

American Dairy Coalition: Blizzard-impacted farmers need to take action

Posted on Monday, Apr 23, 2018

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In an effort to speed up potential relief efforts for farmers impacted by Wisconsin's recent Blizzard Evelyn, the Wisconsin-based American Dairy Coalition (ADC) is asking those who sustained damage to contact their Farm Service Agency (FSA) office immediately.

Officials will quantify the damage reports and estimate the losses on a county-by-county basis. The totals will be provided to Gov. Scott Walker to use as the criteria for possible monetary assistance from state and/or federal resources.

"Time is of the essence," said Laurie Fischer, ADC chief executive officer. "Whether they are facing collapsed structures, lost milk production, high insurance deductibles, animal losses or other situations, farmers need to get their damages on the record with their local FSA office. Just one phone call could have a big impact down the road."

Those assessing damages need to look beyond current losses not covered by insurance, Fischer noted, and consider the longer-term economic losses that will impact future business profitability.

The ADC recommends farmers include in their assessments:

- Collapsed building roofs: Total footage damaged, as well as structural damage to the remainder of the building that did not collapse; cost of cleanup and short-term fixes to keep parlors running.
- Animal Injury: Injuries to cows, death of cows, cows culled, the percentage of cows in the future to be culled as a result of the blizzard and the loss per culled cow, as well as impact to future milking herd
- Deductibles and Insurance Coverage: How much of your building will be covered? Will you receive any coverage for the replacement of the weakened structure? Are you required to pay a deductible and, if so, how much?
- Impact during rebuilding process: Increased risk of mastitis, breeding complications or disruptions, veterinarian costs, additional labor needed.
- Costs incurred from transporting animals, feed or milk
- Milk lost
- Recovery timelines: What is the realistic time frame in which your operation will return to normal function?
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The American Dairy Coalition will continue to monitor this information and will keep you up to date on developments and information as they become available.

About The American Dairy Coalition:

The Green Bay-based American Dairy Coalition (ADC) is a farmer-led national lobbying organization of progressive, modern dairy, livestock and agriculture farmers in the nation. We focus on federal dairy, agriculture and livestock policy. For more information, contact CEO Laurie Fischer at 920-965-6070

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