



MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AND YOUR DROUGHT PLAN

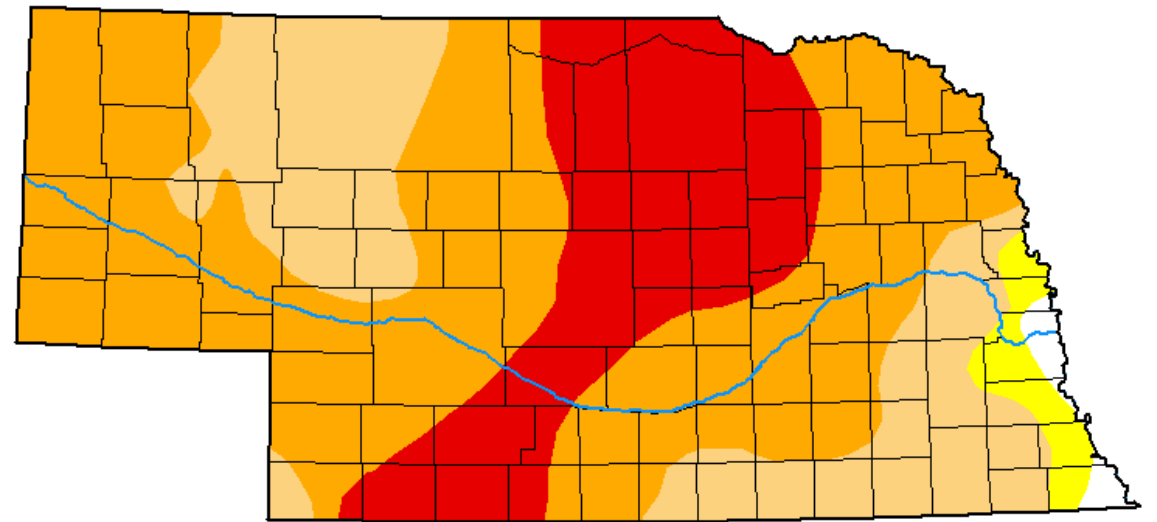
ASHLEY GARRELTS
SANDHILLS TASK FORCE



Sandhills Task Force
“Where People and Land are One”

WHAT WE KNOW

- Where we are at?
- What was our management before the drought?
- How rangeland responds to drought
 - Timing of precipitation
 - Forage production
- Trigger Dates



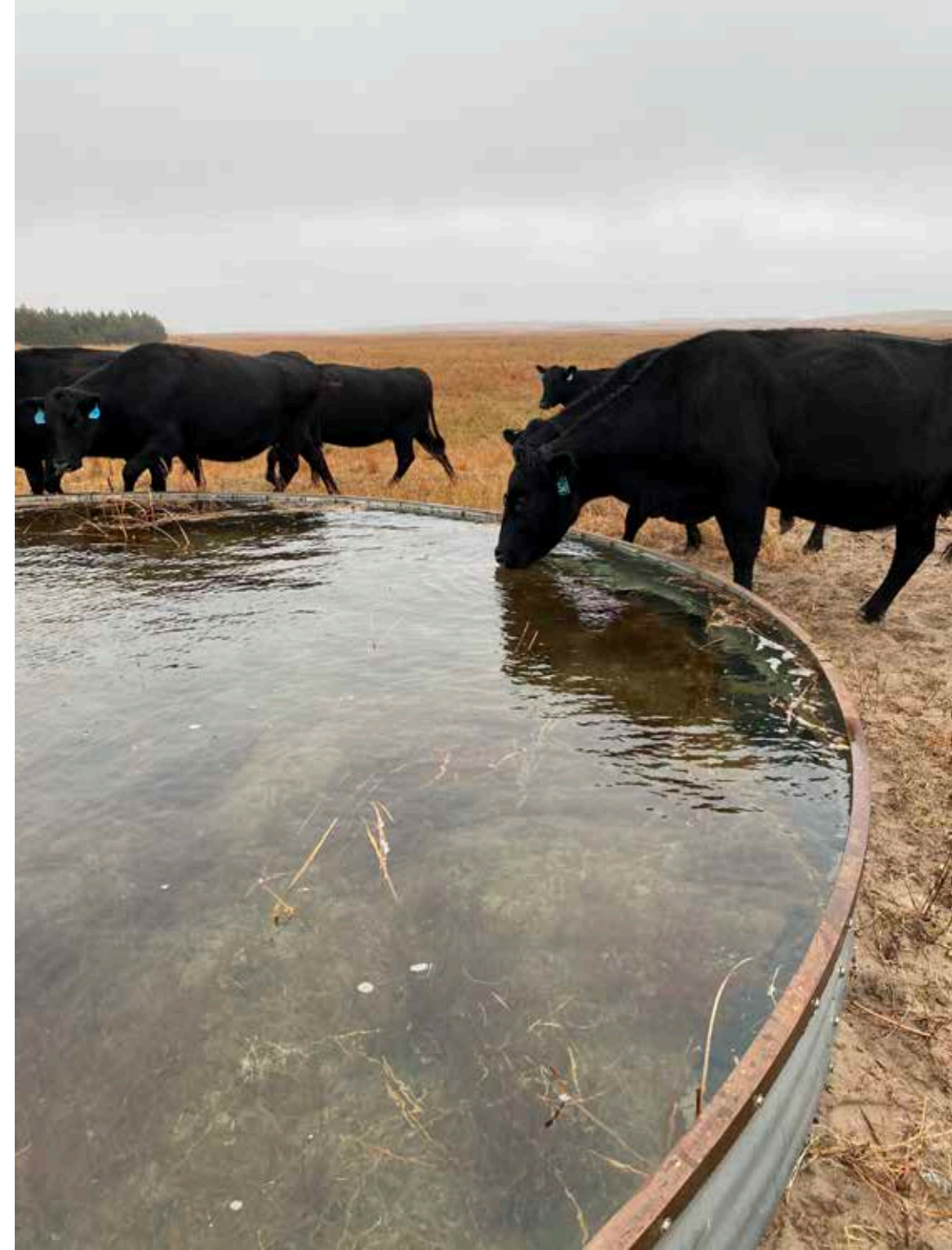


WHAT WE HAVE YET TO LEARN

- Livestock & Drought
- Management Options
- Tying it all together

LIVESTOCK & DROUGHT

- Energy is the most limiting nutrient (normal stocking rate)
 - Delayed puberty
 - Suppressed estrus/ovulation
 - Decreased body condition
- Vitamin and protein content can also be limited



BODY CONDITION SCORING



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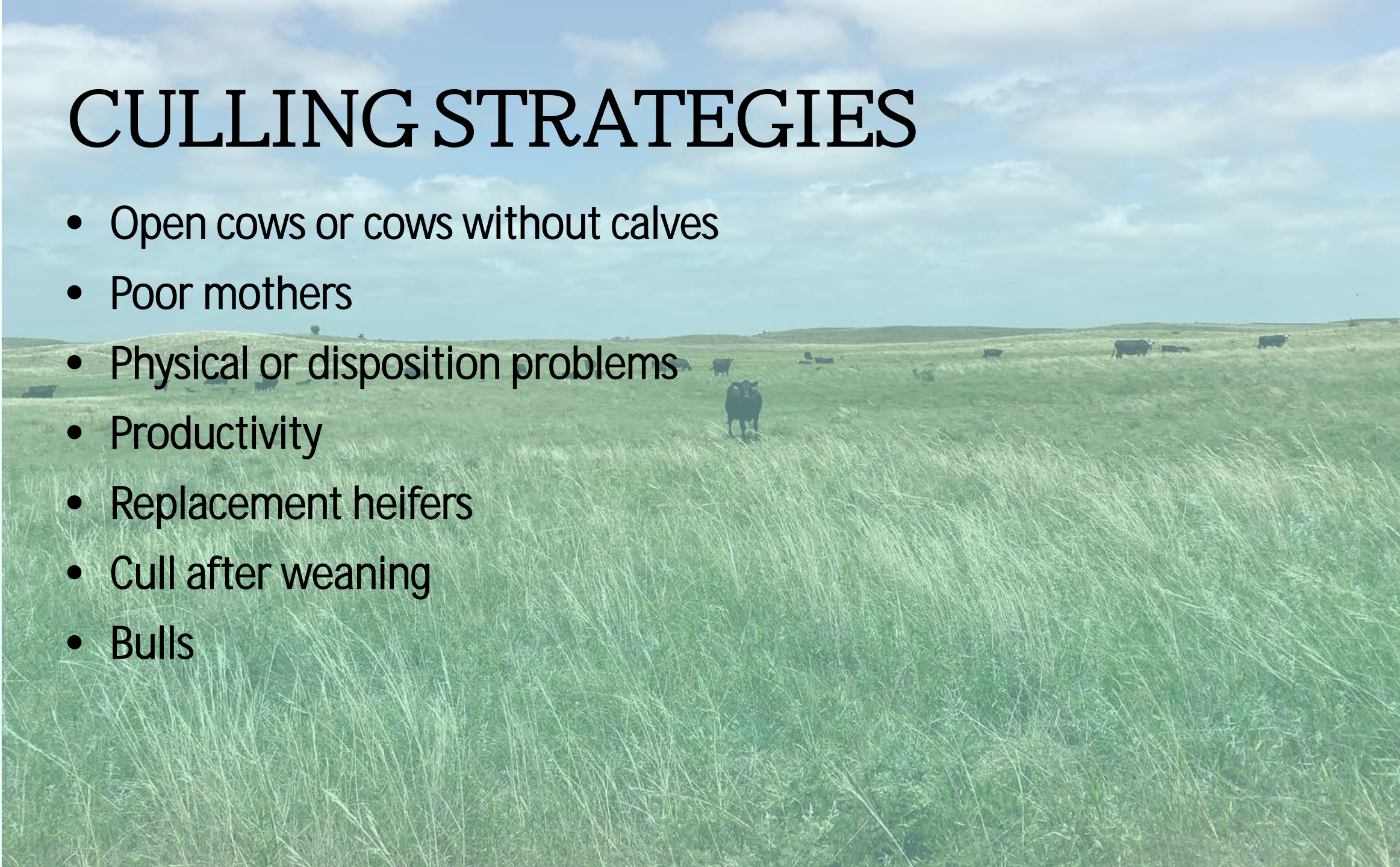


OPTIONS: LIVESTOCK INVENTORY

- Most economical
- Identify low performing females
- Cull early
- Lease grass
- Remove yearlings early
- Early wean
- Keep fewer replacements

CULLING STRATEGIES

- Open cows or cows without calves
- Poor mothers
- Physical or disposition problems
- Productivity
- Replacement heifers
- Cull after weaning
- Bulls



OPTIONS: EXISTING FORAGES

- Rotational grazing system
- Delayed turnout
- Concentrate grazing
- Flash graze
- Avoid overgrazing





OPTIONS: ALTERNATIVE FEEDS

- More expensive
- Plant annual forages
- Supplement pasture grass
- Dry lotting cows



OPTIONS-RECAP

Livestock inventory

Existing forages

Supplemental forages

MAKING THE PLAN

1. Identify partners and establish communication
2. Identify objectives/ranch goals
3. Inventory resources
4. Understand drought
5. Define drought and monitor
6. Identify critical dates
7. Identify strategies for before, during, and after
8. Monitor and evaluate

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

April 1: Inventory current grass and livestock resource

Review drought plan and make changes

May 15: Prepare for drought and implement plan

Review management options and make decisions

June 15: Monitor grass growth and execute plan

July 1: Monitor forage production and execute plan

July 15: Monitor forage and execute drought plan

SAMPLE DROUGHT PLAN

Date	Impact/Question	Management Action
January 1		Review Drought Plan
April 1	Cary over grass is low	Cull open/problem cows
May 1	Dry or drought conditions occurring	Delay turnout and feed hay/flash graze meadows; Plant annual forages
June 1	Drought conditions persist	Implement concentrated grazing; cull low performing cows
July 1	Drought conditions persist	Wean calves early; move to summer annual forage; supplemental feed

QUESTIONS

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