

New USDA Program Might Help Some Chicken Growers

The 2008 federal Farm Bill created several new disaster programs under the title "Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance." One of the new programs is the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). This program compensates producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather that occurred on or after January 1, 2008 and before October 1, 2011, up to 75% of the fair market value as determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. No formal disaster declaration is required to trigger the program.

Signup will begin when an eligible disaster is apparent. A notice of loss must be filed within 30 days of when the loss is apparent.

Coverage is triggered by several eligible adverse weather events:

- Wildfire – must be related to an adverse weather event
- Blizzard
- Tornado
- Lightning
- Ice Storms
- Earthquakes
- Flooding
- Extreme Cold
- Extreme Heat
- Disease – must be related to or exacerbated by an eligible adverse weather event to be an eligible cause of livestock deaths.

LIP will pay up to \$100,000 annually. There is an income level to qualify for this program. Adjusted gross income in 2008 must be less than \$2.5 million. For this year and beyond, there is a \$500,000 non-farm adjusted gross income limit. Persons or legal entities that have an average adjusted gross non-farm income that exceeds \$500,000 are not eligible for this program.

Details about this program can be obtained from local USDA Farm Service Agency offices. □