An important partnership exists between Iowa’s rural water systems and the state’s livestock industry. This partnership helps ensure that thousands of farms with livestock across the state have ready access to a reliable supply of quality water. Livestock operations in Iowa rely on rural water systems in a variety of ways. In many situations, rural water systems provide a back-up supply to the natural sources of water such as ponds that are available for livestock use. At the same time, a significant number of operations depend on rural water as the primary supply of water for their livestock on a daily basis. In almost all cases, periods of drought underscore the essential role that the state’s rural water systems play in supporting Iowa’s livestock industry.

The following presentation provides an overview of the partnership between Iowa’s rural water systems and the state’s livestock industry. The presentation briefly addresses:

**Rural Water in Iowa:** Information is presented about Rathbun Regional Water Association (RRWA). RRWA supplies rural water to a large portion of southeast Iowa. Information is also provided about Iowa’s rural water systems in general.

**Rural Water for Livestock:** The presentation describes aspects of RRWA’s supply of rural water to livestock operations in the Association’s service territory. Similar aspects of Iowa’s other rural water systems’ service to livestock operations are also described.
**Impact of Drought:** Several points are presented that illustrate the impact that drought conditions have had on the supply of water to livestock operations in the state by RRWA as well as other rural water systems in Iowa.

**Continued Drought Conditions:** The presentation identifies actions that will help RRWA and other rural water systems meet water demand during continued drought conditions. The presentation also provides information about water conservation in Iowa. In addition, the presentation shares perspectives from cow-calf producers who are member-customers of RRWA.