

AGM Weekly Update

Greetings AGMers,

Well...we had our first major mix up with the AGM herd this week. A gate was busted open and all but a few of the steers migrated south into pasture 19 north. The CPER staff rounded up and drove the herd to headquarters where they were sorted from the 19N steers and returned to Snowfence. We did use this misfortune to our advantage by taking a closer look at each individual as they were being sorted. We discovered and treated one case of lump-jaw and as of today, the patient appears to be doing just fine. Plenty of forage, more rain, and summer vegetation measurements pretty much sums up the rest of the news.

Highlights of happening:

- After meeting the “number of days” threshold for the Elm pasture (10 days), the AGM herd was pushed to the Snowfence pasture on Friday, May 30th. The “number of days” threshold for Snowfence is 20 days (see table below).
- The windmill and solar pump are in fine working order and one case of lump jaw was discovered and treated.
- Our fences in Snowfence are holding well, but a mysteriously opened gate led to a major mix-up between the AGM and 19N herds over the weekend. The mix-up was promptly fixed and both groups are now in their respective pastures. The gate has been re-secured.
- CPER headquarters received 0.67 inches of rain over the weekend and the rain gauge near Snowfence measured 1.1 inches.
- Upon exiting the Elm pasture, the high VOR averaged 21.8 cm (up from 19.8 just 3 days prior) and the average low was 3.3 (down from 3.8). In the Snowfence pasture, prior to cattle entry, the average high was 27.9 cm and the low was 5.9. By yesterday, the high reading was up to 31.0 and the low was still at 5.9 cm.

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.



Above: The AGM herd upon arrival in Snowfence on Friday.



Above: Snow in June? Nay. This is our first forb of the week, whitest evening primrose, dominating the Slayton pasture.



Above: Our own Tami Plechaty displaying her prize fecal sample from the AGM herd.

Other Notables:

- The Fort Collins and Cheyenne summer crews are hard at work this week on the range. This week marks the beginning of some of our most intense vegetative surveys of year at CPER. The data being collected will be analyzed and interpreted to help us offer sound management recommendations and useful information regarding the structure, function, and composition of the short-grass step ecosystem.
- Forb of the Week: Scarlet globe mallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*) is flowering in our area right now. A very common forb in this area, but still one of my personal favorites. It is easy to ID when in flower due to its bright orange flowers. It provides abundant forage for pronghorn antelope at CPER and makes for decent dormant season forage for cattle. Check out a great description at: http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_spc0.pdf
- This is a table for the # day thresholds for each AGM pasture:

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Rounded Days</u>
Elm	10
Snowfence	20
Headquarters	19
Ridgeline	14
Saltflat	25
Crossroads	21
Hilltank	21
Highway	0

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

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