



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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NOAA to Employ Experimental Cold Advisory for Newborn Livestock in Northeast Montana

NOAA's National Weather Service in Glasgow, Mont., in collaboration with the University of Miami, today will begin using the experimental Cold Advisory for Newborn Livestock System—a product developed to alleviate economic loss of newborn livestock due to harsh winter weather.

“This system allows us to provide ranchers in Northeast Montana with enough lead time to bring livestock to shelter and mitigate loss due to weather,” said Tanja Fransen, warning coordination meteorologist at the weather forecast office in Glasgow.

Beginning Feb. 11, 2009, the new system will provide guidance on the Glasgow Weather Forecast Office Web site and NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio. Graphical products will be issued daily showing specific thresholds that impact newborn livestock, based on a variety of forecast factors including temperature, humidity, and precipitation.

The advisory system was created by researchers working with ranchers to determine critical weather elements and lead time needed to take action to protect livestock. Researchers also reviewed 10 years of climatological information from Glasgow and successfully identified weather events that caused newborn livestock losses.

“The impact of weather on livestock is a very important economic consideration to the region,” said Larry Kalkstein, Ph.D., a biometeorologist at the University of Miami. “Across the United States it has been estimated that nearly 100,000 calves die of cold stress each year.”

In Montana weather-related calf losses cost producers more than \$6 million a year. The project is an essential first step toward helping livestock producers across the country reduce winter weather-related losses.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources.

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On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA's National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov>

Cold Advisory for Newborn Livestock: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/ggw/canl/canl.html>