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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **2014 Farm Bill and Livestock Losses**

Back in December and early February there were 6 Farm Bill meetings, following the 2 Farm Bill Dairy meetings in November, in the three counties. I was there for all 8 of these, but somehow I missed this. There are provisions in the 2014 Farm Bill dealing with extreme weather situations that result in livestock losses. If you remember back a couple of years or so ago there was a blizzard that hit South Dakota in October. This resulted in thousands and thousands of cattle lost.

The following was recently in the Adams County FSA Newsletter, and it may have been in Brown and Highland's, too. However I thought it was worth putting it out there again in case I was not the only one that missed it earlier. This is a good time to consider how good your record keeping system is, and to remember to document losses.

The 2014 Farm Bill provides for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) which provides monetary assistance to livestock owners for livestock deaths that occur as the result of eligible adverse weather events or avian predators protected by Federal law. Eligible weather events for LIP eligibility include blizzard, winter storm (lasting at least 3 consecutive days), extreme heat or extreme cold, lightning, and flood.

Producers must have accurate herd records to determine LIP eligibility. Records must be available to show beginning and ending livestock inventories by weight range, and proof of the number of livestock that died, such as photos, vet records, or third party certifications.

A Notice of Loss must be filed with the FSA office within 30 days of the livestock deaths. A Notice of Loss may be made by phone. An Application for Payment, along with all applicable records, must be submitted no later than 30 days following the calendar year of the livestock deaths.

Livestock deaths caused by Black Vultures may be eligible for LIP assistance because these avian predators are protected by Federal law. However, the deaths must be documented by a representative of the ODNR Division of Wildlife.

Assistance on documenting such losses may differ from county to county. You may need to simply contact the Farm Service Agency. However, in Adams County Bill Wickerham, Wildlife Specialist with Adams SWCD at (937) 544-1010 or in Brown County Danielle Thompson, Wildlife Specialist with Brown SWCD at (937) 378-4424 ext. 125 may be able to assist with this. In Highland County contact the FSA office at (937) 393-1921 ext. 2. Remember, a Notice of Loss must also be filed with FSA within 30 days, and proper records documenting inventory numbers must be provided.



## **Dates to Remember**

- Pesticide Testing Private or Commercial Pesticide Testing available at the Old Y Restaurant at noon on Monday, May 11. The test is offered on the second Monday of every month except October. Go to <http://pested.osu.edu> or call the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 800-282-1955 to register for the testing opportunity.
- COBA AI Class COBA/Select Sires will again offer the training for artificial insemination at the United Producers in Hillsboro on the evenings of April 28, 29 and 30 beginning at 6:00 p.m. For details contact COBA at 800 837-2621.