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### **(S.D.)-Ranchers Encouraged To Apply For Donated Hay**

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 02/25/2014 01:19 PM

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - Agriculture officials are encouraging ranchers in counties devastated by an early October blizzard to apply for donated hay bales.

All producers in disaster-declared areas are eligible to apply.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture will select the producers who will receive the hay based on the number of applications received, the amount of hay available and need. Recipients will be responsible for arranging the transportation of the hay and the associated costs.

Applications will be accepted through March 21. They can be found on the department's website.

The blizzard caused South Dakota ranchers lose an estimated 43,000 cattle and other livestock.

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