Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Drought Outlook and Management Considerations for Rangeland Livestock Production
Socorro, NM, May 29, 2013
Process
Round 1

What water/drought dependent decisions do you need to make?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decision</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stocking rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adjustment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Round 2

- What information do you need to make these decisions?
- Who and/or where can you get the information that you need in to make these decisions?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decision</th>
<th>What Information do I need to make decision?</th>
<th>Information Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stocking rate adjustment</td>
<td>Extent of drought, water year precipitation...</td>
<td>State Climate Office Drought.gov, vegdri.unl.edu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Round 3:

What are the critical dates for making your decisions?

CRITICAL DATES

AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL - 21 inches/year

CRITICAL DATES - April 1, June 15, August 15, & Nov 1

June 15

- About half of the forage is produced by June 15
- 75% (15.75") of the annual average rainfall is received between Nov 1 & June 15
- If the rainfall is <80% (12.60") of the 75% (15.75") then the stocking rate should be decreased 30% by weight. (Finish culling herd C)
- If the rainfall is <60% (6.30") of the 75% (15.75") then the stocking rate should be decreased 40-50% by weight (Cull herd B deep)
- The 3 weeks following June 15th is very critical. By July 15 the destocking should be completed.
- Rest periods should be as long as possible by June 1 if any indicator of a drought is present.

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Round 4: Focus on what you have!

What resources are available that will support potential strategies to reduce drought impacts?

- **Built:** water delivery system
- **Financial:** Savings, credit
- **Political:** Associations with political influences (SRM)
- **Social:** Neighbors, church
- **Human:** Extension Agents, your skills
- **Cultural:** Generational knowledge, regional practices
- **Natural:** land
Round 5: Strategies

How can you use your resources to help reduce drought impacts and assist in recovery?

Examples

- Impact = reduced forage requires destocking
- Your resource = connections for moving livestock
- Potential strategies = early weaning, buy feed, move to grass...
Contact Information:

Deborah Bathke
dbathke2@unl.edu
402-472-6199

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