

# Testimony of Pat Lavery (#85 on sign up) + Bill Sulkazi (#58 on sign up) in support of Senate Bill 262.

## Pat & Diane Lavery

**From:** "kyle wilson" <reindeerman@lock-net.com>  
**To:** "Pat Lavery" <adlondackreindeer@frontiernet.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 03, 2007 4:02 PM  
**Subject:** reindeer as livestock

Pat here is the link to the USDS notice: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/printapp?fileName=pf\\_20050301\\_distr\\_en\\_lap05.html&newsType=prfactsheet](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/printapp?fileName=pf_20050301_distr_en_lap05.html&newsType=prfactsheet)  
 Or [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/tapfunding05.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/tapfunding05.pdf)

I have also copied it and put it in this email. This notice only applies when livestock are in the food chain. Whether they are eligible for the program or not it does refer to reindeer as livestock.

## Kyle

March 2005

### Livestock Assistance Program

#### Overview

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) provides direct payments to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses due to natural disasters that occurred in calendar year 2003 or 2004.

Funding for LAP is authorized by the Military Construction and Emergency Hurricane Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2005. Unlike prior LAP programs, there is no cap on total funding.

USDA will soon offer producers the ease of signing up for the LAP online from their home or place of business or at any USDA Service Center across the nation. To sign up from home or place of business, producers must first establish an e-authentication identity in their local USDA Service Center. Producers can also sign up online for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) eLDPs or the Loan Deficiency Payment Program and the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program.

#### Eligible Producers

LAP provides assistance to eligible producers in approved counties. To be approved, a county must have suffered a 40 percent or greater loss of available grazing for at least 3 consecutive months as a result of damage due to drought, hot weather, disease, insect infestation, flood, fire, hurricane, earthquake, severe storms, or other disasters during the 2003- or 2004-crop years. The maximum grazing loss allowable for payment is 80 percent. A county must have been approved as a primary disaster area under a Secretarial disaster designation or as a Presidential disaster declaration for events occurring after January 1, 2003, but no later than December 31, 2004.

Eligibility for LAP benefits for an individual producer was based on whether a natural disaster caused the producer in an approved county to suffer a 40 percent or greater loss of grazing for 3 or more consecutive months during either of the calendar years (CY) 2003 or 2004. If a county was approved for 2003 and 2004, and a producer in that county suffered a qualifying grazing loss both of those years, that producer must choose either 2003 or 2004 as the year to receive LAP payment. A producer cannot receive LAP assistance for more than one year.

#### Eligibility Requirements

Eligible livestock include beef and dairy cattle, buffalo or bison (when maintained on the same basis as beef cattle), elk, reindeer, bison, sheep, goats, swine, and equine animals used commercially for human food or kept for the production of food or fiber on the owner's farm. To meet eligibility requirements, producers had to own or lease affected livestock for at least 3 months before the payment period.

To be eligible for LAP, a producer must:

- Have possessed beneficial interest in eligible livestock or have financial risk in eligible livestock (beneficial interest refers to title and control of the livestock);
- Report eligible livestock and grazing acreage on form CCC-740;
- Report percent of loss of grazing on form CCC-740;
- Complete "person" determination forms;
- Certify gross revenue income on form CCC-740;
- Certify conservation compliance on form AD-1026; and
- Have been a U.S. citizen or an alien legally residing here.

LAP assistance is based upon the value of feed calculated on a corn equivalency basis required for eligible livestock during at least a 3-consecutive-month period where a minimum 40 percent feed loss occurred. A producer's grazing loss request for payments cannot exceed the maximum grazing loss established for the county.

Livestock sold because of natural livestock conditions during the year for which LAP is requested shall be considered eligible for LAP payment for the entire payment period or through the remainder of the payment period for that year, if all other eligibility requirements are met.

#### Ineligible Livestock

Ineligible livestock include:

- Livestock grazed on a basis of weight gain
- Nursing calves (under 400 lbs) lambs, kids
- Wild or uncontrolled livestock on open range
- Poultry
- Uamas
- Yaks
- Slaughter livestock not for human consumption
- Recreational livestock or equines for other than human food or to produce food or fiber.

5/3/2007

**Eligible Grazing Types**

Eligible grazing types include:

- Native (non-irrigated)
- Improved (non-irrigated)
- Sorghum forage (non-irrigated)

**LAP Sign-up**

Applications for LAP benefits must be filed in the local USDA Service Center. When producers apply for LAP, they are required to provide the following information:

- The number, kind of livestock, and weight range of livestock owned or leased during CY 2003 or 2004, as applicable, and the producer's share in those livestock;
- Acres, location, and type of grass or forage used to support eligible livestock in CY 2003 or 2004 as applicable;
- An estimated percentage of producer's loss of grazing for each year, as applicable; and information about significant changes in livestock numbers, including dates when the changes occurred. Also, the livestock numbers that were sold because of a material disaster, including dates when the livestock were sold. These livestock are called "mitigated" livestock.

**Further Information**

Further information is available at local FSA county offices. These are usually listed in telephone books under "United States Government, U.S. Department of Agriculture." Information is also available on FSA's homepage at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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**Pat & Diane Lavery**

**From:** "Tom Scheib" <tascheib@lakeland.ws>  
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**Cc:** <Dede6147@aol.com>; "Leon Bindenagel" <lnb6@centurytel.net>; "Mike Cary" <mikecary@starband.net>; "Pat & Diane Lavery" <adironackreindeer@frontiernet.net>; "Ray Donohue" <Doolan25@madbbs.com>; <EASytree@aol.com>; "Jeff Fritz" <HFritz2006@dogmail.com>; "Mike Gillaspie" <osc@bendcable.com>; "Mike Jablonski" <VillageGreenNurs@aol.com>; "Bob and Jamie Dieterich" <dieteric@gotsky.com>; "Holly C Johnson" <hollyjohnson@hughes.net>; "Kevin & Kelly Vogel" <kkvogel@yahoo.com>; <MoonDeerRanch@aol.com>; "Gordon Poest" <gjpoest@chartermi.net>; "Steve Pulera" <npulera@wi.rr.com>; <roba-info@reindeer.ws>; "Tom Schmaltz" <tomschmaltz@hotmail.com>; "Mike & Vicky" <parksplace@lakenet.com>; "Elizabeth Juneau" <Elizabeth.Juneau@dchs.org>; "shawn sederholm" <sgfhighbridge@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 18, 2007 9:04 AM  
**Subject:** domestic reindeer/wild caribou

Hi Kyle,

This same subject comes up often and I believe many of our members who haven't made it to an annual ROBA membership meeting may not have this info. I'm surprised that so many don't and have such a difficult time discussing this issue with govt officials. Unfortunately, as you know, each states wildlife/DNR agency has their own agenda [science may not be at the top of their list]. This may help some members.

Maybe there is a possibility that an "insert" could be added to the ROBA Review in the future?

#### The Reindeer is a Domestic Animal

**Domestication:** An animal bred for the purposes of economic benefit to a human community that maintains control over its breeding, place of habitation and food supply.

**The Process:** A group of animals is habituated to humans; is reproductively isolated from the rest of the population, and the animals characteristics are changed through artificial and natural selection.

#### The Fourteen Species of Large Herbivore Domestic Mammals

The Major Five: Sheep, Goat, Cattle, Pig, Horse

The Minor Nine: Arabian [one hump] camel, Bactrian [two humped] camel, Llama and alpaca, Donkey, Water buffalo, Yak, Bali cattle, Mithan, and Reindeer.

Since the world contains 148 species of large herbivore mammals why did humans only domesticate 14 of these species? To be domesticated, a candidate species must possess six [6] characteristics to pass thru the domestication bottleneck and lack of any one of the required characteristics dooms the domestication effort. These six characteristics are:

**Diet:** A domestic animal must survive on a "generalist" diet of palatable species of forage plants commonly available on rangelands and

must be able to utilize crops grown by man. Reindeer eat a multitude of tundra plants and successful diets have been and can be formulated from a seemingly infinite number of feedstuffs. Reindeer do require a less fibrous, more digestible diet than most other domestic species. Moose, on the other hand, need a special diet and are very difficult to feed in captivity.

**Growth Rate:** To be worthwhile raising as a food animal, domestics must grow quickly to a slaughter weight. Reindeer during the summer months can grow as much as a pound per day, comparable to traditional livestock such as cattle. Most livestock species demonstrate about a 10% conversion rate, ie 10 lbs of feed produces 1 lb of animal. Reindeer at the U of Alaska during the summer growth period produce at an 18% conversion rate on a diet of barley, fishmeal, and hay.

**Capable of Breeding in Captivity:** Many candidates for captivity do not breed well in captivity. Reindeer breed very well in captivity.

**Good Natured Disposition:** Even though all current domestic livestock have killed humans they are not inherently dangerous and they socialize to people quite well. Hundreds of reindeer in a corral will flow around and not touch a human even though milling and humans can work free range reindeer in close quarters with minimal risk of injury to the animal. Bison, on the other hand, although good candidates for domestication have a nasty disposition.

**Tendency to not panic when threatened:** Large mammalian herbivores react differently to predators or humans. Some species become very nervous quickly and are programmed for instant flight when they perceive a threat. This reaction is what eliminates most deer species for domestication. Even after decades of captive breeding in Alaska most caribou become very nervous and excitable when humans are close. The reindeer are much slower to become nervous, seek protection in herds, and stand their ground when threatened and only flee when absolutely necessary.

**Social Structure:** All species of domesticated large mammals share three social characteristics.

They live in herds with large numbers of adults tolerating each other in close quarters. They can be herded, handled, and are capable of living in high densities in captivity.

These herds can occupy overlapping ranges rather than mutually exclusive territories and these herds can be penned or herded together without much fighting.

There is a well developed dominance hierarchy that allows many adults to coexist without constant fighting and each knows its social rank and will follow a more dominant animal. This social system is ideal for domestication because humans take over the dominance hierarchy and young animals will imprint on the human leader.

## The Effects of Domestication, Physical and Behavioral

The body size becomes smaller. This is usually the first archeological indicator than an animal is being domesticated. A larger body size may occur in latter stages of domestication.

The outward appearance changes, ears generally become longer, tails become curly, and there is a diversity in hair changes, color and physical characteristics [wool]. Jaws become shortened, frontal lobes longer, teeth become smaller, and fat is deposited externally or in the muscle tissue rather than around the internal organs.

### Reindeer vs Caribou

As a reindeer owner it is important to know the differences between reindeer and caribou. You will be asked to explain these differences many times over by the public and uninformed government officials. Reindeer are not wild animals.

#### Taxonomic order

Kingdom-----Animal

Phylum-----Chordata [backbone with spinal chord]

Class-----Mammalia [milk producing]

Subclass-----Ungulata [hooved]

Order-----Artiodactyla [even-toed]

Suborder-----Ruminantia [ruminant]

Family-----Cervidae [deer]

Genus-----Rangifer

Species-----tarandus [with 7 subspecies]

The domesticated reindeer is Rangifer tarandus tarandus while the caribou that lives in Alaska is Rangifer tarandus grantii.

#### Similarities:

- same species [different sub-species]--can interbreed
- both sexes have antlers
- adapted to live on the tundra--circumpolar north
- annual weight loss/gain cycle
- herd animals
- prefer lichen as a winter forage

#### Differences:

Reindeer	Caribou
Domesticated	Wild
Sedentary	Migratory
Breeding starts mid-Aug	Breeding starts mid-Sept
Can be Pinto colored	Never Pinto colored
Dark brown calves	Light brown calves
More fat	
Thicker fur	
Shorter face and muzzle	

Females have larger antlers  
than female caribou

Additional information on the various subspecies of Rangifer  
tarandus, where they live, what happens when western caribou herds  
invade the range of the reindeer on the Seward Peninsula is readily  
available from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and you are  
encouraged to contact Greg Finstad at the U of AK with any questions.

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