

## USFA ANNOUNCES NEW INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM: LIVESTOCK IN DISASTERS

EMMITSBURG, MD. - Livestock can be overlooked victims of disaster and the associated economic impact of can affect small and large producers in affected areas. The high winds and storm surge from Hurricane Floyd killed thousands of pigs and poultry in North Carolina. Heat waves across the mid Atlantic states in 2001 (?) killed several million poultry. And more than 90,000 cattle either froze or drowned in the blizzards and subsequent floods in the north central states in 1997. These caused interruption of Americas food supply, economic losses, public health problems and a huge cost to the American taxpayer in disaster assistance.

To address this issue, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) announce a new independent study program called "Livestock in Disasters" (IS-111), designed and presented by FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI). It is aimed at farmers, emergency managers and all other first responders who are involved in livestock agriculture.

"There are two major objectives in this training program. Preventing the loss of livestock and increasing the ability to more effectively respond when there is a loss," said USFA Deputy Administrator Charlie Dickinson.

"It not only addresses the problems associated with natural disasters such as floods and blizzards, it is also concerned with effective response to outbreaks of animal disease."

Topics covered in Livestock in Disasters include animal and public health issues, evacuation of animals, providing feed and water in times of disaster, and building wind resistant barns and farm buildings. The course also includes information on assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (to help prepare for a disaster OR available to help recover from a disaster) and developing community emergency plans to address this issue.

Livestock in Disasters IS-111 is available to all Americans. The course materials can be downloaded from EMI's Independent Study Website: <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is>.

Printed copies of IS-111 can be obtained by calling EMI's Independent Study office at 301-447-1200. The course takes 10 to 12 hours to complete.