

Drought & The Environment Update

Lots going on right now in the beef industry so this edition of Enviro Email will serve more as a resource update than informational content.

Drought Resources

-Roadside Haying is essentially statewide in Nebraska at this point. Quality of forages remaining currently is likely to be low; however, if you are still interested make sure to contact the Nebraska Department of Roads to submit an application to get up and running.

-Emergency Haying & Grazing of CRP has been approved in all counties in Nebraska. Contact your local FSA agent to begin the paperwork process to take advantage of this.

-Federal Disaster Declarations are beginning to pop up across Nebraska. These declarations enable persons in those counties to take advantage of emergency loans. Three of interest to NC members include: FSA's Debt Set Aside Program for current loan customers. FSA's standard Emergency Loan Program. The U.S. Small Business Association also offers economic injury small business emergency loans.

-Preferential tax treatment options are available for weather related sales of livestock. Beef producers can postpone gain in years when you sell cattle in excess of what you normally would because of drought.

-Other general drought resources can be found at <http://droughtresources.unl.edu/> and <http://beef.unl.edu/web/beef/managingforages-drought>.

Update on Environmental Issues

-Last week EPA withdrew the CAFO Reporting Rule that would have required beef producers to submit additional and separate information (name, location, head count, waste generated) to EPA who intended to publish that information online. NC was opposed to this rule because this information was available to EPA if they coordinated with state agencies and publication on line had serious bioterrorism implications. A previous edition of Enviro Email discussed this rule in depth, please contact NC if you would like that edition resent.

-Congressman Adrian Smith has introduced a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives to put a moratorium on EPA fly overs of feedlots until a thorough discussion can be had between Congress and EPA . NC thanks Congressman Smith for his continued efforts on this intrusive and overreaching regulation.

-Nebraska Attorney General, Jon Bruning, is leading a coalition of Attorneys General to

intervene in a Federal lawsuit seeking to impose numeric nutrient criteria on the entire Mississippi River Basin. NC is very appreciative that Nebraska has stepped up to represent agriculture in this lawsuit. NC is opposed to numeric nutrient criteria as they have not been scientifically proven and would be impossible to impose equitably. More on this lawsuit in the next Enviro Email.

-NC is meeting with EPA Region 7 officials on Monday, July 30th to discuss issues specific to beef producers and their regulation by EPA. If you have specific thoughts, concerns or issues please contact NC.