Dairy and Livestock Farm
Disaster Preparedness and Recovery
Guide

(Adapted from Ontario County, New York Cooperative Extension)

Dairy cattle
Beef cattle
Horses &
mules
Sheep
& goats

Poultry
Swine
Exotic
livestock
Small
livestock

How well could you deal with an unexpected catastrophe at your farm?

This packet contains tip sheets and checklists to help you prepare for and recover from an on-farm or community disaster, especially if you are unfamiliar with emergency management limitations regarding livestock. In many cases, Cooperative Extension, Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry and your local Emergency Management Agency will be your first point of contact for insights and education to help you be prepared. This packet is intended to be a supplement to your own plans and research about personal emergency preparedness.

Bottom line
As an owner of commercial or hobby livestock, you are fully responsible for taking action to shelter and provide for all livestock under your care or control in an emergency. Police, EMS personnel, Fire Departments and American Red Cross will provide services to assist in human life saving and sheltering, and usually cannot help with animal care.

Disaster preparedness for livestock is cost-effective, necessary, and can significantly improve how quickly your farm can recover from an unexpected incident.
## Most Likely Community and Farm Disasters in Maine

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Effects on Farm and Livestock</th>
<th>More Likely</th>
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</table>
| Sustained severe temperatures (extreme heat or cold) | Injured livestock  
Loss of water resources  
Decreased production | | |
| Winter storm (Late October through mid-April) | Power outages lasting for days  
Deep snow  
Wind damage / downed limbs  
Hazardous or impossible travel  
Severely cold temperatures indoors and in barns | | |
| Severe thunderstorm (Mid-April through November) | Extended power outage  
Barn damage or other unusable facilities  
Flooding in barn and turn-out areas  
Wind or hail damage  
Injured livestock | | |
| Traffic / vehicular emergency | Injured livestock  
Roaming or trapped livestock  
Personnel injuries or fatalities | | |
| Livestock disease outbreak | Restricted and quarantined facilities  
Limited personnel  
Decontamination and biosecurity measures | | |
| Barn fire | Damaged or unusable facilities  
Injured livestock | | |
| Local chemical spill or hazardous material release | Complete personnel evacuation  
Chemical exposure  
Livestock fatalities and injuries | | |
| Explosion / collapse at or near the farm | Complete or partial personnel evacuation  
Damaged facilities  
Injured livestock | | |
| Agri-terrorism | Damaged facilities  
Disease transmission  
Farm product contamination  
Feed contamination  
Loss of farm personnel  
Roaming livestock | | |
| Radioactive material release | Contaminated livestock & livestock products  
Quarantined personnel | | |
LOCALIZED FLOODING is possible anytime during the year

MAINE LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY READINESS CHECKLIST

___Contact list: Prominent posting of who to contact in an emergency - farm owner, alternative farm caretaker. Cell phones and landline numbers should be listed.

___Back-up power: Farm has an independent generator for essential power needs

___Back-up fuel: Farm has a 2 or 3-day supply or fuel for generator and essential equipment

___Fire extinguishers: Farm fire extinguishers are charged and placed for immediate control of small fires.

___Insurance: Farm insurance coverage is up-to-date to include perils to buildings and livestock

___Animal identification: Each animal has identifying tattoo or tag

___Water: Livestock water supply available for 2 or 3 days during power outage

___Feed: Livestock feed supply available for 2 or 3 days without restocking

___Veterinary contact: Office and emergency contact for veterinarian is ready and handy

___On-farm veterinary aid: Animal first-aid supplies, medications, blankets, gloves, and sterile fluids.

___Animal halters and lead ropes: Extra materials for large and small livestock handling available.

___Equipment: Tractors, trucks, and skid-steer machinery are fueled and moved to an open space for ready access.
### MAINE LIVESTOCK RESPONSE SCENARIOS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Scenarios</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Likelihood</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sheltering in place</strong> (all disasters)</td>
<td>Animals and farm personnel / family all remain at farm before, during, and after disaster event. Farm becomes self-contained for a short period of time, relying on its own water, power, food, and heat.</td>
<td>More likely</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>On-site livestock evacuation</strong> (barn fire, flood)</td>
<td>Livestock are relocated to safer areas on the farm grounds or nearby, such as turn-out pastures, alternate barns, and temporary holding areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evacuate family and pets off-site without livestock or other large animals</strong> (storm, collapse, toxic spill)</td>
<td>The farm is temporarily abandoned by all but one to four personnel who will provide feed, shelter, and safety to livestock periodically.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Complete farm evacuation</strong> (extensive building damage)</td>
<td>All livestock, pets, and people evacuate the farm property to a designated site. Livestock are methodically transported and sheltered in alternate location off-farm.</td>
<td>Less likely</td>
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MAINE LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RECOVERY

DAIRY FARM

Remember: A disaster that directly affects a dairy farm in Maine can happen whether or not the owner or herd managers are there.

The two keys for dairy farm emergency planning are
1) Have dependable and adequate back-up power, and
2) Make sure employees know what to do.

Back-up power for the dairy:
You will be more flexible in dealing with a disaster if you use two or more generators for separate functions. For example, use one generator exclusively for the milk parlor - vacuum, basic lights, and computer controls. Use a second generator for feeding and water - well pump, water pump, augers, and mixers. If needed, use a third generator for alley scraping and manure removal equipment.
- Service generator(s) and make sure they are operational.
- Run the generator under a load for a couple of hours at least every two months.
- If using a PTO-type generator, make sure the tractor being used has no fuel or oil leaks to prevent fire hazards.

Dairy farm employees:
There are several steps you can take to keep yourself, your farm, and your livestock safer during disasters. Make sure you notify workers and family members about what they are to do. They might not know, even if it is obvious to you. Take an extra step to designate emergency responsibilities among farm workers and family members. This will spread the load of effort when the skies are menacing and you are out of time.

Dairy farm employees need to know:
- How to contact you or a designated farm manager
- What is expected in an emergency situation
- How to shut down equipment in an emergency
- How to operate equipment under back-up power

General dairy farm disaster preparedness tips:
- Have on hand materials to be able to build some temporary fence or panels to make corrals.
- Calf hutchs that are not in use should be stacked together if possible or anchored.
- Have some extra tarps or shade cloth available to cover equipment if roof is blown off or to provide temporary shade.
- Fill up all tractors, vehicles, generators and storage containers with fuel.
- Put extra tires on top of silo tarps to help hold down plastic.
- Move round bales from low-lying areas to an area that is readily accessible.
- Remove calves from calf hutchs made out of plastic or fiberglass if possible. If not, anchor the hutchs down.
- Have a supply of intra-mammary mastitis treatment, broad spectrum antibiotics, electrolytes and calcium solutions, antiseptics, bandages, needles and syringes.
- Have some cash on hand (often credit cards will not work).
- Try to work with milk hauler and marketing co-op to have the least amount of milk in bulk tank possible in advance of severe weather.
- Make sure you have a plan for handling animal mortalities.
- Make sure you store hazardous chemicals in a secure location and keep an inventory of materials that you can provide to first responders.
- Fill fuel tanks (both storage and tractors) if possible ahead of a pending storm.
Remember: A disaster that directly affects livestock in Maine may occur whether or not the owners are there.

Non-dairy livestock farms in Maine include pastured beef farms, milking and meat goat herds, grass-based poultry, sheep and lamb farms, and several small-scale hog farms. These are smaller, family operations, with no or few employees, scattered through every town. The ability to manage livestock in a disaster will vary considerably.

Nearly all these farms will shelter-in-place in a disaster or move livestock on-site to safer areas. Some will require a moderate level of assistance for the care, feeding, and watering of the livestock if their own resources become overwhelmed. Many livestock owners will easily network with other owners if communications are available in an emergency.

The most common animal response situations will be:
- Owner not present nor available before, during, or after a disaster.
- Escaped or stranded livestock emergencies.
- Owner unable to manage basic animal husbandry due to loss of power, inability to travel, or mass livestock injuries or fatalities.

Tips for livestock owners in Maine:

- Write your contact information in a conspicuous place outside livestock holding areas, such as a placard near a barn entrance or a pasture gate. If you at an off-farm job, make it easier for the emergency personnel to get in touch. Designate a back-up contact person and include their phone number in addition to your own. The minutes saved can make a big difference for your farm.

- Survey your property for the best location for animal confinement during deep snow, flooding, hazardous travel, or power outage. Identify food (hay, bagged feed) and water sources (pond, stream) that do not rely on electricity, which could be lost during an emergency.

- Identify all of your livestock clearly (brands, ear tags, nose prints, tattoos) and make your inventory is current. You can designate which of your animals are of higher priority if your resources become stretched too thin. Unnecessary animals may need to be culled in an emergency and it is better if this choice has been made ahead of time.

- Stock up with extra supplies as winter starts - extra water, extra feed, and if possible, extra bedding. You can always use these supplies after a few months once the threat of winter stranding is over.
Emergency Contacts for the Farm

(complete this sheet and have it posted conspicuously in the barn, stables, and other livestock areas)

Farm owner contacts:

Home phone: __________________________________________

Barn phone: __________________________________________

Cell phone / pager: ____________________________________
Alternate farm caretaker: (neighbor, off-site family member)

Home phone: __________________________________________

Cell phone / pager: ____________________________________

Farm veterinarian name: _________________________________

Sheriff Department: ____________________________________

Name / phone of local Fire Department: ____________________

Livestock Hauler (if used): ________________________________

Emergency Management Agency: __________________________

Maine Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry:

State Veterinarian: _____________________________________

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Contact: ________