

Weekly Radio Ag Report
March 12, 2014
David Lile

Hi this is David Lile with this week's Ag Report. Judging from the turn-out at our drought meeting this week there is a lot of concern about drought impacts on the coming growing season. And with good reason...even with the recent rains, run-off water for irrigation looks like it will be below normal and stock water on rangeland will likely be limiting as well.

A few highlights for those missed it...use that irrigation water early if you have it. Better to irrigate fully in the spring rather than try stretch minimal water into the summer. Also, adjust fertilizer rates to match your water supply. You don't want fertilizer to be limiting while you have water, but too much fertilizer on drought stressed crops could lead to nitrate toxicity issues.

Think about spring grains to take advantage of early season irrigation water and any rains we get in the next couple months. Might be a good idea to plant those spring grains a little earlier than normal this year. If you've got a weak stand of alfalfa, inter-seeding grain in the spring might be a good plan if you're counting on surface irrigation.

The likely combination of a short season on the range and minimal irrigation water on meadow pastures mean that feed supplies for cattlemen might be short this fall. If you need to supplement or start feeding early this fall, our beef cattle ration balancing computer programs can help you compare costs and expected gains of different feed rations. Just give me a call and we'll set something up.

Lastly, the new farm bill includes a number of different drought relief programs for farmers and ranchers. Your best bet on those is to go in and visit with Debi Michaels at the FSA office to get the details.

As always, if you've got any drought or ag related questions, give us a call here at the Cooperative Extension office at 251-8133. Until next week this is David Lile with the Ag Report.