



Nevada Farm Bureau Federation

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July 29, 2022

Governor Steve Sisolak
101 N. Carson St. Suite 1
Carson City, NV 89701

Governor Sisolak:

Nevada's livestock producers are a significant portion of the agricultural economy in the state. These small businesses raise healthy, sustainable meat products to help feed our nation. The drought over the last several years has stretched the resources of this industry to the breaking point.

We are writing today to request your support and assistance in making an allocation from the ***American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund*** for Nevada livestock producers who are needing assistance in acquiring affordable supplies of hay and feed for their cattle and sheep.

These small businesses are struggling with the multi-year drought impact as well as other significant challenges in purchasing the hay and feed necessary to continue in their livestock enterprises. Without assistance, many will no longer be able to stay in business. Purchasing hay, which has skyrocketed in price due to the drought and dwindling supplies, is driving cattle and livestock producers to sell off their herds. It is not beyond the realm of possibilities that our state's livestock numbers could be cut in half without some form of assistance to buy down the cost of hay.

We are urging your support for using the ***American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund*** to establish a *Nevada Hay Support Program* for our livestock producers. Details would include setting eligibility criteria and presenting receipts for purchases of hay. Those demonstrating their legitimate status as cattle and livestock producers would receive a \$125 per-ton reimbursement from the *Nevada Hay Support Program*.

The *Nevada Hay Support Program* should operate from the Nevada Department of Agriculture, where the request for hay reimbursements would be directed. Eligible livestock producers should present their receipts of hay purchases, along with evidence of the amount of hay purchased as well as receipts for the livestock head tax being paid for the current fiscal year; the Department would review the applications and provide processing for the payments to be made.

We would suggest that the funding to establish the *Nevada Hay Support Program* to be set at \$150 million.

Nevada ranchers are facing extremely dire conditions and the financial assistance through this program would be very justified in protecting the state's livestock sector from being decimated by massive sell-off.

Thank you for your consideration and support for aiding Nevada livestock producers. Nevada Farm Bureau would be more than happy to assist in further structuring and implementing the proposed Nevada Hay Support Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bevan Lister". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle name.

Bevan Lister, President
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation

cc: Woody Worthington, Chair, Nevada Board of Agriculture
Jennifer Ott, Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture