



Floods can impact animal health as well as human health. Make plans for your livestock and horses in the event you will need to evacuate your farm.

## Before a Flood

- **Maintain an inventory.**
  - Keep a current list of all animals on your farm.
  - Include their location and any records of vaccinations, testing and ownership.
- **Have identification for all animals.**
  - Make sure animals have some form of permanent identification (e.g., ear tags, tattoos).
  - Ensure animals are properly vaccinated before exposure to floodwaters.
- **Prepare an evacuation kit.**
  - Handling equipment (e.g., halters, nose leads)
  - Water, feed, and buckets
  - Medications
  - Tools and supplies needed for manure cleanup
  - Safety and emergency items for your vehicles and trailers
  - Gas powered generators
- **Make evacuation arrangements.**
  - Determine possible evacuation areas – higher elevation, alternate production facilities (e.g., temporary milking parlors).
  - Determine several routes to these locations.
  - Identify alternate water or power sources.
  - Locate and prearrange feed and water delivery, needed equipment (e.g., milking) and services (e.g., milk pickup).
  - Have well maintained backup generators for livestock production operations.
  - Make transport arrangements (e.g., trucks, trailers) with experienced handlers and drivers.
  - Condition animals to being loaded and transported.
- **Ensure a safe environment.**
  - Assess the stability and safety of barns and other structures.
  - Remove dead trees or objects from fields or livestock areas that may serve as potential debris during a flood situation.

## During a Flood

- **Be aware animal behavior may change before, during and even after a disaster.**
  - If you must evacuate, ensure your family's safety first
  - If there is time - move or evacuate livestock and horses to higher ground.

- **AVOID leaving animals behind.**
  - If there is no other alternative, keep gates or buildings open so they can escape high water.
  - Provide access to safe free-choice food source, clean water and the safest living areas possible.
  - Do not rely on automatic watering systems, because power may be lost.
  - Establish escape routes to safe locations (higher elevation).
  - Place your contact number and the name and number of your veterinarian on the building.

## After a Flood

- **Assess your animals and building structures.**
  - Survey damage to your barns and other structures; assess the stability and safety.
  - Examine your animals closely; contact your veterinarian if you observe injuries or signs of illness.
- **Return animals only after the threat has passed and the safety of buildings or the area has been assessed.**
  - Release animals in a safe and enclosed area until familiarity of the surroundings can occur.
- **Provide non-contaminated feed or water.**
  - Provide clean, uncontaminated water.
  - Do not feed flood damaged or moldy feed or hay.
  - Do not use any feed or forage that may have been contaminated by chemical or pesticides.
- **Animal disposal.**
  - Record any animal deaths.
  - Check with your state or local authorities for proper disposal methods for animal carcasses.
- **Prevent illness.**
  - Keep animals away from flood waters which may contain harmful bacteria or chemicals.
  - Monitor animals daily for signs of illness.

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