



The premier representative of the cattle industry since 1974

Contact:

Bill Hyman, Executive Director
Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas
Office: 512.620.0162 / Cell: 830.857.3500

ICA Taking Donations to Help Texas Cattle Producers Devastated by IKE

Lockhart, Texas –September 15, 2008 – For Immediate Release – The Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas is accepting donations to aid producers who have been devastated by IKE.

The storm surge east of Hurricane IKE created a wall of salt water that covered most of the area south of IH-10 and HWY 73 between Houston and Beaumont.

Many of the ranchers in the Winnie-Stowell, Hamshire area have reported livestock losses from 50% to 90%. Many homes are damaged as well as barns, businesses, and other structures. Salt water, mud and debris are still covering much of the area. Most fences are gone.

An emergency working group made up of the Texas livestock associations, TDA and the Extension Service is working to provide water and feed for the cattle displaced by the storm. A central distribution point has been set up at White's Park in Anahuac just south of IH-10.

Many of the remaining cattle have been pushed or have sought refuge on to the elevated road beds in the area. It is critical that fresh water be supplied to these animals or they will consume the salty water and perish.

ICA has already purchased a trailer load of portable water troughs and Dr Jason Cleere with Texas AgriLife Extension will be delivering the troughs to the staging area in Anahuac. The troughs will then be placed on road beds in the area and filled with fresh water. The local fire departments will work to keep the troughs full. This is a temporary measure at best but must be accomplished to save the remaining cattle.

ICA has also purchased and delivered 80 round bales, 2 ton of cattle cubes and 1 ton of assorted show animal feeds. Hay supplies are available but transportation remains a problem as roadways are still obstructed, not to mention fuel and trucks/trailers are hard to come by.

ICA has also started a donation drive to help the producers in the affected area. Within minutes of the notice, donations started flooding in. The response has been heartwarming and encouraging.

To donate funds, feed, labor or hay to our fellow cattle producers in distress, please contact the ICA office. A donation form can be found at www.icatexas.com. Your help is desperately needed. Please keep these

ranchers in your prayers as many have lost almost everything and will need to remain strong to overcome the obstacles provided by Hurricane IKE.

The Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas, with over 8,000 members is a Texas organization representing ranching families in Texas on issues that affect their rural lifestyle and economy.