What's in our cup?

*It has been worse, but it could be better.*
A detailed look at greenness across the station:

Relative greenness:
- Extremely high
- Above average
- Average
- Below average
- Extremely low

Herd
Next
Grazed
Rest
So, we've experienced something new to CARM; drought conditions.

The grass height was there, but the dried, rolled leaves influenced a very low VOR reading (skewing the pounds/acre). So, the grass crew quickly remeasured VOR & clipped biomass to fine-tune the regression.

Drought conditions call for adaptive strategies indeed.

Keep in mind!

We still have the cattle observation thresholds, the cattle look happy & grazing in large groups, despite the low VOR.
There's a good bit of Western Wheat on the southern end, glad to see these steers lounging around.
The cattle are covering some ground for the good stuff.

Latest on the ground...

- **Forage (pounds per acre)**
  - Entry: 400
  - Week 1: Decrease to around 350

- **Legend**
  - Pasture Threshold
  - Crossroads VOR
Tech Note:
- Nothing new to note.
2020 Diet Quality

Digestible Organic Matter (%DOM)

Crude Protein (%)

The Scoop on Poop

Snowfence & Saltflat

SF & Elm

Diet Quality
- Good
- Protein Deficient

May 21  May 26  Jun 3  Jun 10  Jun 17

May 21  May 26  Jun 3  Jun 10  Jun 17

CARM  TRM_1  TRM_2

CARM  TRM_1  TRM_2
### Decision Recap

**Stakeholders voted on some big changes this April!**

**Rotation 3:**
- **Start Date:** June 30
- **Max Days:** 42
- **VOR trigger:** Same
- Split herd into two herds; CARM1 in Crossroads and CARM2 in South. Help reach shortgrass goals in South. Reminder: Continue to monitor and evaluate costs of this approach.
- Each pasture will get 122 steers.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pasture</th>
<th>What we wanted to happen</th>
<th>What actually happened</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notes from April</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pasture</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Date In</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) Snowfence &amp; Saltflat</td>
<td>Gates open between, Shoot for 21-24 days, measure VOR separate &amp; use average to gauge veg trigger, cattle gains, 5/15 - 6/8</td>
<td>15-May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Saltflat &amp; Elm</td>
<td>Gates open between, Shoot for 21-24 days, measure VOR separate &amp; use average to gauge veg trigger, cattle gains, 6/8 - 6/29</td>
<td>4-Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1) Crossroads</td>
<td>Reduce VO for MCLO (&lt; 5cm) 6/29-8/10</td>
<td>18-Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2) South</td>
<td>Reduce VO for MCLO (&lt; 5cm) 6/29-8/10</td>
<td>18-Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1) Highway</td>
<td>Reduce VO for MCLO (&lt; 5cm) 8/10 - 9/21</td>
<td>18-Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2) Hilltank</td>
<td>MCLO 8/10 - 9/21</td>
<td>18-Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1) Nighthawk</td>
<td>9/21 - end of caseon</td>
<td>18-Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2) Ridgeline</td>
<td>9/21 - end of caseon</td>
<td>18-Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Headquarters</td>
<td>Rest</td>
<td>18-Jun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
June 25th, 2020 :: CARM :: South & Crossroads

Up & Coming

- Forage in-take monitoring
- Veg monitoring, completed.
- Collar battery & SD card swap.
- 1/3 Season weights for CARM
- CARM 1 will move from Crossroads to Highway
- CARM 2 will move from South to Hilltank

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

Happy Trails!

For detailed precipitation data, maps, last year's updates, Scientist bios, and CARM documents, see our website: 

ALL access data!