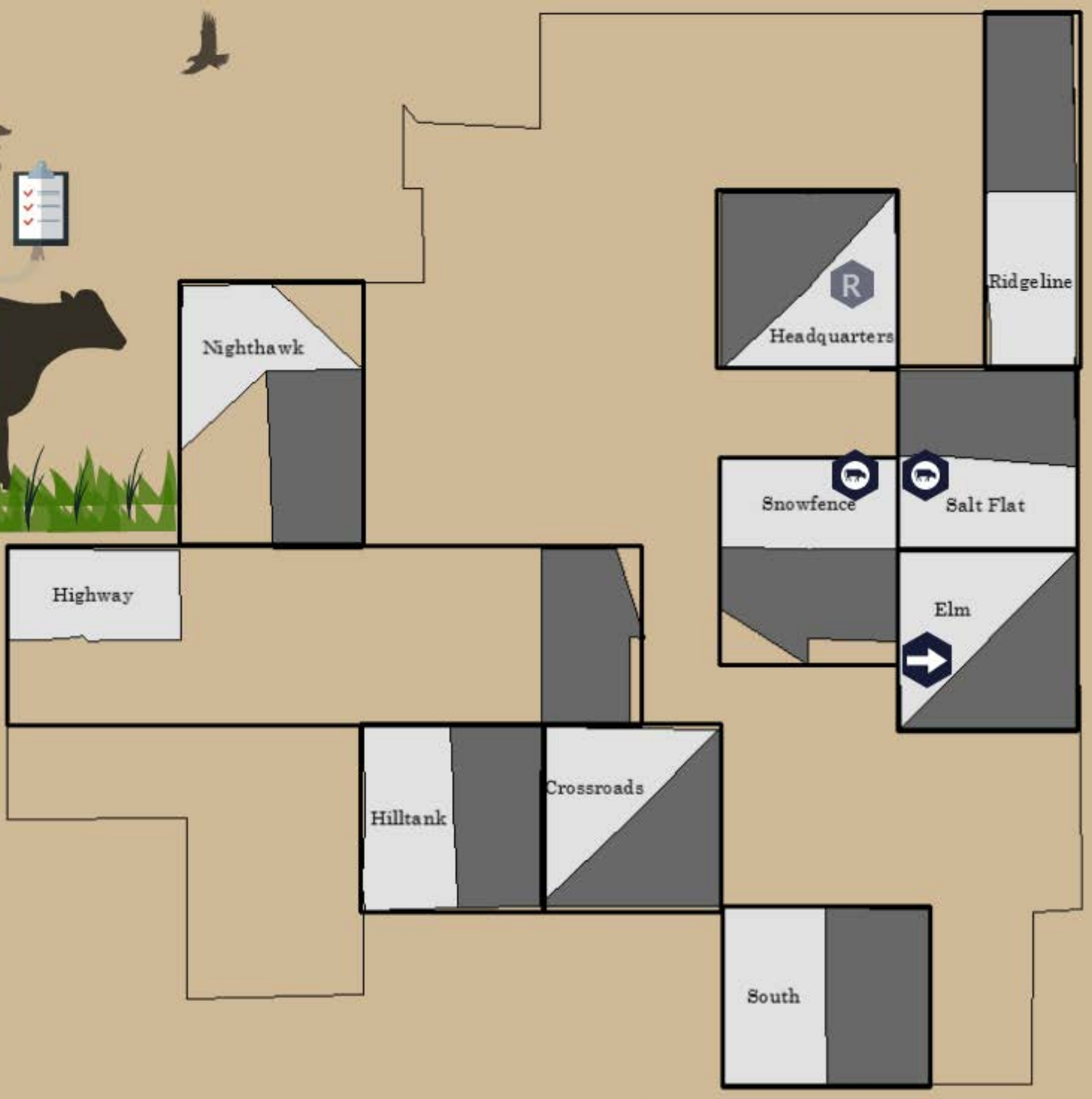
# Collaborative Adaptive Rangeland Management

*Where it all began*

# Dive into the details...




Herd

Next

G Grazed

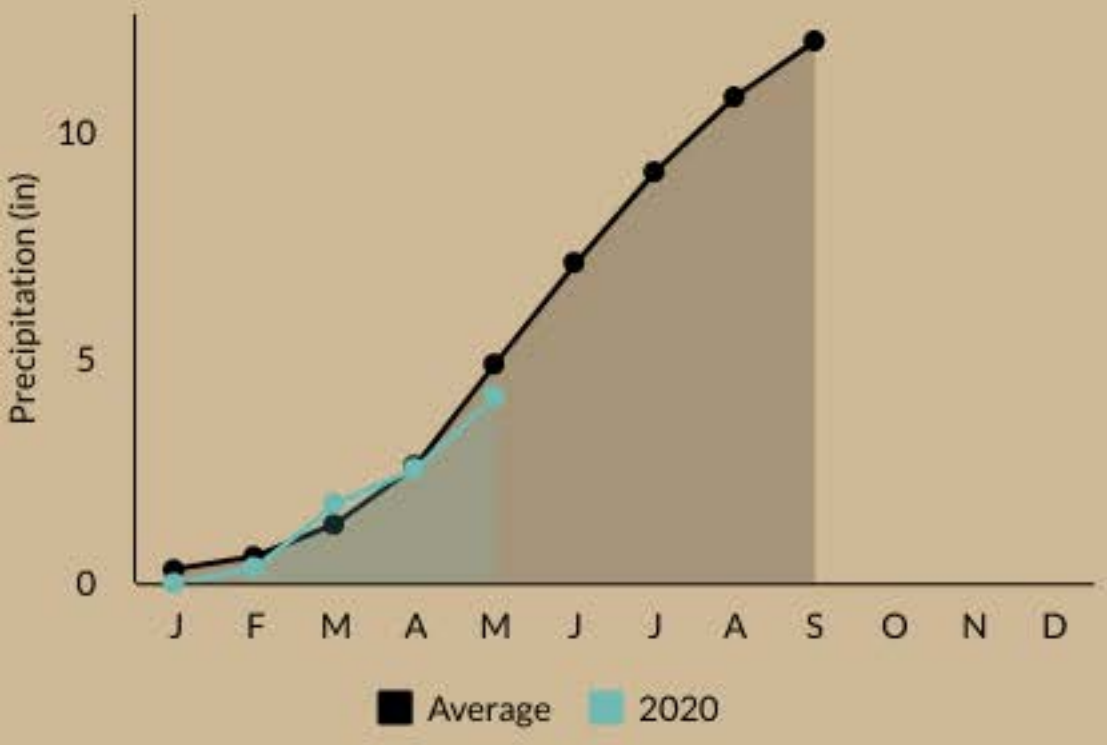
R Rest

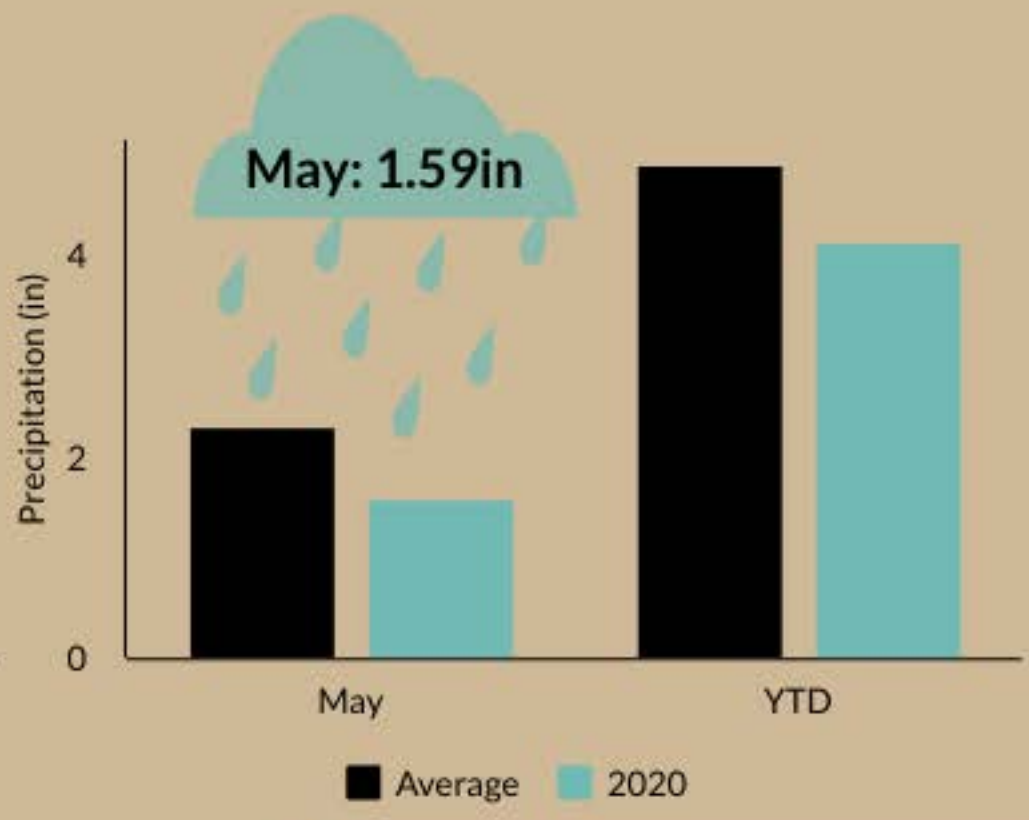
## Snowfence & Saltflat

- Sandy Soils
- Cool Season Grasses
- Vegetation Threshold 550 pounds/acre

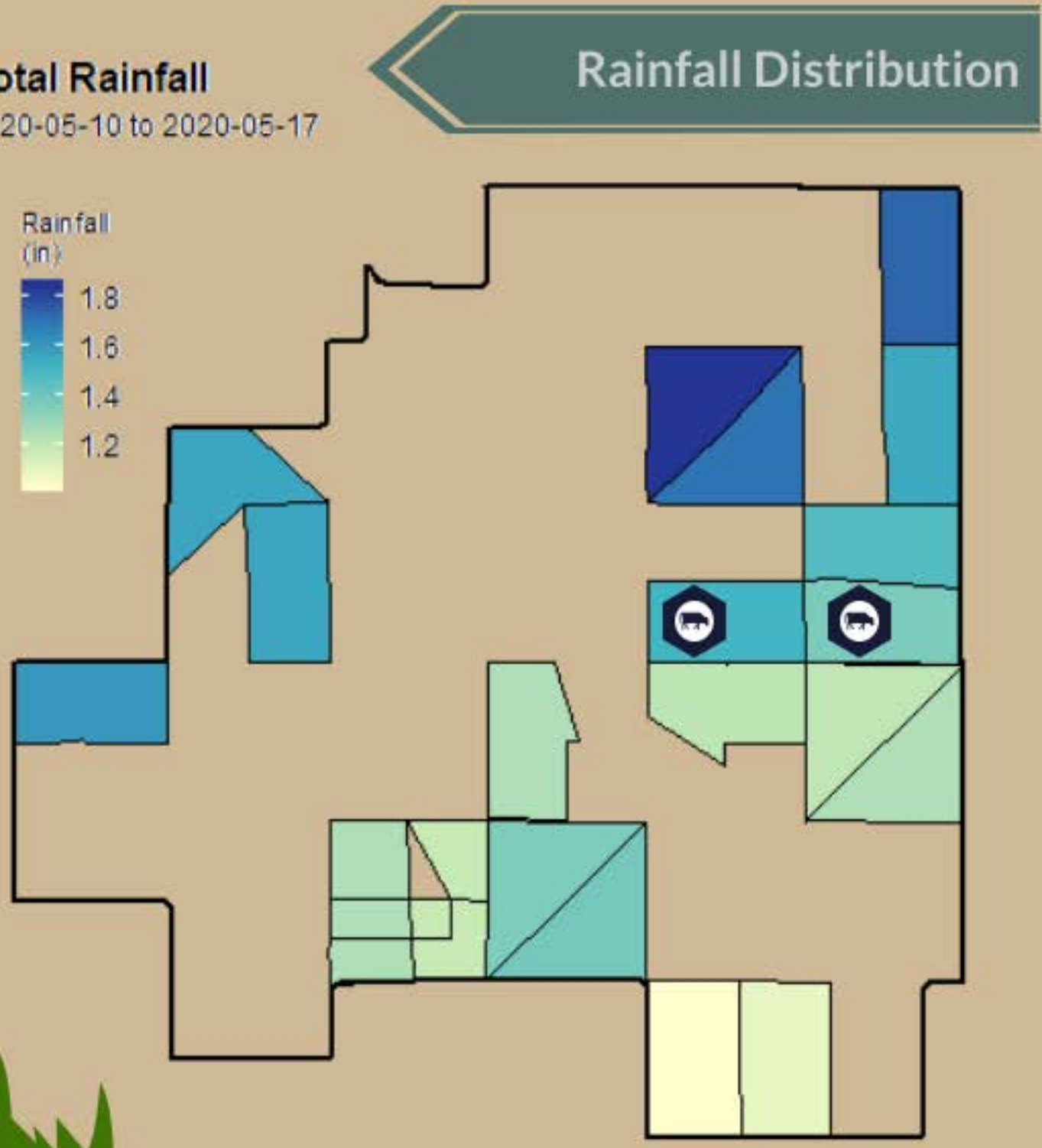
# Highlights of Happenings

## Rainfall Totals




## Rainfall Distribution



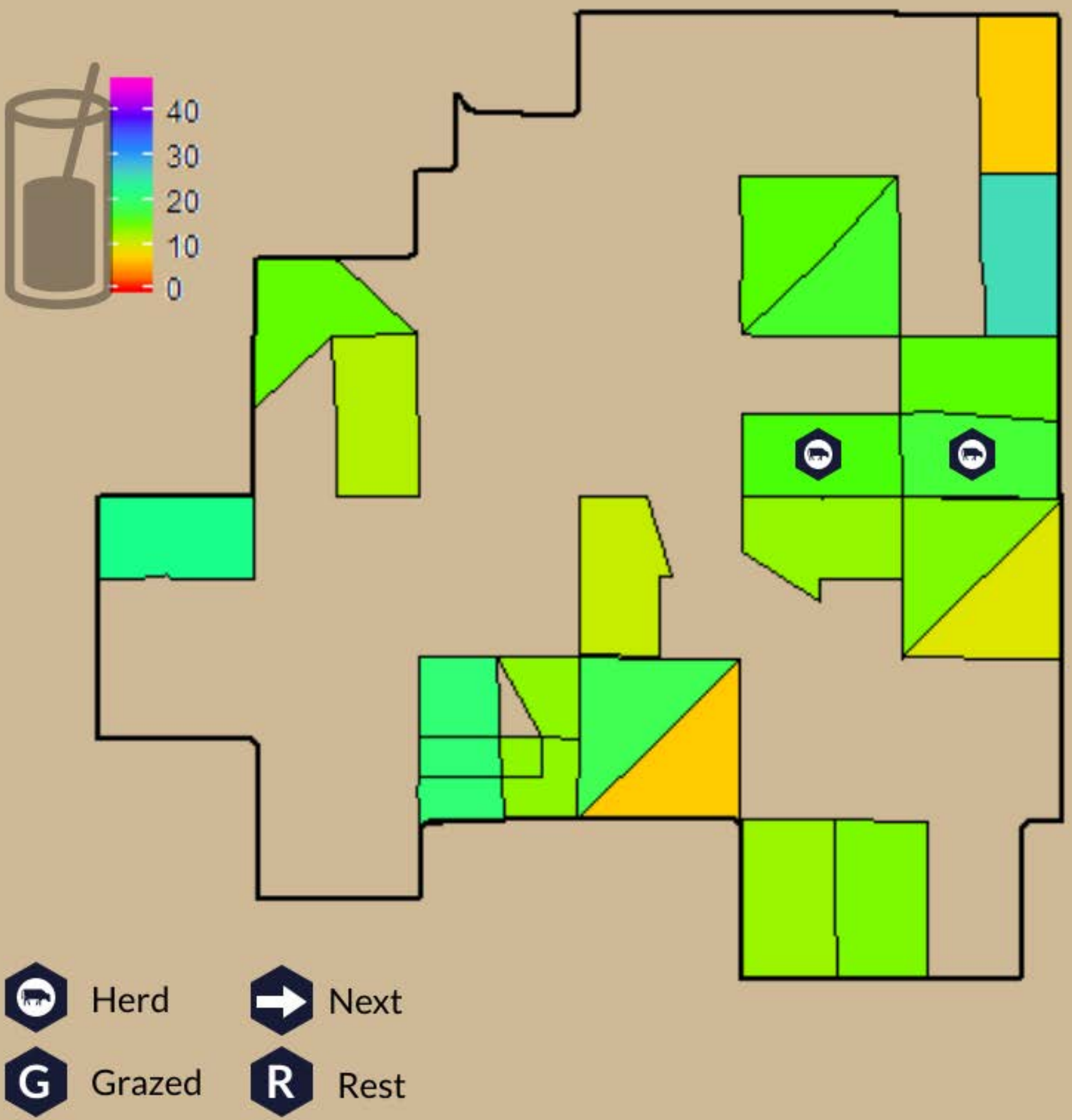

## Soil Moisture Distribution

### What's in our cup?

*Around 20% soil moisture!*

**Current Soil Moisture**

2020-05-17



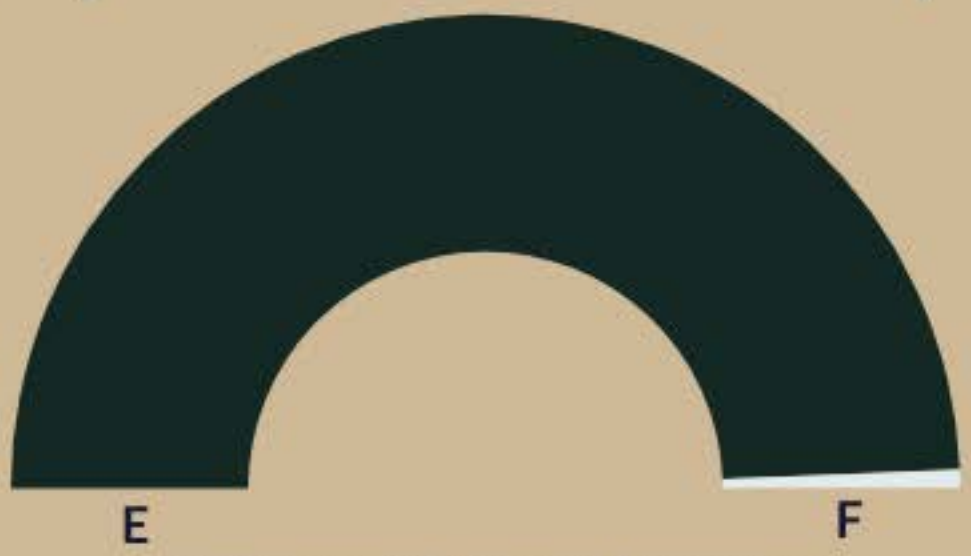
CARM: 244 steers

Herd averaged around 610lbs

Rotation 1 (access to two pastures)

## Snowfence


## Saltflat


NOTE: Empty (E) is set at 550 lbs/acre

They've been covering a lot of ground, on Tuesday all 244 head were found in about 160 acres (out of ~640acres), so much for low stock density.

This morning they're spread out in small groups across both.

GPS collar data should be interesting!

# Decision Recap

*Stakeholders voted on some big changes this April!*

Rotation 1:
Start Date: May 15
Max Days: 21- 24
**VOR: average of two pastures, but report individual pastures too, use same thresholds as 2019**
(with gate open)
Reduction of stocking density early in the year to improve weight gains. Grazing on the 2019 fall burn intended to improve within pasture heterogeneity in Snowfence and create habitat for Mountain Plover.

**April discussion and votes:** The group agreed to have separate cattle behavior observations and separate and average VOR readings for each pastures during the first two rotations. They discussed and voted on triggers and max days for these two rotations.
The unanimously voted to have a 21-24 for max day trigger and to set the VOR trigger based on the average of the two pastures.

Rotation 2:
Start Date: June 5 or 8 (if based on max days)
Max Days: 21 – 24
VOR: Average of both pastures, but report individual pasture VOR too (same as rotation 1)
244 in Saltflat and Elm (gate open)

Reduction in stocking density early in the year to improve cattle weight gain.
Move cattle out on day 45 (when changing collars)

Rotation 3:
Start Date: June 30
Max Days: 42
VOR trigger: Same
Split herd into two herds; CARM1 in Crossroads and CARM2 in South. Help reach shortgrass goals in South. Reminder: Continue to monitor and evaluate costs of this approach.
**Each pasture will get 122 steers.**

Rotation 4:
Start Date: August 10
Max Days: 42
VOR trigger: same
CARM1 in Highway and CARM2 in Hilltank
This should not negatively impact Fourwing saltbush. It should help reach shortgrass goals in Hilltank.

Rotation 5:
Start Date: September 21
Max Days: Until Oct 2
CARM1 in Nighthawk and CARM2 Ridgeline.
About 10 days in last pastures.
Grazing 9 pastures and only resting one, which is HQ.
Rest: Headquarters to ensure a grassbank/heterogeneity.

**April discussion and votes:** The group unanimously voted to confirm: there will be a Max day trigger of 42 on rotations 3 and 4, but the same VOR trigger will also be in place; 2020 will use the same drought triggers as the 2019.

# May 20th, 2020 :: CARM :: Snowfence & Saltflat


## Tech Note:

- Grass is a growing!


# May 20th, 2020 :: CARM :: Snowfence & Saltflat


## Up & Coming

- Veg monitoring
- Reduce WOW training opening by half

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


For detailed precipitation data, maps, last year's updates, Scientist bios, and CARM documents, see our website:

ALL access data!