

Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines for Livestock

Preparations for the hurricane season:

- Make a disaster plan to protect your property, your facilities, and your animals
- Create a list of emergency telephone numbers:
 - Employees
 - Neighbors
 - Veterinarian
 - Local animal shelter and animal care and control
 - County office
 - County Emergency Management Office, fire and police station
 - Trailing resources
 - Local volunteers

Include a contact person outside the disaster area and make sure your employees and family have a copy.
- Do preventative trimming of trees around barns, driveway and fences. Remove any weak trees. Try to have only deep-rooted or native plants and trees to help prevent future structural damage.
- Since most animal injuries are due to loose debris from structures or fences and downed power lines, performing safety checks for utilities, buildings and facilities on a regular basis is recommended. Make sure to reinforce faulty or decaying structures and ensure that fences are strong and secure. Most animal injuries come from loose debris from structures or fences
- Develop a plan with neighboring farms to assist each other with management or evacuation of livestock.
- Make sure your animals are adequately and uniquely identified and are in good health. Ensure necessary vaccinations are completed.
 - Ensure that your insurance is up to date and make sure to know what is and is not covered under your insurance.
- Prepare and update a livestock emergency kit with animal care supplies, important documents, and other necessary materials.
- Identify alternate power and water sources and perform routine generator maintenance.

Preparations before a hurricane makes landfall:

- Reinforce your house, barn and other buildings with hurricane straps or other measures.
- Consider rerouting permanent fencing to ensure that animals have access to high ground in case of flooding or low-lying areas in case of high winds. Tie any gates you plan to leave open in the open position so animals can travel freely.
 - For areas prone to flooding, berms or mounds can be constructed to allow animals to reach higher ground. Make sure animals are not able to re-enter potentially dangerous areas
- Fill large containers and feed troughs with water to last for at least one to two weeks. Keep in mind that water supplies, ponds and wells can get contaminated.

- Additionally, filling up large containers and feed troughs with water before high winds arrive will prevent them from becoming projectiles while also being an additional source of fresh water.
- Have about a two-week supply of all feedstuffs needed.
- Remove or secure anything that could become projectiles or blowing debris. Some examples include:
 - Propane gas tanks
 - Trailers
 - Feed troughs
 - Calf Hutches
 - Chemicals
- Cover sharp edges of equipment with straw bales or other padding to keep animals safe if high winds move the equipment. Avoid using hay for padding.
- Make sure to label hazardous materials and move it to a singular location. Provide the location of hazardous material to local emergency management.
- Monitor television and local radio broadcasts regularly if risk factors are present. Have extra tarps or shade cloth available to cover equipment if roof is blown off or to provide temporary shade.

After hurricane makes landfall:

- If animals are missing, determine if they have been collected and transported to a holding facility. Also inform the local livestock auction barns to keep an eye out for animals with your identification
- Make sure that the perimeter fencing is secure and/ or is supplemented with temporary fencing measures until permanent fences are repaired
- Examine damages and potential hazards before letting sheltered animals back into pastures.
- Look for any animals found on your property and report them so they can be safely returned to their owners.
- Check animals for injuries and treat them as soon as the animals are safely contained.
- Watch animals for any signs of disease, such as pneumonia, foot rot, or leptospirosis. If an animal appears sick, isolate it from the herd and report it to your veterinarian.
- Spray insect repellants to protect livestock from increased mosquito and fly populations.
- Slowly move animals into regular diets slowly if these have been altered.
- Check livestock feed for water contamination. Do not feed any contaminated feed to the animals
- If animals have had prolonged time without water, gradually provide water while monitoring the animals for salt poisoning from rain water contamination.
- Be aware that animals may be temporarily disoriented, nervous, and restless following the event. Use familiar personnel and protocols to help them re-acclimate.
- Dispose of any livestock carcasses.
- In cases where there is a large amount of animal carcasses, contact the Georgia Department of Agriculture for help with disposal.