

Drought Management: Steps to Coping with Winter Feed Needs

The drought of 2016-17 continues to affect livestock producers across the state. Many producers are forced to stretch hay supplies in order to make it through the winter feeding period. The steps outlined below are a reminder of the management strategies that can help you provide proper nutrition for your animals during this difficult time.

STEP 1: Sign up for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). This program offers compensation to producers that have experienced forage losses due to drought. Payments are direct-deposited after the application is complete and approved. Use this money to purchase hay and feed. Click [here](#) for the LFP Factsheet and to learn more about the program. Click [here](#) to find your local FSA Service Center or call the state FSA office at **(334) 279-3500**.

STEP 2: Determine your hay/roughage and supplemental feed needs. Take an inventory now to see how many days of feed you have on hand. Click [here](#) for more information on Alternative Feeding Strategies. The Regional Extension Agents for Animal Science & Forages can help with the process. See [this map](#) to find your agent.

STEP 3: Buy the necessary hay/roughage needed. The Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries (ADAI) has a Hay Listing page with full contact information. Click on the [Hay Listing](#) to see what is available. It is critical to have the hay quality tested to determine how much supplementation is required for your livestock. Details on how to sample are located [here](#), and you can print the application form by clicking [here](#). Some individuals selling hay offer delivery. If you need reliable trucking, contact the Alabama Trucking Association at **1-877-277-TRUK** for a list of members in your area.

STEP 4: Buy the necessary supplement needed. The Timely Information on [Supplementing Stored Forages in Beef Cattle Systems](#) provides more detail on balancing the deficiencies of hay with supplements. A list of commodity feed dealers/distributors in the region can be located [here](#).

More details on these topics are located at www.alabamadrought.com or on the [ACES Beef Systems Page](#).

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