



# DAIRY VETERINARY NEWSLETTER

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## New Livestock Indemnity Program and Highlights from the Recent American Dairy Science Association Meeting

The following disaster relief indemnity program for livestock losses was recently announced:

Utah Farm Service Agency  
 125 South State Street, Room 3202  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84138 Lori Jones (801) 524-4250  
 Lori.Jones@ut.usda.gov

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### New Livestock Indemnity Program Announced by FSA

SALT LAKE CITY, UT, July 9, 2009 - Eligible ranchers and livestock producers can begin applying for benefits through the Livestock Indemnity Program provided in the 2008 Farm Bill on July 13.

"This program will provide livestock producers with a vital safety net to help them overcome the damaging financial impact of natural disasters," said Lori Jones, Program Specialist for USDA Farm Service Agency in Utah.

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008 or 2009 livestock losses.

Date of Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

Specific provisions for the other supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2008 Act - the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) - will be implemented through separate rulemakings and announced at a later date.

For more information on available supplemental disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

### **Some Highlights from the Recent American Dairy Science Association Meeting**

The American Dairy Science Association/Canadian and American Societies of Animal Science joint meeting was recently held in Montreal, Canada. Some of the highlights of presentations at that meeting:

#### **Colostrum: Collection, Feeding Timing, Pasteurization, and Colostral Replacers**

From a presentation by S. Godden, MN, USA: Colostrum should be collected from the cow no later than 6 hours post-calving, and fed no later than 1-2 hours after it is collected from the cow, or rapidly refrigerated or frozen. For pasteurization of colostrum, they recommend 60<sup>0</sup> C (140<sup>0</sup> F) for 60 min. Timely feeding after pasteurization is also important. Colostrum, if pasteurized, that is fed more than 6 hours after pasteurization if stored at ambient temperature results in more than 90% of batches containing > 100,000 bacteria/ml. (Many samples will contain > 1,000,000/ml.) The goal should be < 100,000 bacteria/ml. The bacteria not only cause calf disease, but interfere with antibody absorption and contribute to failure of passive transfer of IgG. The label on commercial colostrum replacer products to be fed to calves says to feed 100 g of IgG per calf. However, they found that 200 g of IgG per calf fed in colostrum replacer was necessary to achieve 100% success in getting adequate IgG levels in calves. In herds with Johne's Disease, they found that of calves fed natural colostrum, 12% were positive for JD by 54 months old, but of calves fed colostrum replacer, only 8% were positive for JD by 54 months old.

From 2 presentations by J. Elizondo-Salazar, Costa Rica: Whether calves were fed colostrum with a nipple bottle or an esophageal feeder did not affect serum IgG1, IgG2, or total serum protein concentrations. However, absorption was improved by heat treating colostrum (temperature or time not provided).

#### **Postpartum Flunixin Meglumine**

From a presentation by T. Duffield, Ontario, Canada: Holstein cows were administered flunixin meglumine (Banamine) 1.1 to 2.2 mg/kg (fixed volume 25 ml for cows, 22 ml for first lactation heifers) I.V. approximately 2 hrs post-calving and again 24 hrs later. Treated cows were compared with untreated control herdmates, treatments randomized. Cows treated with post-calving flunixin were 2.5 times more likely to have a retained placenta and 1.5 times more likely to be diagnosed with metritis (P< 0.001). Other periparturient diseases such as milk fever, and milk production were not different between flunixin and control cows. Based on the results, treatment of fresh cows with flunixin meglumine on the day of calving, at least as a routine practice, was not recommended. It was speculated that the antiprostaglandin effects of flunixin led to the reproductive tract diseases.

## Lameness

From a presentation by J. Margerison, New Zealand: Lameness has gained attention in recent years as a major disease of dairy cattle. They found that lameness often begins in first lactation heifers, and that “peak lameness” when severity is estimated, is at approximately 110 days in milk in dairy cows. If foot trimming or other foot care programs do not include first lactation animals, or cows near peak of lactation, some of the most affected cows are missed.

## Mastitis and Relative Humidity

From a presentation by J. Margerison, New Zealand: They studied risk factors for increased mastitis, including in the environment. One factor they evaluated, which few papers have looked at in the last 10 years, was relative humidity. They found that ambient relative humidity greater than 75% was associated with more mastitis, even adjusting for many other factors, than relative humidity less than 75%. This suggests that one advantage for what our weather conditions are like most of the time in Utah is dryness. This is something that many of us who have moved from other parts of the world have suspected, but this study lends some support to it (there was no evaluation of the very low relative humidity we often enjoy).

## Foreign Animal Disease

From a presentation by A. Clavijo, TX, USA: According to the 2003 USA Ag Census, there were 95 million cattle, 60 million swine, 6 million sheep, and 9 billion poultry in the US. The following moves into the US every day: 1.3 million people, 45,000 trucks, 341,000 vehicles, 2500 aircraft, and 38,000 non-pet animals. It is important to realize that in most recorded outbreaks, some of the first people to detect initial signs, and monitor for spread of foreign animal disease (FAD) to other parts of the country are livestock market and slaughterhouse employees. Most policy making meetings and exercises about FAD concern foot and mouth disease (FMD). Duration of carrier states for FMD are believed to be: cattle 3 years, African Buffalo 5 years, sheep 9 months, goats 4 months. Wildlife may be long-term carriers of many FAD, resulting in endemic status.

There were several discussions about the fact that many policy makers think that the US would probably utilize a vaccination strategy rather than a widespread slaughter strategy if FMD were to strike the US. Images of widespread animal killing and carcass burning in the UK during their last outbreak were found to be of great concern to the public and a slaughter strategy is expensive. (However it is noteworthy that over the last 20 years the only part of the world to become infected with FMD and subsequently eliminate it was the UK.)

As always I urge our readers to contact me, including suggestions for future topics of interest. I can be reached at (435) 797-1899 M-W, (435) 797-7120 Th-F or [David.Wilson@usu.edu](mailto:David.Wilson@usu.edu).

David Wilson, DVM  
Extension Veterinarian

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