

## **Livestock Pass**

Recent legislation has brought a "Livestock Pass" program to Kern County, which is administered by the Kern County Department of Agriculture (KCDOA). This program is for commercial cattle ranchers only and is intended to allow them access to their land when an evacuation order or road closure would otherwise keep them out. The ranchers can use this program to tend to or evacuate their animals.

The following information is intended to familiarize deputies with the program and how it may affect them in the upcoming fire season:

- Access is at the discretion of onsite emergency personnel and is situationally dependent. Possession of a Livestock Pass does not grant any rights or privileges and does not guarantee the cardholder access behind road closures. Access will not be granted outside of daylight hours. All persons must depart the restricted area by the same route as entry. An escort may be required at any time without prior notice. Onsite emergency personnel may place a limit on time spent behind any road closure.
- A Livestock Pass is not valid unless presented with proper government-issued photo ID (driver's license, Real ID, passport, or military ID).
- Deputies have the authority to revoke access to Livestock Pass holders when it is determined that the area is unsafe.
- Deputies are NOT required to escort the ranchers to and from their property. The ranchers who have a Livestock Pass assume responsibility for their safety and the safety of those who enter with them when entering a fire area.
- Deputies should instruct the ranchers to advise them when they are off their land and their people are accounted for.
- Deputies should record what property the rancher is intending to enter with the rancher's name and contact number. This information can be added as a note in the call for service.

- A group of ranchers may seek access together. If a Livestock Pass holder advises the group is together with them, the group can be permitted to enter together. However, deputies MUST see at least one pass to permit entry. The KCDOA is only providing one pass per ranch manager.
- Ranchers will NOT be on fire-related radio frequencies and are NOT required to check in with the incident command post.
- Evacuating residents and preserving human life takes precedence over livestock evacuation and care.

If needed, deputies may contact KCDOA at 661-868-6300, Monday-Friday, 0800-1700, to verify Livestock Pass holders.

An example of the Livestock Pass is below:







