

AGM Weekly Update

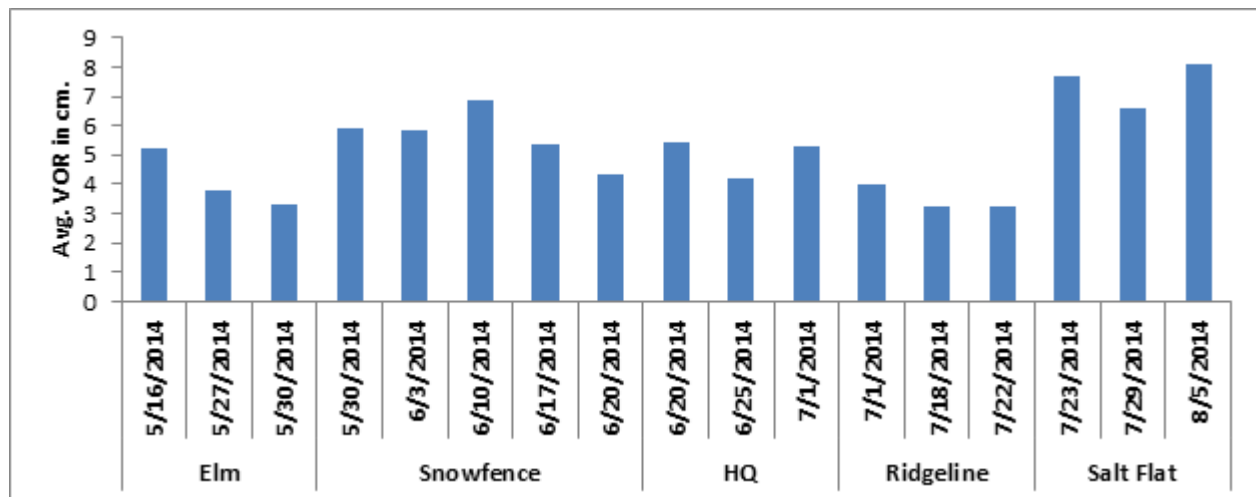
Hello AGMers,

The CPER, Cheyenne, and Fort Collins field crews are working at a record pace to bring you the best peak biomass measurements in the west. The AGM herd helped out as well by not escaping and staying healthy, allowing a few more hands to help with the clipping. The forage continues to grow as the rains continue to fall helping the VORs hit a seasonal high.

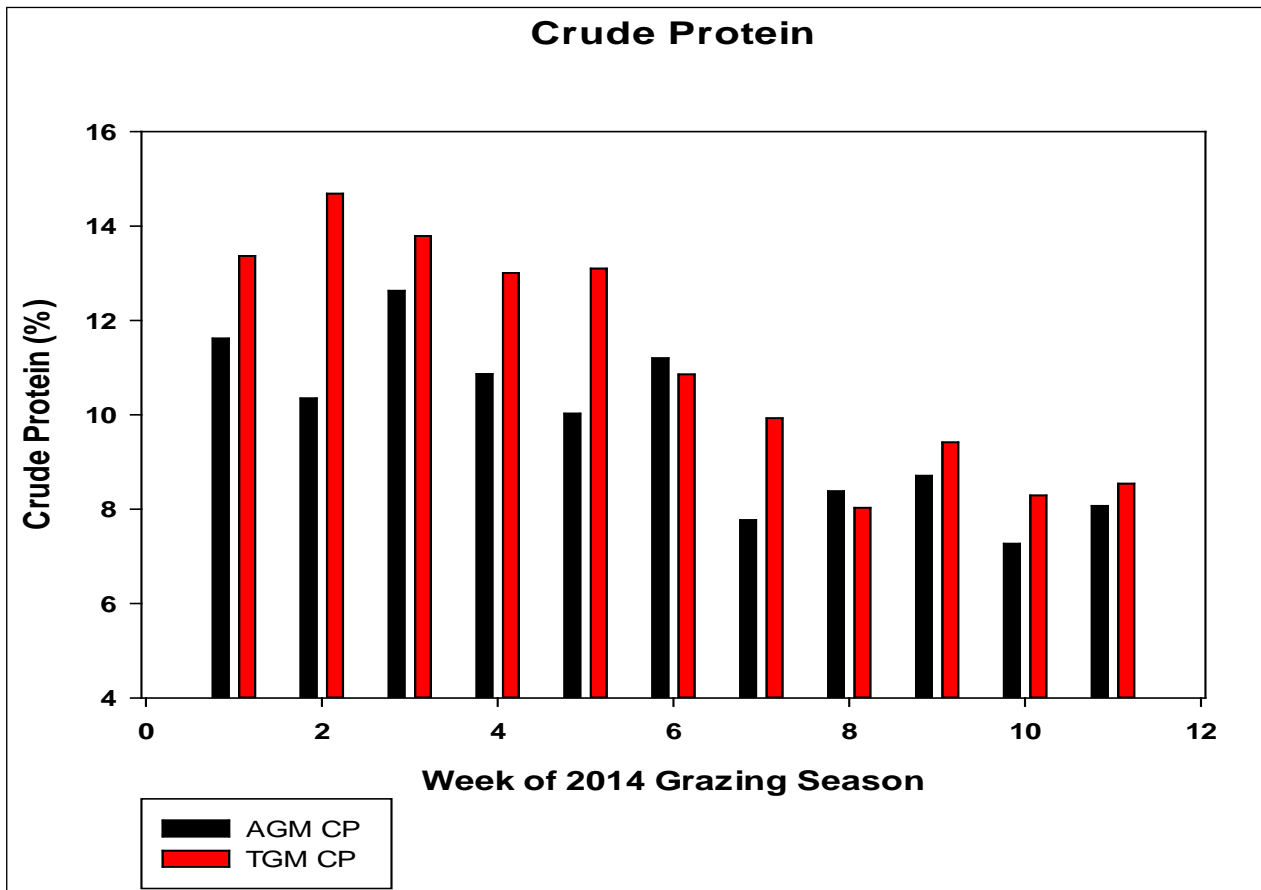
Make sure to participate in our caption contest in the photo section! Thanks.

Highlights of Happenings:

- There was **no sorting or doctoring needed** in the AGM herd this week. The boys are happy and healthy in the Salt Flat pasture. Hopefully they stay that way at least until the next move, around the 18th of August, to the Crossroads pasture.
- We've received another **0.42 inches of rain** since last Wednesday's showers. July ended with a total of 2.53 inches, putting us 0.49 inches above the 72 year average for July.
- Last week's rain seems to have helped the grass in the Salt Flat pasture outpace the hungry mouths of the steers as **the VOR jumped from 6.6 cm last week to 8.1 cm this week**. Blue grama is starting to make up the majority of the readings in 3 of the 4 plots measured where six-weeks fescue has previous been the king. Readings in the other plot are overwhelmingly dominated by tall, thick needle-and-thread grass, helping to keep the average as high as we've seen all season.
- Weeks 10 and 11 of the fecal analysis for crude protein are shown below. **The TGM steers are still showing higher CP levels than the AGM.**



VORs throughout the season so far...



Fecal crude protein for the AGM and TGM steers throughout the first 11 weeks.

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



Contest: Write a caption for this photo of Dr. Augustine and I’ll post them next week.



Is it a shrub? No, it's our forb of the week, slimflower scurfpea. Possibly the biggest one I've ever seen.

Other Notables:

Forb of the Week: Slimflower scurfpea (*Psoralidium tenuiflorum*) is huge on the CPER this year. This member of the bean family looks similar to alfalfa and is sometimes referred to as "wild alfalfa", however, it may be slightly poisonous to mammals.

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

Nick Dufek