



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

March 5, 2019

To: Commercial Feed Licensees:

## **NOTICE TO THE COMMERCIAL FEED INDUSTRY**

### *Winter Weather Warning: Winter Preparedness*

The recent winter weather events throughout Northern and Eastern California, including a significant amount of rain and snowfall in the Sierra's, have led to a decrease in the availability of unit trains bringing corn and other grains into California. CDFA's Feed Program (Program) is anticipating this issue to continue in the coming days/weeks/months, as more flooding in the lower hills and valley areas are anticipated with snowpack melt-off into the spring and can negatively impact rail-lines.

The Program would like to specifically encourage licensee's who have rail systems in place to evaluate your current storage system and determine if there is a sufficient amount of corn and grain stored to maintain should rail service interruption occur due to weather, or non-serviceable rail-lines.

With that said, the Program understands that limited access to covered storage area's may be an issue, however, in a state of emergency we encourage increased storage to ensure that severe weather event(s) do not negatively impact your customers and their animals.

We highly encourage all firms to have a contingency plan in place for the possible event of rail service interruption. Your plan should include suppliers, storage plans ensuring your firm can endure a reasonable amount of time without truck or rail transportation, and keep in mind feed/food safety. Please ensure that all outdoor bulk storage areas have adequate drainage to prevent puddling and that bulk product can be covered to prevent against excess moisture and product damage.

Please contact the CDFA Commercial Feed Regulatory Program if you have any questions or concerns at (916) 900-5022.

Sincerely,

Original Copy Signed by Jenna Leal

Jenna M. Leal, Environmental Program Manager  
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and Safe Animal Feed Education Programs  
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