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 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL RESOURCES
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COMMERCIAL FARM PFAS LIVESTOCK DEPOPULATION PAYMENTS

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) will work with commercial farms raising livestock found to be contaminated with PFAS in an effort to deplete (reduce) contamination levels. However, in some instances this effort may not be expected to be successful in a timely or economically feasible manner. In these cases, DACF may recommend humane euthanasia of impacted animals. Factors the DACF will consider in making that recommendation include but are not limited to: level of PFAS contamination at the farm across media (soil, water, feed, animals); farm management capacity to obtain and maintain clean feed and water; and ability to maintain acceptable animal health and welfare, as determined by state animal health officials, during the depuration process. In recognition of the loss of the value of these important and valued animals to the farm’s operations, compensation may be available. Note that DACF may recommend that dairy farms (cows) who are receiving Dairy Indemnification Payment Program (DIPP) payments from USDA’s Farm Service Agency pursue depopulation assistance via that program.

What are the requirements?



1. You must be a commercial farm that has DACF-confirmed unsafe levels of PFAS contamination.
 - a. A water test result of 20 ppt or higher for wells servicing the farm or fields **and**
 - b. One or more samples of farm products showing PFAS at levels deemed of concern by the Maine CDC.
2. DACF will document the level of contamination, the basis for its recommendation, and requirements in a letter where the producer agrees to allow DACF to depopulate the animals. The requirements include:
 - a. Producer management steps, i.e., conducting real-time inventories of animals
 - b. Instructions that the producer must pay all relevant taxes and satisfy any outstanding financial security obligations on those animals that may result due to receipt of a payment by DACF.

What costs are covered?



1. The value of the animals will be determined utilizing an established USDA indemnification calculator.
 - a. Currently, DACF is utilizing the USDA’s Veterinary Services Center for Animal Epidemiology and Health’s Indemnity Calculator.

What else is needed?



1. An Agreement Letter signed by the producer.
2. A completed [State of Maine Vendor Authorization form](#).

DACF reserves the right to amend program parameters and criteria at any time. Commercial Farm Livestock Depopulation Program payments are subject to the availability of DACF’s PFAS funding.

Contact DACF staff at pfas.dacf@maine.gov

