

# Farm Disaster Preparation Certificate

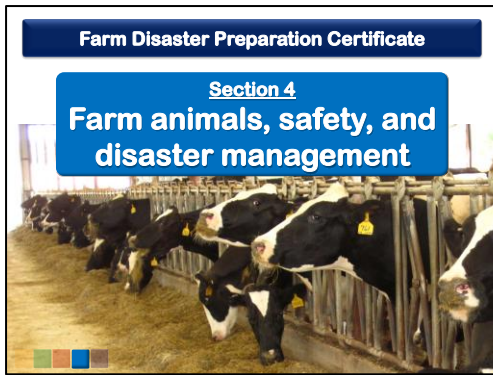
## Section 4

# Farm animals, safety, and disaster management

## Instructor Manual

Version 2.0 December 2014





**Slide #1:** Beginning section 4: a section focusing on the reality that a disaster affecting the farm will also affect livestock of all types: cattle, goats, horses, poultry, sheep, etc.

Livestock diseases could be a disaster on the farm.

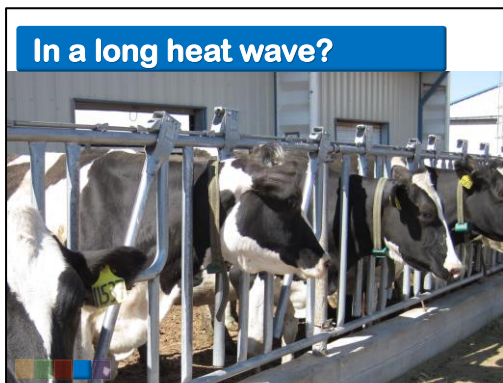
You don't have livestock on your farm? Still pay attention . . . You still need to be well aware of how

livestock would be managed in a disaster because it might be one of your neighboring farms that need some help from you . . . better to be ready to support the farm community while looking after your own farm.



**Slide #2:** We are going to look at several disaster scenarios . . . things that can easily occur in the coming 12 months. For a few minutes, focus on the possible **impact** of the disaster on the livestock.

In the coming slides, the photos depict cattle... but think broadly about other livestock that will still require food, water and shelter, even when trouble arrives in the form of a disaster.



**Slide #3:** It gets hot in the summer. Unusually hot. Scorching.

And the weather people are using words like "brutal" and "heat stroke" and "no end in sight"

What would be the effect of a long, hot, dry spell on livestock like cattle, or horses, or poultry? What kind of things would we need to be ready for?

[Participants will generally respond that water intakes goes way up. Production (weight gain, milk output) goes down. Stress allows diseases an advantage.]

Livestock are not immune to heat waves, which could become more common in the coming years.

How prepared are you to handle a hot and dry spell that goes longer than you could ever imagine? Look at your watering system and water supply. Take a few minutes to talk through with your family or staff what really needs to change in your operations to get through a drought or a brutal heat wave.

### In severe cold?



**Slide #4:** Now if it was the opposite extreme – a winter blast of frigid air that stays in place for what seems like weeks. There's snow, and wind, and every square inch of your farm yard is covered in hard ice. How would that affect livestock?

Feed and energy needs go way up. They still need access to liquid water.

### In a flood?



**Slide #5:** Torrential rains do not give more than 24 – 48 hours notice. We know it might rain, but flood-inducing rain or storms actually have a very short warning period.

Impacts to listen for from the group:

Contamination, displacement (getting out of their fences), starvation, drowning inside barns or possibly swept away young stock in a fast-moving river flood.

Anybody been in a flood on your farm? What is it really like to see deep water running through the barn or between you and your horses?

### In a traffic accident?



**Slide #6:** [Tractor trailer tipped over on a freeway, cattle injured, some escaped in the Dallas area]

Livestock spend a lot more time on the road than they used to, and road accidents pose a constant disaster risk when they leave the farm until they arrive are unloaded at their destinations.

Most emergency response personnel are not familiar with injured or anxious livestock.

What complications can you envision would come about if your livestock were involved in a trailering accident? Has a trailering accident been part of your farm's experience or in your community? If so, what happened?

**Who is responsible for livestock in a disaster?**

**Slide #7:** This is a good point to address a surprisingly simple question: Who is responsible for livestock during a disaster?

The livestock owner is fully responsible for sheltering and providing for all livestock under their care or control in an emergency.

**Slide #8:** [Deliberately read the slide slowly with pauses for emphasis]

Whether it is a blizzard, a hurricane, a disease outbreak, or a radiation accident, all the livestock you own are your responsibility.

**Will emergency personnel help at a livestock farm?**

**Slide #9:** Emergency personnel are trained to assist when and where needed. They are in the business of helping humans.

Ask the group: Does this extend to moving livestock or caring for livestock?

Don't count on it.

Emergency responders assist with human life saving and sheltering.

**Slide #10:** Read the slide –

Emergency personnel have human lives as their priority.

So, who takes care of managing livestock in an emergency? Some communities have well-organized Animal Response Teams, authorized by their county emergency management office, for just this reason.

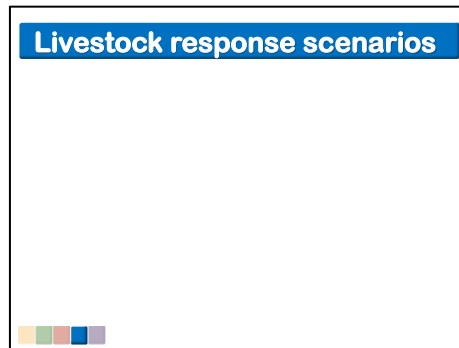
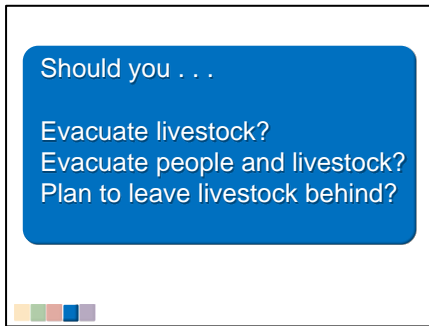
The Animal Response Team might be activated to assist with your farm or other farms in your area. They are on standby until they are needed. Some have been trained, others have merely been oriented to the basics.

If an Animal Response Team is used by an emergency management director in your community, it will be because your resources are overwhelmed. They do not rush in to help

livestock in a disaster until it is absolutely necessary. Then, it is a huge amount of coordination to address whatever needs to be addressed with your livestock.

We would rather that each farm was independently equipped to deal with a disaster

**Slide #11:** Let's look at how farms with livestock would be treated in a disaster situation.



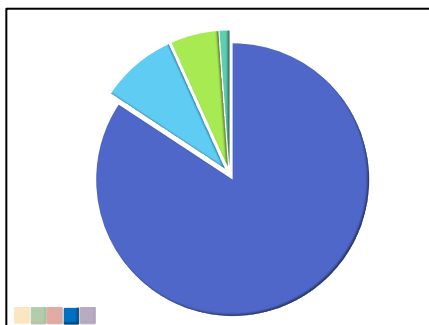
**Slide #12:** What do you think?

Should you

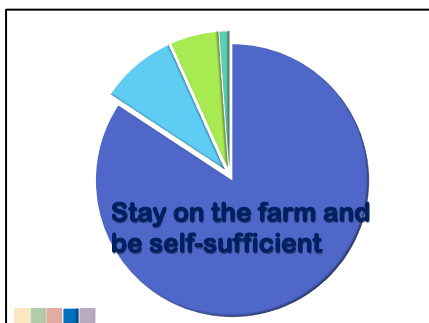
Plan to evacuate your livestock? That will take trailers, halters, a place to go, fuel, time, people, feed, fencing, and lots of other resources.

Should you evacuate both people and livestock, such as in a flood? That would take even more resources.

What about planning to leave livestock behind and just get out as a family if you needed to? It is hard to think of what scenario would result in which decision. So let's look at a pie chart to help with the planning.



**Slide #13:** This is a pie chart and we will use this chart to depict how livestock owners and farmer are expected to manage their livestock in a disaster.



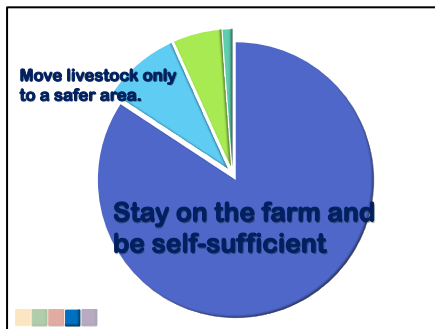
**Slide #14:** The big piece of the chart in the darker blue represents staying on your farm and being self sufficient.

If there is a flash flood that cuts off road travel, you stay on the farm.

If there is a two-week power outage from an ice storm, you stay on the farm.

If there is a windstorm that damages barns, you stay on the farm.

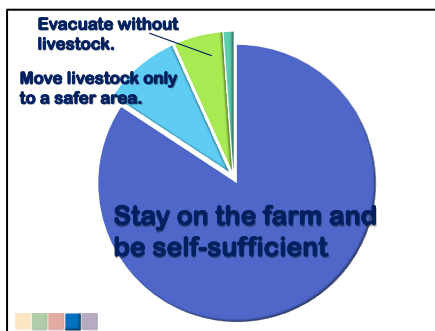
It is much easier and more practical for emergency operations to be implemented if you have your farm ready for a disaster. We will explain more about exactly what to have ready in just a few minutes.



**Slide #15:** The light blue segment is the next most common situation. As part of preparing for an unknown disaster on your farm, consider simply moving your livestock if possible to a safer area on the farm. No need to evacuate the premises usually.

This action would kick in if there was a windstorm or you were growing suspicious about a barn collapse possibility.

Or, if there is a winter storm watch and you had cattle on a remote pasture. . . . You would take steps to move the cattle closer to a feeding area or roadway, so they did not get stranded.

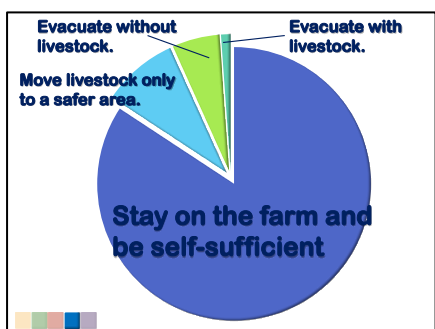


**Slide #16:** The green segment of the pie chart is another real, but uncommon scenario:

Evacuating your farm without livestock. There are situations where the risk to humans is too great, but it is impractical in a disaster response situation to attempt to manage livestock or provide anything but emergency care.

Among others . . . Flash flood...Livestock

quarantine...Wildfire...Radiation



**Slide #17:** In the most rare situations, a farm owner will have to manage an evacuation of livestock from their farm.

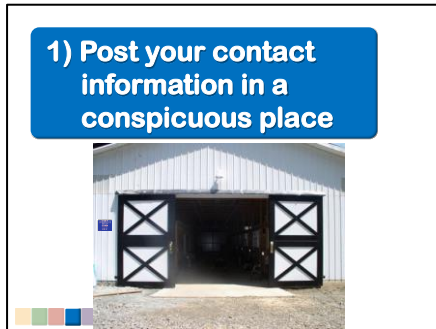
This is rare and not likely to be part of your planning. The situation would have to be severe enough to require all the resources necessary mobilized to one farm or just a few realistically.



**Slide #18:** At this point, you have gotten a sense of how livestock will be managed in a disaster. It is up to you as a dairy farmer, horse boarder, goat farmer, or poultry house manager to provide for livestock – the basic necessities of living – even in a disaster.

We are now going to go over **six** ways to prepare your farm, especially a livestock farm, for a disaster.

Each of these ways are meant to be easy for farmers to implement, from having basic supplies on hand to checking in on your biosecurity routines.



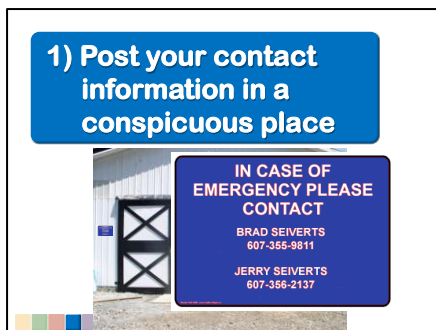
**Slide #19: (1)** - Posting your contact information on the OUTSIDE of your barn is a surprisingly easy way to prevent a small incident from becoming a major issue or even a disaster.

Now, not all of us are proud of our barns and we might not want our names associated with them. But trust us, a simple sign - letting passers by or unexpected visitors to your farm – know how to get a hold of you can make a difference. Even you own employees or seasonal hires will benefit from

knowing how to get in touch with you.

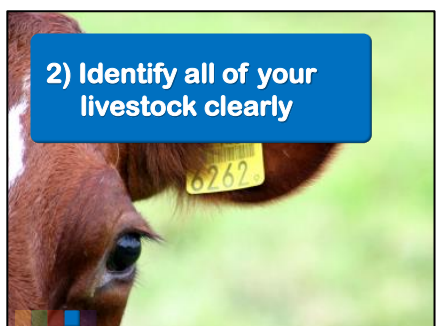
Ask the participants: What situations might it be good to have your contact information conspicuous outside your barn?

There may be an escaped animal, smoke and the start of a fire, a collapse, or a chemical spill down the road, or other situations where someone who does not know how to get in touch with you is on scene and in a very good position to let you know what they are seeing.



**Slide #20:** The sign does not need to be elaborate and you will not attract undue attention to the farm.

Indeed, you may deter crime since it will be easier for a witness to contact someone quickly.

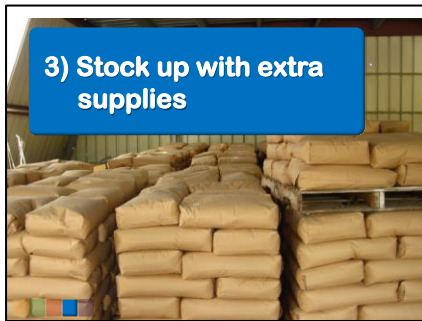


**Slide #21: (2)** Another simple disaster preparation step you probably already do is animal identification.

Make sure all animals are equipped with durable and visible identification.

It is also beneficial for the farm to maintain an updated animal inventory using identification to track individuals.

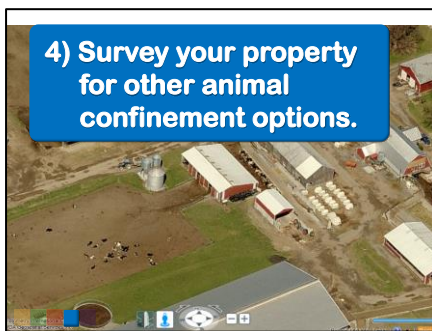
Additional identification, such as a tattoo, should be considered if the animal is of high value or critical to key to the success of your business (Example, you sell \$10,000.00 worth of heifer calves from a high genetic merit dam annually). Also, consider adding this animal to your insurance policy.



**Slide #22: (3)** Extra feed, extra bedding, a covered stock tank filled with water, extra halters, and other such equipment we discussed in the disaster proofing section will become very important in a disaster.

You may not need all the supplies on your farm, but an extra inventory can make a big difference for a nearby farm that has need for such supplies and equipment.

Ask the group if anyone currently has a spare storage of stuff to run the farm . . .intentional and deliberate extras . . .just in case



**Slide #23: (4)** This disaster preparation step is one that does not come to mind for most livestock farmers.

The fact is, the vast majority of livestock operations require large barns. These barns house dairy cattle, horses, hogs, or even poultry. **Unfortunately, these structures are vulnerable in a disaster** – they collapse, catch fire, suffer wind damage, or are flooded each season in New York.

A well-prepared livestock owner will make an effort to arrange alternative livestock housing on their property just in case a barn is threatened or damaged. This would be the important “Plan B” or a contingency plan for your farm. Now, some farm will find this impossible. There are few options for 7,500 chickens or a hog farrowing operation.



**Slide #24:** The cattle farm shown in this aerial photo has contingency options for moving livestock to safer areas on the farm.

On this farm, the milking barn, dry cow and heifer facilities all have access to “pasture” . . . Loafing yards, fenced fields, and holding pens offer alternatives of any of the barns on the premises was under threat.



**Slide #25:** This is a very typical free-stall dairy arrangement – on the large side, but typical. The dairy farm owner has built some fine barns, but has absolutely no contingency plan if one of the barns is damaged in a storm, or if a roof is collapsing from a snow load.

This farm is vulnerable. They can help themselves by stockpiling portable fencing and identifying an area where animals could be moved outside as a contingency.

**5) Invite local fire and police for a farm visit to get to know your livestock.**

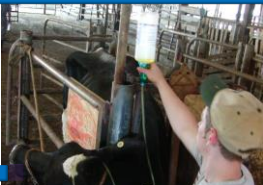


**Slide #26: (5)** Very few emergency responders like sheriff deputies, fire fighters, and emergency managers have training and experience in livestock handling. As mentioned earlier, a well-prepared farm will schedule a non-emergency visit to the farm, focused on tips to work around livestock, reducing stress and likelihood of injuries or loss of livestock.

Things to review with a fire department:

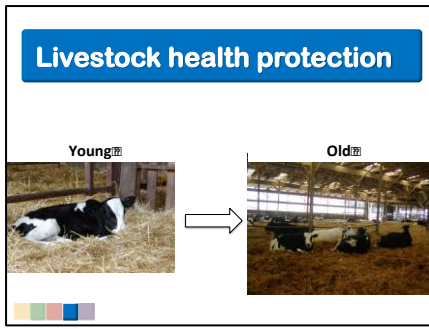
- Location of barns with animals
- How gate systems work inside a barn to keep groups separate from each other.
- How the farm identifies livestock
- Tips like turning off sirens and flashing lights
- How family members and employees are taught to handle livestock and offering to help practice.
- How many animals are on the farm and where they should go if they have to be moved out of a barn.
- How to get a hold of you if you are or are not around the farmstead.

**6) Modify “how things are done” for safety and biosecurity.**



**Slide #27: (6)** This sixth tip to be a disaster-proof livestock farm has to do with daily routines, and how chores are performed.

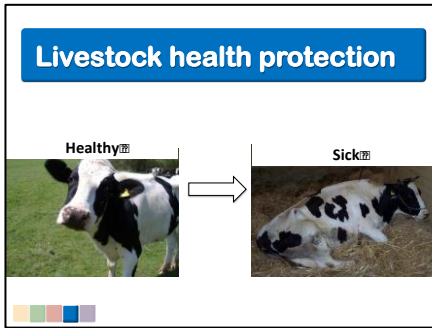
Just a few thoughts here about human safety, livestock health protection, and reducing the risk of a mishap.



**Slides #28:** One farm routine that will help in prevent livestock disease issues from becoming a disaster is the pattern of work.



When working directly with animals always work first with young stock, then with mature livestock.



**Slide #29:** For biosecurity's sake, work with healthy animals before moving to sick animals. Have a separate set of tools that are used only with sick animals.



**Slide #30:** Review where visitors are permitted to go on your farm. The greatest risks come from visitors who have recently been on other livestock farms (such as dairy haulers) and

visitors who have been out of the country within the past month.

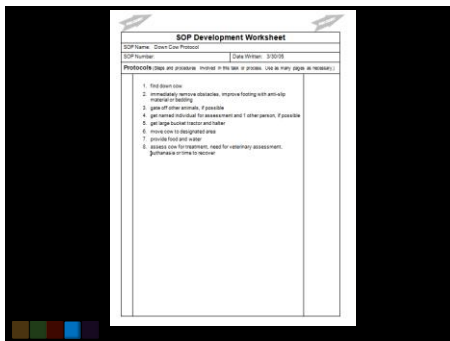


**Slide #31:** Once common, many farms have fallen out of the habit of keeping footwear sanitized. It still is important and puts another layer of protection between you and a disease outbreak.

**Slide #32:** On livestock farms, switching your panel gates to include a “man pass” is a safety measure in several ways. Not only does it provide an easy exit for human from livestock holding areas, it also reduces the problem of gates left open. These gates do not have to be opened as often.



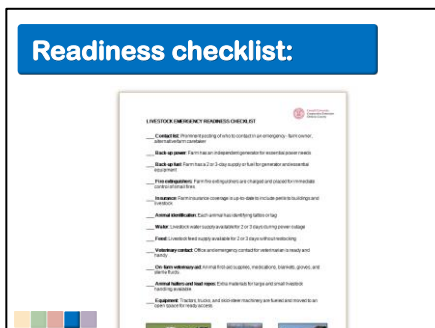
**Slide #33:** Finally, making safety happen on your farm is mostly a matter of routine. Routines are formally known as “standard operating procedures.” That are more important than you realize.



**Slide #34:** This sheet is an example of a written-down standard operating procedure. It explains exactly what needs to be done every time a down cow (no longer walking, just lying there) is found. It provides very specific step by step instructions, so your employees and family know what to do each and every time, safely!



**Slide #35:** Spacer slide as the end of the section is nearing



**Slide #36:** A readiness checklist is an easy way to make sure you are doing all you can as a livestock farm to be prepared for possible disaster . . .small or large.

[This checklist is included in participant packets. If it is not in the participant packet / not available, delete this slide.]

**Key Points:**

**Slide #37:** We will go back over some of the bigger messages we want you to take in during this section.

Refresh your safety practices to safeguard family, employees, and livestock.

Biosecurity is still paramount.

Be ready to go it alone with your livestock –keep separate stocks of stuff “just in case”.

**Slide #38:** Read the slide and emphasize examples of each main point.

**Slide #39:** Closing black slide