

Drought Resiliency for Jefferson County Agriculture (“Ag Drought Group”)

Meeting #4 = Continuation of Vision, Solutions

Monday, February 6, 2023; 1-3pm

Jefferson County Public Health Community Room (east of St. Charles hospital), 500 NE A St, Madras

video = <https://meet.goto.com/234934877>

phone = [\(571\) 317-3122](tel:5713173122) Access Code: 234-934-877

If you have trouble accessing Go To Meeting, call Ellen at 541-771-8258

Facilitated by the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Agenda

1pm Introductions

Announcements (May 3 Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance presentation)

New members! Scott Duggan (Crook Co Extension Livestock Specialist), Trevor Derstine (hay grower, Culver), Jeremiah Dung (COAREC), Scott Klopp (Helena)

1:10 More data (see end)

1:15 Vision and Mission

Suggestions from last meeting:

Vision: “Jefferson County agriculture is **resilient (thrives)**, **supporting** its people, animals, economy, environment, and culture through collaboration with Deschutes Basin stakeholders”.

“Mission: To protect, highlight and preserve JeffCo agriculture and natural resources through education, reciprocity, partnerships and trust with Deschutes Basin stakeholders.”

“Mission: to create a sustainable, livable future for Jefferson County residents by proactively addressing the impacts of aridification and promoting the efficient use of water resources by agriculture. Through innovative solutions and partnerships, we will ensure that our community is resilient in the face of changing climate and can adapt to increasingly dry conditions.”

Group comments: ADD SOMETHING ABOUT DROUGHT. Use the word ‘aridification’ instead of drought. Add something about adapting/evolving, not just preserve, in the face of changing circumstances.

Proposed for discussion at today’s meeting:

“Vision: Jefferson County agriculture thrives **by adapting successfully to heat and drought**, and supports its people, animals, economy, environment, and culture.”

#1 “Group Mission: to help farmers create a sustainable, livable future for Jefferson County through information, reciprocity, partnerships, and trust with Deschutes Basin stakeholders. We promote innovative solutions to proactively improve watershed health and increase the effective use of water by agriculture.”

#2” Group Mission: to help farmers create a sustainable, livable future for Jefferson County by adapting successfully to heat and drought with support from Deschutes Basin stakeholders. We promote innovative solutions to proactively improve watershed health and increase the effective use of water by agriculture.”

Some questions on the proposed options:

1. Suggestion to use the term “aridification” instead of “drought”. OK to use “heat and drought”?
2. The intention is to include ranchers. Is “farmers” inclusive or do we need to expand the wording?
3. The Mission should go hand in hand with the Vision. Do we need to repeat “heat and drought” in the Mission?
4. “Watershed health” is intended to include “soil health”. Does it?

1:30 Continue identifying solutions: focus on “effective capture and use of water by agriculture”

- for instance, capture on rangelands and croplands
- for instance, use for irrigation, livestock water

2:55 Next steps

Next Meeting = March 6, 1-3pm

Source: Climate Toolbox (UC Merced and WSU)



