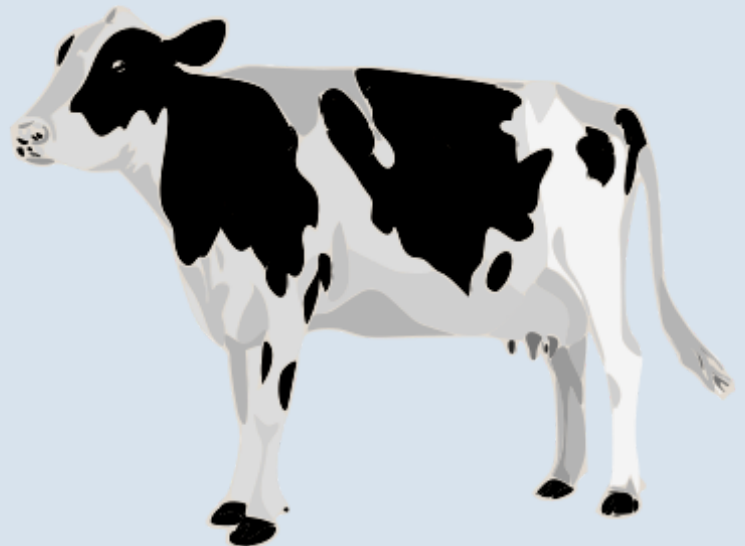# Emergency Preparedness
For Livestock Animals

Severe weather and other emergency conditions may warrant the evacuation of livestock to alternate locations to ensure their safety. Creating a written action plan, making a list of necessary materials and supplies, and assembling items prior to an emergency can help to make the evacuation process safer and more efficient.

Emergency evacuation can be a stressful event for livestock. Keep the health and safety of animals and handlers in mind when preparing for an emergency. Be aware of the number of animals and their physiological state. Young, old, and pregnant animals may need more care and additional supplies. Some medicines and supplies will have to be refrigerated. Assemble non-refrigerated supplies in advance, and double check to ensure that you have included refrigerated items before departing. Keep refrigerated items in a cooler with an ice pack and a thermometer when a refrigerator is not available. Store grain in a sealed, waterproof container.

Assemble supplies for a minimum of seven days. However, two weeks is preferable. Contact your town to identify your livestock evacuation shelter or identify a location that you could house your livestock in the case of an emergency. Consider how you will transport your animals. Make physical and digital copies of important paperwork. Remember that emergencies can arise suddenly, and pay attention to local weather warnings.

Items to Bring in an Evacuation:

☐ Grain & water for at least 7 days*
☐ Hay for at least 7 days*
☐ Buckets for food & water
☐ Halters & lead ropes
☐ Panels/pens, tarps
☐ Bedding (straw, shavings, etc.)
☐ Towels
☐ Medicine & livestock first aid kit
☐ Animal license tags & identification records
☐ Updated health & vaccination records
☐ Contact information for local veterinarian & other important individuals
☐ _____
☐ _____

*Note: Two weeks of supplies is preferred

Contact your local Extension Service and State Department of Agriculture to learn more about emergency preparedness and general livestock care.

Sara Tomis, UConn Extension. Reviewed May 2025