



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Cattlemen's Association

1221 H Street * Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Phone 916-444-0845 * Fax 916-444-2194

www.calcattlemen.org

CONTACT:

Stevie Ipsen

Director, Public Relations and Outreach

Stevie@calcattlemen.org

CCA Encourages Livestock Owners to Participate in USDA FSA Disaster Programs

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. – After many months of engagement by California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) officers and staff working alongside California representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA), a federal disaster relief program is now available to producers who suffered losses from drought and other natural disasters in 2008 and 2009.

CCA is pleased that the long-awaited program Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) that CCA strongly supported during development of the permanent disaster program in the 2008 Farm Bill is now available to provide needed assistance to producers in California who are experiencing a third consecutive year of drought. In recent months, CCA has contacted the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and also met directly with FSA staff in Washington, D.C., to encourage rapid development of the program to provide assistance to producers.

"We are extremely pleased to see this program being made available, especially with the natural disasters like fire and drought we have seen in recent years. FSA is to be commended for working with CCA to help deliver this important program to ranchers and we will be encouraging our members to participate to help reduce the impacts of drought, particularly at this difficult economic time," said CCA President Tom Talbot, DVM, a beef producer from Bishop, Calif.

The program will operate from a new system that is still being developed. CCA suggests that you contact your local FSA office to make an appointment to ensure that the county office has access to tools necessary to assist ranchers with verifying eligibility and processing their enrollment. For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

LFP is available to producers who purchased FSA non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage or some other form of insurance before the growing season and will be based upon county Drought Monitor readings from 2008 and 2009.

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Founded in 1917, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) represents California's 1.75 billion beef cattle industry on legislative and regulatory affairs and remains the number one voice for the industry today. CCA is an affiliate of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, which represents America's cattle farmers and ranchers.