



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DISASTER SAFETY TIPS Livestock, Horses, Poultry and Rabbits

Like humans, animals are susceptible to injury and death caused by flying debris, flooding, fire and exposure to severe weather.

### PREPARE

- Make a disaster plan to protect your property, your facilities, and your animals. Create a list of emergency telephone numbers, including those of your employees, neighbors, veterinarian, animal shelter, heavy equipment and trailer operators, feed supplier, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Animal and Plant Health Inspection Officer, and local volunteers. Make sure all this information is written down and key persons has a copy.
- Make sure livestock fencing, gates, corrals and other enclosures are in good condition and repaired if not.
- Reinforce farm house, pens, and other buildings or sheds with hurricane straps and other measures.
- If you plan to move livestock, make arrangements no later than 72 hours or (3 days) before landfall of pending storm.
- Livestock should never remain in a closed barn or pen. If the barn or pen is damaged by wind, animals could be injured or killed.
- The safest place for large animals is an open pasture clear of trees and objects that can be blown around by wind. Livestock instinctively seek higher ground and should be turned loose in large fenced pastures with access to high ground in the event of flooding.
- Ensure poultry have access to food, water and high areas in which to perch if they are in a flood-prone area.
- Small animals such as rabbits can be housed indoors. Temporary pens can be built and stacked indoors.
- Have a two-week supply of feed, medicine and other supplies stored in a safe location protected against flooding and can withstand high wind.
- Have a two-week supply of water.
- Stock up on basic emergency supplies such as bandages, topical antibiotics and ropes to restrain injured animals.
- Label supplies and storage bins clearly.
- Label hazardous materials, secure all in a storage bin and place them in the same safe area.
- Provide medical, feeding and handling instructions to relatives and or farm assistant in case you are traveling, injured or otherwise cannot be available in the event of a disaster. This person should be familiar with your animals, have your emergency contact information, know your evacuation plan and where you keep your emergency kits.
- Make sure livestock has durable and visible identification. Make sure cattle are branded and or tagged, sheep, goats and pigs are tagged and rabbits are tattooed. Horses are haltered and identification and ownership tags are affixed to halter. All livestock should be recorded in a register.
- Fill all troughs, water tanks and drums and other large containers with water. This will help keep them from blowing away and provide a possible source of water after the storm.
- Heavy farm equipment, trucks and other vehicles should be fueled, placed on high ground, under cover or tied down if possible.
- Small equipment such as generators, grass cutters and chainsaws should be fueled as well.
- Extra fuel should be purchased and stored in a certified fuel container and stored in a safe place.
- Secure or remove debris that might become a hazard in the event of high winds. Strap down feeders, trailers, propane tanks and other items that can blow into a barn, pen, home or other dwelling.
- If you use heat lamps or other electrical machinery, make sure the wiring is safe and that any heat source is clear of flammable debris.
- Fire Extinguishers should be visible, labeled and accessible in all barns, poultry houses and homes.
- Perform regular maintenance and safety checks on all utilities, buildings, and facilities on your farm.
- Review and update your disaster plan, supplies and information regularly.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US**

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