

Public Service Announcement for ESF-17

The help line for animal issues is 1-888-722-3106

If you live in or operate out of an affected area and have not been contacted in regards to livestock or other agriculture related issues involving damage that was sustained during the hurricane, you can contact your county EOC or call 1-888-722-3106. Messages left at the toll free number will be forwarded to the specific area of operations that deal with the direct need specified in the message.

Counties emphasized for today's assessments include George, Hancock, Harrison, Pearl River, Perry and Stone. Assessments have been completed in Amite, Forrest, George, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Lamar, and Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Stone and Walthall counties. The information generated from these assessments will be used to influence policy and create agriculture programs to address specific needs of the agricultural community.

A concern to be addressed is in the area of animal carcass disposal. For individuals with animal loss and disposal issues, please call the hotline at 1-888-722-3106.

Personnel at the Hattiesburg location are making personal contacts for messages that have been left on the hotline (1-888-722-3106).

Over 650 rescued or displaced animals have been processed through the Hattiesburg location. To date there have been 326 dogs, 198 cats, 25 horses, 17 rats, 7 pigeons, 4 rabbits, 4 geese, 2 pot bellied pigs, 2 alligators, 1 iguana and several gold fish. Monitor petfinder.com for owner/pet matches. While petfinder.com is being brought online, you can visit the Hattiesburg location. If you visit the Hattiesburg location, please bring a photo of your pet if one is available.

Over 180 individuals are now operating out of the Hattiesburg location alone.

There have been 11 owner/pet matches, 78 animals have been placed on foster homes or transferred to veterinary clinics for medical treatment, 3 adoptions of animals that have been rescued from shelters and 3 bite incidences.

Donations of agricultural supplies are currently being delivered to the Forrest County Multi-Purpose center. This location is to be used as a warehouse that will supply 4 distribution points located strategically for ease of access by each county from the highway 98-corridor to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Liaison groups operating in support of ESF17 Response include Mississippi Farm Bureau, Humane Society of the United States, Mississippi State University-Extension Service, State Agricultural Response Team of the State of Florida, Veterinary Medical Assistance Team and Wildlife Services.

Mississippi Board of Animal Health Hotline 1-888-722-3106

<http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/hurricane.html>