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#### (Neb.)-More Flexibility Offered To Ranchers Who Lost Livestock



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 10/30/2013 07:17 AM

(Lincoln)-Officials with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service announced new information for producers impacted by the early October blizzard that affected northwest Nebraska. NRCS State Conservationist Craig Derickson said that assistance is now available to producers who have already disposed of the animals they lost during the blizzard through NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Impacted producers have until Nov. 15 to apply.

The NRCS in Nebraska created a special Livestock Mortality Initiative through EQIP. This Initiative is available to producers in the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District, which includes Sioux, Box Butte, Dawes and Sheridan counties in northwest Nebraska.

This initiative provides technical and financial assistance to help producers dispose of livestock carcasses in a safe manner. Producers who have already taken care of their deceased livestock can still seek this assistance from NRCS through EQIP as long as the manner in which the animals were disposed of meets NRCS technical standards.

Derickson said typically producers cannot receive assistance from NRCS until they have entered in to an approved contract, but with an unseasonably early blizzard occurring during the government shutdown – it created a unique situation. He said NRCS wants to do everything it can to provide ranchers the assistance they need to recover from this storm event.

Impacted ranchers should visit their local NRCS office located in the USDA Service Center. There, NRCS conservationists will work one-on-one with producers to develop a recovery plan that best meets the needs of their operation. The office in Chadron is located at 1006 W. 6th Street and can be reached by phone at 308-432-4616, ext. 3.

According to Derickson, the bottom line is that NRCS is there to help ranchers recover from this devastating storm event. He encourages ranchers to visit their local office to learn more about the financial and technical assistance that is available.

(Story courtesy NRCS)

