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(Neb.)-Residents Encouraged To Utilize Cattlemen's Relief Fund  [Listen](#)



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 10/29/2013 12:05 PM

(PANHANDLE)-The Cattlemen's Relief Fund is still taking donations to help aid area ranchers impacted by the early October snowstorm. UNL extension educator Scott Cotton says his department is grieving with ranchers as they work through their losses.

\*Listen to the story for sound bite\*

The establishment of the fund was encouraged by the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association and State Senator Al Davis. Cotton says there are several priority ways the fund hopes to help ranchers.

\*Listen to the story for sound bite\*

Thousands of head of livestock have been reported lost in Nebraska's northern Panhandle, and losses are heavy in western South Dakota as well. Cotton says a variety of people, some from distant locations, are providing financial aid through the fund.

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Cotton says there is money available to help ranchers in need, and the process is relatively simple.

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All requests will be held in strict confidence. The form can be found on our web site, [www.chadrad.com](http://www.chadrad.com), and click on the storm resources page. There are also forms available at First National Bank of Chadron and the Dawes County UNL Extension office, located at 250 Main Street.

Cotton says the impact of the loss as a result of the snowstorm has been huge, and yet the resilience of northwestern Nebraskans shines through.

\*Listen to the story for sound bite\*

Cotton says the area won't know the final impact of the storm for at least 6-8 months. In the meantime he hopes that the state

and federal government are able to provide some financial assistance to the area as well. He encourages people to call his office with any questions they may have and to “hang in there” and know that “there’s gotta be better times ahead.”

For those wishing to donate to the fund, stop by First National Bank in Chadron or send donations to the Cattlemen’s Relief Fund, P.O. Box 1125, Chadron, NE 69337. Contributions are tax deductible. A separate “Rancher Relief Fund” has also been established with the Black Hills Area Community Foundation by the S.D. Stockgrowers, the S.D. Cattlemen and the S.D. Sheep Growers. Donations to that fund can be made at [www.giveblackhills.org](http://www.giveblackhills.org).

Chadron Community Foundation president Steve Cleveland says the foundation is establishing a committee to assess losses and begin planning for the distribution of the fund. Both he and Cotton urge Nebraska ranchers to report losses to Region 23 Emergency Management coordinator Nan Gould at 308-432-2251, Senator Al Davis’ office at 402-471-2628, or one of the local UNL extension offices in Dawes (308-432-3373), Sheridan (308-327-2312), or Sioux (308-668-2428) Counties. South Dakota ranchers should report losses to the South Dakota Animal Industry Board at 605-773-3321.

Click here for the [Cattleman's Relief Fund Application](#).

(Questions? Comments? E-mail [news@chadrad.com](mailto:news@chadrad.com).)

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