

From Family Farm to a Profitable Stocker Operation on a Part-Time Basis



Craig Watson
Watson Farms, Sherman TX



THE SAMUEL ROBERTS
NOBLE
FOUNDATION

**Craig Watson
Watson Neighborhood**

Property Boundary

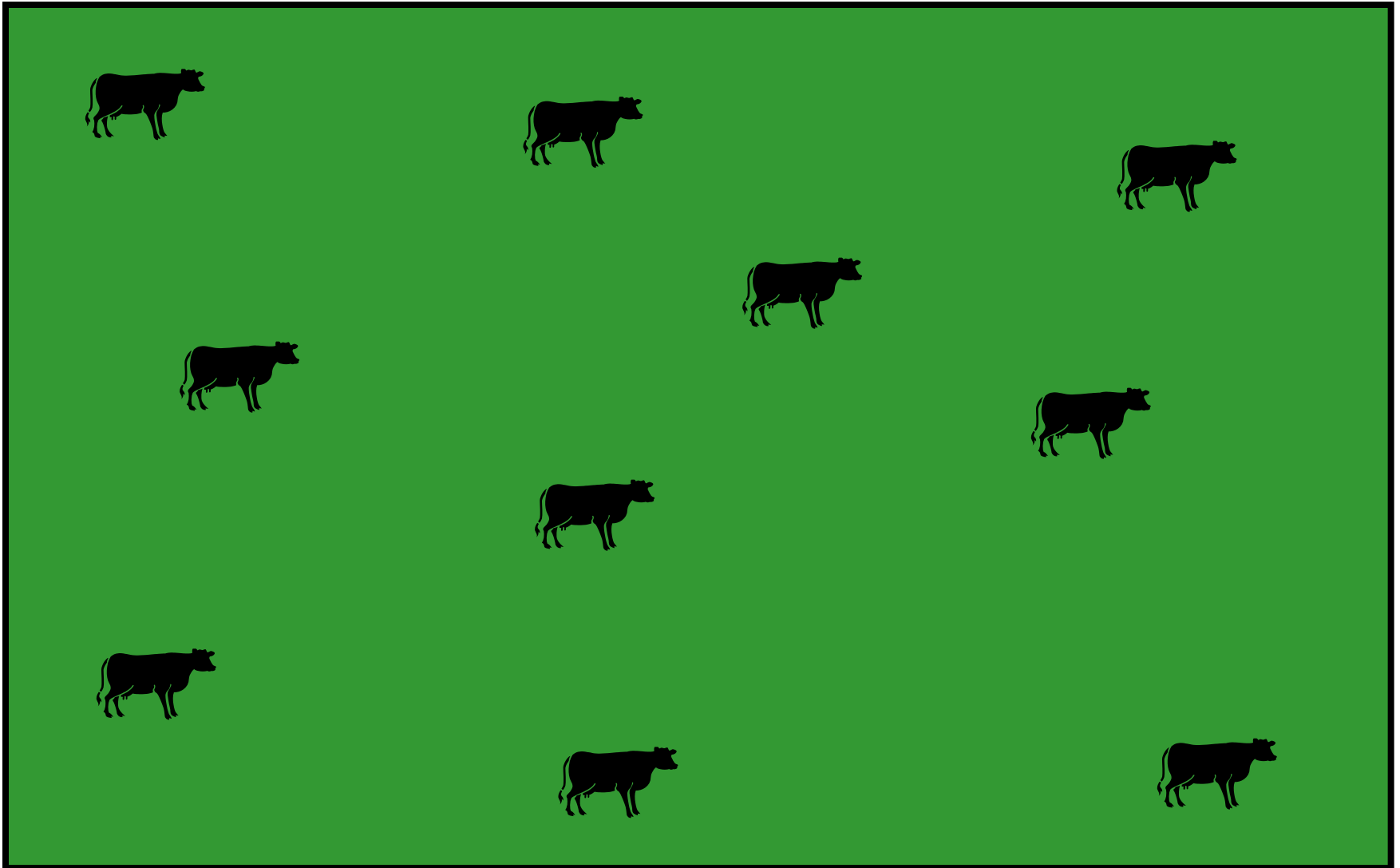
- Cummings
- Elliott Place
- Shelby
- Steve's Place
- Watson
- Pond
- Permanent Fence
- Forage Delineation
- Structure

200 0 200 400 Feet

09/07/07

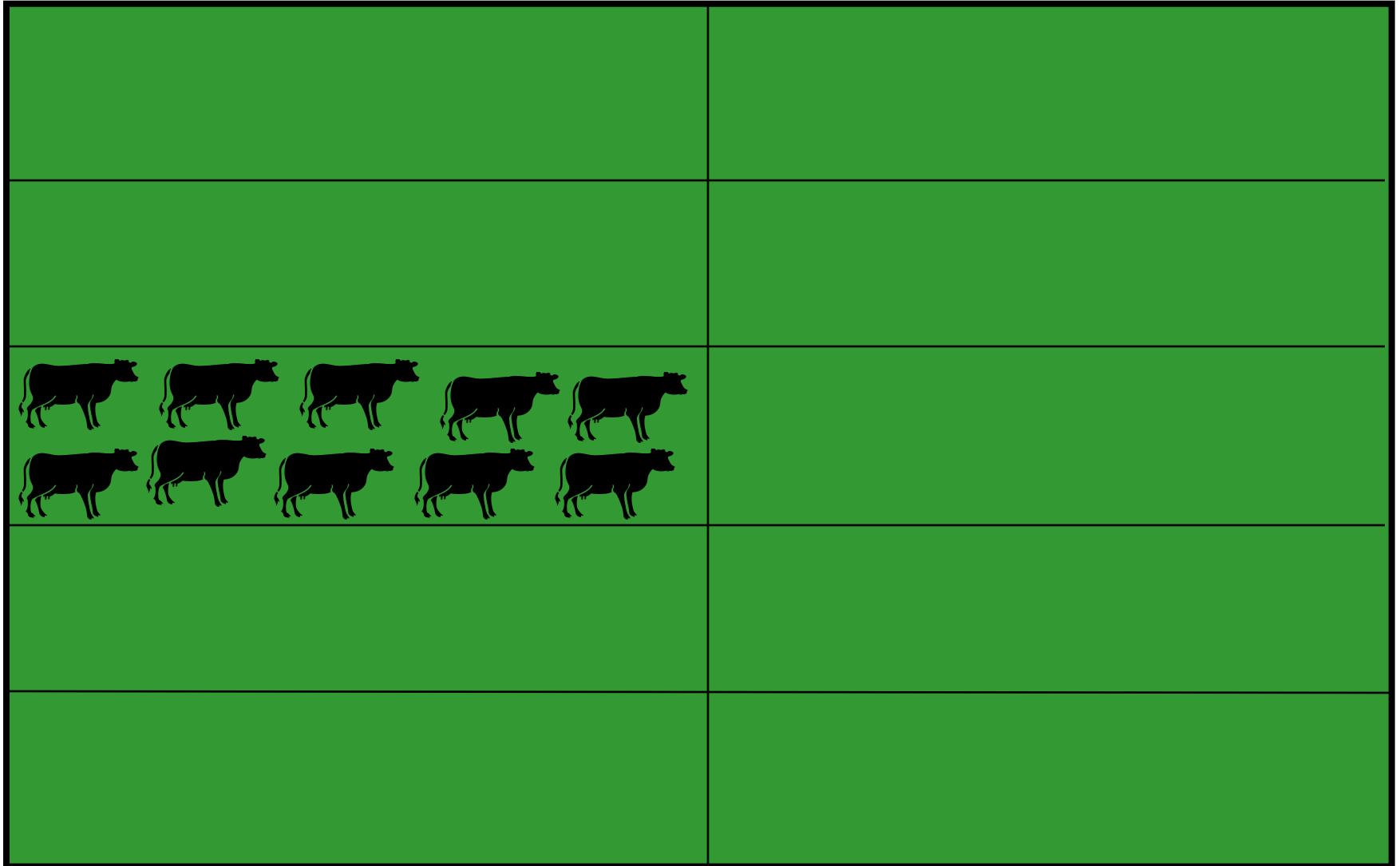
Continuous Grazing

10 head on 100 acres = 10 acres/head stocking rate



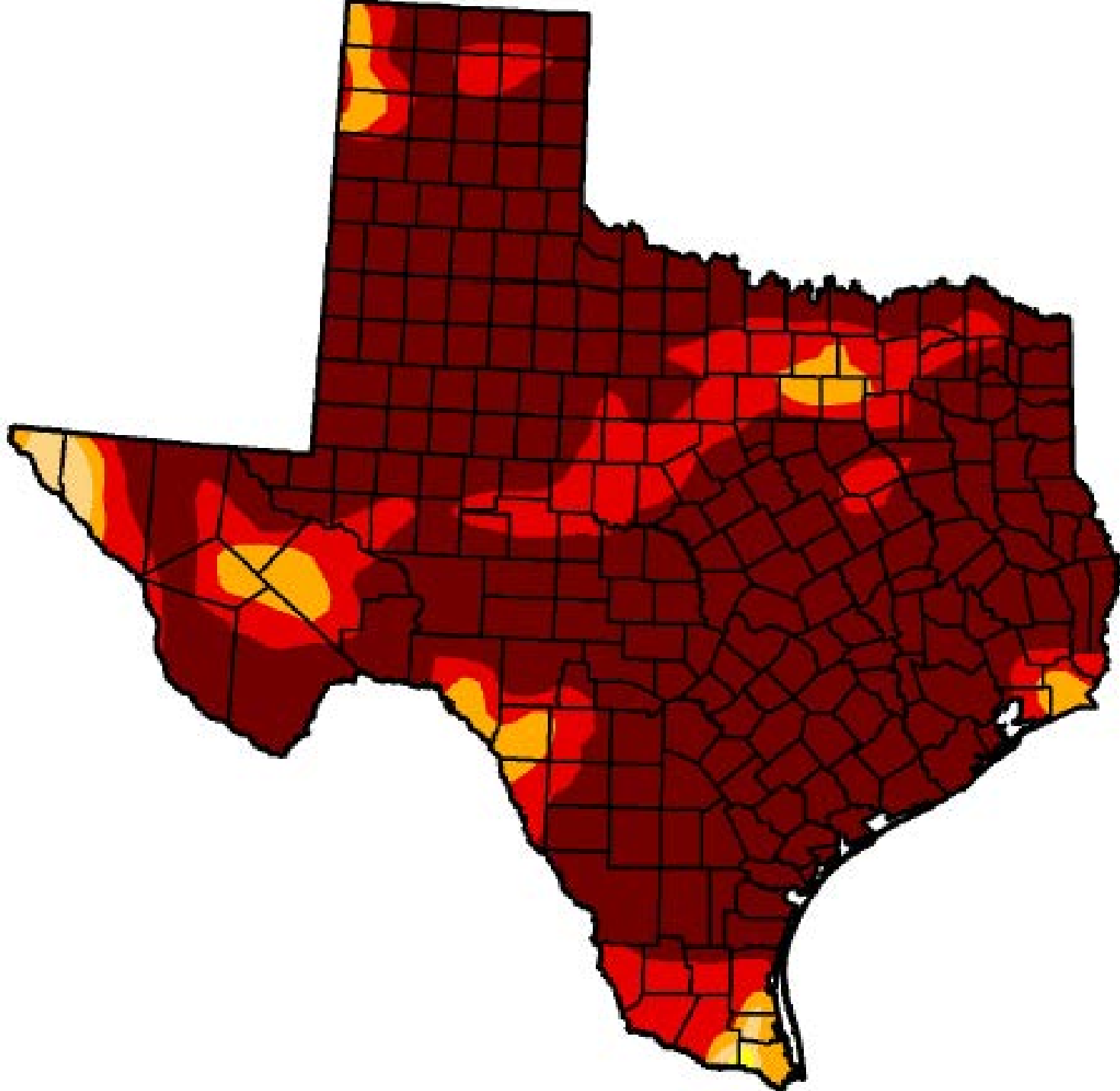
Controlled Grazing

10 head on 10 acres = 1 acre/head *Stock Density*



Stocking rate is still 10 acres/head for the grazing season.





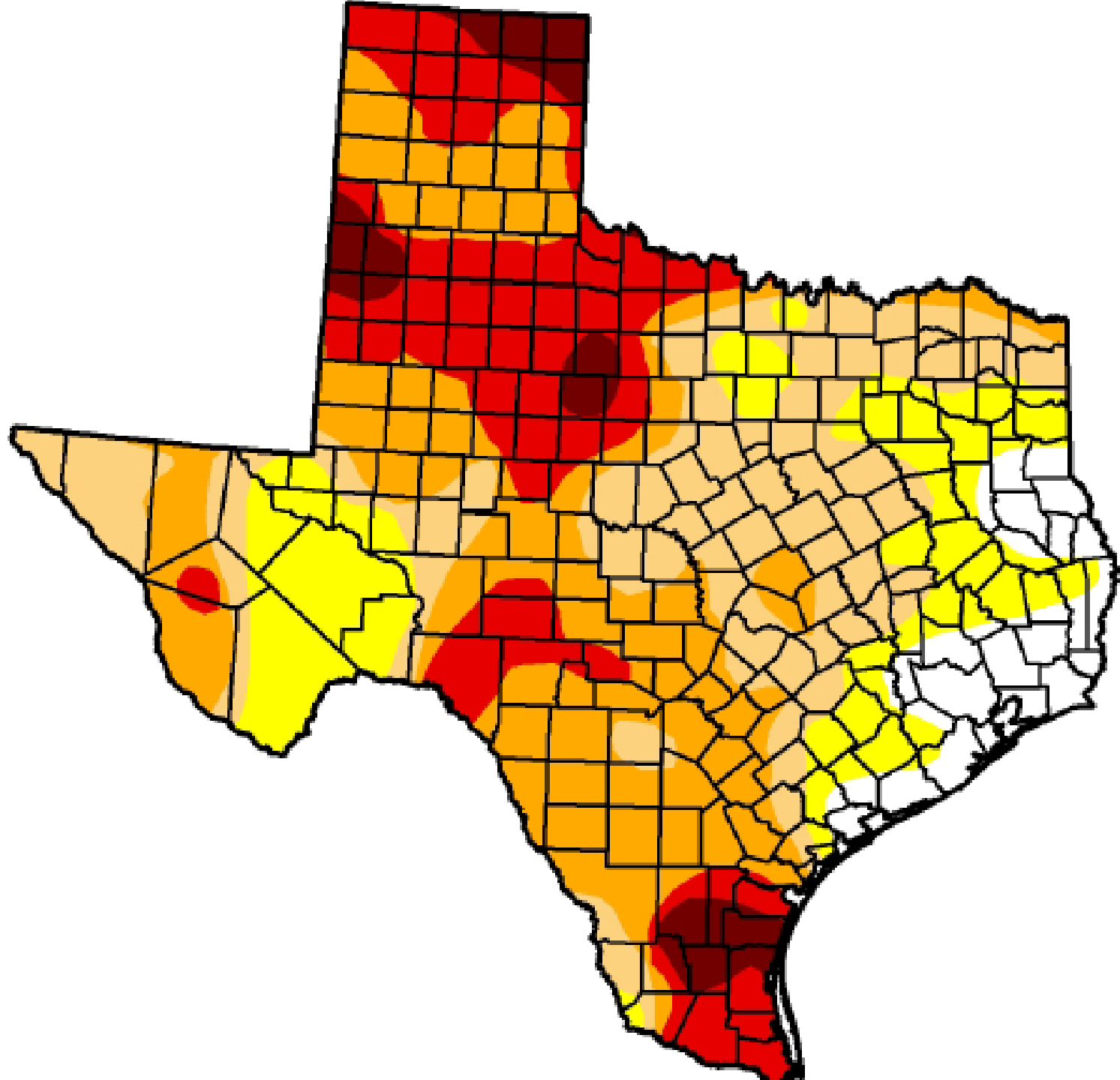
Examples of Results, Severe Drought

- Summer of 2011, severe, D4 Exceptional Drought conditions
- Over 55 day period over June – July , 2011
- Supplemented 1#/hd/day of 38% cubes

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- Over 55 day period over June – July , 2011
- Supplemented 1#/hd/day of 38% cubes
- One group of 65 steers weighing 700+ lbs gained **1.65#/hd/day**
- Another group of 66 steers, slightly heavier, gained **2.2#/hd/da**





2012 Results, normal, dry summer

- 22 acre pasture of B-Dahl Blue stem, divided into 6 paddocks of approx. 3.5 acres each
- Cut cool season hay off in early April
- Very little rain, fertilized in early June with 50# N

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- Very little rain, fertilized in early June with 50# N
- Moved 61 steers, weighing 770# on July 28, forage was about knee high, not great volume but not bad, forage was overmature, late season, dry.
- Supplemented 1#/hd/day with 38% cubes
- Pulled steers off on Sept 8, 2012, weighed 900#!
- **Gained 3#/hd/day!**





Questions