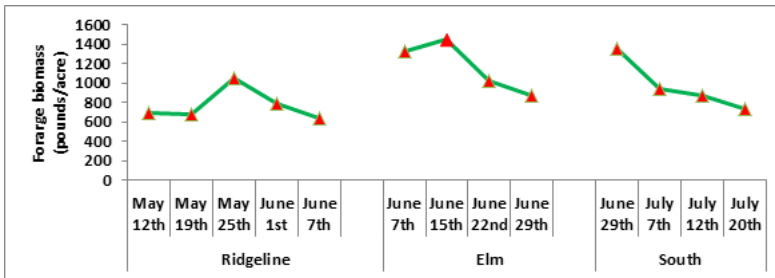


Good Day AGMers,

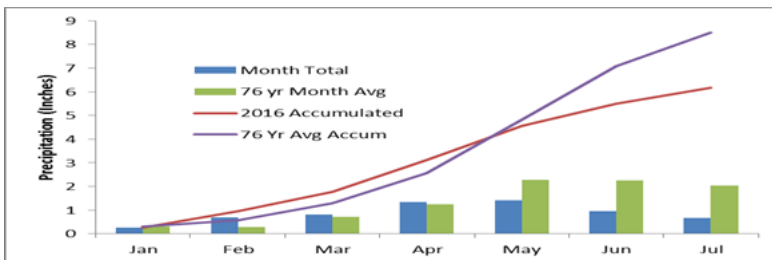
The hot, dry summer continues as we enter the time of year we refer to as “peak biomass”. The summer crews sharpened their shears and get ready for about four weeks of clipping to bring you all the plant production estimates that you can handle.

Highlights of Happenings:

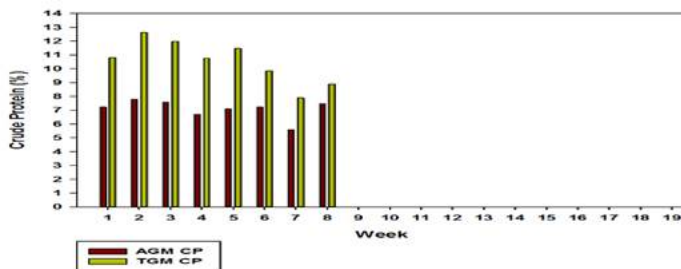
- Our VORs continue their steady decline in the South pasture during this, the final week of occupancy. We measured an **average of 3.1cm or 740 pound/acre**. I did notice more signs of grazing in the six-weeks fescue dominated parts of the pasture.



- **No health issues to report in the AGM herd**, again, this week. Our cattle crew will be moving the herd to the Crossroads pasture on Monday, July 25th.
- **No rain to report**, again, this week. July’s total precipitation is at 0.67. For the year, we are about 2 inches below average.



- We have a few more weeks of fecal crude protein level to report this week (see chart below). **The crude protein values went up for AGM herd to south in the first week in this pasture (week 8 of study), but was still 1.4 percentage points lower than the paired TGM values (from pasture 31e).**



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: Range condition in the South pasture over the past 4 weeks.



Above: Close-up view of grazing on and under six-weeks fescue layer.

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