State Assistance In Transporting Hay

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services announced two programs on Tuesday, September 11, to aid livestock producers with transportation costs associated with acquiring hay. Livestock producers have the option to use both programs. The Golden Hay Relief Program is for transporting hay across the state and the Ag Partners Hay Relief Program is for moving hay in from out of the state. To find available hay and for all other questions, call the Hay Relief Hotline at 1-866-506-6222 or visit the following website: www.ncagr.com/hayalert.

Program 1: The Golden Hay Relief Program

What is it?
A $500,000 grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation. The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will use the Golden LEAF grant to help livestock producers pay for transportation of hay and alternative feeds, such as cornstalks and soybean hay, purchased in North Carolina and trucked to their farms.

How does it work?
Livestock producers must submit an application to the NCDA&CS. The $500,000 will be divided among all producers who submit approved applications.

How much?
Farmers will be reimbursed for a percentage of their transportation costs, not to exceed 50 percent.

Where and When can I get an application?
Applications will be available Monday, September 17. Applications and information can be downloaded at the NCDA&CS Hay Alert website at www.ncagr.com/hyalert or by calling toll free 1-866-506-6222 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Robeson County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service will also have applications available.

When are applications due?
Application deadline is December 31, 2007.

When can I expect a reimbursement?
The NCDA&CS anticipates mailing reimbursement checks to farmers in February 2008.
Program 2: The Ag Partners Hay Relief Program

What is it?
An $11,000 fund provided by donations from Carolina Farm Credit, Cape Fear Farm Credit, and East Carolina Farm Credit. If more donations are received, additional funds will be available.

How does it work?
Ag Partners Hay Relief Program is to help farmers with the cost of moving hay purchased outside of North Carolina. This program started September 12 and will continue while funding is available.

How much?
This cost-share program will reimburse farmers 50 cents per mile, up to $300, for a load of hay moved from out of state. Reimbursements will be made on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funding is available.

When and Where can I get an application?
There are no applications for this program. You must call 1-866-506-6222 to report transporting of hay from out of state.

I hope this information is helpful to you. We still have the challenge of finding the hay to transport, but this does present some options. If you have any questions, please call the Hay Alert number listed above or Michelle Shooter at the Cooperative Extension Service 910-671-3276.

MMS/dh