

Drought Impact Story

Darryl – Rutland County -Livestock Farmer

12 cows and heifers 60 sheep

Pasture, Hay, Water Impacts.

I do try and plan for a drought by banking some pastures. Regrowth was the issue for hay and pasture. I had to move cattle to our other farm across town for a couple weeks of pasture before having to start feeding hay early. This year I had to purchase about \$800 in hay to supplement my beef herd. I would normally have extra hay, but the 2nd cut was pretty miserable, and I had to graze sheep on what would normally be the 3rd cut.

I was pulling water out of my stream as my upper well dropped down to 60 gal per day. I was fortunate that we got some rain which got the stream running again. I use a sump pump to fill a tank and fill a water tank in the pasture.

My home well is good for our home, and I try using it sparingly as it is a poor producer. I do use it for yearling sheep housed in a barn. I also have an underground 5000-gallon underground cistern. I usually use that for livestock, but it is almost empty and I'm holding off buying water unless I have to. I have good well in my winter-feeding area.

I know there are plenty of farmers that have it much worse than me.