

Siskiyou County

Livestock Pass Program Overview

Established 2022

PURPOSE:

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 disaster. 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. To that end and in coordination with local agencies, the Siskiyou County University of California Cooperative Extension (“UCCE”) and the Siskiyou County Agricultural Department have established a program, through the issuance of a Livestock Access Pass, which may permit commercial livestock operators to gain entrance to evacuation zones or other restricted areas to care for commercial livestock during a disaster.

Livestock Pass: The Livestock Pass is a permit issued by the Siskiyou County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office to a Commercial Livestock Operator, upon submission and approval of an application for registration, which 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 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. Livestock Passes will be issued to approved commercial livestock operators **before** a disaster strikes. The Livestock Pass must be renewed annually.

Partnering Organizations: In addition to Siskiyou County UCCE and the Siskiyou County Agricultural Department, the following partners/agencies participated and contributed to the development of the Siskiyou County Livestock Pass Program: Siskiyou County Office of Emergency Services, CALFIRE, Siskiyou County Sheriff’s Office, California Highway Patrol, Siskiyou County Animal Control, and USFS Klamath National Forest.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:

The Siskiyou County Agricultural Commissioner’s office will administer the Livestock Pass program for Siskiyou County, California. Siskiyou County UCCE will support program administration.

Livestock Pass Database: The Livestock Pass registration database will be maintained and updated by Siskiyou County UCCE and the Siskiyou County Agricultural Department. Data will be available to key agencies, including, but not limited to, Siskiyou County Cal-Fire, California Highway Patrol, and the Siskiyou County Sheriff’s Office. The Livestock Pass database may also be used for other emergency issues, e.g. cattle out on the road. 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 Livestock Pass Holders, permit numbers, along with a sample valid pass.

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 Siskiyou County Board 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 Pass holder via email.

ELIGIBILITY:

Commercial Livestock Operator: For the purposes of this program, a commercial livestock operator is defined as an owner of 50 head or more of livestock (including cattle, sheep, goats and hogs) or 50 beehives or more that reside in Siskiyou 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 (i.e., a "managerial employee", see AB 1103 for details). "Commercially raised" means the livestock are raised as part of a business. Operations are subject to review/inspection by animal control to ensure commercial status.

Application for Registration: To become enrolled in the program, a Commercial Livestock Operator will need to provide contact information, APNs of grazing sites, general season of use, livestock description and count, and other information by completing the online form at <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=37177>. Each applicant must sign a liability waiver. Applicants must be 18 year of age or older when application is submitted.

Mandatory Training: To become enrolled in the program, a Commercial Livestock Operator must complete an initial training (up to 4-hours, per AB1103). To maintain a valid pass, a Commercial Livestock Operator must complete a 1-hour training annually.

- 2022 MANDATORY Training: Initial required training is scheduled for **May 10th, 9am-1pm at the Montague Community Hall.** *You will receive additional information closer to the event, following registration review.*

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.

ADDITIONAL STIPULATIONS:

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 made 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 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, then the Livestock Pass will be considered an option by law enforcement, and fire personnel, or other emergency personnel.

Prior Notification: If a rancher has livestock located in an evacuation zone, he/she will need to notify the County Agricultural Department and/or UCCE about using the Livestock Access Pass to gain entrance. 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 contact County Animal Control for assistance, or to notify them of commercial livestock behind fire lines. **DO NOT GO TO A ROAD BLOCK AND ATTEMPT TO USE THE COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK ACCESS PASS WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION.**

Removal of Livestock: Removing livestock from the evacuation zone (e.g. for veterinary care or to an alternate location), will require 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: Livestock 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 Livestock Pass Holder.” If this is necessary, Livestock Pass holders will be asked to meet a representative from UCCE or Siskiyou County Ag Department to obtain the sign.

Violations of Pass: The utilization of the Livestock 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 you are found outside of the scope of this purpose, then your Livestock Pass may be permanently revoked.**

USFS permittees: USFS permittees may apply for a Livestock Pass to access federal lands within Siskiyou County. All of the above stipulations apply to permittees; the Livestock Pass will be managed on private and public land in the same manner. Permittees should continue to work closely with their Rangeland Management Specialist during an emergency.

INSURANCE AND RISK:

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. Also be aware that accessing 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.

Liability Disclosure: 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 Pass /permit issued by the County of Siskiyou, 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 Siskiyou 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 Pass / permit. Further, A/P shall be solely responsible and shall hold harmless the County of Siskiyou 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 Pass. A/P further understands that any pass/permit issued covers access only to the location identified in the issued Livestock 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 Pass, and shall be subject to immediate arrest for trespass into restricted areas and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.