

2013 Western SD Blizzard – Agricultural Related Questions

Help Line

- Anyone impacted by the recent western South Dakota snow storm can call 2-1-1 or 1.877.708.4357 for any storm-related concerns.
- Producers living in Harding, Perkins, Ziebach, Shannon, Jackson, Jones, Bennett and Mellette counties will need to call 1.877.708.4357 to reach the helpline.
- The helpline can answer questions regarding animal removal from agricultural properties, documentation of livestock losses, livestock identification and provide contact information for other assistance programs.
- Producers experiencing emotional distress can also call the help line for support or to find counseling resources.

Livestock Loss

- Producers need to document their livestock loss. Proper documentation is critical to ensure processing of potential claims.
- Suggested recordkeeping would include dates, photos, description of animals (type of livestock, number of head, weight, sex, age, etc.), vaccination records, pregnancy test records, hauling receipts, collection of all identification tags and any other information that would verify the loss. A third-party signature and statement to verify losses will most likely be required. Veterinarians, extension offices, and many other resources may be verifying third party agents. Employees and family members are not eligible.
- Conservation Districts can serve as third party verifiers for producers documenting livestock loss. Producers can call the Conservation District office in their county at the numbers below:

Bennett: 605.685.1243
Butte: 605.892.3368
Corson: 605.273.4506
Custer: 605.673.4971
Fall River: 605.745.4007
Haakon: 605.859.2186
Harding: 605.375.3216
Jackson: 605.837.2242

Jones: 605.669.2404
Lawrence: 605.642.3590
Meade: 605.967.2561
Mellette: 605.259.3252
Pennington: 605.342.0301
Perkins: 605.244.7160
Todd: 605.856.4440
Ziebach: 605.365.5134

Rendering Services

- The South Dakota Animal Industry Board (AIB) will be coordinating disposal of livestock carcasses on state roads and state right of ways with Dakota Rendering Service.
- For carcass disposal information, contact the AIB at 605.773.3321.
- Carcasses located on or along county-owned or privately owned roadways must be removed by the respective county or private owner of the roadway.
- The removal of carcasses located on private land is the responsibility of the animal owner or land owner.
- AIB provides guidance for on-farm carcass disposal on their website at: www.aib.sd.gov

Livestock Identification

- The State Brand Board inspectors will be involved in identifying livestock and livestock carcasses.
- Dakota Rendering Service and County Emergency Management offices are providing livestock identification to the Animal Industry Board (AIB).
- If a producer locates carcasses on his/her land which are not theirs, they can contact AIB or their County Emergency Management office to provide the livestock information to them.
- AIB also has available a fillable pdf form on their website, which producers can use to report death losses. This reporting is voluntary, and does not replace the record-keeping that should be done by individual producers. The livestock death loss report can be obtained at www.aib.sd.gov
- If you have questions regarding livestock identification you can contact the State Brand Board at 605.773.3324.

Disaster-related Stress

- Individuals experiencing disaster-related stress should contact a local community health provider or call Youth and Family Services in Rapid City at 605.342.4195 or 605.342.4870. Information is also available at www.dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealthservices/community/outpatientservices.asp

USDA/FSA Offices

- These offices are currently closed due the federal shutdown. SD Congressional leaders are urging Congress to open up these offices in the counties which are affected by the October blizzard.

County Emergency Managers

- Affected producers should contact their local county emergency manager listed below.

Bennett County: Jeff Siscoe, 605.685.5994

Butte County: Martha Wierzbicki, 605.569.2766

Corson County: Brad Schell, 605.273.4481

Custer County: Mike Carter, 605.673.8152

Fall River County: Frank Maynard, 605.745.7562

Haakon County: Lola Roseth, 605.567.3515

Harding County: Kathy Glines, 605.375.3313

Jackson County: Jackie Stilwell, 605.488.0334

Jones County: Angie Kinsley, 605.669.7101

Lawrence County: Paul Thomson, 605.578.2122

Meade County: Angella Sutton, 605.347.7623

Mellette County: Karen O'Brien, 605.259.3371

Pennington County: Dustin Willett, 605.394.2185

Perkins County: Kelly Serr, 605.224.5243

Shannon County: Frank Maynard, 605.745.7562

Todd County: Kara Walking, 605.429.3246

Ziebach County: Mike Burgee, 605.365.5129

Assistance

- Livestock Indemnity Program
 - This program provides for disaster relief that would pay producers a portion of the animal's market value. This program is part of the 2008 farm bill extension that expired October 1st. SD Congressional leaders are working with Congress to expedite the passage of the 2014 farm bill. Funding is not available until the Farm Bill is passed and the federal government re-opens.
- Volunteers
 - There is a volunteer group being organized in Rapid City to assist producers. More information on this will be available in a few days.
- Low Interest Loans – South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA)

- Rural Development Ag Loan Participation:
 - SDDA partners with a local bank for up to \$500,000 or maximum of 80% of loan for facility and equipment associated with value added production or processing. Examples are grain storage facilities, calving barns, mono slope structures, etc. Interest rate is fixed at 4% for a maximum term of 10 years.
 - Ag Loan Participation:
 - SDDA partners with a local bank for up to \$200,000 or maximum of 50% of a loan for the purchase of livestock. Interest rate is fixed at 4% for a maximum term of 7 years.
- SDDA, Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry (RCF)
 - Contact RCF at 605.773.5425 for information on damaged and loss of trees. Funds may be available for planting new trees.
- Donations
 - Donations are starting to come in to assist producers.

Donations

South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, and South Dakota Sheep Growers Association established the South Dakota Rancher Relief Fund Oct. 8, 2013 with the Black Hills Area Community Foundation to provide support and relief assistance to those in the agriculture industry impacted by the blizzard of Oct. 4-7, 2013.

The fund will be administered by the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, and the South Dakota Sheep Growers Association for the direct benefit of the livestock producers impacted by this devastating blizzard.

To donate to the Rancher Relief Fund visit, www.giveblackhills.org and search "Rancher Relief Fund" or click on this link:

https://www.giveblackhills.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Organizations.Overview&Organization_ID=27677. Donors can also mail checks to Black Hills Community Area Foundation/SD Rancher Relief Fund made out to the "Rancher Relief Fund." Address: PO Box 231, Rapid City, 57709.

To learn more about the sponsoring organizations, please visit:

- SD Cattlemen: <http://www.sdcattlemen.org/> or contact Jodie Anderson at 605.945.2333
- SD Stockgrowers: www.southdakotastockgrowers.org or contact Silvia Christen at 605.342.0429
- SD Sheep: www.sdsheep.org or contact, Max Matthews at 605.490.0726