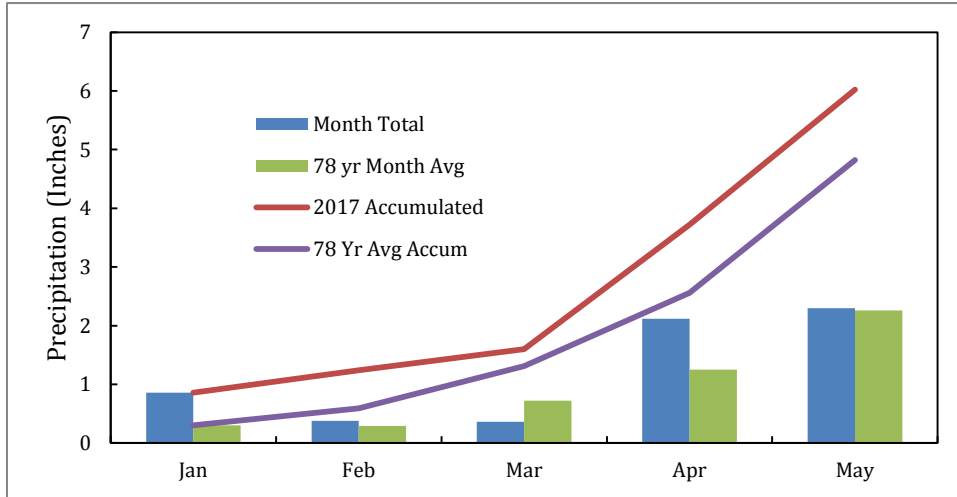


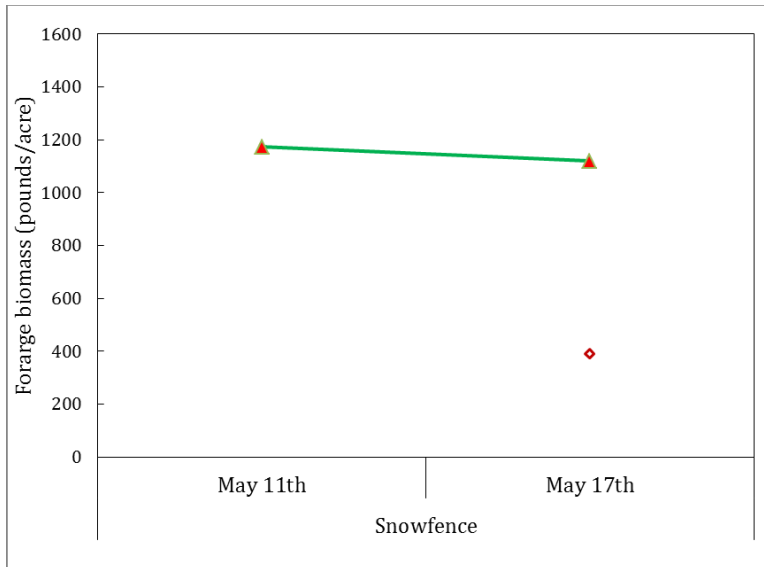
Greeting AGMers,

Welcome back, everyone! I am pleased to announce that the rain did indeed come, thanks for the prediction Leonard. I measured our rain gauge this morning and we have received 1.35" with more on the way as I type. This puts us 1.2" above our historic precip average.

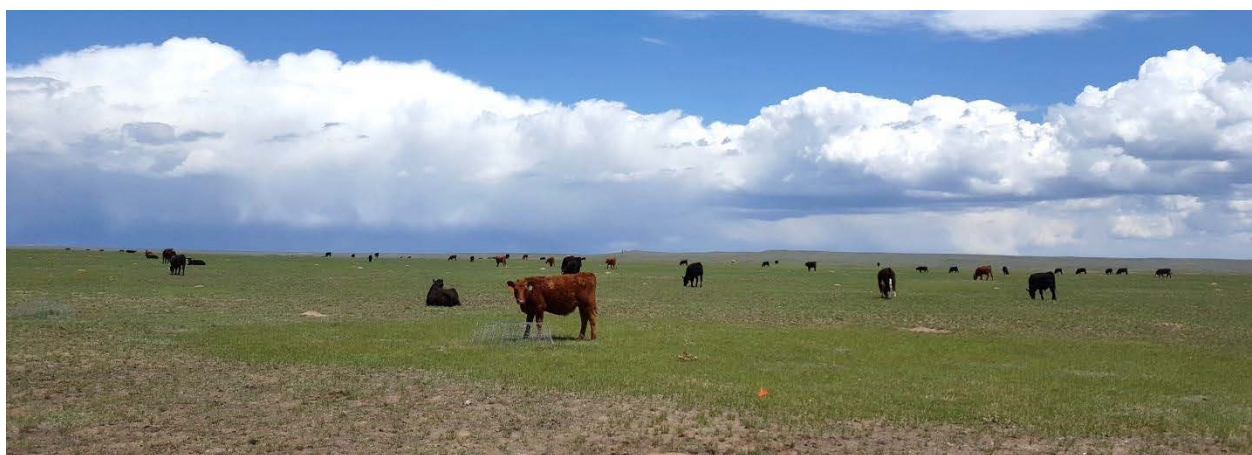


Highlights of Happenings:

- Last week we had a rock star group **gather, weigh, tag, and sort the herd**. A big “thank you” to the Crow Valley Livestock Cooperative for providing us with quality animals. The steers are in their perspective pastures and I hear they’re all quite happy with their relocation. **The average weight for all AGM/TGM steers was 640 pounds.**
- Our pre-grazed **VOR in the Snowfence Pasture was at 5cm or 1173.5 pounds/acre**. Unfortunately, we did not take a measurement on the patch burn pre-grazed, but our first week’s measurement calculated **390 pounds/acre on the burn and 4.77cm or 1119.74 pounds/acre off the burn.**

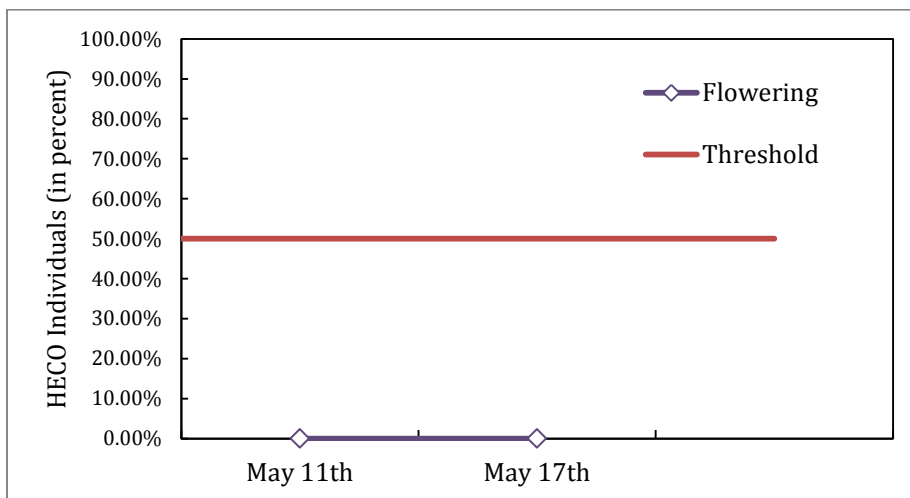


Only so much can be extrapolated from a photo, but I can comfortably say the cattle haven't protested the burn.



What's New in 2017?

- **We are proud to welcome Tami Plechaty to the crew this year.** Tami is a Pathways Student Intern and a welcomed range technician on the CPER. Her long history here and beef nutrition experience more than makes up for the increased amount poop we may have to scoop.
- **The maximum number-of-days threshold has been reduced in the AGM pasture rotation criteria.** We will be reducing it from 24 days to 21 days.
- **We will move the AGM herd to Hilltank by July 31.** This will ensure we allow sufficient grazing to occur on the Longspur habitat.
- **In addition to the weekly VOR monitoring we will be recording defoliation and phenological state of Needle & Thread in Snowfence and Headquarters as an additional trigger.** Once the percentage of flowering individuals reaches 50% the cattle will move. This effort could help improve available forage quality by moving the AGM herd out of a Needle & Thread flowering dominated pasture. As you can see below, we have not observed any flowering individuals, the moisture is there, but we'd need a few warm days to see the process start.



For detailed precipitation data, maps, last year's updates, scientist bios, and AGM documents, see our website: [AGM](#) . Remember to send your questions, concerns, and ideas my way and I do my best to have them addressed in next week's email.

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