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Winter Storm Goliath

The storm hit Texas on Saturday, December 26th and continued through December 27th/28th
Winter Storm Goliath

Along with snow came high winds which really caused the issues with this storm
Winter Storm Goliath

- Sustained winds of 40 MPH with gusts up to 80 MPH

- Double-edged sword - kept areas clear for grazing but caused extensive snow drifts

- Drifts 10 to 14 feet and more
Winter Storm Goliath

Sunday, Dec. 27th, the second day of the storm, received word that some cattle were out on roads in the Lubbock area.
Winter Storm Goliath

December 29\textsuperscript{th} (Day 4)
TAHC Horseback Emergency Response Team went to work in the lower Panhandle
Winter Storm Goliath

December 29 and 30

- Dairy and feedyard operators able to get back into their places and begin damage assessments
- Mortality reporting begins
Wednesday, December 30th
(Day 5)

Other concerns included dairy cattle hadn’t been milked in 24 to 48 hours

Carcass issues began being noticed
Winter Storm Goliath

Wednesday, December 30

- Rendering company requests waiver to haul additional 10,000# per load:

  Bobtail trucks from 46,000 to 56,000

  Semi from 80,000 to 90,000
Winter Storm Goliath

Wednesday, December 30th (Day 5)

• TAHC actions
  • Request to the Governor’s Office for weight variance for rendering trucks
  • Began coordination with TDEM, Governor’s Office, DPS, DMV
  • Engagement with industry stakeholders for information gathering
  • Established Joint Information Center (JIC)
  • On-going assessment activities by Livestock Inspectors
  • Coordinated call with County Judges and local/regional EMCs

• By 3:00 had reports of estimated 18,000 to 20,000 mortalities

• Snow drifts in many areas – no access, still unknown number of mortalities

• Animal Agriculture Awareness Call held at 3:30, the first of many daily coordination calls
Winter Storm Goliath

December 31st (Day 6)
Winter Storm Goliath

Thursday, December 31st
• Continued discussion with Governor’s Office on weight issues

• Animal Agriculture Awareness Call
  • Dairy cow losses estimated at 15,000 hd.
  • Feedyard losses estimated at 4,000 hd.
  • Stocker cattle losses estimated at 4,000 hd.
  • Calf ranches no estimates but considerable

• TXDMV confirms no waivers to regulations can be granted without a Governor’s Declaration.
Winter Storm Goliath

December 31st (Day 6)
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association deploy Special Rangers to assist in searching for, identifying, and sorting strays
Winter Storm Goliath

December 31st (Day 6)
• 10:00pm - receive word from DPS/DMV
  • Weight enforcement of carriers hauling dead livestock related to the recovery efforts for the affected counties is suspended until January 8, 2016.

January 1st (Day 7)
• Informed rendering companies that request for weight variance was not approved, but an abeyance (gentleman’s agreement) established that DPS/DMV would not stop and check trucks hauling carcasses out of affected area.
• Animal Agriculture Awareness Call
  • Update on rendering
  • Mortality estimates remain same
Winter Storm Goliath

January 2\textsuperscript{nd} (Day 8)
- Increased calls about wandering strays; 3,000 to 6,000 head
- JIC – distributed contact information for TAHC and TSCRA
January 3rd (Day 9)

- Milk movement back to about 90%
- Stray issues on-going
January 4\textsuperscript{th} (Day 10)

- Carcass disposal issues
  - Rendering far beyond capacity
  - Landfilling discussed – who pays? capacities?
- Call with Farm Services Administration (FSA)
January 6th (Day 12)

- DPS/DMV extends abeyance until January 15
- Significant production losses due to secondary causes being seen in beef and dairy cattle
Winter Storm Goliath

January 14th (Day 20)

• Rendering still running at 100% capacity

• Initial mortalities in line with earlier estimates
  • Dairy cow losses estimated at 15,000 hd.
  • Feedyard losses estimated at 4,000 hd.
  • Stocker cattle losses estimated at 4,000 hd.
  • Calf ranch losses estimated at 8,000 to 10,000 hd.

• Secondary production losses (mortalities, culling, performance) continue in dairies and feedyards

• Facilities shipping to slaughter early to keep from losing entire value
Winter Storm Goliath

January 18th (Day 24)

• Rendering - done about all they can

• Existing storm mortalities - burying onsite or landfill
WSG - Lessons Learned

• Greater appreciation of animal issues
  • Local EM and County Judges
  • State level EM
  • State agencies and offices

• How to’s
  • Local disaster declaration when not “people incident”
  • Regulatory waivers and abeyances

• Large-scale carcass disposal
  • Applicability/preparation for disease event
  • Development of relationships
  • Determination of true capacities/capabilities

• Coordination and communication
  • Establishing the “point of contact” early in response
  • Getting all of the players involved, not just the “usual” ones
  • Facilitating conversation between groups from different worlds
Questions