



## Livestock Disaster Preparedness Project – DROUGHT

Drought is a recurrent feature of climate involving a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time, resulting in a water shortage. Drought may be caused by combinations of insufficient snow accumulation, hot and dry weather, or a delay in rainfall. Drought can impact crop production (feedstuff such as hay), pasture availability and water availability and water quality.

### Entities Impacted

- All animals in impact area.
- Moderate to Catastrophic impact on animal health and welfare may occur due to starvation, dehydration, toxic plants and water toxicity.

### Response and Recovery

- Signs of dehydration in livestock:
  - rapid, shallow breathing.
  - reluctance to move.
  - weight loss.
  - drying of mucous membranes (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth).
  - decreased skin flexibility.
- Signs of heat stress in livestock:
  - increased respiration rate or panting.
  - excessive salivation.
  - elevation of the head to make it easier to breathe.
  - open mouth breathing.
- Signs of water toxicity: Salivation, increased thirst, vomiting (regurgitation), abdominal pain, diarrhea, ataxia, circling, blindness, seizures, wandering aimlessly, bumping into things and partial paralysis.
- Lack of rain and evaporation due to hot weather can cause high concentrations of sulphate in water. Sulphate concentrations over 1,000 milligrams per litre can cause neurological trauma in cattle and can kill at levels over 7,000 milligrams. Toxic algae can also grow in low water situations.
- Monitor toxic plants in the area and notify producers of livestock risk plants.
- Municipality may be asked to assist in accessing emergency feed supplies or emergency water resources.
- Request for assistance with an animal seizure in the case of neglect.