



"Working for Nebraska beef producers - pasture to plate."

Disaster Assistance Programs & State Regulations to Consider During Emergencies

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): LIP is a USDA-FSA disaster assistance program that is available to help producers recoup losses experienced by adverse weather events. As producers assess their individual situations, whether it be the blizzard in the West or the flooding in the East, here are a couple of key things to reminder:

1. Producers must notify their local FSA office of livestock losses within 30 days of when those losses become apparent. This 30-day notification window is critical. [A phone call to the county FSA office works for this notification.](#) Please click [here](#) to find your local office. **This is the first and most important step.**
2. Documentation of losses is also critical. FSA will need some sort of supporting evidence of your losses, and this can include things such as: veterinarian certification, other independent third-party certification, rendering receipts, dated photos or video. Those things are an important part of the application process.
3. FSA will also need to know the type or weight of the animals lost. Adult animals, so bulls and cows, vs. calves or yearlings, are broken out differently in the LIP program, so that part of the record is important.
4. Documentation of weather conditions that contributed to the losses is needed. Include temperature, wind speed and precipitation conditions.

Here is the [link](#) to the most recent Fact Sheet about LIP.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP): ELAP, another USDA-FSA disaster assistance program, covers some livestock losses that do not fall under LIP. Specific to the current adverse weather situations in Nebraska, ELAP may be applicable as it can, in certain situations, financially assist with livestock feed losses, such as bales that may have been destroyed in the flood.

Here is the [link](#) to the most recent Fact Sheet about ELAP.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP): ECP can provide some cost-share assistance to rehabilitate farmland and pasture damaged by natural disasters. It also can provide cost-share assistance to help restore fences damaged or lost due to natural disaster. There is quite a bit to this program, and it doesn't trigger automatically. FSA county committees will need to make a request for this program in their local areas. It is critical that producers, if they think they may want to access this cost-share resource, contact their [local FSA county office](#) about this program before taking any action to repair damages.

Here is the [link](#) to the most recent Fact Sheet about ECP.



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Other important state regulations to consider:

Emergency holding pond management [recommendations](#) during wet weather events from Nebraska Extension and NDEQ:

1. Be vigilant in monitoring lagoon and runoff holding pond levels. Application to saturated soils is preferable to allowing a storage basin to overflow.
2. Pumping operations should be monitored continuously to minimize potential for runoff or equipment malfunction.
3. If you do experience an overflow, you are required by law to notify NDEQ of any discharge within 24 hours by telephone and within five working days. The emergency response number to call is **(402) 471-4220**.
4. To be considered a legal discharge, you must have records that indicate the holding pond was below the start-pump level prior to the onset of the rain event causing the discharge.
5. For more specific information, call Jessie Herrmann at NC, 402-318-3769.

Disposal of Animal Carcasses

1. If carcasses are managed as the result of an emergency with the potential to impact immediate or long term animal or public health and safety, both NDA and NDEQ should be contacted, in addition to [local emergency management authorities](#).
2. On-site burial within 36 hours after knowledge of death and at least four feet below the surface of the ground dramatically lowers the possibility of spreading a disease.
 - a. A state permit to bury on-site or on an adjacent property is NOT required; nevertheless, there are obligations under state law to protect groundwater resources – namely recommended separation distances for burial sites
3. Disposal by burning requires the use of an incinerator permitted by NDEQ. During an emergency, use of an incinerator and open burning may be approved by NDEQ on a case-by-case basis. The NDEQ Air Quality Division must be contacted if any incineration or burning is under consideration. Air Quality Permit Hotline: (877) 834-0474
4. [Composting of livestock mortalities](#) is an approved method of disposal. However, proper equipment, material and management are required. Please contact NDA if this method of carcass disposal is to be used.
5. Contact a [licensed rendering service](#) for the proper transportation and disposal of dead animals.
6. For more information, contact the NDEQ Waste Management Section: (402) 471-4210 or click [here](#) for a factsheet.