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USDA Livestock Disaster Program Requires Documentation of Loss
Eligible Producers Urged to Begin Compiling Proof of Loss

(Casper, WY), April 24, 2009 – According to Steve Swieter, Acting State Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Wyoming, livestock producers who incurred eligible livestock death losses due to adverse weather events on or after January 1, 2008, should begin gathering loss documentation in accordance with FSA's Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provisions.

"Losses due to adverse weather, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture include blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, and are eligible for LIP," said Swieter. "And this program is now open for qualifying losses incurred until October 1, 2011."

Producers are advised that the LIP application period is not yet opened, so documents are not being accepted, but now is the time to make sure you have verifiable death loss documentation. Adequate documentation must prove the death of eligible livestock occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested.

If adequate verifiable proof of death records documentation is not available, a livestock producer may provide reliable records, along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory, as proof of death.

Third-party certifications of livestock deaths may be accepted only if verifiable proof of death records and verifiable beginning and ending inventory records are not available. A third party statement must be from an independent source not affiliated with the farming operation. Family members may not qualify. For further details on qualifying third-party sources, contact your county FSA office.

"Our staff can provide producers with a list of acceptable documents types for proof of death, producer records and verifiable inventory," said Swieter. "Producers should note that LIP indemnity payments will be 75 percent of the fair market value of the livestock as determined by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)."

Additional information about LIP is available at FSA County Offices or by visiting the national FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

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