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February 19, 2026

SUBJECT: OFFERS TO HELP OUR COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCING WILDFIRE LOSSES

Nine years after the losses resulting from the Starbuck Wildfire, still the largest, most extensive wildfire in Kansas history, many of the same ranchers have been affected earlier this week by another round of wildfires.

As news spread earlier this week, almost immediately offers to help began pouring in throughout social media, texts and phone calls. I would like to share what we learned from the Starbuck Fire that, hopefully, will be helpful as you consider making decisions about how to help.

Fencing supplies: After the Starbuck Fire we learned that if federal funds are used to rebuild and replace fences, the construction requirements to access those funds are very specific regarding type of wire, posts, etc. While the generosity of those giving nine years ago was remarkable, we were limited in how much of the donated resources actually could be used simply because federal loss recovery funds needed to be used and the donated fencing supplies didn't meet government specifications.

Money: Today, money is the most precious resource and in the greatest need. Many of the ranching operations affected need time to truly assess their losses. Some are finding cattle they first thought to be lost, alive and safe. Others are experiencing the opposite and unfortunately are seeing the losses increase. 100% of your contributions to ASHLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION will be redistributed to those meeting the loss criteria.

Cash donations can be made to the ASHLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION. You can donate directly by clicking <https://www.ashlandcf.com/donate-today> or mail or drop monetary donations to STOCKGROWERS STATE BANK, 622 Main Street, Ashland, KS 67831 or mail checks to ASHLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, P.O. Box 276, Ashland, KS 67831.

Available pasture and grassland: If you have pasture available either short term or long term, please reach out to Ashland Community Foundation, Kansas Livestock Association, or Ashland Veterinary Center.

Hay: There are designated drop off locations ready to accept loads of hay.

SHAW FEEDYARD:

Shaw Feedyard will be a dropping point for hay. Please contact Ryan Koons at 620-805-4682 if you have any questions. The address is 2428 CR 15 in Ashland, KS.

ASHLAND FEED & SEED:

Ashland Feed & Seed will be a dropping point for hay and feed. The address is 1975 CR U, Ashland, KS 67831. Contact the main office: (620) 635-2856.

The generosity of America's rural community is unparalleled in its willingness to move mountains to help others in need. The Ashland community, Clark, Comanche, Barber and many other Kansas counties that have experienced losses are humbled by your thoughts and blessed to be a part of truly a "greater good."

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact any of us at Ashland Veterinary Center.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Randall K. Spare DVM in black ink.
Randall K. Spare DVM
Ashland Veterinary Center Inc