

Nev. farmers, ranchers contend with drought

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review Journal

FALLON – Nevada’s severe drought is a tragedy unfolding in slow motion. But its effects will be far reaching – from rural communities that depend on ranching and agriculture for their existence to the prices we all pay for food at the grocery store.



Carson Valley cows had more natural grass to eat two years ago. Photo/LTN file

Nevada’s wildlife will suffer as food supplies disappear and springs dependent on runoff from snowfall fail. Wild horses will suffer from a lack of forage.

Wildfires could become a major problem throughout the state, from the dry rangelands to the drought-crippled forests of the Sierra Nevada.

But most of all it will be felt by the ranchers and farmers and their families, those eternal optimists who prepare the fields and grow their cattle herds every year with fingers crossed that the rain and snow will come on time.

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