Lessons Learned from March 2017 Wildfires

USAHA Committee on Animal Emergency Management

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Texas Animal Health Commission
Texas Fires Overview

Panhandle Fires
Total Acres: 520,060 ac.
**Perimeters are estimates based on satellite detections.**

Dumas Complex
March 6th
28,800 ac.

Rankin Ranch Road
March 23rd
38,104 ac.

Perryton
March 6th
318,156 ac.

Lefors East
March 6th
135,000 ac.

Texas A&M
Forest Service
0 10 20 Miles
Greg Beard 03/30/17
Texas Fires Overview

- Pasture Loss ~ $6.1 million dollars
- Fence Loss ~ 5,760 miles @ $10,000 = 57.6 mil
- Buildings/facilities/structures ~ $3.8 million
- Livestock ~ $4 million (plus)
- Emergency hay and feed ~ $1 million
- Carcass Disposal ~ $3.6 million

$76,100,000.00
Carcass Disposal Issues

Questions about carcass disposal:

Contact
Texas Commission on Environment Quality
800-832-8224
or
www.tceq.texas.gov.
Carcass Disposal Issues

Public Property
- Roadways
- Right-of-way
- Residential Neighborhoods
  - Subdivisions
  - Within City Limits

Private Property
- Ranches
- Rural Properties
- Commercial Properties

Carcasses on Public Property Fall Under The responsibility of the local jurisdictions Debris Management Plan

Carcasses on Private Property are the responsibility of the Property’s Owner

All Carcass Disposal Coordinated With TCEQ
Donations Management
Livestock Supply Points
Financial Donations

Cattle Raisers Memorial Fund

to benefit the families of the victims of the Panhandle Wildfires

Please Consider Donating Today!

Texas Farm Bureau Wildfire Relief Fund

2017 Panhandle Wildfire Relief
from the ashes we will rise

Family strong. Community strong. Panhandle strong.
Rebuilding after the Texas wildfires

MILLION DOLLAR WILDFIRE RELIEF CHALLENGE

TEXASFARMBUREAU.ORG
Recovery

USDA Farm Service Agency

USDA NRCS
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Texas Cattlemen's Association
Texas Cattle Feeders Association

Member
Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers
Association, Inc.
1-800-242-7820
United States Department of Agriculture Programs

- Farm Service Agency
  - Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
  - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Catfish Program (ELAP)
  - Emergency Loan Program
  - Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) fencing
  - HayNet – Share Hay Needs

- Natural Resources Conservation Services
  - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Assist with carcass burial questions and issues
Wildfire recovery meetings
August 3
in northeastern Texas Panhandle
Lessons Learned

Early Messaging/Public Information
  - Donations Management
    - Hay & Feed
    - Hay Requirements – Fire Ant “Free” hay
    - Financial Donations

Carcass Management Information for Local Jurisdictions
  - Who’s responsible
  - Who pays

Recovery
  - Long-term (best use vs business models)
Lessons Learned

- **Pre-Planning** (non-typical perspective)
  - Ranch Fire Wise Program
  - Mitigation Programs
    - High Threat Areas

- **Continued Association Engagement**
  - Cattle, Dairy, Horses, Swine, Poultry

- **Local Animal Issues Committees**
  - Include producer groups in local planning
  - Continue to identify planning and response partners
Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas Panhandle Country Now
Remembering Those We lost
Cody Crockett (20) top Ranch Hand for the Franklin Ranch
“Cody was kinda like the old-time cowboy,”
“He did everything the right way”.

Sydney Wallace (23) Cody Crockett’s girlfriend
“I’d have to say she was the most amazing woman I had the opportunity to teach and get to know,”

Slone Everett (35) owner of the Franklin Ranch:
“He died protecting his family, the land and his way of life,”
“By every measure, Sloan was a godly son, husband and father.”
Cade Koch, (25) “my savior.”

Cade left work at Bartlett’s Lumber in Canadian to rescue his pregnant wife, Sierra, as the wind-fueled flames advanced east toward their home in Lipscomb. He never arrived.
Praying for California and those lost to the fires.
Questions?

PANHANDLE STRONG

Texas • Oklahoma • Kansas
Thank You For Your Time

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