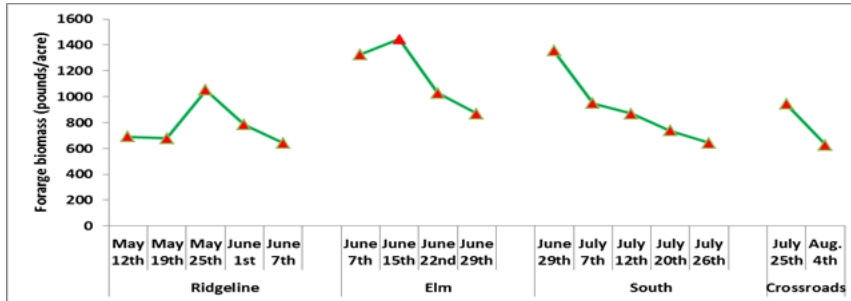


Good Day AGMers,

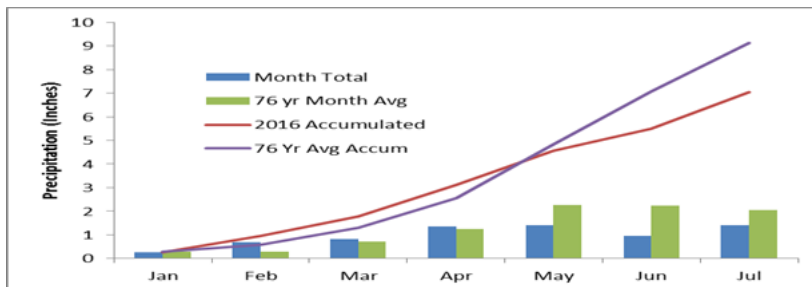
The rains returned to our experiment this week and we are grateful. A green carpet of blue grama rises through the sea of brown fescue as we hit the pastures with clippers in hand. Today, a chilly breeze and slight overcast cools cowboys and college students alike while fresh memories of 90 plus degree days serve to keep them all warm.

Highlights of Happenings

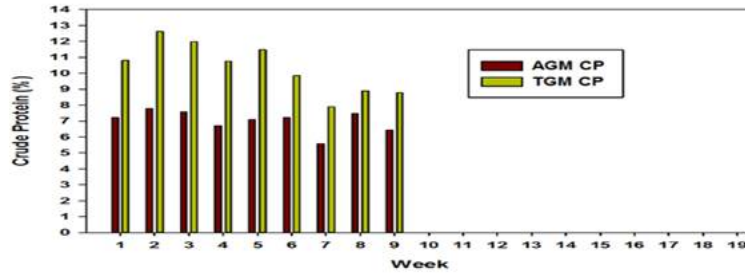
- We had a major decline in VOR average this week from last. Our average this week in Crossroads was 2.7cm or 630 pounds per acre.** This down about 300 pounds per acre from last week. During our measurements this week, I notice steers were very evenly spread out throughout most of the pasture in the early day and then moving towards the stock tank around noon. The combination of rainfall and trampling seems to have reduced the six-weeks fescue's visual dominance, however, we are still reading it in about 35% of our VOR measurements.



- July precip finished strong with 1.4 inches of rain as 0.74 inches fell last week alone.** We are still about 2 inches below the annual average, but this recent pulse of rain seems to have kicked the warm season grasses back into grow-mode.



- No health issues to report in the AGM herd again this week.** The cattle crews are currently weighing the Long-Term Grazing Intensity steers and we should have some July weight gains for everyone next week.
- Fecal Crude Protein through week 9** of the 2016 season (2nd week in South) is shown below. We see a slight drop in CP in the AGM herd from the initial increase as the steers moved from Elm to South in week 8.



For detailed precipitation data, maps, last year's updates, scientist bios, and AGM documents, see our website: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/Research/docs.htm?docid=25733> . Remember to send your questions, concerns, and ideas my way and I'll do my best to have them addressed in next week's email.

Photos



Above: Landscape (upper) and close-up (lower) pics of range condition in Crossroads.

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

Nick Dufek
 Biological Science Technician
 USDA-ARS-Rangeland Resources Research Unit