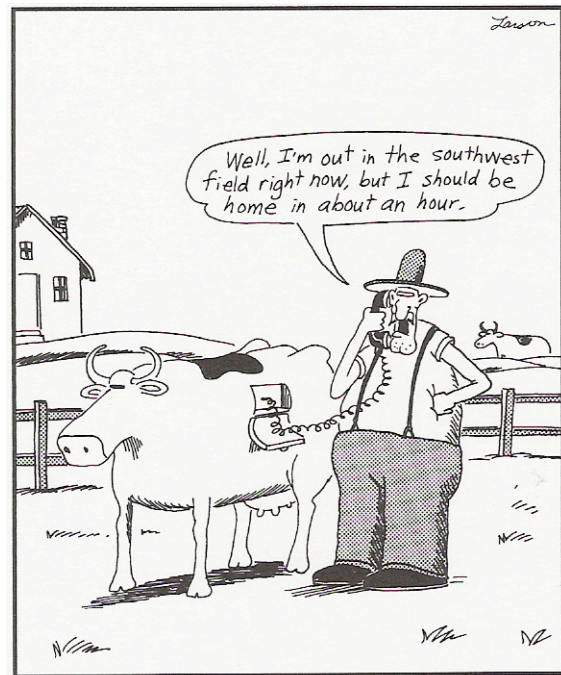




## Pastoralism in Drylands

Geography 309 Fall 2013 Dr. Robert A. Washington-Allen  
Tu-Th 2:10 – 3:25 pm in 301 Burchfiel Geography Building

Drylands cover some 41% of the global land surface and are home to 36% of the global human population. Many of these people are sedentary, transhumant, or nomadic pastoralists whom we might call cowboys, vaqueros, gauchos, or herdsmen; others are agriculturalists that grow crops on dry or irrigated land. Two of the world's major religions—Christianity and Islam— were developed by Dryland societies. Supporting grassland, woodland, or a variety of other types of plant cover, drylands are characterized by extremes in climate. They are also the primary locations of conflicts and wars (e.g., Afghanistan, Mali, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, and Israel), but provide an estimated \$1 trillion in ecosystem goods and services to humanity. Some of these goods are not what might first come to mind, such as dust-borne nutrient inputs from the African Sahel to South America! Climate change models predict expanding Drylands ”—with some suggesting that parts of Tennessee will shift from forests to savannas. Will pastoralism become the new normal along Phillip Fulmer Way? In Geography 309: Pastoralism in Drylands we will discuss this possibility, look at the differences and similarities in pastoral systems around the world, and learn at the core the science and practice of dryland management, especially the linkages with drought, famine, poverty, and sustainable development.



The rural professional and his cowphone



**For Geography majors, Pastoralism in Drylands counts as a physical geography course!**