



Plumas-Sierra County Disaster Livestock Access Program

The purpose of this letter is to introduce to you the Plumas-Sierra County Disaster Livestock Access Program, the registration process, and training requirements. Following the fires in our communities and adjacent counties, partner agencies supported the development of a systemic program to provide options for commercial livestock operators to access restricted areas following a natural disaster to provide care for livestock.

In coordination with local agencies, the University of California Cooperative Extension (“UCCE”) and the Plumas-Sierra County Agricultural Department have established a program, through the issuance of an Livestock Access Pass, which **may** permit commercial agricultural livestock operators to gain entrance to evacuation zones, or other restricted areas, to provide feed, water, medical treatment, transport, 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 a pass application form and registration which is available online at <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=40413> .

At this time, the Livestock Access Pass will only be valid for commercial livestock operations located in Plumas and Sierra County. This program mirrors a program launched in March 2021 in Butte County and other programs created in 2022 across the state. Collaborators are working with sister agencies in surrounding counties to implement the training and program in a broader region. **If you have documentation of completing the Ag Pass training in another county, this training will count for Plumas-Sierra County, however you must still complete the registration form above to receive a pass.**

The registration and training for the pass is being managed by Tracy Schohr, Plumas-Sierra County Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension.

Passes will be administered and approved by the Plumas-Sierra County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Schohr, UC Cooperative Extension Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor (email: kschohr@ucdavis.edu or tel: 916-716-2643), or Willo Vieira, Plumas-Sierra County Agricultural Commissioner (email willovieira@countyofplumas.com or tel: 530-283-6365).

Sincerely,

Tracy Schohr
UC Cooperative Extension

Willo Vieira
Plumas-Sierra County Agricultural Department



BLM

CHP

Calfire

Plumas-Sierra Disaster Livestock Access Program Overview

- **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 or 50 bee hives that reside in Plumas or Sierra 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.
- **Application for Registration:** To become enrolled in the program, a Commercial Livestock Operator will need to provide contact information, APNs of agricultural livestock 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=40413>.
- **Mandatory Training:** To become enrolled in the program, a Commercial Livestock Operator must complete an initial training no more than 4 hours in duration.
- **MANDATORY Training:** Initial required training will be scheduled as needed. These events will be held in person in Indian Valley and Sierra Valley. *You will receive additional information closer to the event, following registration review.* If you completed the training in another county, it will satisfy the training requirements, however you will still need to register for the pass.
- **Renewal:** To maintain a valid pass, every other year, a Commercial Livestock Operator will be required to update/confirm registration information and complete a questionnaire on utilization of the pass.
- **Livestock Access Pass:** A permit issued by the Plumas-Sierra 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, transportation and other care to large scale commercial livestock or crops, 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 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 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, then the Livestock Access Pass will be considered an option by law enforcement, fire personnel, or the Plumas County Office of Emergency Services.

During an emergency, do not contact Plumas-Sierra 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 Tracy Schohr, UCCE at 916-716-2643, or Willo Vieira, Plumas-Sierra County Agricultural at 530-283-6365. 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 ROADBLOCK AND ATTEMPT TO USE THE COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL LIVESTOCK ACCESS PASS WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION.**
- **Removal of Livestock:** If you intend to remove livestock from the evacuation zone (e.g. veterinary care, alternative location), please provide prior notification to UCCE or Plumas-Sierra County Ag Department. The intent of this term is to prevent theft of livestock during an emergency.
- **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 Plumas Sierra County Ag Department to obtain the sign, you will also receive one with your pass.
- **Pass Database:** The Livestock Access Pass registration database will be maintained and updated by UCCE and Plumas-Sierra County Agricultural Department. Data will be available to key agencies, including, but not limited to, California Highway Patrol, Sierra County Sheriff's Office, Plumas County Sheriff's Office, Incident Command and Plumas or Sierra County Emergency Operations Centers. The Livestock Access 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 will be provided a current list of valid Commercial Livestock Access Pass Holders, permit numbers, along with a sample valid pass.

- **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 or crops within the evacuation zone or other restricted area during a declared emergency. Thus, if you are found outside of the scope of this purpose, then your 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 damaged 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 Plumas / County of Sierra 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 Plumas / County of Sierra 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 Plumas / County of Sierra 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 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, and shall be subject to immediate arrest for trespass into restricted areas and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

- **Modifications:** To improve the program, modification can be made to the program that will be communicated to pass holders via email.

Approved as to Form:



Interim County Counsel

8/24/2023

Dated