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Dear all

Kindly receive the severe weather alert below and disseminate widely as stipulated in the NAC and EWC terms of reference.

In the light of this severe weather alert as produced by the South African Weather Service (SAWS) and other centers, the following advisory guidelines are suggested. It is emphasized that these advisories are broad guidelines and should be interpreted considering the local aspects of the region such as soil types, cultural preferences and farming systems. Depending on the particular region, the prioritization of the guidelines will differ. The basic strategy to follow would be to minimize and diversify risk. The province should further simplify, downscale and package the information according to their language preference and if possible use local radio stations and farmers' days in disseminating the information.

Special Weather Advisory issued by SAWS, valid for 28 November 2019

1. **A heat wave with persistently high temperatures is expected in places over the northern parts of the Western Cape until Thursday, western half of the Free Sate and the North West Province, interior of the Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces until Friday and in places over Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Gauteng, at least until Sunday.**
2. **Extremely hot conditions are expected in the Lowveld of Mpumalanga, interior of the Northern Cape, Central and Little Karoo of the Western Cape, central interior of the Eastern Cape spreading to the Lowveld of Limpopo on Friday and will continue until at least Sunday.**
3. **Hot and humid weather will result in extremely uncomfortable conditions in the Lowveld of Mpumalanga and Limpopo as well as the Limpopo Valley and Western Bushveld until at least Sunday.**

Advisory (colour coded **yellow**), meaning "be aware". This indicates that a potential hazard *may occur* in the next 2 to 6 days. It is aimed as a "heads up" and raises awareness of potential hazardous conditions.

Heat stress can greatly impact cattle producers through decreased milk production and subsequent calf growth, decreased reproductive performance in cows and bulls, and decreased stocker and feeder performance. Heat stress occur when the animal's attempt to dissipate heat is unsuccessful or overwhelmed, and the animal's performance or health suffers as a result.

Managing animals and crops during hot weather

The following strategies can be applied for livestock during times of very hot conditions:

1. Identify animals that are most susceptible to heat stress.
2. Develop an action plan for heat stress.
    - Animals in heat stress need to drink water
    - Move the animals' feeding time to late afternoon or evening.
    - Air movement is an additional factor that promotes animal cooling.
    - Cool the ground and the cattle gradually.
    - Provide shade if possible.
    - Adding bedding to the ground can reduce the temperature of the ground on which cattle are lying.
    - Control flies as much as possible
    - most importantly, do not work cattle during extreme temperature
    - Pay attention to long- and short-term weather forecasts and have a copy of the temperature humidity index chart readily available.

The following strategies can be applied for crop production during times of very hot conditions:

- Do not irrigate during the day as more water will evaporate.
- Irrigate early in the morning or afternoon.
- Choosing more and better heat and drought resistant crops. e.g. sorghum/ millet
- Consider mulching to minimize evaporation.

A comprehensive list of strategies can be found in the monthly NAC Advisory. It can be accessed from the following websites: www.daff.gov.za and www.agis.agric.za . For more information contact:-

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