



# SMALL FARM PREPAREDNESS

Disaster preparedness for owners of farm animals

Disasters can vary widely in scale and severity, causing short- and long-term impacts. Some disasters may happen without warning, while others are more predictable. No matter where you live, disasters and emergencies can and will occur.

It's essential to make a personal plan, prepare everything you need to execute that plan—such as putting together an evacuation and preparedness kit for every member of your household (including all animals)—and stay informed of local animal disaster plans. By being prepared, you are helping ensure that first responders can focus on emergencies and that you can be self-sufficient in the first few days after disaster strikes and before help may arrive.

Common hazards include:

- Hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, and other severe weather events
- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Human-made disasters (examples include chemical spills, nuclear incidents, and terrorism)
- Fires

Familiarize yourself with the common hazards most likely to occur in your area. For more information about hazards and general personal preparedness visit [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

### PREPAREDNESS TIP

Take all disaster advisories or warnings seriously.

## MAKE A PLAN

Have an evacuation plan in place and practice the plan prior to a disaster. Because some disasters occur with little to no warning and conditions can change rapidly, it's critical to know your plan before disaster strikes. Talk to your veterinarian to help make a plan for your specific farm animals. Consider these points when forming a plan:

### Know what to do at the first sign of trouble

- The decision to leave your horses or livestock in the field or in the barn should be based on the risks of injury resulting from the disaster and the immediate environment during that disaster.
  - » Assess the stability and safety of barns and other structures.
  - » Secure or remove all outdoor objects that could turn into dangerous flying debris.
- When a natural disaster is forecasted, evacuate as early as possible. By leaving early, you will decrease the chance of becoming a disaster victim yourself.

### Plan for transportation and temporary housing

- Locate and prearrange an evacuation site for your animals outside your immediate area.
- If you do not have enough trailers to quickly transport all your animals, contact neighbors, local haulers, farmers, producers, or other providers to establish transportation resources.
- Make sure transportation is weather-appropriate.
- Consider the special needs of young animals when making your plan and evacuation kit.

### Gather necessary equipment and information

- Be prepared for the possible disruption of services for extended periods of time, including gas, electricity, phone (cellular and landlines), internet service, and local sources of food, water, and fuel.
  - » Identify alternate sources of food and water.
  - » Have well-maintained backup generators and a fuel source for use in farm animal production operations.
  - » Keep vehicles well-maintained and full of gas.
  - » Keep emergency cash on hand (ATMs may not work).

- Assemble an [animal evacuation kit](#). Keep animal equipment where rescue personnel, neighbors, and friends can easily find it.
- Animal identification may help you reunite with your animal(s) if separated.
  - » Consult with your veterinarian about appropriate identification for your animals.
  - » Make copies of any proof of ownership, animal identification documentation, or photos for identification, and keep them with your evacuation kit.
- Prepare [emergency contact lists](#) in advance.

## Know what to do after a disaster

- Survey your house and farm to identify dangerous conditions.
- Contact your veterinarians immediately if animals are injured or ill.
- Reintroduce food as small meals, gradually working up to full portions if animals have been without food for a prolonged time.
- Allow uninterrupted rest/sleep.

## PREPARE TO EXECUTE YOUR PLAN

Once you have your plan outlined, prepare to execute that plan by practicing the plan, pre-gathering items and records, and making lists of contacts in the event of an emergency. Make sure that everyone understands that all aspects of the timing in an emergency evacuation takes longer than practiced.

## Transportation and temporary housing

- Have restraint equipment ready for your animals.
- For poultry and/or rabbits, prepare transport coops/crates:
  - » Choose appropriate and easy-to-clean bedding options.
  - » Consider weather-specific needs, planning for how to heat or cool animals as needed.
  - » Transfer animals to more suitable housing as soon as possible.
- Clearly label your supplies with your identification and contact information.
- Familiarize your animals with evacuation procedures, such as being loaded into a trailer.
- To decrease stress and the risk of disease transmission, keep animals from different households separated as much as possible during evacuation and while away from home.
- During evacuation, protect animals from weather and predators.

## Necessary equipment

Be ready for disaster by preparing an animal evacuation kit. Don't wait for an emergency situation—gather the items you'll need now, and put them in an easy-to-carry, waterproof container close to an exit.

Your evacuation kit should include food and medicine, animal care supplies, first aid and sanitation items, and important documents. See AVMA's [large animal evacuation kit checklists](#) to make sure you pack everything you'll need.

Remember to replace food, water, and medications as often as needed to maintain quality and freshness and in accordance with expiration dates. If medications must be stored outside of the kit due to temperature requirements, such as refrigeration, write down the name of the medication and its location, and include that note in the kit.

### PREPAREDNESS TIP

Discuss emergency first aid procedures and administration of any medications with your veterinarian, and consult them for advice on what else to include in your evacuation kit.





# HORSE AND/OR LIVESTOCK EVACUATION KIT

Be prepared for a disaster with an animal evacuation kit. Talk with your veterinarian when developing your kit, and assemble the kit well in advance of any emergency.

## Food and medicine

- 7-10 days' worth of food\*
- 7-10 days' supply of water (if possible)
- Two-week supply of supplements or medications\*

*\*These items must be rotated and replaced to ensure they don't expire*

## Animal care supplies

- Bandanas/blindfolds (if necessary)
- Blankets
- Fly spray
- Grooming/hof care materials
- Leg wraps
- Portable livestock panels
- Restraints (halters, lariats, leads, ropes, etc.)
- Water buckets

## General supplies

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries    | <input type="checkbox"/> Shovel                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cloth towels | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarps                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Thick gloves           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight   | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash bags             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knife        | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash cans (with lids) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels | <input type="checkbox"/> Wire cutters           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio        |   |

## First aid kit

- Antibiotic ointment
- Bandage tape and scissors
- Cotton bandage rolls
- Isopropyl alcohol/alcohol prep pads
- Latex gloves
- Saline solution
- Towel and washcloth
- Tweezers

## Important documents

- Copies of veterinary records and proof of ownership
- Medication instructions and pharmacy information
- Emergency contact cards, including veterinarian and pharmacy
- Maps of the local area and evacuation routes

## Other items you may want to remember

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_





## POULTRY AND/OR RABBIT EVACUATION KIT

Be prepared for a disaster with an animal evacuation kit. Talk with your veterinarian when developing your kit, and assemble the kit well in advance of any emergency.

### Food and medicine

- 7-10 days' worth of food\*
- 7-10 days' supply of water (if possible)
- Two-week supply of supplements or medications\*

*\*These items must be rotated and replaced to ensure they don't expire*

### Animal care supplies

- Bedding material
- Feeders and waterers
- Transport coops/crates (with heating/cooling apparatus as needed)

### General supplies

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries  | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cloth towels   | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning supplies (including detergent and disinfectant) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shovel                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarps                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight   | <input type="checkbox"/> Thick gloves           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knife  | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash bags             |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash cans (with lids) |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Wire cutters           |

### First aid kit

- Antibiotic ointment
- Bandage tape and scissors
- Cotton bandage rolls
- Isopropyl alcohol/alcohol prep pads
- Latex gloves
- Saline solution
- Towel and washcloth
- Tweezers

### Important documents

- Identification papers including proof of ownership and microchip number, if applicable
- Medical records and medication instructions
- Emergency contact cards, including veterinarian and pharmacy
- Maps of the local area and evacuation routes

### Other items you may want to remember

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Necessary information

Animal identification, records, and emergency contacts will help ensure reunion with your animals as soon as possible following a disaster. Keeping these items up-to-date and organized are critical parts of disaster preparedness.

### Records and documents

Make photocopies or save electronic files of important documents:

- A list of each of your animals and their species, breed, age, sex, color, and distinguishing characteristics
- Registration information, adoption papers, and/or proof of purchase
- Microchip, tattoo, and/or brand information
- Veterinary records, including a list of each animal's vaccinations and the date they were administered
- Any current medical conditions or allergies
- A list of each animal's medications, including the drug name, dosage, and frequency of dosing

### Emergency contacts

Prepare your emergency contact list now, before disaster strikes. You may need it during a disaster or while evacuating, and rescue personnel responding to a disaster affecting your animals may need it, too. Keep a copy with your evacuation kit.

Include addresses and 24-hour contact numbers, if available. If you use the [Medical ID function](#) on your mobile device, be sure one of the contacts is aware of your animal disaster plan.

- Numbers where you or the primary animal caretaker(s) can be reached
- Local emergency contact person if you or the caretaker(s) aren't available
- Location of your prearranged evacuation sites
- Animal transportation resource
- Out-of-state emergency contact person
- Your veterinarian's name, clinic name, and phone number
- Alternate veterinarian
- Local animal control agency
- Local police department
- Local fire department
- Local public health department
- Local Red Cross chapter
- List of internet and social media "lost and found" animal sites
- Local municipal animal shelter, local humane society, or local society for the prevention of cruelty to animals (SPCA)

### Information for caretakers

Animal caretakers should have the following:

- Familiarity with your animals, their diets, evacuation procedures, and location of supplies
- A list of each animal's medications, including the drug name, dosage, and frequency of dosing
- A signed emergency veterinary medical authorization for treatment/procedures that are needed

## PREPAREDNESS TIP

If you must evacuate without your animals, you can display the following to assist responders during a disaster event: your or your caretaker's contact information; the type, number, and locations (including favorite hiding spots) of animals on your property; and location of animal restraint equipment. This can help others save your animals if you aren't home or are otherwise unable to share that information with responders.

## My LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY numbers

Trailers/Haulers	Grain supplier
	Hay supplier
	Water supplier
Extension office	Area emergency coordinator
State Veterinarian	Alternate caretaker information

## My LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY numbers

Veterinarian	Poison Control
Animal control	Police (non-emergency)
	Fire department (non-emergency)

For more disaster preparedness tips visit [avma.org/Disaster](https://avma.org/Disaster)

### Directions

CUT along the dotted lines  
FOLD along the solid lines

## STAY INFORMED

Stay informed before, during, and after an event so you can respond promptly and appropriately to changing conditions.

- Public safety officials use timely and reliable systems to alert you about emergencies. **Be familiar with the Wireless Emergency Alerts and Emergency Alert Systems in your area**, and check the settings on your mobile device to ensure you can receive alerts.
- **Identify local animal welfare organizations** likely to be involved in a disaster response (e.g., animal control, municipal shelter, private/non-profit shelters, veterinary clinics) and their role in the community (e.g., primary disaster response, lost animals, emergency veterinary care). Consider “following” these groups on social media during a disaster as they will provide animal-specific information.
- **Consider volunteering and/or receiving training** in animal disaster response in your community.



## Reuniting with lost animals

If you or a caretaker are separated from an animal, take these steps to increase your chances of reuniting:

- Notify local law enforcement, animal care and control officials, veterinarians, and neighbors of any lost animals.
- Contact animal control and animal shelters daily.
- Use online resources for lost and found animals.
- Use social media to post information about lost and found animals.

Explore more disaster preparedness information and tools at [avma.org/Disaster](https://avma.org/Disaster)