



The Iowa Floods of 2008 Impact on Livestock

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Minimal Losses to Iowa Livestock Sector

- Only 21 confinements were inundated (confined to Oakville bottoms)
 - 14 small animal feeding operations (SAFO's)
 - 7 confined animal feeding operations (CAFO's)
- An estimated 37 K head of hog moved in the days prior to the levee break – thanks to local operators and neighbors
- Most CAFO holding pits would have been less than 1/3 full

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Credit Current Building Requirements

- Any building within the 100 year flood plain must be elevated to +1 foot
- Had the levees held – impacts would have been still less
- May need a clarification of authority to enter private property to remove carcasses, debris, or hazardous materials

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Indirect Impacts to Iowa Livestock Industry

- Early estimates showed over 3 million acres lost in Iowa alone
- Grain Markets reacted strongly
- Statewide corn prices peaked on June 27th at 6.97
- Statewide soybean prices peaked July 3rd at 15.68
- Meal and soy oil prices also reached record levels
- Some disruption and/or shutdowns affected processors
 - Waterloo, Columbus Junction, Ottumwa, Out of State Plants
- Many Farm to Market Roads damaged

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Rebuild Iowa Office & Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission

- Agriculture and Natural Resources Task Force chaired by Brent Halling
- Recommendations Included:
 - Conservation Practices Worked Well (as intended)
 - Floodplain mapping improvements are needed (LiDar)
 - Soil and water quality testing and communications need to be improved
- Most crop losses were insured
 - 90 % insured at the 73 % level on average
- Livestock Sector was not a primary focal point for reasons stated earlier

Summary

- Mostly Indirect Impacts to Livestock Sector
- Crop Losses and Grain Operations were significant
 - processors / facilities
- Existing regulations and local actions prevented greater losses
- Agriculture Sector responded well. (esp. livestock sector)



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