

CATTLE AND SHEEP Drought Management on Pasture

Changing climate conditions will lead to changing precipitation patterns and higher temperatures, leading to longer and more frequent periods of drought and water scarcity. These conditions could see changes in summer growth patterns, potentially reducing forage yields and pasture regrowth.

Key Climate Change Impacts

Poor feed quality can result in:

- _____
- Poor body condition
- _____
- Reduced fertility
- _____
- Reduced conception rates
- _____
- Decreased milk production
- _____
- Suppressed immune system function
- _____

Key Adaptation Strategy

Improving pasture health through soil fertility and grazing management

Don't graze pastures too short - leave at least 10 cm of plant height

Use strip, block and rotational grazing systems

Reducing overall stocking rates

Remove bulls at appropriate time

Cull any cows that are not bred on time

Consider weaning calves early (or creep feeding)



Sale of animals

Sell calves earlier in the fall

Cull cows more aggressively



Stockpile extra forage

Leave some pasture to grow without grazing from July onward

Aim for 20-30 cm of high-quality forage for grazing after a killing frost

Enables grazing late into the fall and early winter, after other forage is depleted



Use drought tolerant plant species

Use species like ryegrass, orchardgrass, bromegrass

Avoid bluegrass and timothy

Perennia Pasture Manual


