



The Ranch Plan - Managing Risk on the Ranch

A Drought Planning Guide for Livestock and Forage Producers

*“Here’s what my dad used to tell me.
He said, if you bet on dry weather in
this country, you’ll be right more than
half the time”*

(Nebraska Rancher 2005)

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Managing Risk on the Ranch

A guide to help better prepare for and manage drought

Project initiated in 2006

Project Goals: Develop a model drought planning process and web-based educational delivery system for livestock and forage producers

Collaborators: National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, South Dakota State University, and Texas A&M-Kingsville

Available for review in the Fall of 2009 and release to the general public in the Fall of 2010

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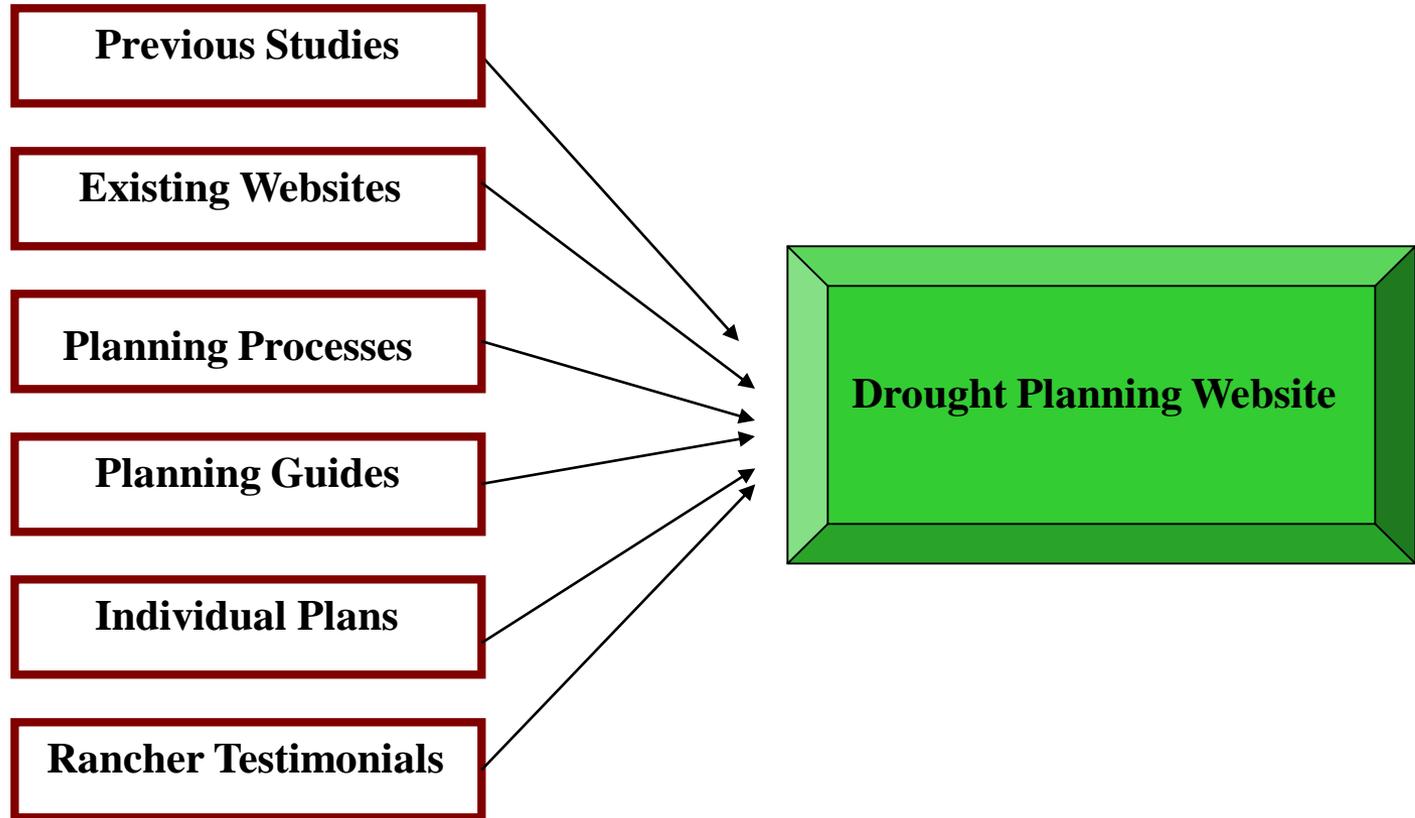
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Project Goal: Incorporate this type of information into a drought planning process and training website





Managing Risk on the Ranch

[Introduction](#)[Before a Drought](#)[During a Drought](#)[After a Drought](#)[Write a Drought Plan](#)[Contacts/Resources](#)

NDMC > Ranch Plan Home

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--Nebraska rancher, 2006

Making management decisions is an every day exercise for livestock and forage producers. Producers manage for things they can control and things they can't; for conditions that persist and those that change daily. All regions are prone to some form of extreme weather events such as thunderstorms, blizzards and drought. These extremes and the unknowns that seem to be around every corner, and the disastrous effects they can cause, demonstrate why long-term planning is essential to effectively manage agricultural risk.



Drought is one hazard that affects every portion of the United States sooner or later, and producers are increasingly implementing new ways to better prepare and respond to it. The information, strategies and resources on this site are designed to provide producers with information on how to incorporate management strategies to reduce the threat drought poses to livestock and forage operations.

Our Philosophy and Purpose

- Drought is a normal part of climate...it will happen again.
- There are things you can do before, during, and after drought to reduce your risk.
- You should have both a long-term management plan and a drought response plan.
- The goal of this website is to help you become more resilient to hazards such as drought.

How to Use This Site

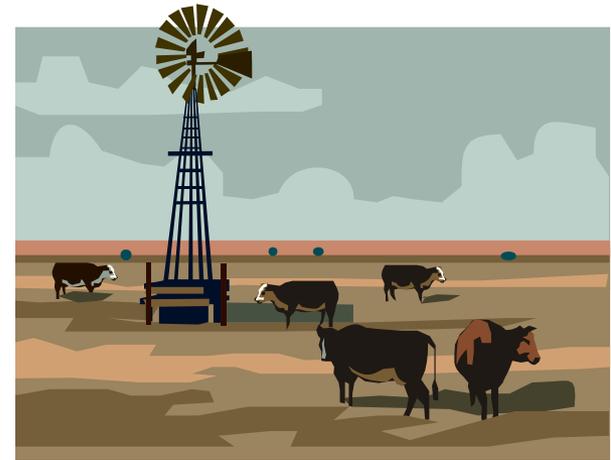
The [Introduction](#) section of this site provides in-depth information on climate and historical drought occurrence; the effects drought has on livestock, grasses, and grazing management; and drought-related financial considerations.

The [Before Drought](#), [During Drought](#), and [After Drought](#) sections detail long- and short-term management strategies that can be implemented to make your operation more resilient and prepared for drought conditions.

The [Write a Drought Plan](#) section describes how appropriate strategies can be identified and included in a drought plan for your operation, and the [Contacts and Resources](#) section provides examples of other producers who have developed drought plans, as well as, experts and other information sources to help you better prepare for and respond to drought.

Ranch Drought Planning Goals

- Create a more comprehensive drought planning process
- Promote drought planning among livestock and forage producers
- Create more resilient ranching operations
- Minimize the negative effects of drought (income fluctuations, sales, degradation, stress, relief)
- Foster stable rural communities and a strong state economy



Thank You!

Please consider reviewing the website.

Any suggestions or comments are appreciated!

Simply, fill out the survey in your packet or send comments to:

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