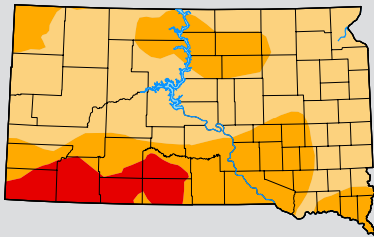


# Drought 2025:

Where to find sound advice and tools to help work through it



## US Drought Monitor South Dakota

The Drought Monitor: Quick weekly Updates of drought conditions in South Dakota with one click on the web

[https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Data/pdf/current/current\\_SD\\_cat.pdf](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Data/pdf/current/current_SD_cat.pdf)

Also see future drought outlook at <https://www.weather.gov/unr/drought>

## Pray for Rain, Plan for Drought

—Sound advice from South Dakota ranchers who have successfully battled drought over the years. Includes:

**Video interviews** with ranchers Bart Carmichael, Jim Faulstich, Dan Rasmussen, Larry Wagner, Luke Perman, Jeff Zimprich, and others.

**Publications** on how to rotate, rest and recover pastures to be resilient with drought.

**Mentor contacts** with a list of ranchers who will talk on the phone about how they drought-proof their ranch by planning ahead for resilience to drought, when they sell livestock, how they protect their grass, etc.

Courtesy of the South Dakota Grassland Coalition. <https://sddroughtplan.org/>

## Straight from South Dakota ranchers and experts

—A continuing compilation of soil health and grazing tips, including drought related topics, in a variety of online formats, that includes:

**Podcasts and short-read blogs** featuring South Dakota ranchers on how they are making their ranches resilient.

**Free brief fact sheets** on topics such as South Dakotas drought tool, what's involved in a drought contingency plan, trigger dates, calving on grass, the keys to resilient ranches, and more.

**Video interviews** with ranchers, conservationists and consultants including Jim Kopriva, Drew Anderson, Pat Guptill, Lealand Schoon, Van Mansheim, Emily Helms, and others that center on components of soil health and sound grazing systems. <https://www.growingresiliencesd.com/drought-management>

## SDSU Extension and USDA/NRCS assistance

—South Dakota State University Extension, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and conservation district offices are involved in many of the recommendations for drought resilience. Visit their local offices or their websites.

Produced by the Growing Resilience team on behalf of the South Dakota NRCS and its partners. More information online at: <https://www.growingresiliencesd.com/>



# Guidance from resilient ranchers during the dry spell in 2022

*There were worries about drought just three years ago. Here's what ranchers experienced in planning ahead for drought had to say then. Their advice still applies.*



## *Advice on Navigating a Dry 2022*

“We’ve all been through droughts. They’re inevitable here. We can’t stop them, but there’s a lot we can do to prepare to make them less stressful and hurtful to our operations. Our entire board has drought plans and grazing plans—a few thoughts from some board members are shown below. We’d be happy to talk with you about what we’ve learned.”

*Board of Directors,  
South Dakota Grassland Coalition*



When we comingled our herds, that meant all of our animals were eating in one spot on our ranch. The most impactful thing about that is all the rest of our ranch was recovering and better prepared for drought.”

*Brett and Lori Nix Murdo, SD Past Board Chair*



“The next drought is right around the corner; we’ll always need a flexible drought plan. It avoids surprises, avoids getting yourself painted into a corner. Put your attention on your grass resource.”

*Jim Faulstich Highmore, SD Board Vice Chair*



“If I’m going to be short on forage, I know I’ll have to get rid of some cattle. Overgrazed pasture can take 3 to 5 years to recover; well managed grass recovers quickly. Whatever decision you make, make it to protect your pastures.”

*Pat Guptill Quinn, SD Past Board Member*



“Not planning is a plan to fail, I really believe that. Drought is what threw us into management-intensive grazing- I look at drought as a way to make our ranch better, improving grass and herd management skills to improve profits.”

*Bart Carmichael Faith, SD Past Board Member*



“Good grazing practices show benefits in dry years. That’s the first part of our drought plan. The second part is to start selling livestock, and then be prepared to bring those numbers back when it rains again. Think months ahead.”

*Dan Rasmussen Belvidere, SD Board Consultant*

More information on the web at [www.sddroughtplan.org](http://www.sddroughtplan.org)

