USDA to provide pandemic assistance to livestock producers for animal losses
Farm Service Agency will begin taking applications for indemnity program July 20

WASHINGTON, July 13, 2021 — Livestock and poultry producers who suffered losses during the pandemic due to insufficient access to processing can apply for assistance for those losses and the cost of depopulation and disposal of the animals. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Vilsack announced the Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program (PLIP) in [recorded] remarks at the National Pork Industry Conference in Wisconsin Dells, WI. “The announcement is part of USDA’s Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative Livestock and poultry producers can apply for assistance through USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) July 20 through Sept. 17,” said the Secretary. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, authorized payments to producers for losses of livestock or poultry depopulated from March 1, 2020 through December 26, 2020, due to insufficiency in processing as a result of the pandemic. FSA payments will be based on 80% of the fair market value of the livestock and poultry and for the cost of depopulation and disposal of the animal. Eligible livestock and poultry include swine, chickens and turkeys, but pork producers are expected to be the primary recipients of the assistance. “Throughout the pandemic, we learned very quickly the importance and vulnerability of the supply chain to food supply,” said Agriculture Secretary Vilsack. “Many livestock producers had to make the unfortunate decision to depopulate their livestock inventory when there simply was no other option. This targeted assistance will help livestock and poultry producers that were among the hardest hit by the pandemic. We anticipate some financial burdens from these losses as well.”

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE PLANNED

The previous administration provided pandemic assistance using flat rates across the industry, which does not take into account the different levels of harm felt by different pork industry segments. Projected analyses proposed that disruptions in processing capacity on the pork supply chain create a situation with small hog producers and especially those that sell on the spot market or negotiate prices, bear a disproportionate share of losses. USDA has examined the difference between the negotiated prices for hog and the 5-year average and documents a significant drop during April through September of 2020 due to the pandemic. USDA has set aside up to $50 million in pandemic assistance funds to provide additional assistance for small hog producers and especially those that sell on the spot market or negotiate prices. There is no per person or legal entity payment limitation on PLIP payments. To be eligible for payments, a person or legal entity must have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) of less than $900,000 for tax years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

PLIP PROGRAM DETAILS

Eligible livestock must have been depopulated from March 1, 2020 through December 26, 2020, due to insufficient processing as a result of the pandemic. Livestock must have been physically located in the U.S. or a territory of the U.S. at the time of depopulation. Eligible livestock owners include persons or legal entities who, as of the day the eligible livestock was depopulated, had legal ownership of the livestock. Packers, live-poultry dealers and contract growers are not eligible for PLIP.

PLIP payments compensate participants for 80% of both the loss of the eligible livestock or poultry and for the cost of depopulation and disposal based on a single payment rate per head. PLIP payments will be calculated by multiplying the number of head of eligible livestock or poultry by the payment rate per head, and then subtracting the amount of any payments the eligible livestock or poultry owner has received for disposal of the livestock or poultry.

As of the day the eligible livestock was depopulated, USDA has set aside up to $50 million in pandemic assistance funds to provide additional assistance for small hog producers that were the spot market or negotiated prices. Details on the additional targeted assistance are expected to be available in the fall.

APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE

Eligible livestock and poultry producers can apply for PLIP starting July 20, 2021, by completing the FSA-620, Application for the Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program. Additional information may be requested of the farmer or producer by the FSA. Applications can be submitted at the USDA service center nearest the producer.

Upcoming events at Caprock Canyon State Park

**BAND TOUR**
Saturday, July 31, 2021 5:15 to 8:15 p.m.
Clanfy Toned, an abandoned native American band from the Southwest, is in the Caprock Canyon Troubadour home to tap its barrel of music on its latest music release. During their guided tour of tours along the Troubadour, visitors will see the lost concert—soar and enjoy spectacular views of the rugged and beautiful honest of the Llano Estacado. From there they leave at least two hours to complete. Registration is required with a $5 fee per seat. (Please call the park at (806) 455-1492 for reservations or for more information. Registration and fees must be paid at the time of registration. MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express are accepted. The Troubadour will have them.)

**Cookhouse**
Saturday, July 31, 2021 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.
Learn the basics of birding with the range sitting at the CCSP wildlife viewing blind and identifying the birds. Please bring binoculars if you have them.

**Brew Tour**
Saturday, July 31, 2021 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Join us at Caprock Canyon State Park than just what meets the eye. Join the interpreter for a guided vehicle tour in the park to discover more of Caprock Canyon State Park from its history, geology and landscape. Space is limited so reservations are required. Please call park at (806) 455-1492 to reserve your spot. Reservations are required a week in advance.

**Birding with a Ranger**
Saturday, July 31, 2021 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Join us at Caprock Canyon State Park than just what meets the eye. Join the interpreter for a guided vehicle tour in the park to discover more of Caprock Canyon State Park from its history, geology and landscape. Space is limited so reservations are required. Please call park at (806) 455-1492 to reserve your spot. Reservations are required a week in advance.

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