

1. Jim Faulstich - Highmore, SD
  - Family operation in central SD
  - Cow-calf operation, custom grazing, plus 2 hunting enterprises
2. Drought offers positive opportunities
  - a. Improve genetics and eliminate problem animals
  - b. Learn from and prepare for next drought
  - c. Improve infrastructure
  - d. Improve natural resources
3. Why have a drought plan or should it be a disaster plan?
  - a. Include events like fire, hail, insects and storms
4. Profit, sustainability, and resilience are all important to the ranching business. They require:
  - a. Working with nature
  - b. Diversity
  - c. Flexibility
  - d. Soil health
5. Work with nature
  - a. Don't try to drive a square peg into a round hole
  - b. Use a holistic approach to management
  - c. Manage all resources for improvement
  - d. Proper land use
  - e. Proper timing such as calving in warm weather
6. Increase diversity of plant community
  - a. Manage for increased forbs
  - b. Balance your mix of warm- and cool-season grasses
  - c. Manage for increased legumes

7. Add cover crops to your cropping system
8. Add diversity to your enterprise mix
  - a. Don't rely on one enterprise
  - b. Consider recreational enterprises
  - c. Consider off-ranch enterprises
9. Be flexible
  - a. Cross fence wean any age from 60 days to yearling
  - b. Watch market opportunities
10. Graze yearlings either custom or owned
  - a. Prefer custom grazing by the day
  - b. Option to discontinue grazing with two-week notice
11. Have stockpiled feed or standing forage
  - a. Use alternative forage such as standing corn
  - b. Observe the body score condition of these cows
12. Soil Health
  - a. Basis for profitable future
  - b. Essential for surviving drought
13. Improve water infiltration and retention
14. Have a drought plan and plan, plan, plan!
  - a. Trigger dates are essential
  - b. Track markets
  - c. Monitor weather and cycle predictions
15. Monitor weather and record your information
  - a. Automated weather station hooked directly to your computer and NRCS drought tool program

16. The plan worked!!!!

a. Cows in CRP warm-season grass that was released for disaster grazing August 1, 2012

b. The only green forage for miles

c. Look at the body condition score of the cow and weight of this May-born calf

17. Disaster planning is essential for survival and keeping the next generation on the land and in our rural communities

18. Disasters cause stress on our families and relationships that can be reduced by planning