

Placer-Nevada-Yuba Disaster Livestock Access Program Producer Information Packet

Ranchers in Placer, Nevada, and Yuba Counties, along with UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) and the County Agricultural Departments from these three counties, have established a Disaster Livestock Access Program to facilitate livestock and human safety before, during, and after wildfire and other emergencies. Ultimately, we intend for this approach to be extended to other types of commercial agricultural production in these counties.

Due to the scale of operations and the fact that many ranches operate on a variety of leased and owned land that may or may not be contiguous, evacuating livestock from commercial ranching operations may not be possible in the event of a major incident. Sheltering-in-place may be the best and safest alternative. Safe access by trained and qualified ranch personnel is critical to livestock welfare, firefighter safety, and public safety. This project adapts elements from programs developed in other California Counties. The geographic scope of this project aligns with the CalFire administrative unit for the region.

This program, through the issuance of a Livestock Access Pass, may permit commercial livestock operators to gain entrance into evacuation zones, or other restricted areas, to provide feed, water, medical treatment, and other care to large-scale commercial livestock.

On pages 2 – 4, you will find an overview of the program, including specific qualifications for the Livestock Access Pass, registration information, and training requirements.

You must complete pass application form and registration by July 31, 2021, which is available online at http://ucanr.edu/pny_livestock_pass_2021.

At this time, the Livestock Access Pass will only be valid for livestock located in Placer, Nevada, and Yuba Counties. Collaborators are working with sister agencies in surrounding counties in an effort to implement the training and program in a broader region.

The registration and training for the pass is being managed by UCCE. The passes will be administered and approved through the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in each county. If you have any questions, please contact:

Dan Macon (dmacon@ucanr.edu)
UC Cooperative Extension
(530) 889-7385

Josh Huntsinger (JHuntsin@placer.ca.gov)
Placer County Ag Dept
(530) 889-7372

Chris de Nijs (Chris.deNijs@co.nevada.ca.us)
Nevada County Ag Dept
(530) 470-2690

Steve Scheer (sscheer@CO.YUBA.CA.US)
Yuba County Ag Dept
(530) 749-5400

Placer-Nevada-Yuba Disaster Livestock Access Program Overview

Established: June 2021

Qualified Commercial Livestock Operator: For the purposes of this program, a commercial livestock operator is defined as an owner of livestock consisting of 50 head of livestock (including in utero, e.g., 25 bred cows), 100 poultry or rabbits, or 50 beehives or more that reside in Placer, Nevada, or Yuba County for at least a portion of the year, or a person who, through an agreement with that owner of livestock, has authority and is responsible to oversee the care and well-being of the owner's livestock.

Livestock Species Covered by Program: This program applies to commercially raised species of livestock, including cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, poultry, rabbits, llamas, alpacas, and bees. "Commercially raised" means the livestock are raised as part of a business.

Application for Registration: To become enrolled in the program, a Commercial Livestock Operator must provide contact information, APNs and/or physical addresses of grazing sites, general season of use, livestock description and count, and other information by completing the online form at http://ucanr.edu/pny_livestock_pass_2021. If you need assistance completing the online registration, contact Dan Macon at (530) 889-7385 or dmacon@ucanr.edu.

Mandatory Training: To become enrolled in the program, a Commercial Livestock Operator must complete an initial 4-hour training. To maintain a valid pass, a Commercial Livestock Operator must complete a 1-hour refresher training annually.

2021 MANDATORY Training: Initial required training is being scheduled for **July and August, 2021**. At least one training event will be held in each county, in person, following COVID-19 guidelines. *You will receive additional information closer to the event, following registration review. If you have received training in another county, presentation of your Livestock Access Pass from that county will satisfy your training requirement.*

Annual Renewal, Reporting, and Training: Each year, a Commercial Livestock Operator will be required to update/confirm registration information, and complete a questionnaire on utilization of the pass. Each year, a Commercial Livestock Operator will also be required to participate in a 1-hour continuing education class prior to pass renewal.

Livestock Access Pass: Upon submission to UCCE of a completed application and verification of training, the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in the county in which the operation is headquartered will issue a Livestock Access Pass valid for the current calendar year. This Pass must be presented to law enforcement, fire personnel, or other emergency personnel at a point of entry in order to gain entrance to an evacuation zone, or other restricted area, caused by a natural disaster or other emergency for the purpose of providing feed, water, medical treatment, and other care to large scale commercial livestock, subject to the discretion of the emergency personnel.

Conditional Access: Decisions for access can rapidly change during a fire or other natural disaster and will be dependent on safety conditions at the time and upon approval of emergency

personnel. Livestock care shall only be provided during daylight hours, and all persons must immediately depart the restricted area by the same route as entry. An escort may be required in any instance and all restricted entry will be dependent on approval of onsite emergency personnel. During initial evacuation phases, do not expect to gain access to restricted areas by presenting/using the Livestock Access Pass, as during such time all efforts involve the safe removal of people. Once the situation has stabilized, which may take over 24 hours or even days, the Livestock Access Pass will be considered an option by law enforcement, and fire personnel, or other emergency personnel. County Agricultural Departments will coordinate with the incident command system.

During an emergency, do not contact County Animal Control for assistance, or to notify them of your commercial livestock behind fire lines.

Prior Notification: If your livestock are located in an evacuation zone, you will need to notify your interest in using the Livestock Access Pass to gain entrance by contacting the County Agricultural Department and/or UCCE. There will be a coordinated effort to consolidate communication with the Sheriff's Office and/or other emergency personnel; once access has been approved by law enforcement or other emergency personnel, the Commercial Livestock Access Pass holder will be notified. **DO NOT GO TO A ROAD BLOCK AND ATTEMPT TO USE THE COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK ACCESS PASS WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION.**

Removal of Livestock: If you intend to remove livestock from the evacuation zone (e.g. for veterinary care or to an alternate location), please provide prior notification to UCCE or the County Agriculture Department. The intent of this term is to prevent theft of livestock during an emergency. Removing livestock will generally be avoided and will be permitted only if it does not interfere with fire suppression efforts or personnel.

Signage: Commercial Livestock Access Pass holders may be required to place a sign at the entrance to the property where commercial livestock are located in an effort to provide notification to emergency personnel and animal control. The sign will state the animals are under the care of "Commercial Ag Pass Holder." If this is necessary, Commercial Livestock Access Pass holders will be asked to meet a representative from UCCE or the County Agriculture Department to obtain the sign.

Livestock Access Pass Database: The Livestock Access Pass registration database will be maintained and updated by UCCE and County Agricultural Departments. Data will be available to key agencies, including, but not limited to, Cal-Fire Placer-Nevada-Yuba Unit, California Highway Patrol, County Offices of Emergency Services, and County Sheriff's Offices. The Livestock Access Pass database may also be used for other emergency issues, e.g. livestock out on the road, etc.

During an emergency, law enforcement or other emergency personnel at the point of entry to an evacuation zone will be provided a current list of valid Commercial Livestock Access Pass Holders, permit numbers, along with a sample valid pass, by the County Agricultural Department.

Violations of Pass: The utilization of the Livestock Access Pass is for the purpose of providing feed, water, medical treatment, and other care to commercial livestock within the evacuation zone or other restricted area. If a pass holder is found acting outside of the scope of this purpose, then the Livestock Access Pass may be permanently revoked.

Insurance and Risk: Access in an area closed to the public during a disaster may affect the coverage of your property liability insurance, vehicle or equipment insurance, and worker's compensation coverage. As you re-enter your property be aware that hazardous conditions may still exist. Program administrators, collaborators, and trainers shall not be liable for injury or death of someone participating in activities resulting from the inherent risk of re-entering damage areas to feed, water, and medically treat livestock.

The Commercial Livestock Operator submitting an application for registration, hereinafter referred to as the "Applicant/Permittee" or "A/P," understands that he or she is requesting access to restricted areas subject to official road closure and not otherwise accessible to the public. In so requesting access, A/P acknowledges the inherent risks and hazards caused by recent catastrophic fires, including the existence of declared local health emergency, which extend to the restricted areas. A/P shall be solely responsible for the safety of those individuals covered by any Livestock Access Pass/permit issued by the County of Placer, Nevada, or Yuba, and shall be solely responsible for any damage to any equipment used by A/P during such requested access. A/P shall hold harmless the County of Placer, Nevada, or Yuba and its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, or representatives from and against any and all liability, claims, actions, proceedings, losses, injuries, damages, or expenses of every name, kind, and description, including litigation costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in connection therewith, brought for or on account of personal injury (including death) or damage to equipment or property arising from A/Ps access under any issued Livestock Access Pass/ permit. Further, A/P shall be solely responsible and shall hold harmless the County of Placer, Nevada, or Yuba from any and all acts or omissions of A/P or its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, contractors, and subcontractors in accessing the location listed in the issued Livestock Access Pass. A/P further understands that any pass/permit issued covers access only to the location identified in the issued Livestock Access Pass and the direct access route to/from said location; stopping along access routes is strictly prohibited. A/P and its officers, agents, employees, volunteers or representatives shall not wander, loiter, or otherwise meander from the location listed in the issued Livestock Access Pass, and shall be subject to immediate arrest for trespass into restricted areas and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Annual Report: An annual report on the program will be completed at the end of each calendar year to inform need of program modifications and utilization. The report will be provided to partners, stakeholders, and the County Boards of Supervisors.

Modifications: This is a new program and will be reviewed annually. To improve the program, modifications may be made annually and during the course of the year – in which case, any changes will be provided to the annual Livestock Access Pass holder via email.

Placer-Nevada-Yuba Disaster Livestock Access Program Liability Disclosure

The Owner/Commercial Livestock Operator, hereinafter referred to as the "Applicant/Permittee" or "A/P" understands that he or she is requesting access to restricted areas subject to official road closure and not otherwise accessible to the public. In so requesting access, A/P acknowledges the inherent risks and hazards caused by recent catastrophic fires, including the existence of a declared local health emergency, which extend to the restricted areas. A/P shall be solely responsible for the safety of those individuals covered by any pass/permit issued by the County of [Placer, Nevada, Yuba], and shall be solely responsible for any damage to any equipment used by A/P during such requested access. A/P shall hold harmless the County of [Placer, Nevada, Yuba] and its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, or representatives from and against any and all liability, claims, actions, proceedings, losses, injuries, damages, or expenses of every name, kind, and description, including litigation costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in connection therewith, brought for or on account of personal injury (including death) or damage to equipment or property arising from A/Ps access under this pass/permit. Further, A/P shall be solely responsible and shall hold harmless the County of [Placer, Nevada, Yuba] from any and all acts or omissions of A/P or its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, contractors, and subcontractors in accessing the above listed location. A/P further understands that any pass/permit issued covers access only to the location identified above and the direct access route to/from said location; stopping along access routes are strictly prohibited. A/P and its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, or representatives shall not wander, loiter, or otherwise meander from the above listed location, and shall be subject to immediate arrest for trespass into restricted areas and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

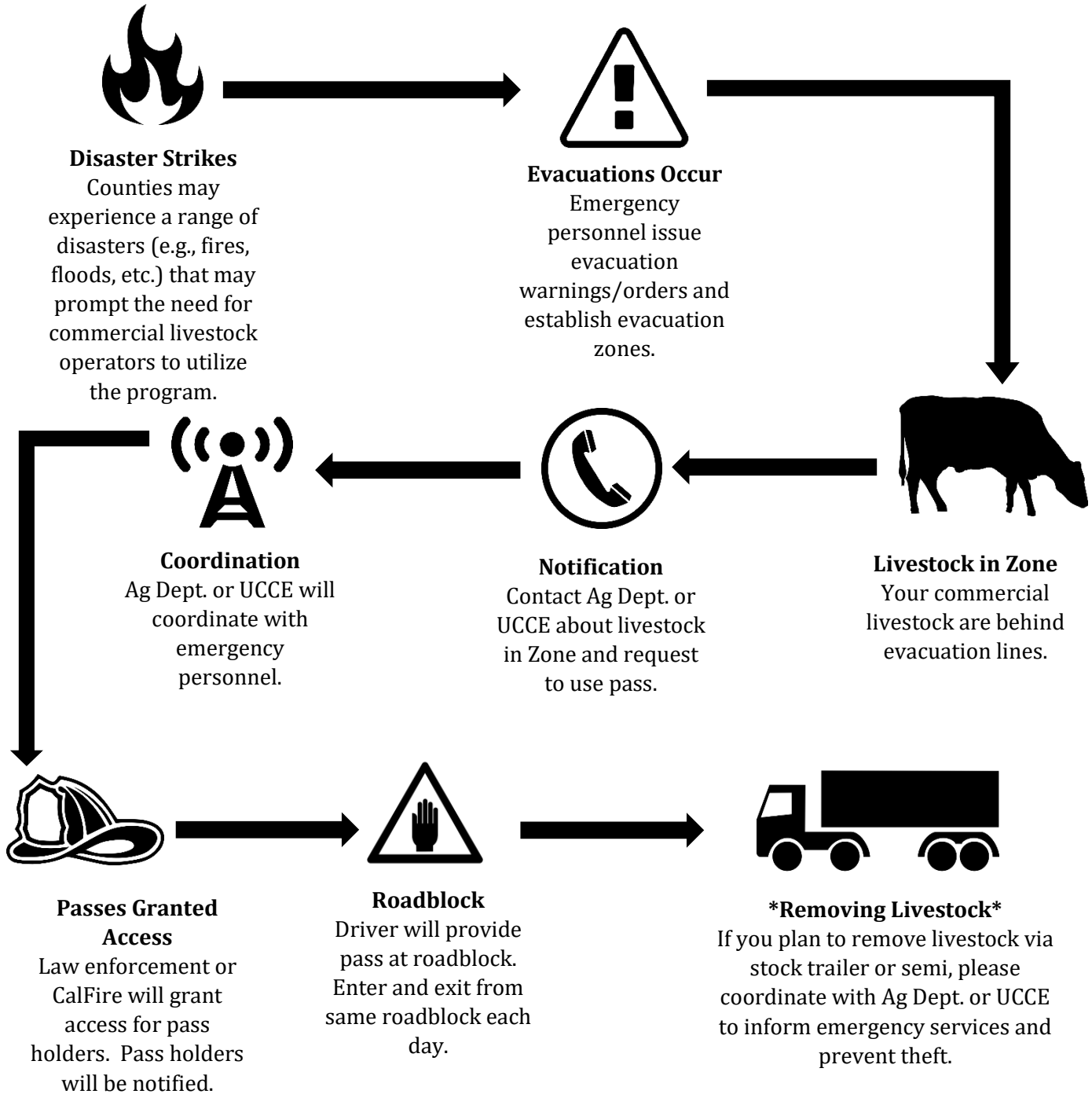
Acknowledged by: _____
(signature)

(printed name)

(date)

Interface with Incident Command System

Flow Chart



Contacts

Chris diNijs (Nevada County) – 530/615-1371

Josh Huntsinger (Placer County) – 530/277-5124

Steve Scheer (Yuba County) – 530/749-5400

Dan Macon (UCCE) – 530/305-3270