



# Disaster and emergency planning for small farms and ranches (The Basics)

## GATHER RESOURCES

Establish roles of family/workers, and have a plan prepared ahead of time. While every farm needs to do this on its own, knowing neighbors and planning with them and how you might help each other should be part of your plan. Prepare your Disaster Plan with those who live, work or board on your farm, and post it in a conspicuous place.

## BRAINSTORM

Think about what would you do if a locally relevant disaster occurred e.g., hurricane, blizzard, extreme cold, barn fire, wildfire, extreme heat, roof collapse due to heavy snow, flood, drought, tornado.

## CREATE A MAP OF YOUR FARM/RANCH

Include structures, pastures, gates, entrances, roads, wooded areas, animal areas and species, water sources and crop areas. Update the map yearly. Software programs such as [PastureMap](#) and others can be used.

## INVENTORY YOUR HERD/FLOCK

- Include species, numbers of animal IDs, health papers, medical histories
- Identify your farm as USDA certified organic or the specifics of how you are non-conventional.

## CONTACT LIST

- Farm owner including family members
- Police/Fire/EMS
- Veterinarian
- Bank/financial advisor, insurance agent
- Farm workers and animal owners (if animals are boarded on the farm)
- Feed supplier and carcass disposal service

## ANIMAL CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Directions for feeding or medications, feed supply orders, and equipment instructions written in plain language and translated if applicable.

## EVACUATION PLAN FOR ANIMALS AND HUMANS

While this may not always be necessary, an evacuation plan for livestock and farm workers may become important. Find out who has trailers and what destinations may be available.

## RESOURCES FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER PLANNING

- [PSU: Building an Emergency Response Plan for Livestock Producers](#)
- [American Family Insurance: Farm Emergency Management Plan Tips](#)
- [NCAGR: Farm Emergency Plan Template](#)
- [UMN: Creating Farm Emergency Action Plans](#)
- [Prep4agthreats: Farm Emergency Preparedness Planning](#)
- [USDA: Farm Emergency Preparedness Plan](#)
- [CFSPH: Emergency Action Plan](#)
- [Get Prepared: Emergency Preparedness for Farm Animals](#)
- Hain, Megann. Animal Welfare in the Face of Climate Change. [Organic Broadcaster, Marbleseed, Volume 30, Issue 4 2022](#)