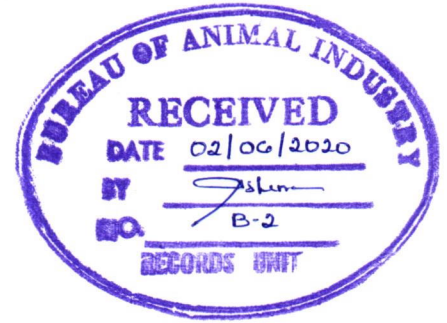




Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
1100 Quezon City



21 January 2020

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 14

Series of 2020

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES ON THE ANIMAL GENETICS CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR THE AFFECTED AREAS OF THE TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION

WHEREAS, the incident of the eruption of the Taal volcano had adversely affected agricultural activities in the immediate areas of the Provinces of Batangas and Cavite. One of the most affected sectors is the livestock industry. As per the latest damage report, almost 56,000 animals are adversely affected. In the last count, there are around 10,000 cattle, 500 carabao, 10,000 goats, and 2,400 horses that are still at risk in those areas. With this, the livestock livelihood of the farmers is heavily devastated;

WHEREAS, there had been reports of massive buying of livestock animals, especially horses, large and small ruminants in the area at a very low price. In this emergency situation, animals that suffered injuries command a very low price, and because they cannot be adequately taken care of, farmers are prompted to sell to unscrupulous traders;

WHEREAS, this scenario is a threat to the genetic integrity of livestock animals in the affected areas, as traders intend the animals that they procure mainly for slaughter. To preserve the livestock genetics, there is a need to save these animals and prevent them from being sold to traders;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture will be undertaking a modality that will allow the preservation of surviving livestock in the areas affected by the Taal volcano eruption. The DA shall bring the animals to rehabilitation centers for proper treatment and maintenance. When the situation returns to normal, these animals will be returned to the farmers/owners to claim back and resume their farming activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. DAR, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, in accordance with law, hereby issue this Order to implement the following guidelines on the Animal Genetic Conservation and Rehabilitation Program.

SECTION I. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The program shall be extended to farmers whose farms are situated in the affected areas of Taal volcano eruption who pledged their farm animals (large and small ruminants, and horses only) to DA Taal Livestock Care Emergency Operations Center and other DA accredited temporary animal shelters or center.

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SECTION II. OBJECTIVES

The DA shall aim to implement the Animal Genetic Conservation and Rehabilitation Program in the affected areas of the Taal Volcano eruption to:

- a. Save livestock from being sold to traders for slaughter at very low price;
- b. Preserve the local livestock genetics integrity in the affected areas, especially those of the Philippine Native Animals;
- c. Ensure that the livestock-based livelihood and enterprises of farmers in the affected areas can be re-established and recover when the situation normalizes; and
- d. Protect the farmers from being abused by unscrupulous traders in the light of the recent calamity that displaced them and their livelihood.

SECTION III. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Pledge - is an act by which the farmer delivers his/her animal/s to DA for temporary with the intention of reclaiming such animal upon termination of state of calamity in their province in relation to Taal volcano eruption.

Certificate of Claim - refers to a stub or claim certificate as documentary evidence of the animals (with numbers, description and characteristics of animals in refuge at the temporary animal shelters or centers.

Temporary Animal Shelters or Centers - pertain to accredited animal shelters being maintained and operated by Local Government Units or private institutions with the intention to house the pledged animals

Animals - refer only to large and small ruminants, and horses.

Small Farmer - refers to "natural person dependent on small-scale subsistence farming or fishing activity as primary source of income" (Section 4, RA 8435/AFMA), i.e., those who (a) own or are still amortizing lands that are not more than three (3) hectares, tenants, leaseholders, and stewards (Presidential AO No. 21 of 2011, Revised IRR of RA 8425/Social Reform Act); or (b) engaged in backyard livestock and poultry raising defined by Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) as engaged in: (a) livestock raising not exceeding any of the following: (i) 20 head of adults and zero young, (ii) 40 head of young animals, (iii) 10 head of adults and 22 head of young animals; and (b) poultry raising not exceeding: (i) 500 layers or 1,000 broilers, (ii) 100 layers and 100 broilers if raised in combination, (iii) 100 head of duck.

Small Fisherfolk - refers to those directly or indirectly engaged in taking, culturing, or processing fishery or aquatic resources, to include, (a) those engaged in fishing using gears that do not require boats or boats less than three (3) tons, in municipal waters, coastal and marine areas; (b) workers in commercial fishing and aquaculture; (c) vendors and processors of fish and coastal products; (d) subsistence producers such as shell-gatherers, managers, and producers of mangrove resources, and other related producers (Presidential AO No. 21 of 2011, Revised IRR of RA 8425/Social Reform Act).

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SECTION IV. IMPLEMENTATION/ MECHANICS

The Conservation of Animal Genetics in the Affected Areas of the Taal Volcano Eruption Program will be undertaken by the Department of Agriculture through the National Livestock Program, DA Livestock Agencies (BAI, PCC, NDA, NMIS), and DA Regional Field Office CALABARZON. It shall involve the following activities and components:

1. Relocation of Animals

The animals given refuge through this program shall be brought to designated temporary shelters of the DA and other DA accredited temporary shelters where the animals will be treated and rehabilitated. The DA shall allot funds for treatment and maintenance of the said animals.

Mechanics:

- a. Only Livestock raiser/s from the affected 14-km danger zone is/are qualified to participate the program.
 - b. All animals rescued/surrendered to the Livestock Emergency Operating Center or identified animal rescue center shall be subject to required physical examination by center personnel examining the health condition of animals and identifying important physical traits. Injured/sick animal/s shall be treated accordingly.
 - c. Presentation of farmers Certificate of Ownership or confirmation of ownership from concerned Punong Barangay.
 - d. There shall be photo documentation of the turn-over of animals and issuance of Certificate of Claim by the center.
 - e. While animals are in the custody of the center is responsible for the safe keeping and the provisions of feeds, drugs and biologics for the animal/s.
 - f. Upon the declaration of the concerned government agency that there is no more threat to human lives and agricultural production and/or when the farmer wishes to claim back the livestock, he/she shall present the Certificate of Claim and sign pertinent document to effect the release of animals from the center. In case that animal was admitted to the center pregnant, upon live birth, the calf/foal/kid/lamb shall also be released to the owner.
2. **Livestock Insurance Coverage.** PCIC shall provide free insurance to cover all animals pledged by the owners under the program. In case of death or loss of the animal, the DA shall file for insurance claim from PCIC. PCIC pays the insurance claim directly to ACPC Agent Conduit, net of the insurance, upon deduction of the cash assistance released shall be due to the farmers.
3. **Cash Assistance.** Backyard livestock growers who pledged their farm animals shall be eligible to avail of the cash assistance under the Livestock Insurance Advance Payout Scheme. The cash assistance shall be provided through the ACPC Agent Bank/Conduit.

Insurance Pre-Payout Cash Assistance

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Eligible beneficiaries shall be those as defined in Section 3 and who have delivered livestock/animals to the DA through the Regional Field Office (DA-RFO). The mechanics shall be as follows:

- a. The livestock owner shall deliver the animal to the DA-RFO and executes a custodianship agreement with the DA-RFO. The DA-RFO shall then endorse to ACPC the master list of eligible beneficiaries, i.e., those that have delivered the animals, indicating therein the animals delivered and corresponding valuation.
- b. The amount of cash assistance shall be equivalent to the valuation indicated in the Master List certified by the DA-RFO. The valuation shall be based on the approved "Valuation Matrix" (hereto attached as Annex A). Such valuation may be revised as recommended by the DA-RFO and approved by the DA Secretary.
- c. If the animal owner is interested to avail of the insurance pre-payout cash assistance, he fills up SURE-Aid Taal application form and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) insurance coverage application. The SURE-Aid filled-up application form and copy of the custodianship agreement will then be forwarded by the DA-RFO to ACPC. The insurance coverage shall be assigned by the PCIC to ACPC.
- d. ACPC shall then instruct its Agent Bank/Conduit to effect the release of the corresponding amount of cash assistance directly to the eligible beneficiaries.
- e. In case of death or loss of the animal under custodianship of the DA-RFO, the animal owner is extinguished of any liability of the amount of cash assistance received. The DA-RFO immediately informs PCIC for the insurance claim. PCIC shall then pay the insurance claim directly to ACPC. Any excess of PCIC claim payment over the cash assistance shall be returned to the animal owner. ACPC shall provide data to its Agent Bank/conduit for the proper recording.
- f. Should the animal owner opt to redeem the animal, the owner shall then execute a Promissory Note in the amount equivalent to the balance of the cash assistance received. The loan shall be payable in 8 years at zero interest with grace period of one year.
- g. Should the animal owner opt not to redeem the animal, the animal shall then be treated as acquired asset of ACPC, thereby extinguishing his liability.

4. Post-Disaster Activity

After the situation returns to normal, DA shall facilitate the return of the animals to their respective owners. For owners who had availed of the cash assistance, they can claim their animals back from DA upon settlement of the cash assistance or execution of a Promissory Note in favor of the ACPC Agent Conduit. For animals unclaimed by their owners who had availed of cash assistance, DA shall notify ACPC for its proper disposal procedure and recording. Other production support activities and interventions that will aid the farmers to re-establish their livestock enterprises will also be provided.

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SECTION V. EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum Order shall take effect immediately upon signing and shall be valid unless revoked and superseded by future issuances.

APPROVED:



WILLIAM D. DAR, PhD

Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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ANNEX A

Valuation Matrix

Livestock	Value per Head
Cattle/ Carabao	
Adult	8,000.00
Young	4,000.00
Goat/sheep	
Adult	3,000.00
Young	1,500.00
Horse	
Adult	5,000.00
Young	3,000.00