

## **Cow Culling Considerations Due to Drought**

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With the outlook of limited fall pastures and even more serious problem of lack of hay or feed resources to adequately winter the cowherd, some measures may need to be implemented in order to stretch the available feed resources.

The first measure would be to have all cows pregnancy examined by a veterinarian or qualified professional. All cows that are open need to be culled. There is no need to use limited feed resources on animals that will not provide any returns.

At the time of the pregnancy examination, evaluate all cows for structural soundness to include udders and teeth. Cows with structural problems and bad udders or no teeth will likely not perform to their genetic potential. Also, cows with bad attitudes (temperament) should be candidates to cull. It would be best to eliminate these cows before they begin to lose too much flesh and reduce their value.

Secondly, if you have maintained production records on your herd, they will be a tremendous value in determining which cows offer the most probable least returns for utilizing forage resources.