

Midwest Messenger LIVESTOCK

ROUNDUP



Nebraska Recovery Roundup: Should I reseed Sandhills rangeland following wildfire?

By Mitch Stephenson
Nebraska Extension

The largest wildfire year on record in Nebraska occurred earlier this year, with over 1 million acres of rangeland burned. The Morrill Fire, which occurred in March in the southwestern Sandhills, was the largest single fire event on record for the state.

As the growing season has progressed, perennial vegetation has begun to recover over much of the area, even with limited rainfall reducing the amount of plant growth and delaying growth of the native plants until later spring.

Immediately following the fire in March, some questions were asked on whether there was a need to reseed perennial grasses, or to aerial seed an annual cover crop, such as rye, to stabilize the moving sand. Generally, research has shown that if healthy native perennial grasses and forbs were present before the fire, there is not a need to reseed.

Fire has shaped the Great Plains for thousands of years. Estimates for western Nebraska suggest that historic fire frequencies may have ranged from four to five years in the Sandhills to 15-30 years in the Panhandle. The perennial plant community is well accustomed to recovery following wildfire. Most plants store most of their total biomass below ground in the roots and tiller growth points form below ground, which allow them to regrow when conditions are favorable following a fire without negative effects.

However, in a year like 2026, which was one of the driest springs on record, that recovery was delayed. This left hundreds of thousands of acres of Sandhills rangeland exposed to the spring winds. While moving sand was observed, especially in deposit areas like road ditches and stock tanks, this movement was likely only from sand in the very upper profiles of the landscape.

Research conducted by Dr. Dave Wedin, a professor at Nebraska, at the Halsey National Forest following a dormant season wildfire in 2006 highlighted that average sand movement across multiple locations was less than 0.7 cm. The research concluded that the extensive Sandhills plant root systems just below the surface kept the dunes stabilized and limited whole dune sand movement.

While seeing bare ground over large areas in the Sandhills is difficult, reseeding in a year like 2026 would have likely provided no benefit to the recovery. With the extremely dry conditions until early June, aerial seeded cover crops would have likely failed to germinate and even if they did, they would have competed for the limited soil moisture necessary to support the native grass growth.

Similarly, perennial grass seed is expensive and would



Nebraska Extension photo

Native grass roots, not new seed, are what bring Sandhills rangeland back after a wildfire like the 2026 Morrill Fire. Research shows reseeding rarely helps when a healthy perennial plant community was already in place before the burn.

have likely failed to germinate because of the drought conditions. In short, Sandhills plant communities are resilient and, if managed correctly, will recover following wildfire without reseeding.

We continue to track the recovery from the wildfires in 2026 and will have more information available as the growing season progresses. Dirac Twidwell, a UNL professor and a team at Nebraska have created a website (wildfire.unl.edu) that provides more information and data on Nebraska wildfires that have occurred over the last 40-plus years.

Using satellite remote sensing technology, we can visualize what recovery looks like based on a number of different conditions (for example, timing of fire, size, etc.).

Typically, perennial grass vegetation cover on wildfires in the Sandhills has returned to pre-burn levels within one to two years.

Fire and drought have been extremely challenging to manage through in 2026, but healthy plant communities have weathered these challenges in the past and will continue to respond as the rains come again.

Mitch Stephenson is an associate professor and range management specialist at Nebraska. Email him at mstephenson@unl.edu. This Nebraska Recovery Roundup is brought to you by Nebraska Extension. This series provides timely information for producers and communities recovering from wildfire. Each installment highlights available resources and practical steps to support recovery.

Deadline for wildfire claims set for Oct. 26

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is extended the application period for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) in several Nebraska counties impacted by March wildfires. The ECP application period opened in late April.

The deadline to apply for assistance is now **Monday, Oct. 26**. ECP is available to address wildfire damage in the following counties:

Morrill Fire: Arthur, Garden, Grant, Keith, Morrill

Cottonwood Fire: Dawson, Lincoln

Road 203 Fire: Blaine, Thomas

Anderson Bridge Fire: Cherry

Ashby and Minor Fires: Grant, Garden
ECP provides cost-share and technical assistance to producers to restore farm and ranch land to pre-disaster conditions following a qualifying natural disaster

event.

"Our FSA County office staff continue to work with producers impacted by March wildfires. Due to the scope of this historic disaster event, we requested this two-month deadline extension to ensure producers who suffered eligible losses or damages can apply for and receive this critical assistance," said Hilary Maricle, FSA State Executive Director for Nebraska.

Approved ECP applicants can receive up to 75% of the allowable cost of the approved restoration activity, with a maximum cost share of \$500,000 per natural disaster event.

To learn more about ECP, producers can contact their FSA county office. To submit an ECP application, producers are encouraged to call their FSA county office to schedule an appointment.

The most important nutrient for livestock: water

Lack of access, leaks in systems are among key concerns

By Pat Melgares
K-State Extension

Water is likely the most important nutrient in raising livestock, and yet Kansas State University Extension cow-calf specialist Jason Warner says it is often the most overlooked.

"A big reason why many of our pastures and rangelands go underutilized is simply due to a lack of access to high-quality, abundant water resources," Warner said.

Warner said many beef operations in Kansas and similar regions do not have abundant groundwater or access to rural water systems. Instead, they rely heavily on surface water sources to supply their cow-calf herds, stocker cattle and replacement heifers. Springs, ponds and other natural sources such as creeks and streams are a critical part of the ranch's bottom line and long-term sustainability.

"If we think about a ranch or an operating unit that has underdeveloped water resources versus one that has developed and high quality and abundant watering resources, that can certainly add a tremendous amount of value to that operation just in and of itself," Warner said.

Among the most cost-effective tools for farmers and ranchers are spring boxes, structures that capture natural spring flow and direct it into a tank, small pond or trough. Warner said spring boxes are relatively easy to develop and can provide dependable water when properly designed and maintained.

At the same time, he urged producers to regularly check existing springs and spring boxes for reduced flow or leaks.

"If you have those types of watering resources on your operation, and you notice that the spring spring box is not holding water -- or the spring is not flowing -- as much as they should, there can be a number of different reasons," Warner said. "It's important to take the time to look at those resources ... and what steps you might need to take in order to be able to appropriately address and correct that issue."

Stacy Minson, a K-State Extension watershed specialist in the Kanopolis Watershed in west-central Kansas, said the university's extension network is designed to support ranchers tackling these types of water challenges.

"One of the best things about extension, as a watershed specialist or even extension staff, is having the ability to reach out if a rancher reaches out to one of us or to an office," said Minson, who is coordinator of the university's Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) program. "Farmers and ranchers can do a lot of things on their own, (but) sometimes they do need that additional expertise."

Warner tied water development directly to broader goals of grazing distribution, forage utilization and regenerative agriculture. Underdeveloped water is a key reason why cattle often overgraze near existing tanks or ponds while leaving distant forage largely untouched.

Improved water distribution, he said, helps spread grazing across a pasture, improving soil health, reducing erosion, limiting invasive species and supporting the ranch's regenerative goals.

"When we improve our grazing distribution, not only do we improve our soil health, but we also can help minimize our erosion and losses of our key natural resources," Warner said.

Warner also emphasized water conservation as a growing priority for agriculture.

He pointed to leaky tanks, pipelines and spring boxes as examples of where operations may be losing water they cannot afford to waste.

Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to view an online publication, *Waterers and Watering Systems: A Handbook for Livestock Producers and Owners*, available from the K-State Extension bookstore. The handbook can be downloaded and covers water and power source options, water transport systems, waterer types, and more.



New SALE Time!
11 am

BOWMAN LIVESTOCK
Horse Sales
Fall Horse Sale
Featuring 2nd Annual Legacy Breeders
& Jespersen Production Sale

October 1, 2026

Soft Preview: Sept. 30 - 6 pm // All Seasons Arena
Barrels/Team Roping Preview: Oct. 1 - 8 am // All Seasons Arena
Catalog Horse Sale: Oct. 1 - NEW TIME 11 am // Bowman Livestock



**Over 200 head will
SELL!**






Seth Weishaar
(605) 210-1124
Amanda Kammerer
(605) 484-3784

Midwest Messenger LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP

Classifieds Sale Barns

Livestock Supplies

Cattle Equipment,
Working Chute, Tub,
Panels, and Gates
402-615-1719

Used oil well sucker rod &
pipe. Pre-cut pipe available
in 2 7/8" x 8'9". Also,
fiberglass rod. Jim Boyles
cell: 308-870-1119



New Henke Mixer Wagons

USED

**370 FW Mixer Wagon
With Scale
\$10,500**

**Coming Soon 2024-485 FW
With Scale**

For Farm Equipment & Trucks
• Welding • Machine Shop

**DOERNEMANN
FARM SERVICE, INC.**
402-892-3368 • Clarkson, NE

Cattle

**POLLED
HEREFORD BULLS**
For Better: Big growthy,
muscular, semen-tested,
calving ease, guaranteed.
Bev Beeson, Wayne-NE
www.jbranch.net
402-375-9027

Polled Hereford Bulls
Guaranteed breeders.
Huwaldt's Herefords,
Randolph-NE.
www.edhuwaldt.com.
402-360-4387
402-360-4796

Producer has cattle to lease
out on shares for the
2026-2027 season
308-539-9967

Other Livestock

Pullets, Brown egg layers,
5-months, starting to lay
(200-count)
\$11.00-each
Leave Message
402-428-3823

Sale Barns

Valentine Livestock Auction

**Thursday, September 24, 2026
Special Feeder Sale**

S.T. 11:00 a.m. Expecting 2000 hd

Steers:

300 blk, few bwf HR 900-1000# Johnson L & C
219 blk HR 900-1000 Sunny Slope Rn

Heifers: hfrs sell 1st

200 blk U.P.O. HR NI 750-875# Adamson Cattle Co
160 blk (90) & bwf (70 F-1) & char-x (8) HR NI P.O./G.O 800-925#

110 angus HR NI G.O 800-925# Antelope Creek

135 blk HR G.O. one cut 775-825# O'Kief Land & Cattle

115 blk & x-bred (40) HR G.O 700-900# O'Kief Land & Cattle

120 blk NI G.O 725-875# McCann Creek (M Johnson)

110 blk spayed 750-850# Jerry Ryschon

66 blk & angus HR G.O./P.O 750-800# JF Ranch

35 blk P.O. HR 900-1000# Ken Wellnitz

Plus more from, Ericksen Rn, Cottonwood & Pine, Walking, Ericksen Rn,

Morava, Olson, Lovitt

402-376-3611 • www.valentinelivestock.net

Market Reps: Greg Arendt 402-376-4701

Brogan Arendt 402-389-0281 • Marty Monroe 402-322-3941

View live broadcast on cattleusa.com or DVauction.com

Sale Barns

Sale Barns



**SALES EVERY
FRIDAY**

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

**SEPT 25: SPECIAL SPRING CALF & FEEDER AUCTION
OCT 2: SPECIAL SPRING CALF & FEEDER AUCTION**

AUCTION MARKET 308-346-4257

JAKE GIDEON 308-214-0992 | TODD EBERLE 308-870-1783

DREW GAFFNEY 308-872-1105

View, Pre Register & bid on our auctions live online at:
dvauction.com & CattleUSA.com

DUNLAP LIVESTOCK

**TUES., SEPTEMBER 22ND @12:30PM
SPECIAL BRED/PAIRS/BULLS**

Heifers

- 30 Blk/Bwf 1st Calf Hfrs, 1000#, Al'd Nichols Stalwart, due 2/1, hfrs had all vaccinations UTD, ultrasound data
- 32 Angus 1st Calf Hfrs, 1000#, mated Trickle Creek Angus, due 2/15, ultrasounded, 28HD to calf in 3 week period

Cows

- Dispersal 70 Fancy Blk/Bwf Cows: 15HD 1st Calf Hfrs & balance 2nd-8th clvers, mated Blk Sim, due 11/ 15, Cowboy Cut aged herd bull also sells, this is one of the highest quality dispersals we have sold!
- 70 Blk/Bwf Cows, 3rd-4th clvers, western origin, mated to Weaver Sim. Bulls, due 2/28
- 18 Fancy Angus Pairs, 4-6 yrs old, 200# clvs at side, run. back w/ KM Ang. Bull, all work done on cows & clvs, this is an outstanding set!
- 7 Angus Cows, 4-6 yrs old, mated KM Angus, due mid spring

SPECIAL CALF/YRLG

FRI., SEPTEMBER 25TH @10:30AM

- 110 Blk Sim S/H 450-550#, GT vac, out of Montana Bulls, as good as we sell every year
- 50 Blk/Bwf S/H 600-625#, GT vac, LTW
- 50 Char S/H 400-550#, vac x2 & off cows
- 45 Blk Angus S/H 550-650#, GT vac, off cows. Hfrs are replacement quality
- 40 Blk S/H 500-600#, GT vac, 60 days weaned
- 25 Blk/Bwf S/H 500-600#, GT vac, off cows & hfrs are CHV
- 20 Blk/Red Strs 525-6525# GT vac, off cows
- 15 F1x Blk/Bwf S/H 525-625# Gt vac, off cows

Office: 712-643-5761

Jon: 263-0755

Don: 263-7505 Will: 269-5677

www.dunlaplivestock.com

Cattle

Angus bull, Large frame
2yrs
(3) Bred Summer
Yearling Heifers,
Purebred Angus, calving
ease
Shell Creek Angus
402-615-1921

Now taking orders for
new crop corn-stalk
bales,
Lock in affordable winter
feed today
402-910-3930

Pen space available
(to help with the drouth
conditions)
Or commercial feeding
partner pens
Wehrs Feedyard LLC.
Schweitzer Red Angus
402-641-8275

Beef Up Your Herd at a Livestock Auction Near You!

**Make your herd stronger
& more profitable!**

- **Hundreds of animals**
- **Top breeders**
- **Huge selection & savings
on cattle, pigs, &
other livestock**

**The Midwest Messenger
is THE premier place to
find a sale near you.**



800-888-1380 or log on to www.livestockroundup.com

Sale Barns

Sale Barns

FT. PIERRE LIVESTOCK**FT. PIERRE, SD
TWO BIG SALES!!****Friday, September 25th****79th Anniversary Sale****Big Special Fall Calf & Yrlg & Spring Calf Sale****Free Beef BBQ****7500 to 8000 High Quality Cattle****5500-6000 Fall Clvs & Yrlgs @ 8 AM CT & 2000 Spring Clvs 3 PM CT****Fall Clvs & Yrlgs (650-1150#) Nearly all off grass-several strings of non-implant cattle.**

Veal Blk Ang, 855 B,Bwf (2 lds Red & Char) spay hfrs (off grass) 775-900

Long & Haverhals, 448 B,Bwf spay hfrs (off grass) 850-950

Long & Haverhals, 370 B,Bwf (40 Red) spay hfrs 950-1100

Long, 68 Red strs 900-950

LaCompte, 440 B,Bwf spay h 900-1000

LaCompte, 200 B,Bwf s 1000-1100

Fulton, 350 Ang PO h (grass-1 cut) 1000-1075

Carlson, 300 Blk s (off grass-1 cut) 875-925

Thomas/Aasby, 204 Ang s (grass) 1000-1100

Thomas/Aasby, 55 Ang open h (grass) 825-925

J Popham, 230 B,Bwf spay h (grass) 850-975

Jensen, 200 B,Bwf spay h (grass) 750-875

Pending, 200 Blk s (grass) 775-850

Keffeler, 67 Blk s (grass) 700-850

Keffeler, 85 Blk spay h (grass) 700-800

Keffeler, 20 Blk PO h (grass) 800-850

Fuoss, 150 B,Bwf PO h (grass) 950

Halligan, 125 Blk s (off grass) 900-1000

Pending, 120 B,Bwf s (off grass) 900-950

Popham Rn, 120 B, Bw hfr 800-850

Rasmussen-Lehman, 98 B/Ch X spay h (grass) 775

Geo E Smith Rn, 50 Ang h (FC-grass) 700-800

Geo E Smith Rn, 20 Ang PO h (grass) 950-1000

Holsing, 56 B/Ch s/h (FC-DF-grass) 650-750

Sell, 51 Ang strs 1050-1150

Reichert, 50 Red & Char X s (grass) 750-800

Hand Bros, 50 Ang PO h (grass) 950-1000

McDaniel/Carter, 50 Blk PO h (grass) 850-950

Plus many more high quality cattle by sale day, including 200-400 PO hfrs 800-1100#s.

Spring Clvs (300-650#) Sell approx. 3 PM CT

Nearly all calves Spring & Fall vaccinated

Jordan, 250 Ang strs 450-550

Jordan, 160 Ang hfrs 400-500

Keyhole Rn, 270 Herf & 1st X Bwf
350-475

McPherson 7 Cross, 250 1st X Bwf/Herf s 475

Crosby, 150 Blk (Rafter U Cross genetics)
450-550

Short Grass, 150 Char X 350-500

Knapp, 130 B,Bwf 475-550

(AIT-Topp & Rausch Herf/Grandview Ang)

Carroll, 125 B,Bwf (nearly AIT) 450-550

Thompson, 125 Blk, few Red 400-500

Dale, 105 Blk strs (no brands) 550-650

Lafferty, 80 Blk strs & hfrs (AIT) 400-500

Plus many more clvs including several sets of 2 & 3 wt. clvs.

Saturday, September 26th**Special Early Bred Cow & Hfr & Fall Pair****1200 to 1500 High Quality Fall Pairs & Spring Clving Bred Cattle - 12 Noon CT****Big Run of Weighups, including Hfrts, Cowtts, Feeding Cows/Bulls & Exp Cows 7 AM CT****Fall Pairs**

Bergman, 30 B,Bwf & Red Fall Pairs (4-SM) exposed Ang

Anders, 35 B,Bwf Fall Pairs (hfrs & 3's)

Bred CattleMcQuestion Estate Hfr Disp, 85 Ang hfrs (1000-1050#-Bart Kissack origin) bred
LBW Fulton & Frederickson Ang, cfl 3-3 (21 day intervals) vacc program - gentle

McQuestion Estate Hfr Disp, 15 1st X Bwf & Rwf hfrs (1000-1050#)

bred LBW Fulton & Frederickson Ang, cfl 3-3 (21 day intervals) vacc program

Scott, 100 1st X Bwf hfrs (1050#) bred LBW Ellingson, Blair Bros & LT Ang

cfl 4-10 (20 day intervals) vacc program (no brands)

Boylan, 100 HR Ang hfrs (900-950#) bred LBW Blair Bros Ang, 45 hd cfl 3-23

(21 days) & 55 hd cfl 4-15 (30 days) vacc program

Schultes, 100 Blk hfrs (950#) bred LBW Ang, cfl 3-1 (15 days) vacc program

Stoner, 10 Bwf cows (3's) bred Jon Miller Ang, cfl 3-20 vacc program

Paint Rock Ang Age Disp, 100 HR Ang cows (6-SM) bred Paint Rock Ang,
cfl 4-1 (60 days) vacc program

McNenny Age Disp, 200 B,Bwf cows (SM-BM) bred Char, cfl 3-5 (60 days) vacc prog

Groh Cmpit Disp, 75 B,Bwf cows (6-BM) bred Lucky 7 Ang, cfl 3-1 (45 days) vacc prog

Policky Age Disp of 5 & up, 100 Blk cows (SM-BM) bred Lucky 7 Ang, cfl 3-1 (45
days) vacc program

Grimes, 12 Herf & Red cows (4-BM) bred Blk, cfl 3-20 (60 days)

Grimes, 8 Blk cows (hfr-SM) bred Blk, cfl 4-20 (60 days)

Plus many more bred cattle by sale day, including 200 to 300 yng, SM & BM cows.

Our web site is updated daily, for current listings check our web site.

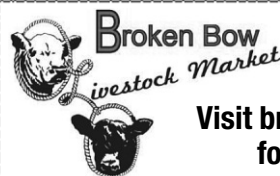
Bryan Hanson Dennis Hanson Willie Cowan Nick Moreland Sales Barn

605-280-1283 605-280-1030 605-280-1021 605-280-3392 605-223-2576

or 1-800-280-7210 or visit our web site at www.ftpierrrelivestock.com.Sales broadcast on live bid format at www.cattleusa.com.**www.livestockroundup.com**

Sale Barns

Sale Barns

**SALES EVERY
THURSDAY**Visit brokenbowlivestock.com
for complete listings**UPCOMING AUCTIONS****SEPT 24: SPECIAL CALF & FEEDER AUCTION****OCT 1: SPECIAL WEIGH UP AUCTION****AUCTION MARKET 308-872-3334****JUSTIN FRENCH 308-872-1421 | TODD EBERLE 308-870-1783**View, Pre Register & bid on our auctions live online at: CattleUSA.com**LEXINGTON LIVESTOCK MARKET, LLC**

LEXINGTON, NE

**NO CATTLE AUCTION
SEPTEMBER 25, 2026****SPECIAL CALF/FEEDER AUCTION
OCTOBER 2 & 9, 2026****GO TO OUR WEBSITE lexlivestock.com
OR LISTEN TO KRVN FOR OUR LISTINGS!**OFFICE 308-324-4663 • www.lexlivestock.com

RICK SHOEMAKER, OWNER 627-7284; Jeff Rogers 325-1272

HUSS LIVESTOCK MARKET LLC

KEARNEY NE

WWW.HUSSAUCTION.COM**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD****SPECIAL CALF & FEEDER AUCTION****BUTCHER COWS 8:00 • FEEDERS 11:00**

480	Angus Steers 925-1000 #4PW	CHRIS WALKER
240	Angus Steers 925-1000 #4PW	ROLAND & TROY FLETCHER
240	Angus X Steers & Heifers 350-500 #4PW	7 BAR 7 RANCH
100	Angus X Steers & Heifers 450-550 #4PW	LARRY KOSSE
85	Angus Bwf (65) & Red Char X Steers 975-950 #4PW	JERRY & KELLY BENTLEY
55	Angus Bwf Steers & Heifers 500-650 #4PW	TRENT & HEATHER OCKINGA
52	Angus Bwf Heifers 850-950 #4PW	DAVE JONES
50	Angus X Steers & Heifers 375-450 #4PW	STROLBERG FARMS
43	Angus Ylg Heifers 800-850 #4PW	KIRK STOCKER
40	Angus X Steers & Heifers 375-450 #4PW	STROLBERG FARMS
23	Angus Steers & Heifers 800-850 #4PW	GORECKI BROS
21	Angus Bwf Steers 825-875 #4PW	BRIAN KORT
9	Angus Steers 900-950 #4PW	TREY SHAFTO
6	Angus X Steers & Heifers 550 #4PW	ZACH & RILEY ROSS

NO AUCTION SEPTEMBER 30TH**SPECIAL CALF & FEEDER AUCTIONS: OCTOBER 7TH, 14TH, 21ST & 28TH****RICK SHOEMAKER 308-627-7284 • OFFICE 308-234-2502****Classifieds**
Sale Barns

Sale Barns

**DENISON
LIVESTOCK
AUCTION
Denison, Iowa****SPECIAL CALF
& YEARLING SALE
THURSDAY, SEPT 24TH, 2026
11:30 A.M.
EXPECTING 2200 CALVES
& YEARLINGS**Most all calves - spring shots and
recent green tag vac modified live
CALVES:

100 BI/BWF SH 450 - 600

100 Red Angus/Char X SH450 - 625

75 Red/BI SH 450 - 650

65 BI X SH 425 - 625

60 BI X SH 450 - 625

50 BI/BWF Char X SH 300 - 425

25 Red Angus Char X SH450 - 600

190 BI/BWF SH 400 - 600 smaller

consignments

YEARLINGS:

450 BI/BWF Sts850 - 925

180 BI/BWF Sts850 - 925

140 BI Sts725 - 875 pending

100 BI X Hfs725 - 775

80 BI X SH 850 - 950

75 BI Hfs775 - 850

50 mostly Char X Sts few Hfs 600 - 900

42 BI X Sts850 - 950

40 BI X Sts825 - 925

90 BI/Char X SH 750 - 925 smaller

consignments

300 - 500 head 350# - 1050# in late

and smaller consignments.

For updated listings call or watch
www.denisonlivestock.com**BARN: 712-263-3149**

JR: mobile 269-7777

**Quit
HORISING
Around!!****And Call
Today to Sell
Your
UNBROKEN
Items!****800-888-1380****MIDWEST
MESSENGER****Farming is
more than a
job...
it's a way
of life.****The rewards
will last a
lifetime.****Involve the
whole
family—****Livestock Roundup****1-800-888-1380**