

# ***Drought Survey Summary***

## ***General Information***

- Survey emailed to 6,200 producers/agents across state
- Total of 2,501 responses = 40% response rate

## ***Livestock***

### ***Regional Response Numbers***

- West (Region 1 & 2) – 292 – 14%
- Middle (Region 3-5) – 1157 – 55%
- East (Region 6-8) – 669 – 31%

### ***Types of Livestock Operations that Responded***

- Cow/Calf – 1997 - 93%
- Stocker/Backgrounder – 334 - 16%
- Dairy – 54 - 3% (18% of total dairy)
- Sheep – 118 - 6%
- Goat – 127 - 6%
- Pork – 60 - 3%
- Poultry – 129 - 6%
- Equine – 182 - 9%

### ***Forage***

- Supplementing Pasture with Hay – 93%
- Supplementing Pasture with Feed – 59%
- 19% began mid-September
- 63% began in October
- Below Average Hay Production – 44%
  - ✓ 25% reported 20% below average
  - ✓ 29% reported 30% below average
  - ✓ 17% reported 40% below average
  - ✓ 17% reported 50% below average
- 30% purchase hay in a normal rain year, but this year 59% will be purchasing hay due to drought.
- The largest increase in hay purchase was a 51% increase in Southeastern TN (Region 6).
- 74% of producers reported they were better able to manage their hay resources due to TAEP investments.
- 1,077 producers reported they would need approximately 108,361 round bales (1,200 lb. round bale estimate).
- This does not include the producers who reported they already purchased hay.

### ***Marketing***

- 11% have had to market breeding stock due to drought
- 25% have/are marketing calves early due to drought
- 13% have weaned calves early due to drought

### ***Health***

- 17% have seen up to a 10% increase in respiratory disease
- 24% have seen up to a 10% increase in any sickness

## ***Water***

- 35% are having to supplement their normal livestock water source
- 28% advised they would supplement water soon
- 21% began supplementing between April and August, 21% began in September, 51% began in October, 7% November
- Most regions' largest percentage of respondents began supplementing water in October. Exceptions are:  
Southwestern TN (Region 2) - 40% began in September  
Southeastern TN (Region 6) - spread almost equally from August through October
- 34% use ponds, 23% use well water, 21% use city water, 21% use a spring or creek

## ***Value Lost***

- 52% producers reported losses totaling approximately \$14.76 million to date due to drought conditions this year.
- 21% were unsure of lost value at time of survey.

## ***Winter Crops***

- 345 producers reported 70,487 acres are typically planted – 35% of the acreage is in West, 45% in Middle, 20% in East Tennessee
- 144 reported they planted or would be planting 15,440 total fewer acres due to drought.
- There was a 58% reduction in acres to be planted in Southeastern TN (Region 6).
- 58% reported they were holding off on planting until they received adequate moisture.
- 49% estimate losses will total approximately \$6.1 M due to drought.

## ***Horticulture***

- 75 producers involved in B&B, Bareroot, Container, Evergreen and Other
- 33% lost between 1-10% of plants this year
- 21% lost between 11-20% of plants this year
- 40 producers reported losing approx. \$636,757 due to death loss.
- 32 producers reported losing approx. \$889,960 in sales this year due to inability to dig, lost growth, etc.
- 26 producers reported they could possibly lose \$5,135,900 in future sales due to the drought this year. (1 producer accounts for \$4M in lost sod production)
- 37 producers estimate their total loss at approximately \$5,411,000. (1 producer accounts for \$4M in lost sod production)