



**For more information contact:**

- Your municipal Director of Emergency Management
- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development – Emergency Program:  
Ropin’ The Web or  
AgInfo Centre at 310-FARM (3276)
- Your animal or commodity organization  
(e.g. Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Equestrian Federation, Alberta Goat Breeders Association)
- Alberta Farm Animal Care – Alert Line  
Tel: 1-800-506-2273



# GET PREPARED

for farm and acreage emergencies



As a rural Albertan you need to protect your animals from risks posed by natural disasters and other emergencies including: collapsed barns, extreme weather, flooding, and dehydration.

From barn fires to natural disasters, life in the country calls for special measures to safeguard your personal safety, pets and livestock, property and protect your community.

Planning for emergencies now will minimize the impact on you, your family, your animals and your neighbours. Start your planning by: knowing the risks, making a plan, and getting a kit/equipment ready.

If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to look after yourself for 72 hours. Additional information and assistance can be provided by your veterinarian, municipality or animal/industry association.

# 1 PLAN AHEAD for hazards



## Flooding?

(river, creek, lake, or coulee nearby)

- Check municipality for historical information on flooding in your area.
- Pumps, sandbags, pasture on higher ground, relocate buildings, mutual aid agreements with neighbours

→ • Plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Extreme weather?

(winter storms, tornados, high winds, heavy snowfall)

- Back-up power, 72 hours food and water for people and animals

→ • Plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Hazardous material or chemicals?

(farm storage, railway, oil/gas wells)

- Farm map of chemicals/fuel/fertilizer storage sites, awareness of risks

→ • Plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Wildfire?

(forest or grasslands)

- FireSmart your farm/acreage  
[www.srd.alberta.ca/Wildfire/FireSmart/](http://www.srd.alberta.ca/Wildfire/FireSmart/)

→ • Plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Drought?

(extreme heat or loss of water supply for animals)

- Back up water supply, shelter, trees

→ • Plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

## Transporting animals?

(vehicle breakdown, accident)

- Handling equipment, vehicle and trailer maintenance, does local fire department have portable livestock handling equipment?

→ • Plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency contact numbers

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# 2 COMPLETING your emergency plan

There are a few other things to consider to finish completing your emergency plan:

- Post emergency contact numbers in each main building.
- Post an evacuation plan for people and animals for each building. Designate a meeting place for evacuations.
- Register your property, poultry and animals in the Premises Identification System so that you can be notified of major dangers like disease and wildfires. [www.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/trace12354](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/trace12354)
- Create a map of the property identifying buildings, any animal locations, power sources, water sources, hazardous materials/flammable storage, location of gates for immediate access, equipment parking (trailers, tractors, etc) to give to first responders in case you have to evacuate.
- Prepare to evacuate:
  - » Your family – see personal emergency preparedness info – [www.getprepared.gc.ca](http://www.getprepared.gc.ca)
  - » Your animals – where/how/equipment like halters and buckets, animal identification/inventory
- Leaving livestock behind:
  - » 3 days of food and water available nearby
  - » Handling equipment such as halters, cages, blankets and appropriate tools for each kind of animal. Include bolt-cutters to quickly free animals in an emergency.
  - » Tools and supplies needed for animal health and sanitation
- Ensure that animal identification is up to date as much possible. Keep ID information in an easily accessible place in case of a rushed evacuation, and a copy off site.
- Sufficient fire extinguishers and first aid kits to protect people and animals
- Keep copies of critical documents in an alternate location off site (Insurance policies, birth and death certificates, animal identification and inventory, etc.)

# 3 DURING the emergency

- **Priorities are:**  
**protect people, then animals, then property**
- If you need to “Grab and go” – valuable papers, key documents and records, water and some food.
- Help your neighbours (safety first)
- Time permitting, what else can you do to protect or comfort animals (open gates, provide extra feed/water, etc.)
- Contact family and friends – let them know where you are and your status
- Contact your insurance company – if there are damages and/or losses
- Make arrangements for alternate care and feeding of animals if you are unable to do it from home
- Contact your municipality for information/assistance: in a major emergency your municipality has access to other information and resources that can be of assistance

