

Siskiyou County Livestock Pass Program Training

March 6, 2024



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Thank you, program partners!



Value= Established Process & Relationships

Goal of Training

- Ensure all parties, including emergency responders and agency personnel, understand the protocol for Pass use and communication during a disaster.
- Questions/discussion: if we can't fully address a question after a presentation, we will continue the conversation at lunch.
- **THANK YOU** for your time and support!

House keeping

- Before leaving:
 - **Complete paperwork:** “Pass Holder Information” form handed out at registration if you did not submit your own application online; managerial employee form
 - **Sign liability form**
 - **Have your picture taken:** required for Pass! Grace will be taking pics at break and during lunch
- Your Pass will be mailed to the address provided on your training registration by the end of May.

Roadmap

- Program Overview
- Background
- AB 1103
- Siskiyou Program: 2023 recap
- Process- how will this work?
- 2024 timeline
- Key points

Program overview

- **Goal:** identify commercial livestock operators to emergency responders so that access to care for livestock may be granted safely and efficiently.
- The Livestock Pass is a permit issued to approved Commercial Livestock Operators before a disaster strikes.
 - Applicants must be approved and attend a training program before pass is issued.
- Pass will be presented at roadblocks so ranchers can access their property and provide feed, water, medical treatment, and other care to livestock sheltering in place.
- ***Subject to the discretion of emergency personnel – human safety is #1 priority***

Commercial operations

- Evacuating livestock from commercial ranching operations may not be possible during a disaster – sheltering-in-place may be the best and safest alternative.
- For the purposes of this program, “commercially raised” means the livestock are raised as part of a business and a commercial livestock operator is defined as an owner of ≥ 50 head of livestock or ≥ 50 beehives.

Evacuation support/resources for those not covered by the Livestock Pass Program holders are in binder (tab 4)

Background

Disasters in general, and wildfire in particular—in addition to their serious impact on lives and residential property—present critical logistical challenges to agricultural operations in California¹



- Catastrophic wildfires are becoming increasingly common - wildfire activity across California is unprecedented.²
- Mutual aid: staff at roadblocks are often from a different county or state and don't know who is a rancher and who isn't.

Background



- Ventura County – initiated in mid-2000s for all Ag operations
- Catalyst for Butte County was Camp Fire (2018) followed by North Complex (2020)
 - Access Challenges
 - False Identification
 - Daley Family Story

Livestock/Ag Disaster Access Pass Programs

as of January 10, 2023

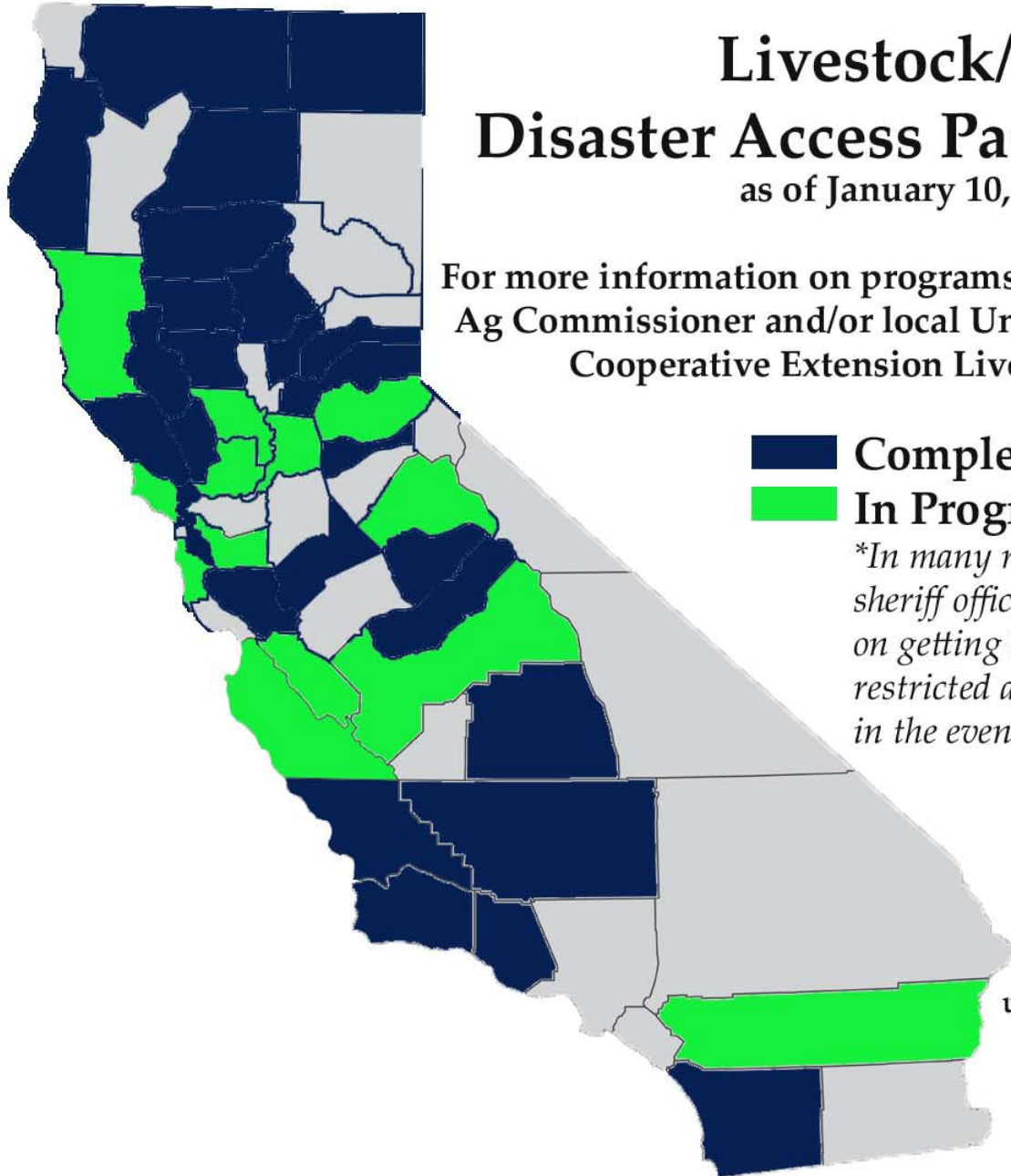
For more information on programs please contact county
Ag Commissioner and/or local University of California
Cooperative Extension Livestock Advisor

 Complete
 In Progress

**In many rural agricultural counties, the sheriff office feels they have a good pulse on getting livestock producers in restricted areas to care for animals in the event of an emergency.*

UC University
of California
CE Cooperative
Extension

For questions or to provide map
updates please contact Tracy Schohr at
tk schohr@ucanr.edu



AB 1103: Dahle (October 7, 2021)

- Outlines who can get access: “qualifying livestock producers” and “managerial employees”
- Standardizes form of Livestock Passes
- CALFIRE Training Program (4 hour initial + 1 hour annual renewal)

Siskiyou County Program Development

Spring 2021:
Siskiyou County
Cattlemen's
Association Board
expressed interest.

May 2021:
UCCE + Ag Dept.
initial meeting. Fire
season started in
early June (planning
put on hold).

February 2022:
Partners meet to
review proposed
program; County
Counsel review.

April 2022:
BOS approved the
Siskiyou County
Livestock Pass
program.

Modifications and improvements

- Rapid program development
- Committed to WORKING program
 - Annual review- suggested improvements
 - Partner organizations + ranchers who used program



Siskiyou County Success



McKinney Fire (>60,000 ac.; mostly forestlands)
Mill Fire (>4,000 ac.; town of Weed, pasturelands)



2022: 4 ranchers requested to use their Pass- all did so successfully.

1 x USFS land access
3 x private land access



Happy Camp Complex (>21,500 ac.; mostly forestlands)



2023: 5 ranchers requested to use their Pass- all did so successfully

8 x USFS land access
1 x private land access

- Collaborated efficiently with program partners by working out of the Emergency Operations Center.
- Ranchers who used the program reported that the program worked as intended and was a benefit to them.
- Communication was important regardless of Pass use.

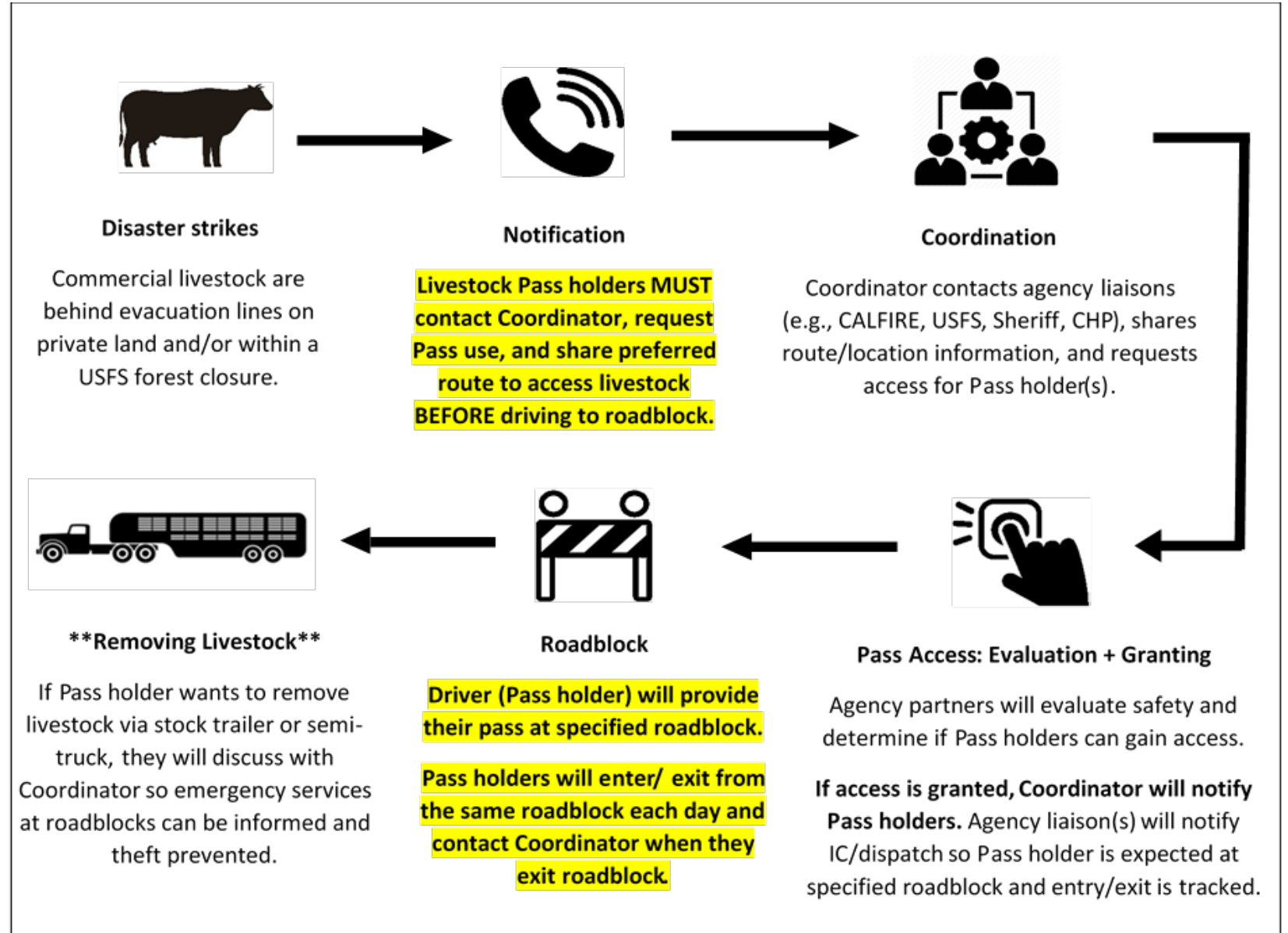
My key takeaways as program coordinator:

- Emergency Operations Center = resource hub, key for efficient coordination
- Wait for Pass holders to call (do not call them)
- Pass Holders: have your route ready when you call
 - Google Maps, Avenza, etc.
- Communication can be just as important as using Pass
- Great program partners make all the difference

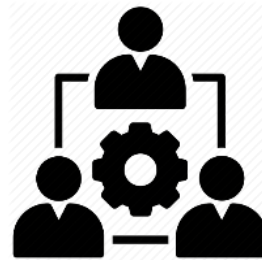
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Roadblock protocol



Coordination: what happens in the EOC



Coordinator (UCCE/Ag. Dept.)



Agency Liaison(s)



Incident Command

- **Coordinator contacts agency liaison** (e.g., CALFIRE, USFS) and requests access for pass holder(s). **Agency determines if it's safe to use pass.**
- **UCCE/Ag Dept. works out of EOC + attends briefings** to communicate: 1) needs of Pass holders, and/or; 2) program overview to incoming personnel/teams.

Signage

- Important to notify agency personnel and emergency responders that animals are being cared for.
- Helps communicate/free up time for Animal Control and animal volunteer groups.
- Sign and zip ties are in your binder!

**LIVESTOCK ARE UNDER THE
CARE OF A COMMERCIAL
LIVESTOCK PASS HOLDER**



Siskiyou County Livestock Pass issued by Siskiyou
County Agricultural Department (530)841-4025

Trainings

You only need to do the initial, 4 hour training once to obtain your pass. To keep your pass, you have to complete the "annual renewal".

- <4-hour initial training: In-person
- <1-hour annual renewal: Online
 - Goal: Update and confirm operation and location information
 - Assess what worked well and what could be improved

Our Siskiyou county program does not stipulate an expiration date for Passes - as long as the state doesn't mandate something different, you'll never have to take the 4 hour training again.

Registration and data base

- Registration
 - Address/location
 - # head/hives and season of use
 - Contact information
- Database
 - Maintained by Siskiyou County UCCE and Ag Department
 - Select information is available to program partners during an emergency

Insurance and Risk

- Accessing restricted areas may impact:
 - Property liability insurance
 - Vehicle or equipment insurance
 - Worker's compensation coverage

2023/24 Timeline

- 3/6/24: Training
- March-April: Annual Renewal
- May: Passes issued
- Summer/fall 2024: Refer to flow chart/emergency contact list and don't forget to put up your sign. **Remember- you must contact Grace before using your Pass.**
- Winter 2024- Spring 2025:
 - Post-fire season feedback/evaluation
 - 1-hour renewal for current pass holders and 4-hour initial training for new pass holders

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Key points:

**Livestock Pass use is subject to the discretion of the agency
in charge of emergency**

Human safety is our first priority

Key points:

Call Grace (or Jodi) before driving to a roadblock- we will not call you.

- Coordinating with agencies in advance of your arrival is the most critical part of the program.
- **Know which route you will take.**
- ~1.5 hours from initial call → driving through roadblock



Key points:

If you plan to move cattle, let us know so we can communicate with emergency responders.

- Goal is to prevent theft and make sure roads are clear enough for a trailer to get through (not always the case).



Key points:

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.

Only permitted to care for your livestock- not checking on neighbors property, etc.

Key points:

The Livestock Pass is a permit issued to approved Commercial Livestock Operators before a disaster strikes. Applicants must be approved and attend a training program before pass is issued.

Additional trainings will not be held over summer or during an emergency.

Key points

Keep your Pass in an easily accessible, safe location.

Passes are not re-issued annually.

Final reminders

- Before leaving:
 - **Complete paperwork:** “Pass Holder Information” form handed out at registration if you did not submit your own application online; managerial employee form.
 - **Have your picture taken:** required for Pass! Grace will be taking pics at break and during lunch.
 - **Sign liability form:** leave at registration.

Questions?