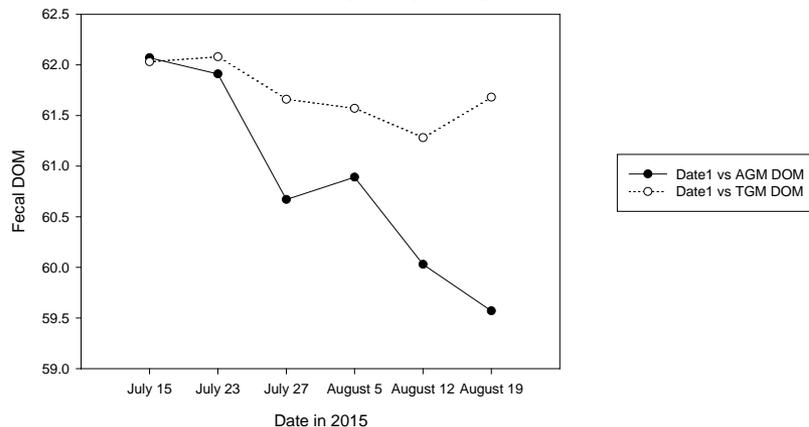
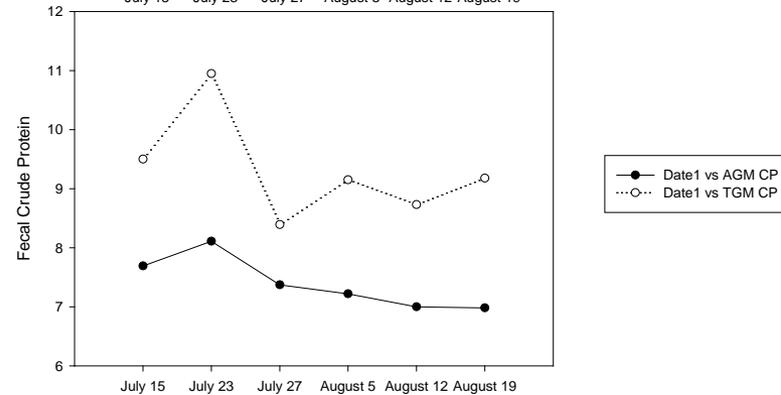
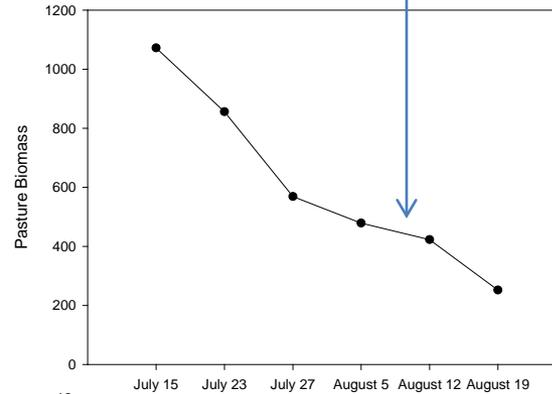


August 10<sup>th</sup> Cattle Observations from Lawrence/Thomas:  
Forage Consumed = 1.5 (cattle beginning to feed on unpalatable species)  
Cattle Activity = 1 (cattle walking fences, pushing gate)

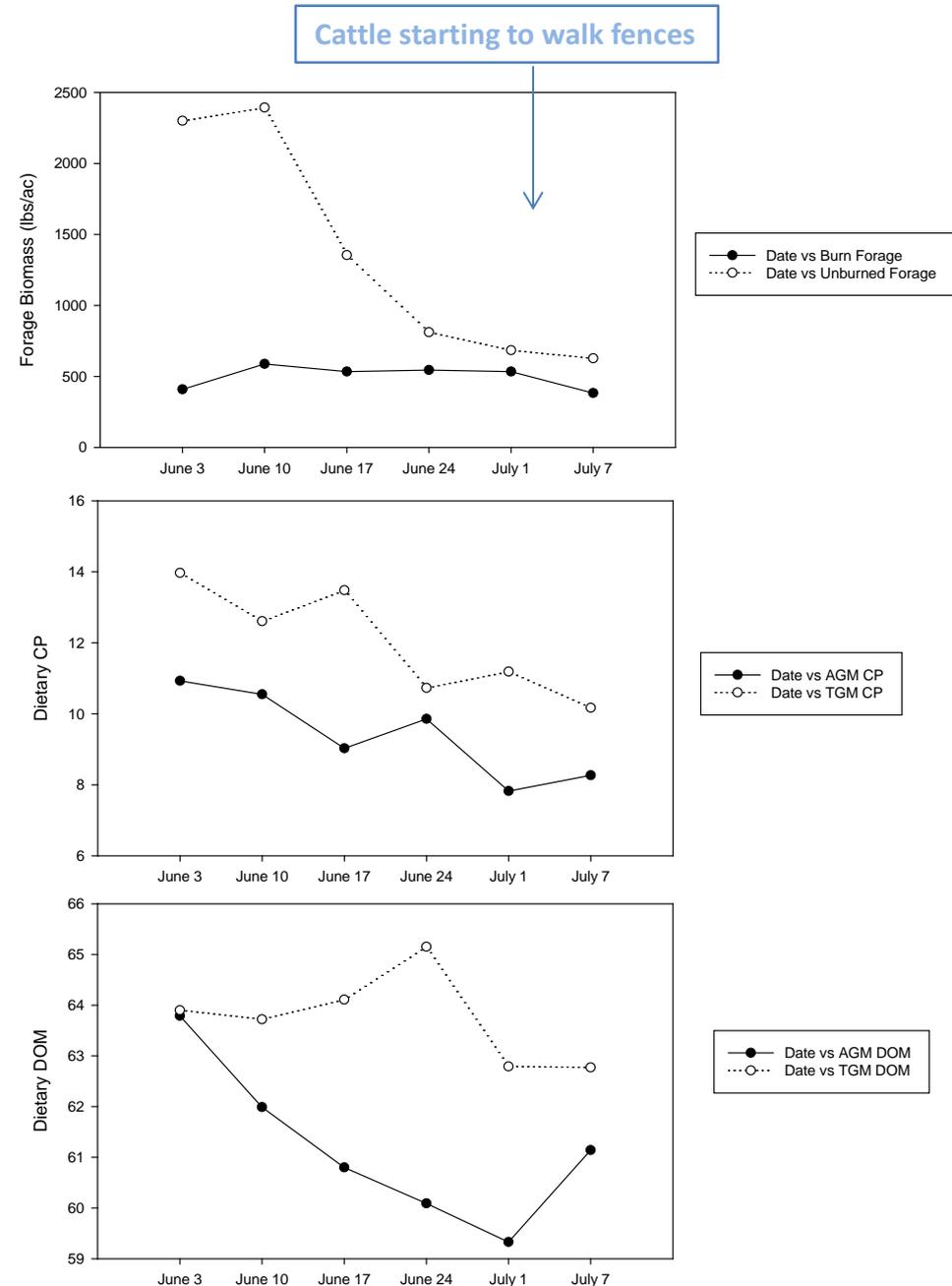
# Nighthawk Pasture 2015

Large decline in dietary DOM (to  $\leq 60\%$ ) during the last two weeks, which corresponds to the time when cattle were walking fences and beginning to consume unpalatable plant species.



# Saltflat Pasture 2015

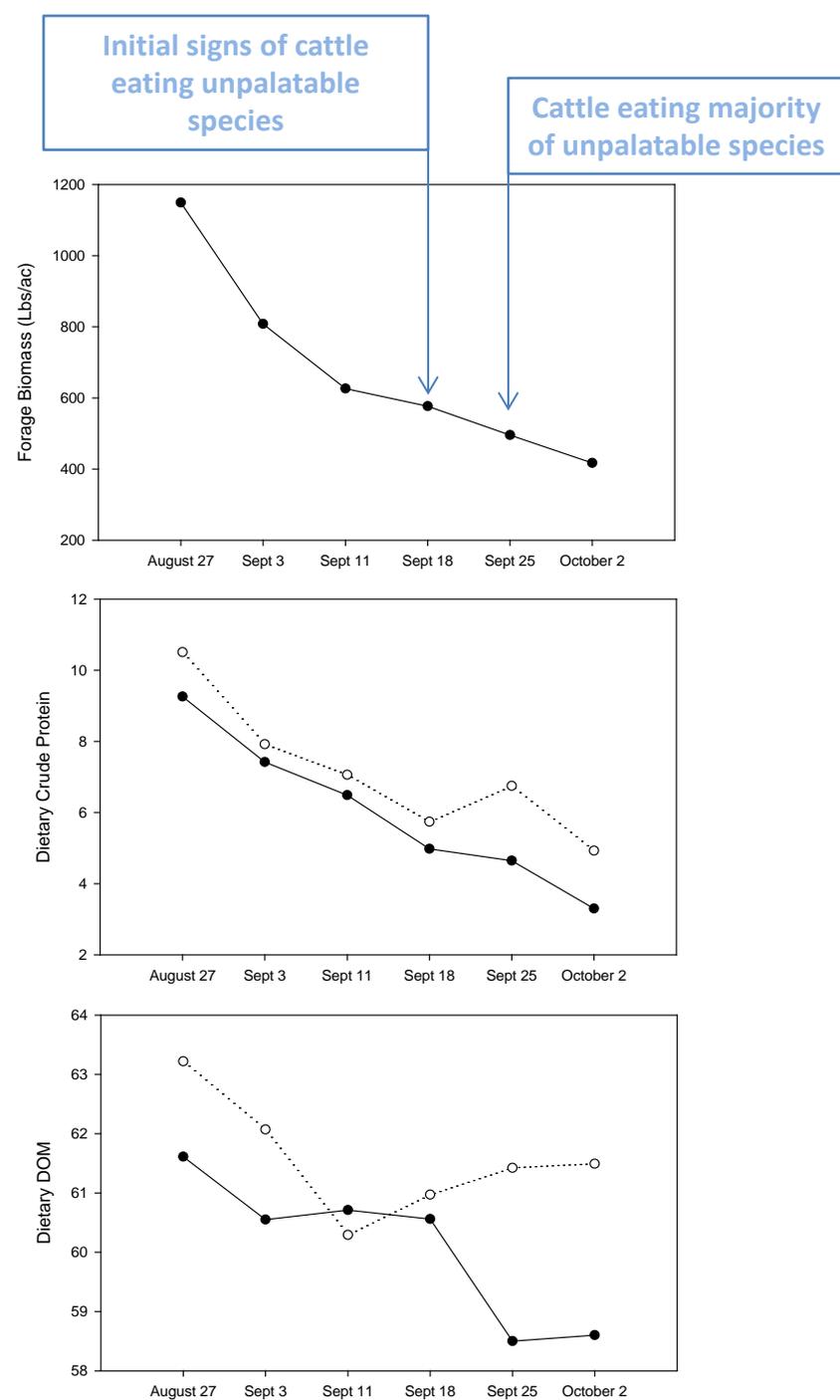
Dietary DOM drops to low levels in the AGM herd (< 60%) in weeks 4 and 5. Increased diet quality in week 6, potentially related to regrowth on the patch burn.



# Highway Pasture 2015

Dietary DOM declines dramatically (to < 60%) between weeks 4 and 5, which coincides with observations of cattle feeding on unpalatable plant species and forage biomass declining to 500 lbs/ac.

Dietary crude protein declines below 7% in both AGM and TGM herds in week 4 due to plant senescence.



Measures of declining cattle performance  
(dietary DOM  $\leq 60$  and cattle walking fences or  
feeding on unpalatable species) when:

- Saltflat: forage biomass = 600 lbs/ac (2015 threshold = 450)
- Nighthawk: forage biomass = 420 lbs/ac (2015 threshold = 300)
- Highway: forage biomass = 500 lbs/ac (2015 threshold = 300)

## Decision-making for Grazing Sequence

May 15 – begin implementation of “final” grazing sequence

After completing first 3 pastures in sequence

**If DRY** - (rotation is “fast”), then default is to add a planned rested pasture to the grazing sequence. Considerations here:

- 1) Creates option to have the rested pasture grazed last
- 2) Creates option to opportunistically insert rested pasture into the sequence when logistically convenient (spatially close to a pasture being grazed).
- 3) Ensure that a pasture is not grazed at the same time in consecutive years

**If DRY becomes EXTREMELY DRY**

- is there a point where cattle are removed from pastures? Due to lack of any forage and cattle condition?

**If WET** - (rotation is “slow”), then default is to rest last pasture to be grazed in sequence. Considerations here:

- 1) Creates option for prescribed burn and cactus control
- 2) Creates option for additional tall structure for grassland bird habitat
- 3) Creates option to skip a pasture in sequence that has low forage quality to increase livestock gains

**If AVERAGE** - (rotation is “normal”),

proceed with planned grazing sequence with possible adjustments if cumulative precipitation for pastures is spatially variable (> 1 inch). Considerations here:

- 1) If planned next pasture has received low precipitation, does the schedule change to a high precipitation pasture next in the sequence?