

Wildfire Preparedness for Livestock Producers

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**Dr. Costa, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine*

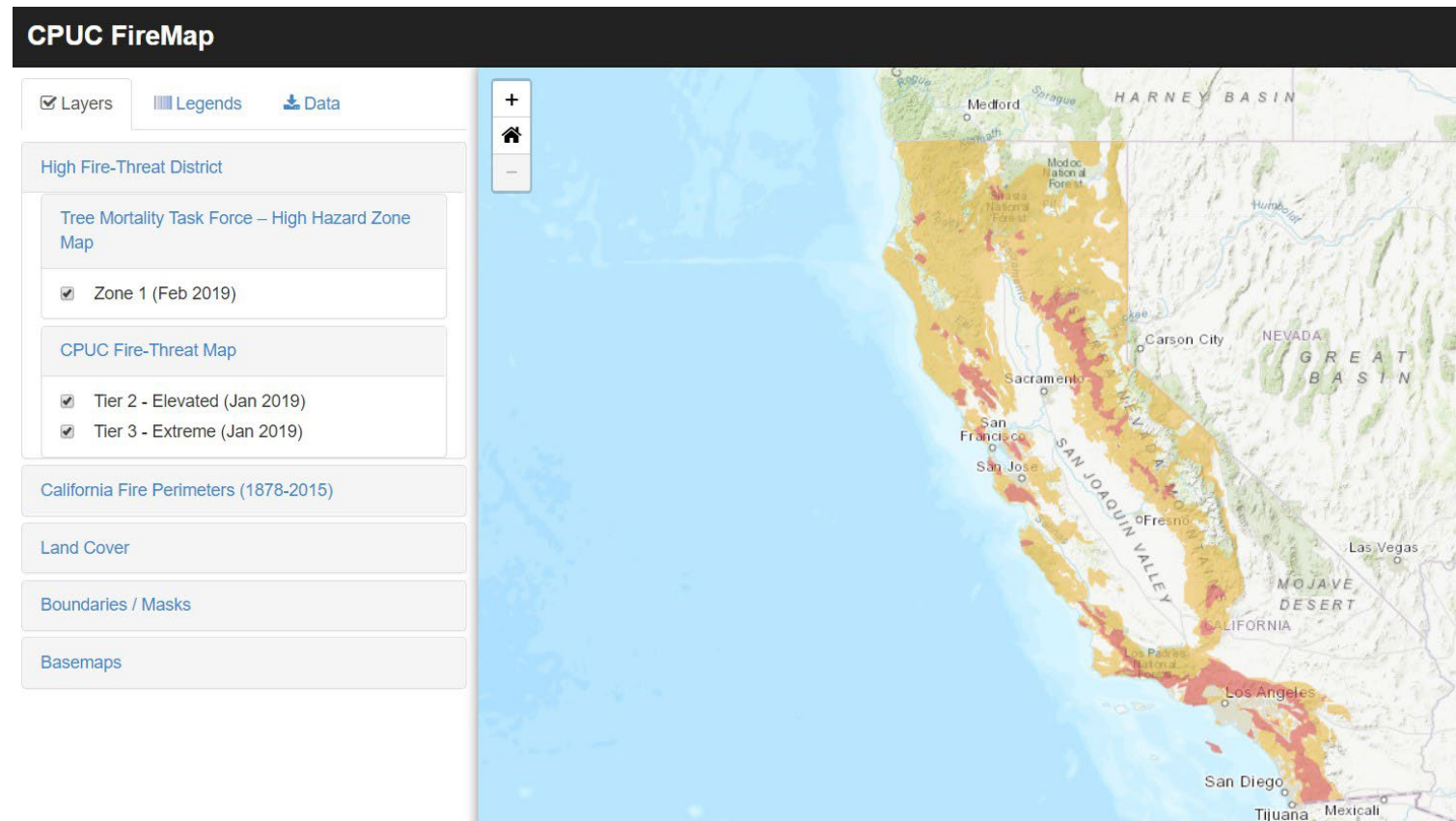
Before You Buy Webinar
November 13, 2025

Overview

- Understanding Risks
- Preparing before a wildfire
- Livestock health during wildfires
- Ag Pass

Fire

<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/firemap/>



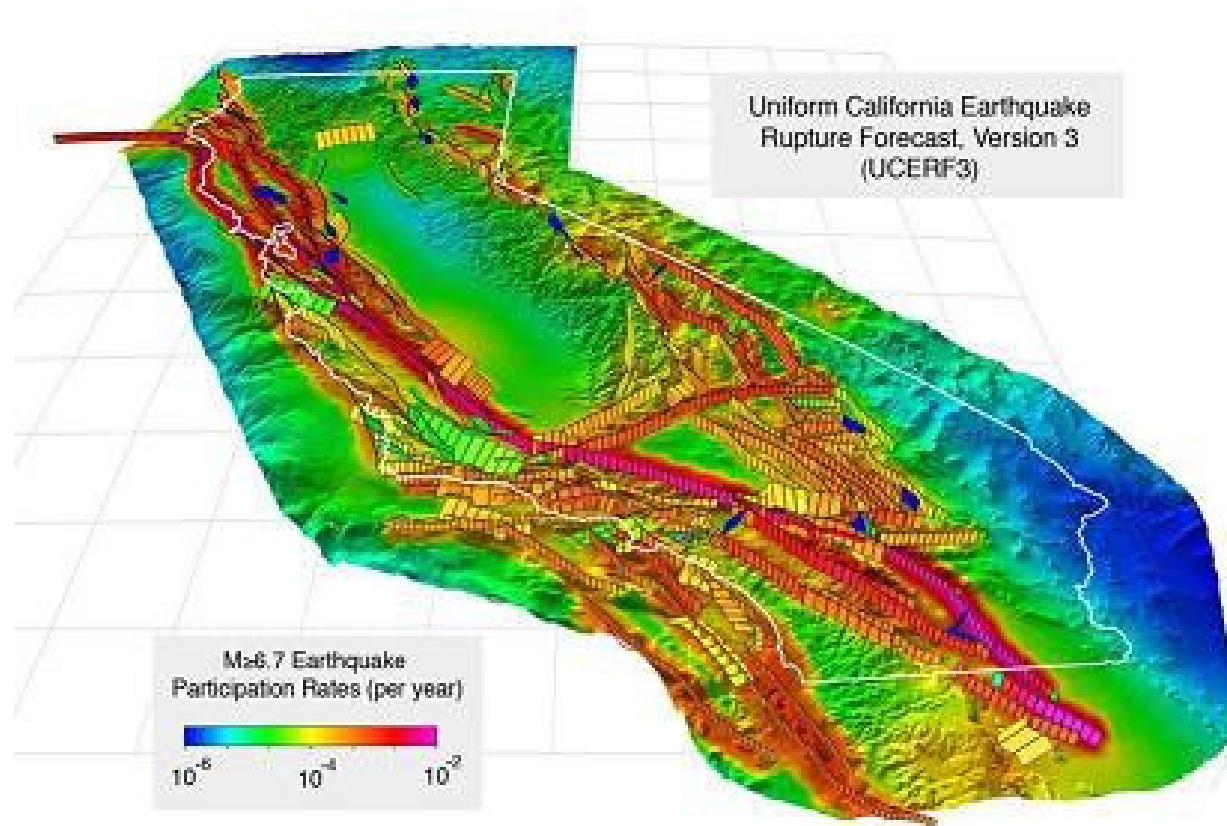
Power Outages

<https://poweroutage.us/area/state/california>



Earthquake

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/earthquakes>



Flood

<http://myhazards.caloes.ca.gov/>



Overview

- Understanding Risks
- **Preparing before a wildfire**
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Preparing Before a Wildfire

- **Monitor Red-Flag Warnings**
- **Emergency Alert**
 - **Warning vs Mandatory**



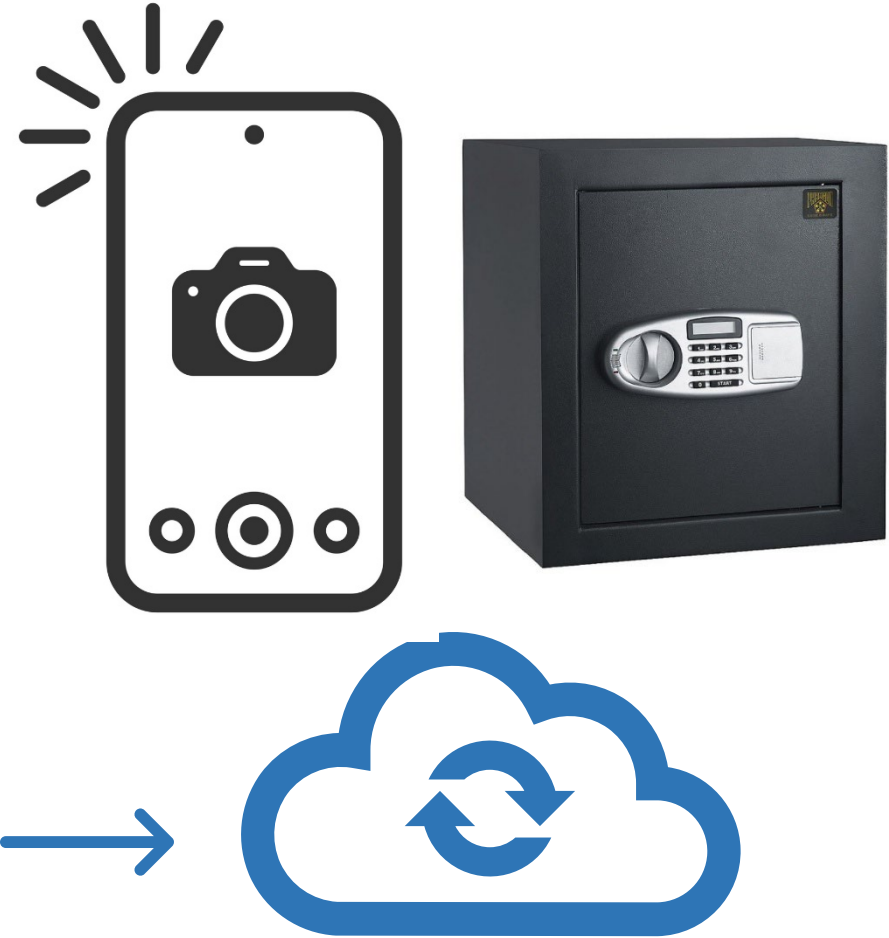
Preparing Before a Wildfire

- Home hardening
- Protecting agricultural structures
 - Critical Infrastructure (e.g. wells)
 - Hay Storage
 - Barn
- Defensible space
- Access
 - Address signs
 - Road clearing
 - Bridges (weight loads)



Preparing Before a Wildfire

- **Paperwork**
 - **Livestock Inventory & Records**
 - Pregnancy check
 - Yellow slips (date, head, class)
 - Receipts
 - Premise ID
 - **Contracts and agreements**
 - **Insurance Information**
 - **Cloud-based data storage**



Animal ID

- **Tattoo**
- **Ear tags**
- **Microchips**
- **Brands/paint brands**
- **Collars**
- **Pictures of valuable animals**



UC ANR Raising Dairy Goat Kids <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>

Practice & Plan

- Practice Loading Animals
- Trailer Ready
- Know Route Options



Evacuation Plans – How?

- **Evacuation Assistance**

- Animal Disaster Group
- County Animal Control
- Friends

- ****CHALLENGES**

- Access
- Capacity



North Valley Animal Disaster Group
HOTLINE (530) 895-0000

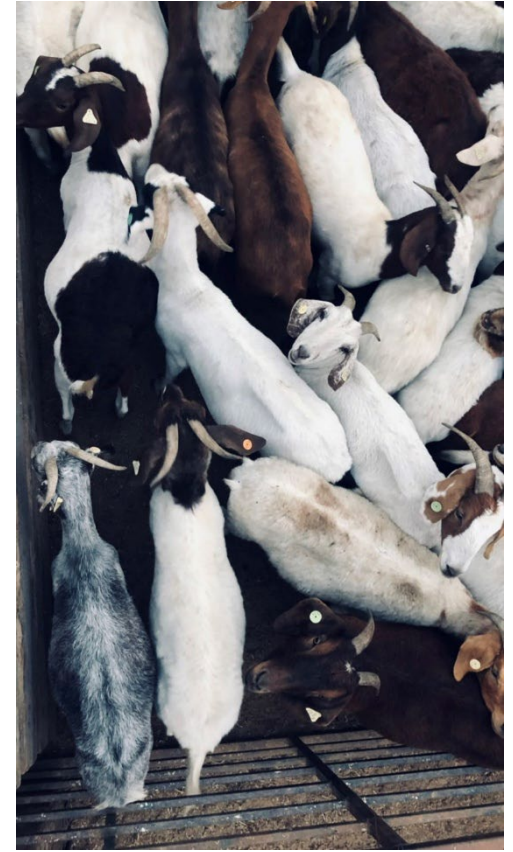
Evacuate – Where?

- **Know WHERE you are going**
 - Have a Plan A, Plan B, Plan C...
 - Plan A might be in the evacuation zone tomorrow
- **Write these plans down**
- **Evacuation center for small numbers**
 - Fairgrounds
 - Feed/supplies
 - Vet support



Evacuate – WHEN?

- **Get ready early**
 - Have your farm's "go bag" ready Listen to local authorities
 - Stay informed
 - Social Media updates/ PG&E updates
- **Go early**
 - How much time do you need?
 - Trailering capacity
 - Is there help or not?
 - What are the usual evacuation zones



Evacuation Plan – Worst Case Scenario

- **Decision to Leave Livestock**

- Low threat areas
- Risk with lose animals
- Report to animal control for shelter in place and/or evacuation



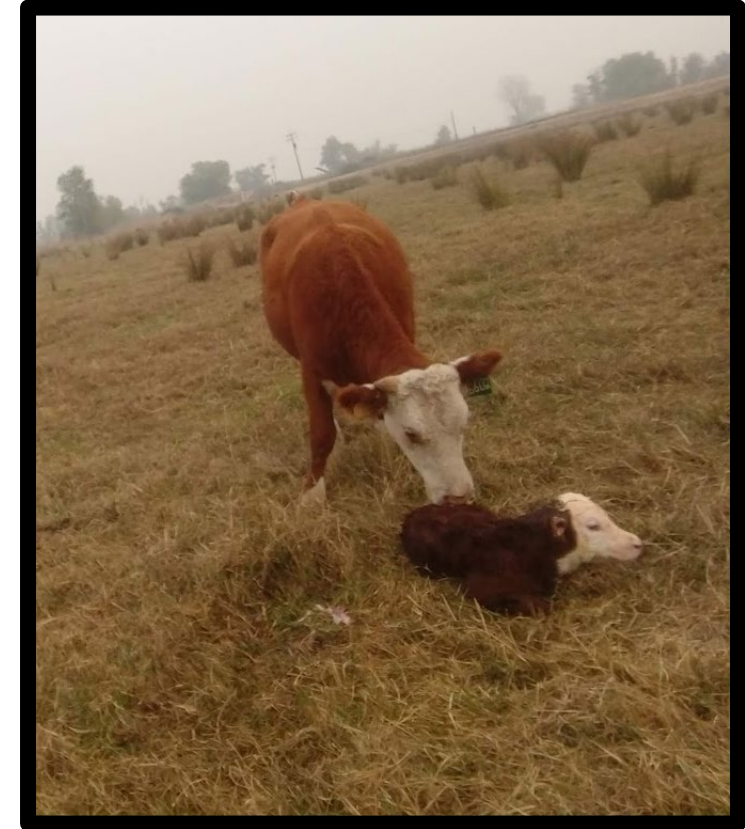
Overview

- Understanding Risks
- Preparing before a wildfire
- **Livestock during wildfires**
- Knowing the impacts
- Ag Pass

Livestock health during wildfires

- **Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship**
 - Tele-medicine
- **Limit stress and additional dust**
 - Don't work livestock or ride horses
 - Feed
 - Water access
- **Smoke Inhalation**

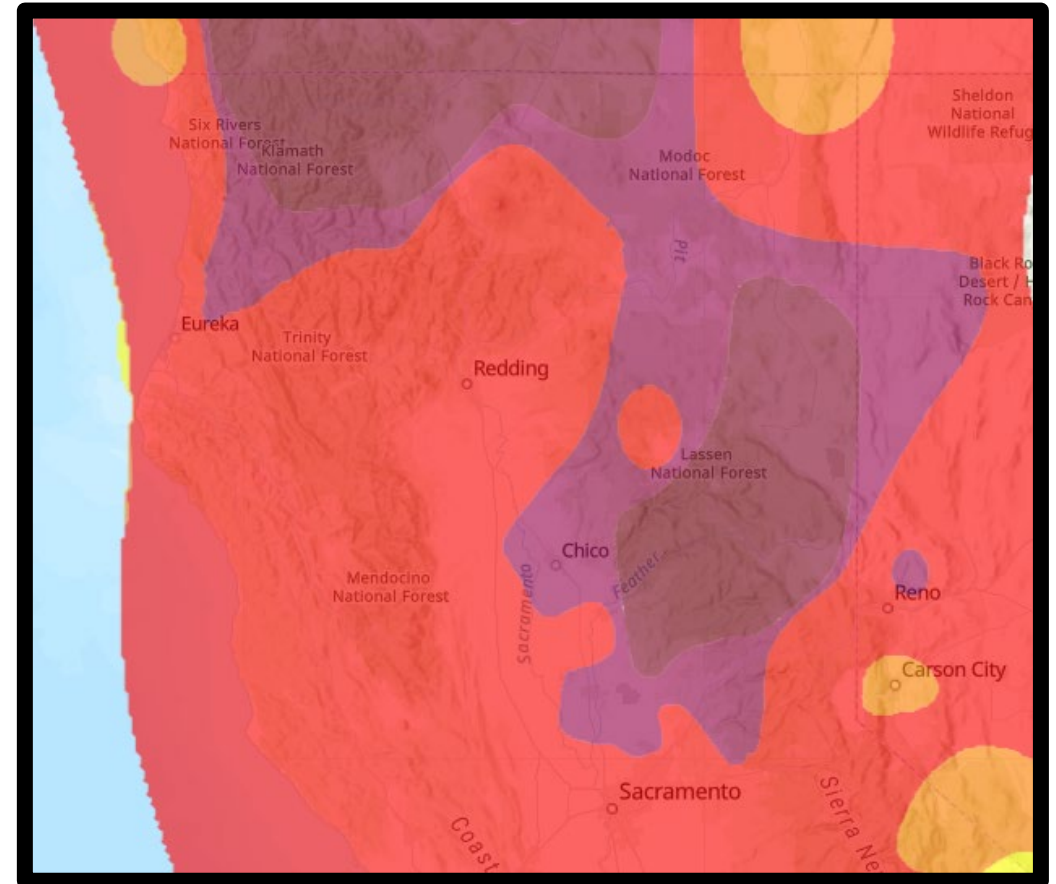
November 15, 2019 – Camp Fire



Air Quality

Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

September 12, 2020 – North Complex Fires



Water Supply

- Wetting down buildings and facilities
- Keeping livestock healthy
- How is it supplied?
 - Pump?
 - Backup power? Generator?
 - Water storage?
 - Irrigation system?



Water Supply

*For additional details visit North Dakota State University [Livestock Water Requirements](#)

Recommendations for 90 Degree Temperatures		
**With heat wave increase estimates accordingly		
Cattle	800 lbs. growing steer or heifer	+15 gallons
	1,000 lbs. finishing cattle	+21 gallons
	1,400 lbs. cow or bull	+19 gallons
Horse	Mature Horse	+22 gallons
Sheep	60-110 lbs. feeder lamb	+1.5 gallons
	+175 lbs. pregnant ewe	+2 gallons
	+175 ram	+2 gallons
Swine	60-100 lbs grower pig	+2 gallons
	100-250 lbs finishing pig	+3 gallons
	Lactating sows	+8 gallons

For cattle on feed, the recommendation is to provide 1 – 2 gallons of water per lb of dry matter intake (DMI) if the temperature exceeds 95 F.

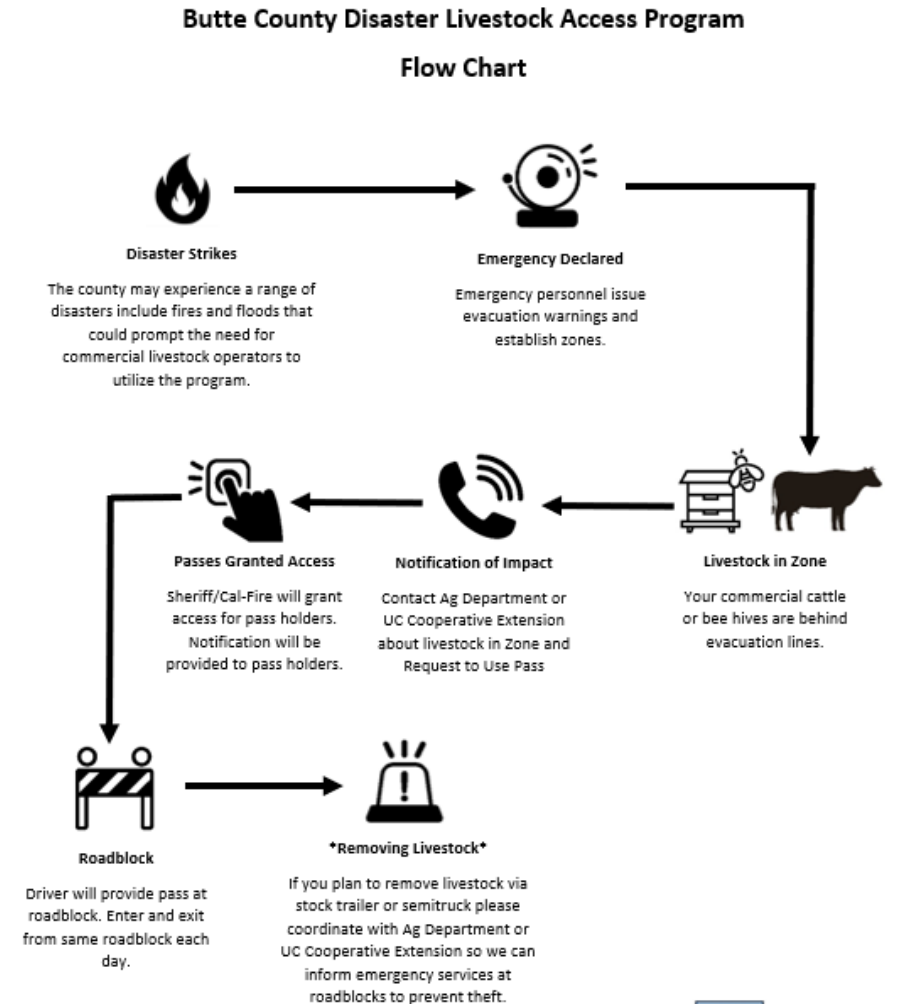
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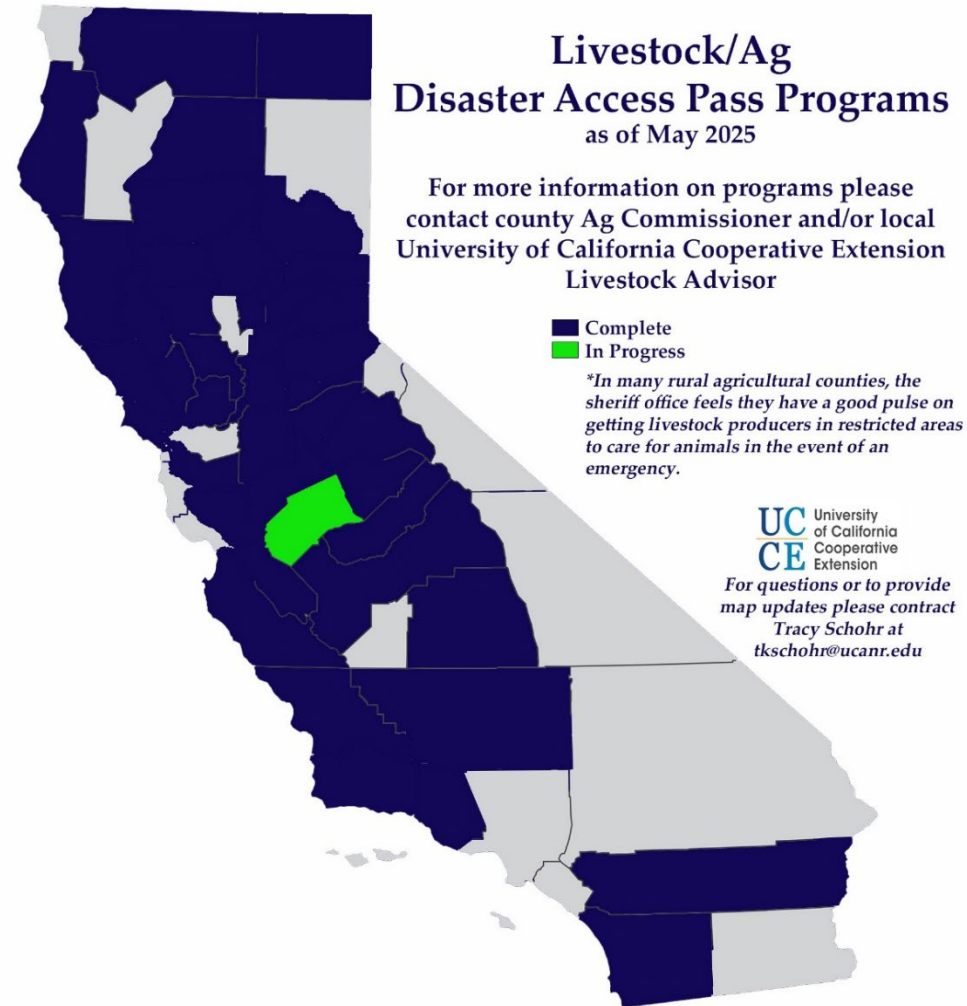
Ag – Livestock Disaster Pass

Butte County Example

- Focus on 50 Head+ Cattle & Bee Hives
- Registration
- 4-hour training
- 1-hour annual refresher
- Pre-Approval
- No during initial phase
- “Shelter in Place”
- *Not require additional resources
- *Not impact emergency operations
- *Not guaranteed access



Ag – Livestock Disaster Pass



Conclusion

- **Preparing**
 - Plan
 - Practice
 - Discuss
- **During Wildfire**
 - Don't Wait
 - Execute Plan
- **Recovery**
 - Ask for help
 - UCCE
 - FSA – Determine Eligibility



QUESTIONS?

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