



Fresno County Ag ID Program Overview

Established: 2023

- **Purpose:** Identify bona fide Agricultural Producers for law enforcement, fire personnel, or other emergency personnel at entry points to and within evacuation zones or other restricted areas during a natural disaster. Agricultural Producers, approved managerial employees, and their approved agents may, at the sole discretion of law enforcement, fire personnel, or other emergency personnel, be allowed entrance into evacuation zones or other restricted areas to provide feed, water, medical treatment, and other care to large scale commercial livestock. Identification will be facilitated through the issuance of a Fresno County Ag ID.
- **Agricultural Producer:** For the purposes of this program, an Agricultural Producer is defined as an owner of livestock consisting of 25 head or more of livestock that reside in Fresno County for at least a portion of the year, or a person who, through an agreement with that owner of livestock, has authority and is responsible to oversee the care and well-being of the owner's livestock.
- **Managerial Employee:** A person with management authority and responsibility to oversee the care and well-being of the Agricultural Producer's livestock. Managerial employees primarily engage in managerial job duties and customarily and regularly exercises discretion and independent judgment in these duties.
- **Agents:** Employees and family of the Agricultural Producer.
- **Applicant:** An Agricultural Producer or their authorized managerial employee that has completed and submitted an application to obtain an Ag ID.
- **Ag ID:** A document issued by the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's Office to an Agricultural Producer or their authorized managerial employee upon submission and approval of an application for registration, which must be presented to law enforcement, fire personnel, or other emergency personnel at a point of entry in order to request entrance to an evacuation zone or other restricted area caused by a natural disaster, for the purpose of providing feed, water, medical treatment, and other care to large scale commercial livestock, subject to the discretion of the emergency personnel. The Ag ID expires on December 31st of the year it was issued. The Ag ID indicates persons approved to enter restricted areas. A maximum of nine (9) persons may be indicated on an Ag ID. No persons under the age of eighteen (18) years old will be approved on an Ag ID.
- **Application for Registration:** To become enrolled in the program, an Agricultural Producer or their approved managerial employee will need to provide contact information, agent information if applicable, APNs of grazing sites, public lands grazing permit(s), general season of use, livestock description and count, and other information by completing and submitting an application to the Fresno County Department of Agriculture. The application is available from the Fresno County Department of Agriculture. The application will also be available on the Fresno County Department of Agriculture website. Agricultural Producers must sign a letter

granting their managerial employee authority to submit an application for, and obtain, an Ag ID on their behalf.

- **Mandatory Training:** To become enrolled in the program, an Agricultural Producer, approved managerial employee (if applicable) **and** their agents must complete initial training. Initial training is in person at a place and time to be determined. More information will be provided once the training has been scheduled. Training participants must provide government identification when checking in for training and print and sign their name on the training roster. Initial training is valid for the year in which it was taken, expiring on December 31st of the year training was completed. Other forms of initial training may be available in the future.
- **Renewal, Reporting, and Training:** Each year, an Agricultural Producer will be required to update/confirm registration information and complete a questionnaire on utilization of the Ag ID. An Agricultural Producer, managerial employee, and their agents will be required to participate in a refresher training class prior to renewal of an Ag ID. If the Agricultural Producer, managerial employee, and/or their agents have not completed the State Fire Marshall approved training curriculum, if available at the time of renewal, they will be required to do so.
- **Conditional Entrance:** Decisions for entrance can rapidly change during a fire or other natural disaster and will be dependent on safety conditions at the time and upon approval of emergency personnel. Livestock care shall only be made during daylight hours, and all persons must immediately depart the restricted area by the same route as entry. An escort may be required in any instance and all restricted entry will be dependent on approval of onsite emergency personnel. During initial evacuation phases, do not expect to gain entrance to restricted areas by presenting/using the Ag ID, as during such time all efforts involve the safe removal of people. Once the situation has stabilized, which may take over 24-hours or even days, then the Ag ID will be considered an option by law enforcement, and fire personnel, or other emergency personnel. **The Agricultural Producer or their approved managerial employee must accompany approved agents when requesting entrance.**

During an emergency, do not contact Fresno Humane Animal Services or Central California Animal Disaster Team for assistance, or to notify them of your commercial livestock behind fire lines.

- **Prior Notification and Approval:** If your livestock are in a restricted area, you will need to request permission to enter the restricted area by completing an online survey. The survey can be accessed by scanning the QR code on the Ag ID or by navigating the County of Fresno website. There will be a coordinated effort to consolidate communication with the Sheriff's Office and/or other emergency personnel. The Ag ID holder will be notified once entrance has been approved by law enforcement or other emergency personnel. **DO NOT GO TO A ROADBLOCK AND ATTEMPT TO USE THE AG ID WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION.** Other systems to request entrance may be required or available in the future. The Ag ID holder will be notified if this is the case.
- **Removal of Livestock:** Please provide notification via the online survey if you intend to remove livestock from the evacuation zone (e.g. veterinary care, alternative location). The intent of this provision is to prevent theft of livestock during an emergency.

- **Signage:** Ag ID holders may be required to place a sign at the entrance to the property where commercial livestock are located in an effort to provide notification to emergency personnel and animal control. The sign will state, “Animals are under the care of Ag ID # 10-YEAR-####.” If this is necessary, Ag ID holders will be asked to meet a representative from the Fresno County Department of Agriculture to obtain the sign.
- **Database:** The Agricultural Producer registration database will be maintained and updated by the Fresno County Department of Agriculture. Data will be available to key agencies, including, but not limited to, Fresno County Cal-Fire, California Highway Patrol, UCCE, State and County Offices of Emergency Services, and the Fresno County Sheriff’s Office. The Agricultural Producer database may also be used for other emergency issues, e.g. livestock out on the road.

During an emergency, law enforcement or other emergency personnel at the point of entry to an evacuation zone will be provided with a current list of valid Ag ID holders and a sample valid Ag ID.

- **Violations of Ag ID:** The utilization of the Ag ID is for the purpose of providing feed, water, medical treatment, and other care to commercial livestock within the evacuation zone or other restricted area. Your Ag ID may be permanently revoked if you are found outside of the scope of this purpose. You may also be arrested for trespass into restricted areas and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
- **Compulsory Use:** An Agricultural Producer shall not require any employee to obtain or use a Ag ID or to enter or be present on the producer’s ranch property during or following a flood, storm, fire, earthquake, or other disaster.
- **Insurance and Risk:** Entrance in an area closed to the public during a disaster may affect the coverage of your property liability insurance, vehicle or equipment insurance, and worker’s compensation coverage. As you re-enter your property be aware that hazardous conditions may still exist. Program administrators, collaborators, and trainers shall not be liable for injury or death of someone participating in activities resulting from the inherent risk of re-entering damage areas to feed, water, and medically treat livestock. *The Owner/Agricultural Producer or their managerial employee submitting an application for registration, hereinafter referred to as the “Applicant” and their agent(s) understands that he or she is requesting entrance to restricted areas subject to official road closure and not otherwise accessible to the public. In so requesting entrance, the Applicant and their agent(s) acknowledges the inherent risks and hazards caused by disasters, such as but not limited to fires, earthquakes, and floods, including the potential existence of a declared local health emergency, which extend to the restricted areas. The Applicant shall be solely responsible for the safety of those individuals covered by any Ag ID issued by the County of Fresno and shall be solely responsible for any damage to any equipment used by the Applicant and their agent(s) during such requested access. The Applicant and their agent(s) shall hold harmless the County of Fresno and its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, or representatives from and against any and all liability, claims, actions, proceedings, losses, injuries, damages, or expenses of every name, kind, and description, including litigation costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in connection therewith, brought for or on account of personal injury (including death) or damage to equipment or property arising from Applicant and/or their agent(s) access under this Ag ID. Further, the Applicant shall be solely responsible and shall hold harmless the County of Fresno from any and all acts or omissions of the Applicant or its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, contractors, and subcontractors in accessing locations indicated on the Ag ID. The Applicant and their agent(s) further understand that any Ag ID issued covers entrance only to the location(s) identified on the Ag ID and the direct*

access route to/from said location; stopping along access routes are strictly prohibited. The Applicant and its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, or representatives shall not wander, loiter, or otherwise meander from locations listed on the Ag ID, and shall be subject to immediate arrest for trespass into restricted areas and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

- **Annual Report:** An annual report on the program will be completed at the end of each calendar year to assess the need for program modifications and utilization. The report will be provided to partners and stakeholders.
- **Modifications:** This is a new program and will be reviewed annually. To improve the program, modifications may be made annually and during the course of the year – in which case, any changes will be provided to the Ag ID holder via email.