

AGM Weekly Update

Good Day AGMers,

The CPER is a very colorful place right now. Fifty Shades of *Green*...dotted with purple, white, orange, and yellow. The brilliant green of the early summer is now starting to fade as our especially dominant annual grass, six-weeks fescue (*Vulpia octoflora*), starts to brown.

There were no major mix-ups this week, but we did have to doctor another limping steer for foot-rot. Our average VOR actually went up from the last week's measurement. It looks as though the herd will be staying put in Snowfence until the number-of-days threshold is met next week Thursday.

Highlights of Happenings:

- The AGM herd remains in the Snowfence pasture and will likely stay there until the number-of-days threshold is met next week. Next in the grazing sequence is the Headquarters pasture.
- Water pumps, tanks, fences and gates are all doing fine and there were no major mix-ups. One steer was seen limping this week. It was corralled and treated with antibiotics for what appeared to be foot-rot. There were no other health issues as of today.
- CPER headquarters received .28 inches of rain since last weekend. The rain gauges near Snowfence collected .22 inches.
- The average low VOR this week was 6.9cm, up from 5.9 last week. From now on, I will only be reporting the low VOR measurement to avoid any confusion. See the chart below for a summary of the VOR progression for each grazed pasture so far.

For more detailed precipitation data and maps, see our website:

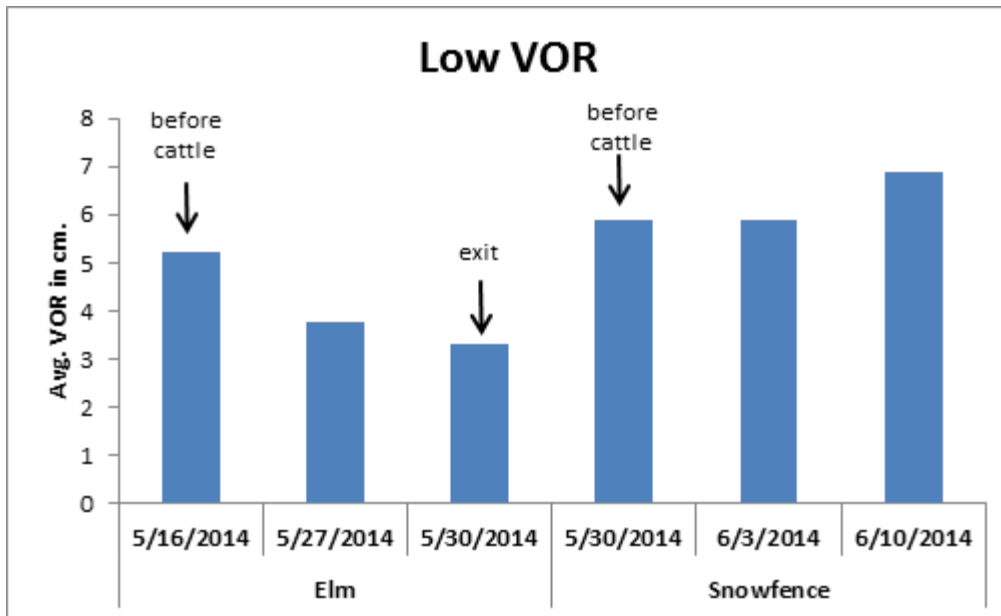
<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=24218>. Also, feel free to send any questions, suggestion, or concerns relating to the project my way and I will do my best to respond in next week's email. Thanks to Ted for some questions from last week's communication. See below for our response.



Stiff greenthread in pasture 23W but not in 22E. Any ideas why?



A clue as to how last week's pic of the AGM herd was taken.



Progression of VOR from beginning of season until most recent measurement

Other Notables:

- Forb of the Week: Stiff greenthread (*Thelesperma filifolium*) is yellowing many of our pasture right at CPER. This year, with all the precipitation, it would appear as though we are cultivating it. Check out the picture and you'll see what I mean. For more useful information on stiff greenthread see: <http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=THFII>

- Ted's Questions:

How was the first picture taken? Either the person was extremely tall, was in a helicopter, or was hanging on to a power pole.

None of the above. I saw Matt Mortenson climb up a wind mill to take photos when the herd was being moved to Elm. I thought I would do the same as they moved to Snowfence.

How is the large herd working so far? Any observations you would like to share?

Overall they are doing just fine given the number of things that could go wrong with 214 head. We didn't have any health issues while the herd was in Elm and we had one minor mix-up. The Snowfence pasture has been a little more problematic but still manageable. There, we had a major mix up, treated one case of lump jaw, and three limping steers were treated with antibiotics for what we suspect is foot rot. According to Cody, they seem to be sticking together in the pastures with the exception of a few small groups that tend to break away from the larger group.

Do we have before VOR measurements from the [Elm] pasture?

Yes. See the above chart. I will try to include this in every communication from now on.