

DROUGHT HEALTH PROBLEMS IN BEEF CATTLE

Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Professor and Extension Program Leader for Veterinary Medicine
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Texas A&M System

THIN CATTLE

- Malnutrition/Starvation
- Range Ketosis – Hypoglycemia
 - Thin, nursing cows/stress
- Grain Aflatoxin Poisoning
 - Corn, Sorghum Stressed
 - > 400 PPB
- Lumpy Jaw/Woody Tongue
 - Irritated Mouth/Tongue

DEHYDRATED CATTLE

- High Salinity Tanks
 - > 10,000 PPM
 - Reduced Water Intake
 - High Salt Intake (Neurological Signs)

STRESSED CATTLE

- Heat, Malnutrition, Dehydration
 - Low Fertility
 - Low Milk Production
 - Abortion
 - Dystocia
 - Retained Afterbirth
 - Uterine Prolapse
 - Immunosuppressed

SICK CATTLE

- Stress
 - Immunosuppressed
 - Germ Recrudescence
 - Germ Shedding
 - Low Immunity
 - Low Response to Vaccines
 - Contact Exposures

DOWNER/DEAD CATTLE

- Malnutrition
- Foot Founder (Laminitis)
 - Front Feet
- Polio (Polioencephalomalacia)
 - Low protein, low roughage, and high sulfate diet
 - Confined and fed a grain diet without roughage
 - Downer cow attempts to stand
 - Ankles remain flexed or knuckled over
- Grain Aflatoxin Poisoning
 - Corn, Sorghum Stressed
 - > 600 PPB
- Plant Nitrate Poisoning
 - Corn, Sorghum, Johnson Stressed
 - > 1%
- Plant Cyanide Poisoning
 - Sorghum, Johnson Stressed
- Poisonous Plants
- Blackleg Group (Soil-Borne/Recrudescence)
- Anthrax (Soil-Borne)

DEAD CATTLE AFTER RAINS

- Plant Cyanide Poisoning
 - Sorghum, Johnson New Growth
- Fog Fever (Pulmonary Emphysema and Edema)
 - Toxic reaction in the lungs
 - Lush, green grass in spring or fall
- Blackleg Group (Soil-Borne/Recrudescence)
- Anthrax (Soil-Borne)

PURCHASED CATTLE/CARRIERS FOR RESTOCKING

- Johne's Disease (Cow/Bull)
- Neosporosis (Cow)
- Vibriosis (Bull)
- Trich (Bull)