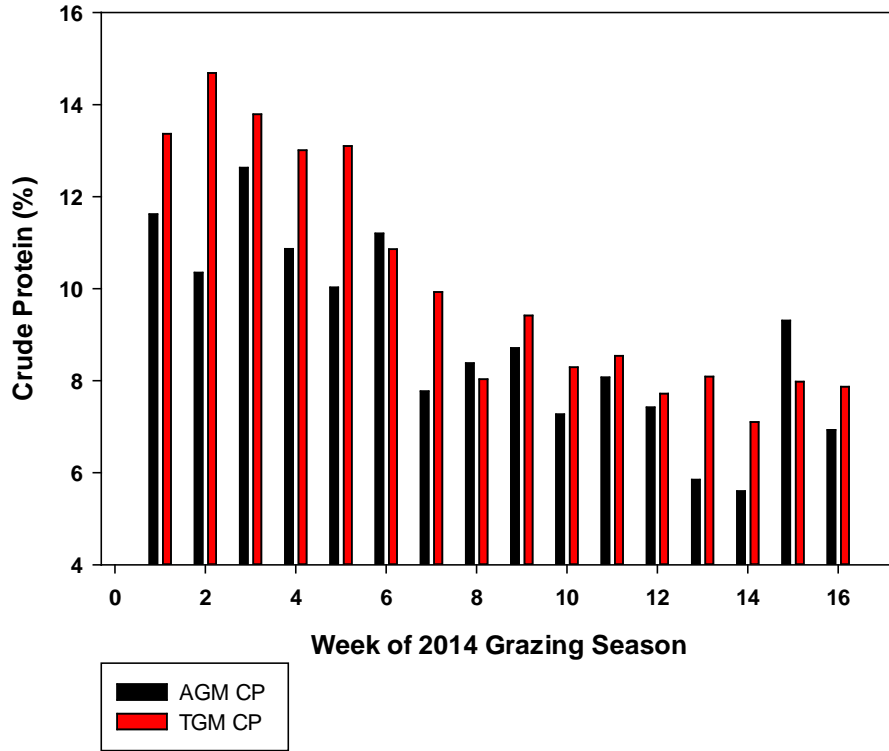


Figure 2: Fecal crude protein for through week 16 of the 2014 AGM/TGM grazing season.

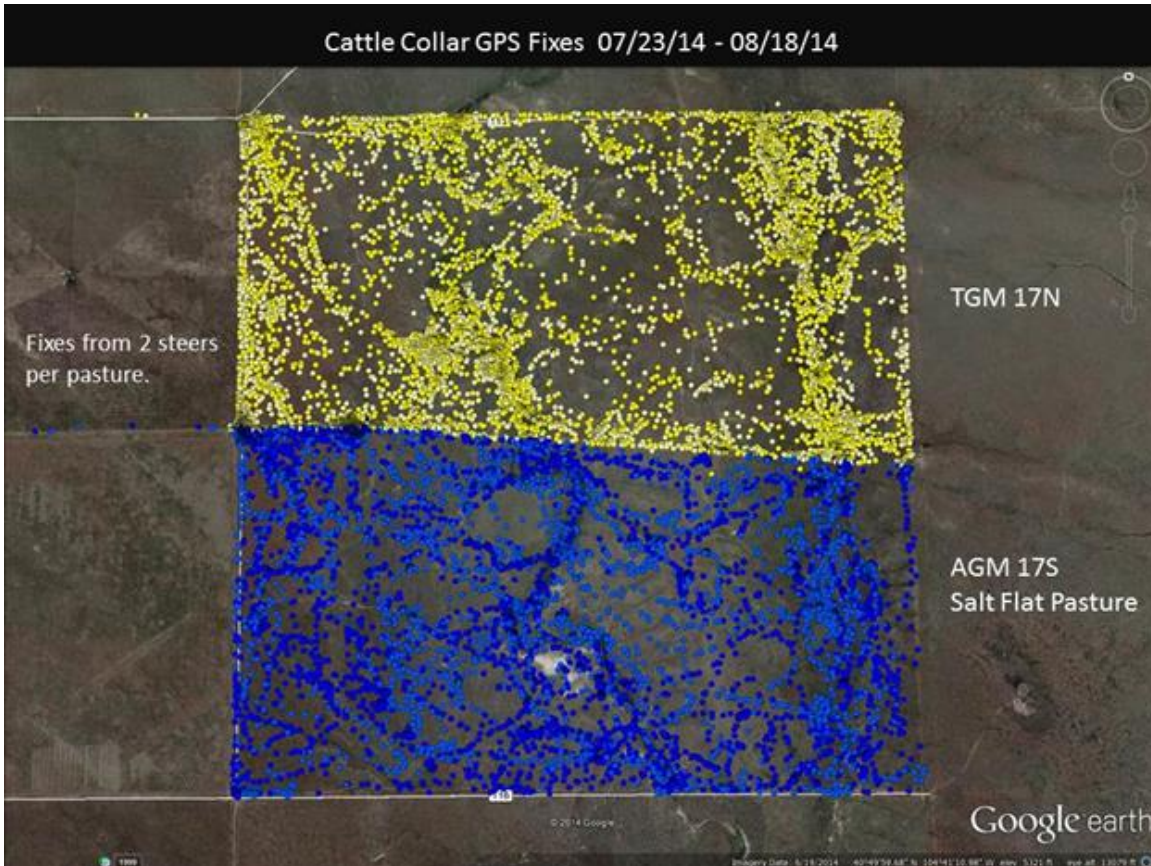


Figure 3: GPS collar tracking of the AGM and TGM herds in pasture 17S (Salt Flat) and 17N.

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 will do my best to have them addressed in next week's email.



The AGM steers form a single file line to the tank on the hill in the Hilltank pasture.



Our Forb of the Week: Lacy tansyaster

Other Notables:

- Forb of the Week: Lacy tansyaster (*Machaeranthera pinnatifida* or *Haplopappus spinulosus*) brightens our cloudy days with its brilliant yellow flower, despite the confusion over its taxonomic classification.

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

Nick Dufek