

DEPARTMENT: Agricultural Commissioner

BY: Cathi Boze
PHONE: 966-2075

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Resolution ratifying the USDA Primary Disaster Declaration Request for Mariposa County rangeland/livestock operations due to drought conditions by the Agricultural Commissioner

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The California County Agricultural Commissioner Disaster Report is the first step in the request for USDA Primary Disaster Declaration Designation. The drought conditions that began in October 2006 and continue to the present time have caused a significant loss in range forage production and value in Mariposa County. Current survey information shows anticipated rangeland forage production losses of 35 - 40% due to lack of adequate rainfall at critical times and prolonged freezing temperatures during the growing season. The lack of moisture was further exacerbated by periods of unseasonable warmth. This request and designation will enable Mariposa County producers to become eligible for various USDA compensation programs.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Mariposa County producers will not be eligible for any possible federal aid.

Financial Impact? () Yes (x) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? () Yes (x) No () Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$		Letter to OES
Source:		California County Agricultural Commissioner
		Disaster Report
Internal Transfer		
Unanticipated Revenue	_____ 4/5's vote	
Transfer Between Funds	_____ 4/5's vote	
Contingency	_____ 4/5's vote	
() General () Other		

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

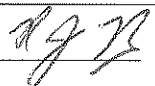
Res. No.: 07-118 Ord. No. _____
 Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: _____
 Absent: _____
 () Approved
 () Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended
 No Opinion
 Comments: _____

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____
 Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
 County of Mariposa, State of California
 By: _____
 Deputy

CAO: 

**MARIPOSA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
& WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER
Post Office Box 905, 5009 Fairgrounds Road
Mariposa, California 95338-0905

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Henry R. Renteria, Director
Governor's Office of Emergency Services
3650 Schiever Avenue
Mather, California 95655-4203

28 March 2007

Dear Director Renteria:

A survey of Mariposa County producers, UC and NRCS personnel, and adjoining counties has revealed anticipated rangeland forage loss of more than \$2.6 million. This loss is due to a combination of factors: the lack of adequate rainfall at critical times, higher than normal temperatures, followed by prolonged freezing temperatures, all of which occurred during the rangeland grass-growing season from October 15, 2006 to the present time. The lack of moisture was further exacerbated by periods of unseasonable warmth. The rangeland production loss is expected to exceed 38%, though the ultimate effects resulting from the unseasonable weather may not be known for some time. Further, rangeland grasses and forbs have already begun to go to seed, making it doubtful that this figure will improve substantially over the next several weeks, even should moisture become available.

Attached is the California County Agricultural Commissioner's Disaster Report. Please use this report for consideration in seeking a USDA primary disaster declaration for Mariposa County's rangeland/livestock production industry. With the decrease in rangeland forage comes many other increased cost factors for our producers. This estimate does not include the cost of supplemental feed, the decrease in livestock weight gain, livestock losses, the loss due to the lower carrying capacity of rangeland resulting in early sales of animals (at a lower price), and the cost of transporting animals outside Mariposa County to other unaffected grazing areas.

The Mariposa County Department of Agriculture will continue to survey other segments of the livestock industry. As that loss information becomes available it will be forwarded to you.

Please use this letter and attached reports for consideration of a USDA primary disaster declaration designation for Mariposa County's rangeland and livestock industry.

Sincerely,

Cathi Boze
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

13. Total Farms in County: (Use most recent U.S. Farm Census number.)		Number		
		284		
14. Farms with Production Losses of:		Number		
100%				
90 to 99%				
80 to 89%				
70 to 79%				
60 to 69%				
50 to 59%				
40 to 49%				
30 to 39%		7		
20 to 29%				
Less than 20%				
15. Livestock and Poultry Losses of:		Number Destroyed/Damaged	3-Year Avg. Price (From Annual Crop Report)	Dollar Loss
Cattle (Excluding milk cows)				
Milk Cows				
Milk Production				
Sheep				
Hogs				
Poultry				
Aquaculture				
Apiary				
Other				
16. Farms with <u>Physical</u> Losses of:		Number		
Major				
Minor				
17. Farm Facilities Damaged:		Number		
		Destroyed	Major	Minor
Dwellings & Service Buildings				
Structures				
Machinery & Equipment				
Land Damages (Acres)				
Other				

Remarks: Rangeland value is calculated on value per acre (rent). The total dollar loss is for rangeland forage only. It does not include the cost of supplemental feeding, decrease in livestock weight gain, livestock losses, or any other cost factors caused by the lack of rainfall and abnormal cold temperatures which resulted in limited forage growth.