

Working for the silver lining

### CATTLE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS DURING DROUGHT

## Effects on Animal Health

#### **Seasonal Diseases**

- Anaplasmosis
- Foothill Abortion
- Pinkeye



## Diseases associated with feeding and confinement

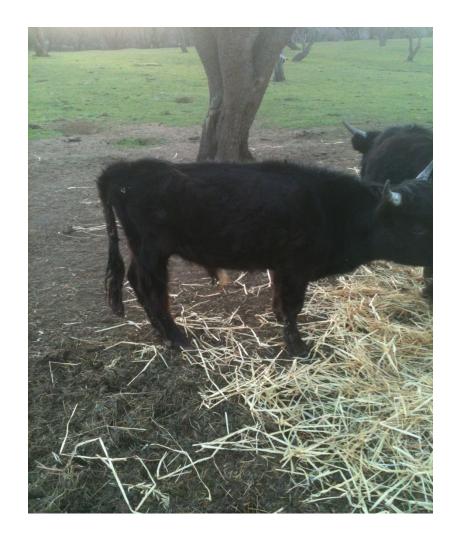
- Calf diarrhea
- pinkeye



## **Diseases Associated with Drought**

#### Deficiencies

- Water
- Feed quality
- Copper
- Selenium
- Vitamins A, D, E



## Toxicities

- Sulfates (Polio and copper absorption)
- Nitrates (water from run-off, stunted feed)
- Blue Green Algae
- Irritating Grasses
- Alternative Feeds ( Moldy fruits and vegetables, CHO overload)



## Supplements

- Use salt to prevent overconsumption( salt toxicity)
- Provide urea but there is not enough forage to balance protein and ammonia toxicity results
- Provide carbohydrates but can cause grain overload



## Supplemental Feeds

- Poor quality feed can; Contaminate a pasture, Cause rumen impaction, Cause hardware disease, Be contaminated with toxic plants. Cheaper grain prices can encourage replacement of hay=rumen acidosis

## Plant poisonings

#### Weakest cattle

- Most likely to consume toxic plants
- This is good reason to monitor animal health and body condition regularly to cull poor doers before they become a death loss

### **Toxic plants are seasonal**

- Oak buds and acorns, and leaves
- Tannins and phenols are toxic principle
- Cow suffers liver and kidney damage, fetus will be born with birth defects
- California Buckeye seeds are neurotoxins

## **Reducing Livestock Numbers**

- Takes pressure off native forage before damage to range is severe and prolonged
- Saves costs associated with supplemental feed
- Markets animals when they retain maximum value
- Considers what will be needed for expansion when the drought is over

# Sell off is no different than every other year, just accelerated

- Pregnancy check heifers 90 days post bull turnout, if you want a 45 day calving season sell all that are not at least 45 days bred. If no vet available use blood test with Dairy Diagnostics.
- Sell open heifers as feeders

- Check bulls within 30 days of the end of the breeding season.
- The cost of retaining a bull for 5 months( March-August) can go up to \$ 1500-\$1800. The bulls value may be \$.90/ lb. ( \$1500)
- In August you won't be paying \$5000 for that new bull, he'll cost \$2000

# Cows are always marketed for the same reasons

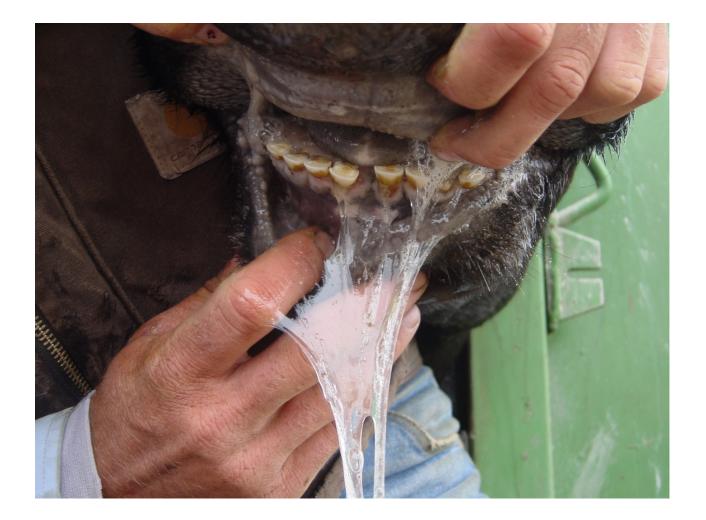
- Lame
- Infertile
- Bad behavior
- Age (teeth)
- Bad udder
- Disease (Cancer Eye)

- The only two that need to be checked in the chute are teeth and pregnancy status, the others are often observed in the field
- Act decisively, act quickly, if it walks like a duck it is a duck!

## Age is important!

- Production falls off after 8-10 years
- Diseases are more prominent after 8-10 years
- 4-8 years is the most productive time of a cow's life.
- The energy costs to maintain a 4-8 year old cow are lower than for developing heifers
- You must be ready for expansion so you have to keep replacement heifers

### Mouth your cattle



## Teeth were prematurely aged due to tough feed conditions



## Body Condition Score is About More Than Nutrition

### Thin cows are young, old or diseased



#### Fat cows are open

