



Dear all

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

In 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 Advisories issued by SAWS valid for Monday, 03 February 2020

Heat wave conditions with persistently high temperatures are expected over the interior of the Namakwa District of the Northern Cape and central and eastern interior of the Western Cape until Tuesday. Extremely hot conditions are expected over the Central and Little Karoo as well as the Breede Valley and Cederberg municipalities of the Western Cape.

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.

Below are suggested strategies during hot 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 heat wave/ stress:

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

- the most important, do not work cattle during temperature extremes
- Pay attention to long- and short-term weather forecasts and have a copy of the temperature humidity index chart readily available.
- Below are suggested strategies during extremely hot conditions

The following strategies can be applied for Crop Production during times of heat wave/ stress:

- 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
- Conservation of moisture: mulching, i.e. soil covered by straw, leaves, refuse paper or polyethylene film.

**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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