

Appendix A
Nebraska Risk Assessment Committee
Nebraska Agricultural, Natural Resources, and Wildlife Subcommittee
Planned Mitigation Actions

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	ASSISTANCE AGENCIES
Reduced range and pasture forage and livestock water results in poor animal health, soil erosion, and possible economic loss to ranchers	1. Encourage the use of range and pasture management techniques such as reduced stocking rates, reserve pastures, rotational grazing, removing competitive plants and stored feed to improve sustainability of rangelands under drought conditions.	National Grassland Association, Nebraska Cattlemen, UNL Extension, NRCS, NRDs, Sandhills Cattle Association
	2. Prior to and during drought, use public information programs and on-site visits to emphasize importance of rangeland management and planning to equalize stocking rates with available forage and the need for permanent water storage and distribution systems.	UNL Extension, NRDs, NEDA, DNR, NRCS, NDMC
	3. Monitor forage supplies and conditions around the state and facilitate information exchange between interested parties. A) If conditions warrant, a meeting of a forage advisory committee will be organized early in the spring to determine haystock availability, forage conditions, and wildlife concerns. B) Also, at that meeting, the procedure for emergency roadside haying through the Department of Roads could be discussed to determine need and value of this procedure. C) Also, at that meeting, it could be determined if a letter to the federal office of FSA is warranted to forewarn them of drought conditions and impending requests for CRP emergency release; this group would pass that recommendation on to CARC, who would then pass the request for the letter on to the Governor and the Director of Agriculture.	UNL Extension, NRDs, NEDA, NRCS, DNR, NDMC, FSA, Nebraska Cattlemen, Farm Bureau, Alfalfa Association, Nebraska Department of Roads
	4. Investigate needs of economically stressed ranchers who now rely on federal and state grazing leases to sustain their herds. Develop a coordinated plan of action to be taken by land management agencies to provide grazing and/or supplemental feed assistance to lessees. Investigate changing federal and state grazing regulations during drought.	Nebraska Forest Service, BLM, US Fish and Wildlife, Nature Conservancy
	5. Assist ranchers in obtaining supplemental income by connecting them with employment opportunities, and during drought, by holding job fairs and raising general awareness of job opportunities and ranchers' work skills.	Nebraska Department of Labor, NEDA, UNL Extension, NRDs, Center for Rural Development

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	6. Explore alternatives for establishing state funded cost-share program for water conservation measures on rangeland. 7. Establish and activate a statewide and nationwide hotline system for locating economical feedstock sources. 8. Explore/create incentive program for long-term conservation grazing practices. 9. Develop indemnity plan crop insurance for grazing land/livestock operations.	DNR NEDA, UNL Extension, Nebraska Cattlemen, National Guard, Fam Bureau, NEMA, NRDs, NRCS, Alfalfa Association NEDA, UNL Extension, NE Cattlemen NEDA
Reduced soil moisture on dry cropland poses economic loss to farmers and possible increased soil erosion and blowing dust	1. Evaluate effectiveness of crop insurance and suggest changes. 2. Use public information programs to emphasize installation of soil and water conservation systems (i.e, terraces, crop residue use, and contour planting). 3. Emphasize additional measures regarding crop residue management, grassing terraces and emergency tillage to control soil blowing. 4. Investigate use of rainfall enhancement projects in targeted areas. 5. Investigate and promote alternative crops and drought-resistant seeds for drought-prone areas of the state. 6. Create incentive program for drought-resistant practices. 7. Develop insect and plant disease assistance.	Crop Insurance Groups NRCS, SARE, DEQ, UNL Extension, NRDs NRCS, SARE, DEQ, UNL Extension, NRDs NEDA, DNR, NRDs UNL Agronomy NEDA, UNL Extension NEDA, UNL Extension

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Decreased irrigation water from surface water sources prevents achievement of crop harvest potential	1. Emphasize a adjustment of irrigated acre age to meet expected water availability. 2. Emphasize the use of crop insurance programs. 3. Develop alternatives for increasing available irrigation water supply by use of temporary water transfers. 4. Develop a funded loan program to encourage installation of on-farm water conservation measures.	DNR, NRDs, NRCS, Irrigation Districts, UNL Extension, USBR FSA, Crop Insurance Groups DNR USBR, DNR, DEQ, NRDs
Water storage may not be adequate in long-term drought	1. Evaluate water storage necessary for long-term sustainability. 2. Improve monitoring of water levels in state reservoirs. 3. Investigate drought component within water compacts between Nebraska and neighboring states.	DNR, Attorney General, USBR DNR, USBR, USACE DNR, Attorney General
Increased irrigation pumping from underground water sources may lower water levels and decrease pumping rates resulting in less capacity to meet crop needs and decreasing the profitability of an irrigated cropping system	1. Continue to emphasize irrigation water management techniques and develop emergency loan program to promote installation of on-farm water conservation measures. 2. Maintain water-level measurement program to monitor declining aquifer levels. 3. Maintain ground water metering efforts and establish an emergency allocation program. 4. Emphasize use of crop insurance program in high-probability drought years. 5. Develop appropriate crop insurance to meet needs of all areas of the state.	NRDs, USBR, DEQ, NRCS, UNL Extension, FSA, NEDA NRDs, UNL CSD NRDs Crop Insurance Groups NWR, Crop Insurance Groups

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Loss of farmers and ranchers due to drought-induced bankruptcy	1. Encourage existing agricultural finance advisory committees to develop emergency repayment guidelines with banks due to drought-induced conditions. 2. Use Public Service Announcements to advertise emergency repayment guidelines, crop insurance programs, hotline numbers, and mediation services. 3. Encourage continuation of federal emergency indemnity plans for crop and livestock agriculture.	NEDA NEDA, Mediation Service, Farm Crisis Council, UNL Extension NEDA, FSA, NRDs
Drought-induced mental anguish of farmers and ranchers resulting in increased suicides, social, and family problems (Also included within the Municipal Water Supply, Health, and Energy Subcommittee plan)	1. Develop working partnerships with local ministerial alliances and local health offices to develop social counseling and support programs. 2. Implement and/or maintain farm/crisis hotline(s). 3. Use local TV and radio outlets to implement public information program directed at reducing drought-induced mental stress and for announcements for hotline numbers and mediation services.	Local health offices, local ministerial alliances, UNL Extension, NEDA, Center for Rural Affairs, HHS, national public health services, Mediation Service, Farm Crisis Council
Increased health problems for residents of areas experiencing problems from blowing dust (Also included within the Municipal Water Supply, Health, and Energy Subcommittee plan)	1. Communicate with state medical allergy and asthma experts to develop recommendations. 2. Establish education programs to increase awareness of dust-related respiratory problems and how proper land management can improve air quality. 3. Develop funded initiatives to explore mitigation of health effects.	UNMC, UNL Extension, NRDs, NRCS, local health offices, environmental health fund, NEMA, HHS
Damage to cropland and rangeland due to intrusion of wildlife species	1. Develop emergency guidelines for the emergency feeding and watering of native wildlife in their original habitat. 2. If needed, implement emergency control guidelines for invasion species on private cropland and rangeland. 3. Make funds available to reimburse farmers who lose crops from invasion of wildlife.	NEDA, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service UNL Extension NEDA

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Decreased income from local dairy and feedlot operations due to drought-induced high cost of feedstocks.	1. Develop statewide and nationwide hotline system for locating feedstock sources. 2. Investigate possible system of subsidized purchases of replacement stock from "Limited Resource Producers".	NEDA, UNL Extension, producer organizations
Decline in stability of local economy and tax base due to decreased sales of agricultural support equipment	1. Develop statewide and regionwide agricultural support services hotline which would emphasize outside area purchases of agricultural services and equipment from local distributors. 2. Add agricultural production as recipient of tree assistance programs at the state level. 3. Provide tax credits to agricultural producers. 4. Create some plan to decrease property tax or establish payment plans when the ability to pay is greatly reduced. 5. Provide assistance for emergency feed and water transportation.	NEDA, USDA, Nebraska Department of Economic Development Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska Forest Service NDR County commissioners, NDR NEDA
Reduced tourism due to misperceptions about the effects of drought	1. Let potential tourists and travelers know what recreational opportunities exist, even in drought, via public relations, marketing, brochures, and the pre-established hotline and visitor centers.	Nebraska Division of Travel and Tourism

Assistance Agency Abbreviations and Acronyms

BLM	Bureau of Land Management	NEMA	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
CSD	Conservation and Survey Division	NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
DEQ	Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality	NRDs	Nebraska Natural Resource Districts
DNR	Nebraska Department of Natural Resources	SARE	Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program
FSA	Farm Service Agency	UNL	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
HHS	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services	UNMC	University of Nebraska Medical Center
NDMC	National Drought Mitigation Center	USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
NDR	Nebraska Department of Revenue	USBR	United States Bureau of Reclamation
NEDA	Nebraska Department of Agriculture	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture