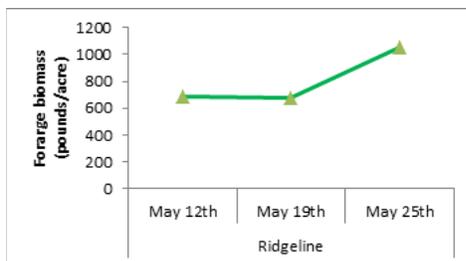


Good Day AGMers,

All is well in the land of blue grama and black angus. The bird crews scour the prairie for nests as the sun beats down and the temperatures go up. So, put on your wide brim hats, pack plenty of water, saddle up, and get ready for summer on the shortgrass steppe!

Highlights of Happenings

- Quite a rise in the VOR this week as the sunshine kicks the cool season grasses in to high gear. **Our average VOR today was 4.5cm giving us about 1,050 pound/acre in the Ridgeline pasture.** This is an increase of about 375 pounds/acre from just last week.
- **No precipitation** to report since our last communication. May's total rainfall is 1.24 inches, nearly 1 inch below the 77 year average.
- **Only minor mix-ups in the AGM herd this week and no illness to report.** So far so good with the big herd. Let's hope this trend continues.
- **US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack** visited Fort Collins and met with some of the Range Unit's scientists last Friday. Here is an excerpt from the Office of Secretary's staff:
 - o "He was particularly enthused by a 10-year adaptive grazing research project where a collaborative of producers, wildlife organizations, and scientists are managing prairie lands owned by ARS using real-time data to make adjustments to management. The project was highlighted by one of USDA's new climate Hub fellows who previously served on the research team. The Secretary reviewed the Hub's accomplishments and encouraged the team to consider briefings for state congressional staff and to explore ways to get their message out to local media."



VORs from the Ridgeline pasture so far...

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 do my best to have them addressed in next week's email.

Photos of the week



The SW corner of the Ridgeline pasture today(left) and last Right (right).



A close up view of range conditions in Ridgeline from today (left) and last Thursday (right).

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