



News Release



For Immediate Release

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FSA Can Assist with Livestock Losses From the Recent Storm

Bozeman, MT – Did you have livestock losses from the recent storms? If so, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is encouraging you to contact your local county FSA office. A notice of livestock loss must be filed within 30 days of when the loss is apparent to be eligible to receive payments through the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Although the forms and procedures to apply for the program are not available at this time, contact your local FSA office within 30 days of when the loss is apparent to be eligible for LIP benefits.

Eligible livestock include 1) adult/non-adult beef cattle; 2) adult/non-adult dairy cattle; 3) adult/non-adult buffalo and beefalo; 4) Equine maintained for commercial use as part of the farming operation; 5) Elk; 6) Reindeer; 7) Deer; 8) Sheep; 9) Alpacas; 10) Emus; 11) Swine; 12) Goats; 13) Llamas; 14) Poultry. Eligible livestock includes all types and weight ranges. All eligible livestock must be maintained for commercial use as part of the farming operation. Eligible livestock must be owned by an eligible livestock owner on the day the livestock dies.

To apply –

- A notice of loss must be filed 30 days after the loss is apparent
- Proof of death of livestock must be provided and may include but is not limited to any or a combination of veterinary records, tax assessor records, private insurance documents. A measurement service may be requested by the producer and completed by FSA. A minimum fee of \$46.00 is charged by FSA. Further expenses vary depending on distance to the loss.
- Documentation must provide sufficient data that identifies the kind/type/weight range of the livestock and the number of livestock
- A third party certification may be accepted only when the participant certifies in writing that no other form of proof of death is available and includes the number and physical location of livestock in inventory at the time the death occurs. Documentation must also be provided to support the number of livestock in the inventory at the time the deaths occurred. The third party providing the verification must be a reliable source and shall not be a relative associated with the operation or a hired man.

LIP payments are based on 75 percent of a fair market value as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture for each livestock category and the individual producers' eligible losses.

The program was established by the 2008 Farm Bill and compensates producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather conditions.

Contact your local FSA office if you were affected by the recent storms to learn more about benefits provided through LIP.

For further information on LIP and the other disaster programs created under the 2008 Farm Bill, contact your local USDA Service Center or logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.