Rich County Extension

Drought Managment Tip

Written by Reganne Briggs

Livestock are already on summer pasture, however Utah is currently experiencing a severe drought. Utah is the third driest state in the country which means we face drought more frequently than other states. So, what can producers do to prepare for decreased resources such as water and grass during drought? With this in mind, there are many management strategies that livestock producers can adopt to adapt to drought. One management technique to alleviate the stress of drought is animal genetics. That's right, producers can manage the effects of drought based on what replacement animals they select. Producers can select animals that better fit the environment through genetics. In drought situations animals that are moderate in size, produce lower milk, and have moderate muscling typically perform better during drought years. It is important to match livestock size and milk production potential to forage resources to optimize forage utilization and reproductive efficiency.

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Producers should pay attention to these traits on the paternal AND maternal side. A great tool to use is estimated progeny differences (EPDs) to determine the potential size and milking potential of offspring. Drought can be a scary thing, especially when resources such as feed and water are heavily relied on by livestock producers. However, resiliency is a common trait among livestock producers, and through resiliency we can make it through.

For more management tips please vist these links for fact sheets related to drought.

Heat Stress and Reproduction in Beef Cattle

<u>Drought MItigation for Cow/Calf Producers:</u>
<u>Depopulation Strategies</u>





Past & Upcoming Events

Drought Outlook and Mitigation Strategies Workshop

for Livestock Producers

Rich County Senior Center May 19th, 2022, at 6:00 pm

Dinner will be provided

Fopics Include:

Market Outlook and Drought - Dr. Ryan Larsen

Herd Management During Drought - Dr. Matt Garcia

Pasture/Range Management During Drought - Dr. Eric Thacker

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Extension
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Drought Outlook and Mitigation Strategies Workshop

May 19th, 2022

Last month USU Extension Specialists presented at a drought workshop.
Follow this link to view the recording.

Click HERE for recording.

Commercial Cattle Project Workshop

June 15, 2022 @ 5:00 pm

Tune in to this workshop via zoom to learn more about the new commercial cattle project for youth.

Click <u>HERE</u> for Zoom Link



for more visit: https://extension.usu.edu/rich/