



Executive Summary

2022 Joint Stockmen's Convention

Cattle Grower Panel on Water Strategies Through Drought,
Aron Balok, Joe Culbertson, Tom Patterson

Albuquerque, NM—2022 Joint Stockmen's Convention:
Transforming Challenges into Opportunities

Summary:

Implementing effective water management strategies will always be critical. Public scrutiny of the livestock industry means highly efficient management strategies are more important than ever.

“I think you really want to watch your stocking rates, especially when you know a drought’s coming along,” said Joe Culbertson, a longtime rancher from Harding County. “It’ll get better before it gets worse, but you can prevent a lot of harm by not overgrazing.”

Managing your resources is vital according to Tom Paterson of the Spur Ranch Cattle Company in southwestern New Mexico. “A recommendation,” Paterson said. “If your paper isn’t in absolute perfect order, get it there, because folks are going to be looking for anyway to take your water away from you.”

There is strategy in turning toward outside assistance for projects, said Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District Superintendent Aron Balok. “Don’t put in a livestock waterer- put in a livestock and wildlife waterer. If you can learn to speak the language and incorporate that into your projects, you’ll have a lot greater buy-in from the agencies that need to be participating to make it feasible.”

Key Points:

1. Increased scrutiny of livestock industry means effective water strategies are more important than ever.
2. Managing current assets is as vital as seeking new ones.
3. Maximizing spread and reach of water through.
 - a. infrastructure management is of the utmost priority.
4. There’s strategy in implementing outside aid from entities.
5. Resources benefitting multiple parties and constituents are the most valuable and most likely to be funded.



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