



March 25, 2020

To Our Valued Equity Cooperative Livestock Patrons, Buyers and Employees,

In an effort to communicate Equity's current plan of operation, we ask that you continue to be patient with us as we are diligently working our way through this unprecedented crisis our world is facing. Please know the safety of our patrons, buyers and employees is our top priority! Additionally, we will continue to provide access to safe, secure, and efficient livestock marketing and price discovery.

We have reviewed the current federal and state government stay-at-home orders and Equity Cooperative Livestock remains exempt as a livestock marketing and distribution company which is critical to the food supply chain. Equity also remains exempt from the 10-person gathering limitation. This exemption allows for us to have active buyers in our markets to provide competitive bids on livestock. However, following current federal COVID-19 guidelines and for the safety of our patrons, buyers, employees, and sellers, no patrons, spectators, or sellers will have access to the markets. We continue to ask sellers to deliver livestock to the receiving docks and leave the facility. Efforts are being made to record any minimum prices at the time of dock-in. Seller checks will be mailed unless arrangements have been made with the market to receive check in a drive thru manner in the parking lot of the market you utilized. Sellers should contact market staff by phone to make such arrangements for receiving your check.

Equity Cooperative Livestock employees are asked not to congregate together and to have minimal contact with individuals in other areas of the market. Management is working hard to be efficient and safe with reduced number of employees. We have also suspended non-essential tasks to help limit employee hours to reduce potential exposure. Our employees have been provided documentation to allow them to travel to and from work safely. Accordingly, we are following other guidelines as issued by the federal government in their COVID-19 Response Plan. We eliminated non-essential travel, quarantined employees returning from out of state trips, limited in-person meetings, and increased cleaning schedules and protocols. We ask anyone exhibiting symptoms to refrain from coming into any of our facilities, stay home and take care of themselves.

We are continuing to run our normal sale schedules at our markets. As COVID-19 crisis continues to develop, we will be monitoring available staff, livestock volumes, and prices to maintain an efficient operation. Equity strives to provide the best services possible to our patrons. Management has been working on protocols that address possible future schedule changes, moving employees or livestock between markets, or taking any additional actions needed to allow us to continue operations.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the normalcy of our daily lives as well as our operations, Equity will work together with our patrons, buyers, employees and sellers to continue livestock marketing which is critical to the food supply chain.

Please check our website www.equitycoop.com, follow our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EquityCooperativeLivestockSalesAssociation/>, or call 800-362-3989 for regular updates.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support,

Curt Larson
President and CEO

"on the farm in the market working together"