



CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - March 2023

Responding and Recovering from a Flood Event

Here are some resources for producers coping with the aftermath.

By Dr. Michael Payne, UC Davis, School of Vet. Medicine; Director, CDQAP

The current storm systems have caused historic flooding throughout the state, resulting in forced evacuation of dairies, property damage and significant feed losses. Here are some resources related to responding to and recovering from flooding.



Dairy Trade Organizations - Dairy trade organizations have been working overtime to assist impacted producers. The assistance provided has included organizing livestock transportation for evacuation, identifying host dairies, arranging opening of shuttered facilities and coordinating with emergency responders. For most producers their primary contact is their familiar trade field rep. In addition, Western United Dairies has also set up a flood resources [landing page](#) and Milk Producers Council has a [hot-line](#).

County & State Aid - While California mobilizes a [state-wide response](#), so do local agencies. During declared emergencies, aside from the universal 911 call, request for emergency aid typically starts at county level, through the county [Office of Emergency Services](#). Many counties have activated their operations centers. Phone hot-lines have been set up for Tulare County (559-802-9791) and for Kings County (559-852-2010). These numbers can be used to request evacuation assistance or emergency work on roads, waterways, or levees.

CDFR - Field staff in Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Stanislaus counties have been working with dairies to assist with animal evacuation needs. A list of CDFR animal health field offices by county can be found [here](#). CDFR has also opened 11 fairgrounds as shelter and staging areas. For producers who have been forced to evacuate, an expedited equipment inspection will be needed to open a mothballed facility or repopulate the home dairy. Producers should either contact their county [milk inspection service](#) or their [regional milk inspection office](#). CDFR has developed a comprehensive [Flood Recovery Resources](#) page.



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UC Davis Alternative Manure Management & Healthy Soils Projects Field Day

March 30 from 9 AM - 12 PM in Hilmar

Learn about pelletized manure compost products that provide dairy farmers with an innovative way to export nutrients off the farm while generating revenue. Learn about the value of these products for improving soil health and reducing amendment application costs.

[Learn more and register.](#)



Who is the Animal Agriculture Alliance?

Part Two: Engaging Food Chain Influencers

By Kylie Scott, Communications Intern, and Abby Komegay, Manager, Issues and Engagement, Animal Agriculture Alliance

Editor's Note: The Alliance supports the dairy industry. Members include producer, processor and trade organizations at the local, state, and national level.



The Animal Agriculture Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to bridging the gap between farm and fork. Formed in 1987 in the Washington, DC area, the Alliance works to provide a unified voice for farmers, ranchers, veterinarians, animal feed companies, processors, allied associations and others along the food supply chain. Their motto is simple: connect, engage, protect. This second issue of a three-part series describes how the Alliance *engages* food chain influencers and promotes consumer choice by helping them better understand modern animal agriculture.

The Alliance aims to be the go-to resource for the media with issues that affect the entire animal agriculture community. In 2022, the Alliance was mentioned in more than 800 stories in trade publications and the mainstream media. Sites of some of the publications include: Modern Farmer, Mic.com, STAT, POLITICO, The Hill, MEAT+POULTRY, Meatingplace, Feedstuffs, The National Provisioner and many more.

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USDA – Following major disasters, state and federal governments offer disaster relief grants or low-interest loans. In particular USDA's Farm Services Agency offers a variety of disaster relief programs; a comparison chart can be found [here](#). Producers can should inquire about funding availability at their [local FSA service center](#). The USDA programs that are most applicable include:

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) – Probably of most interest to producers is FSA's [ECP](#) program; [applications close April 14](#). The program provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland and conservation structures damaged by natural disaster. The approved ECP practices include debris removal, grading, shaping & leveling, fence restoration & restoring conservation structures.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) – The [LIP](#) provides benefits to producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. Stock that had to be culled for disease resulting from flood waters may also be partially covered.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) – Some producers might receive limited funding through [ELAP](#) for livestock feed and grazing losses that are not due to drought or wildfires.

Farm Loans Program – FSA also offers a variety of direct and guaranteed [farm loans](#). The low-cost loans can be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year and refinance certain debts. Other low interest loans may be available through the [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#).

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Producers rehabilitating facility and cropland may inquire about [EQIP](#) funding to repair and prevent the excessive soil erosion caused or impacted by natural disasters.

Tax Relief – Not a program of USDA, in California business owners impacted by California's winter storms are now eligible for [emergency tax relief](#) from late payment interest and penalties.

CDQAP Resources – CDQAP has produced a number of flooding and evacuation resources:

- [California Dairies: Coping with Flooding and Evacuations](#)
- [Checklist for Emergency Flood Evacuation of a Dairy](#)
- [Managing Dairies During Heavy Rainfall: Actions Producers Can Take In-Between Rain Storms](#)
- [Emergency Flooding Advisory: Tulare & Central Valley Counties, March 17, 2023](#)

Who is the Animal Ag Alliance?: Engaging Food Chain Influencers *continued*

They also help people understand how the animal agriculture community shares the same values as today's consumer, with its never-ending commitment to animal care, sustainability, responsible antibiotic use, food safety and nutrition while debunking myths portrayed by activist groups with the Alliance's annual [Sustainability Impact Report](#). In addition, the Alliance uses [social media](#) extensively to engage with consumers by posting eye-catching graphics with factual, science-based information about animal agriculture and protein consumption, reaching more than 800,000 people per week.

One of the Alliance's most popular social campaigns is the "[Meat Matters](#)" initiative. Meat Matters is designed to help people understand the role of meat and poultry in a healthy, balanced diet. This campaign helps debunk the myths about animal agriculture and meat consumption used by activist groups promoting the "Meatless Mondays" movement. The Alliance works to build relationships with registered dietitians and share the Meat Matters Guide with any institution considering adopting a "Meatless Monday" policy.

The Alliance also engages state and national restaurant, food retailer and foodservice associations through quarterly webinars and outreach regarding current activist campaigns. The goal of this engagement is to provide resources, answer their questions and offer a counter voice to anti-animal agriculture activists.

For more information about how the Alliance engages with the animal ag community, visit the Alliance website or contact Casey Kinler, Director of Membership and Marketing. You can also follow the Alliance on social media and share posts with your own networks: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Tik Tok](#).

