

# Lessons Learned From the 2007 Drought

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# Partnerships Were Key to Early Response

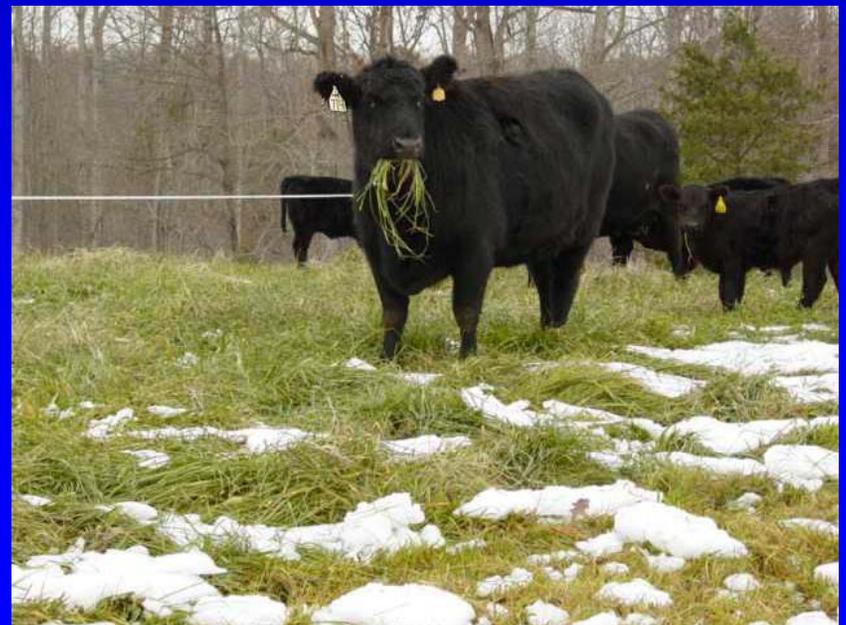
- ◆ **Activation of ICS by Commissioner Troxler**
- ◆ **Coordination of Agency Efforts in Assessment and response**
  - ◆ **Livestock/Forage Agents**
  - ◆ **NCDA Emergency Program Staff**
  - ◆ **Staff from many other NCDA&CS divisions**
- ◆ **Local educational efforts on drought response and emergency feeding programs**
- ◆ **Continuous follow-up and problem solving**





# Pasture Resilience to Drought is Key

- ◆ Sustainable and flexible stocking rates
- ◆ Avoidance of short- and long-term overgrazing
- ◆ Use of resilient forage species/varieties
- ◆ **Development of a pasture management mindset!**



# Drought Response Program, 2008 Pasture Renovation and Management Initiative

**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**



# Pasture Renovation/Grazing Management Educational Program

- Advisor training
- Extension Agent interaction with producers and cost-share recipients
- Local training sessions on forage production, pasture management, and drought management





# **Future Importance of Well Managed Pasture-Based Livestock Production**

- ◆ **Increase in rural development with small farms with grazing livestock**
- ◆ **Local Food Systems Initiatives will increase demand for locally produced pasture-raised livestock products**
- ◆ **Well managed pastures are good for rural quality of life, water quality, and livestock production**



