HAVE YOUR PASTURES SURVIVED THE DROUGHT OF 2012?

Kenneth Suter
Producer
Wyconda, MO
DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

- Begin as early as possible
- Take action when you believe you are entering a drought period
Drought Management

- Adjust the grazing period to leave more residue
  - Less stress on the plants
  - Additional shading will keep the soil cooler

- Allow longer rest periods to give plants as much time as possible to recover
Grazing Adjustments

- Increase length of rest periods
Drought Management

- Reduce the herd size by culling:
  - Open cows
  - Structural problems
  - Bad disposition animals
  - Big cows
  - Old cows
  - Did I mention “Big Cows”
FEED INVENTORY

- Check your hay and feed inventory before the market becomes aware of your problem

- Forage test to know what you have

- Protect hay and feed inventory with sound storage methods—
  - Net/plastic wrap
  - Good location
  - Buildings
  - Tarps
FEEDING METHODS

- Bale feeders—
  - New styles claim savings of 10-30%

- Unrolling hay—
  - Feed only what they need each day
  - Feed on ‘thin’ ground or poor stands of grass to help with the reseeding process
  - Can feed under a hot wire
  - No manure to haul
STOCKPILING

- A great opportunity to control cost and stored feed usage—
STOCKPILING

- Don’t graze as close to the ground as in a normal winter!
STOCKPILING

- Don’t graze too low...
STOCKPILING

- Let the cows do the work—
Sacrifice Areas

- It’s better to have one or more paddocks or lots to feed in during muddy times to prevent damage that will inevitably occur.
RESEEDING

- Make sure it necessary

- Consider endophyte-free or novel varieties

- Frost seeding is cheapest and easiest for legumes but less effective for grasses
RESEEDING

- Interseeding—another option
Next Spring

- Rotate faster leaving more leaf area giving a faster recovery to drought stressed plants
FARM MAPS

Getting started--
Equipment Needs

The Sutermobile—
MORE EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS
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BUILDING FENCE
YOUR GUESS?
WATERING ALTERNATIVES
MINERAL FEEDERS
MORE EQUIPMENT

Old faithful—
REFRACTOMETER
Shade Frames
Grazing
WAITING FOR THE TRUCK
The End