

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

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PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Livestock Producers Impacted by Woods County Fire

The large Anderson Creek fire in Woods County grew rapidly Wednesday as extremely dry air and strong gusty winds hampered firefighting efforts. The fire is reported to have started approximately 15 miles west of Alva near Camp Houston. Oklahoma Forestry Services officials estimate 397,420 acres have burned in Oklahoma and Kansas.

Among those impacted by the devastating fires are Oklahoma livestock producers and many Oklahoma cattle producers have lost cattle as well as hay to the fires as they moved across their property. Final estimates of hay lost and cattle lost are ongoing at this time.

Livestock producers who have been impacted by the fires need to contact their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office. The FSA office has programs that can assist producers who have lost cattle, hay and grass due to the wildland fires. The Emergency Assistance for Livestock Program (ELAP) ELAP covers losses due to an eligible adverse weather or eligible loss condition, including blizzards, disease (including cattle tick fever), water shortages and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary, that occur on or after Oct. 1, 2011. The FSA also offers the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) to provide benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. Livestock producers can locate and find the contact information for their FSA county office here: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ok&agency=fsa>

For those who would like to contribute monetarily you can do so by mail or online via the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Foundation. Make checks payable to Oklahoma Cattlemen's Foundation and put "Fire Relief" in the memo line and send to P.O. Box 82395., Oklahoma City, OK 73148. To donate online, visit <http://okcattlemen.org/woodscountycattlemenfirerelieffund.aspx>.

A hay donation repository has been established west of Alva for individuals who would like to donate hay directly to the producers who have been impacted by the fires. There will be tractors and skid-steers available for unloading. Contact Greg Highfill with Woods County OSU Extension at (580) 430-6125 or the Wood County Extension office at (580) 327-2786 for information regarding hay donations.

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