



Protecting your farm during flood situations can involve a variety of actions, from inspecting and maintaining the property to installing protective devices or materials.

## Before a Flood

- **Determine the risk of flooding for your area.**
  - The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)  
<http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/>
  - The National Weather Service  
<http://www.weather.gov/>
- **Identify potential hazards on your property.**
  - Know how to turn off electrical power, gas and water supplies
  - Secure structurally unstable materials (e.g. lumber, logs, equipment, fuel tanks).
  - Keep surface water out of your well by sealing the well cap and top of the well casing with heavy plastic and duct tape.
- **Prepare your buildings.**
  - Build with or install flood-resistant materials.
  - Raise electrical components (e.g., switches, sockets, circuit breakers) above the projected flood elevation.
- **Stockpile emergency building materials.**
  - Plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber, nails, hammer, saw, pry bar, sandbags, shovel
- **Make a list of your farm inventory, include:**
  - Livestock (species, number of animals)
  - Crops (acres, type)
  - Machinery and equipment (make, model #)
  - Hazardous substances (e.g., pesticides, fertilizers, fuels, medicines, other chemicals)
- **Identify areas of higher ground to relocate valuable or hazardous materials.**
- **Obtain flood insurance.**
  - The National Flood Insurance Program is available in most areas. For more information [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

## During a Flood

- **Stay informed.**
  - Listen to the radio or television for situation developments and evacuation instructions.
  - Do not ignore evacuation orders.
- **If you must evacuate,**
  - Ensure your family's safety first.
  - Follow designated evacuation routes.
- **If you have time,**
  - Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve.

- Leave building doors and window open at least 2 inches to equalize pressure and help prevent buildings from shifting.
- If possible, move motors and portable electric equipment to a dry location.

## After a Flood

- **Return home after officials have declared the area safe.**
- **Before entering - Assess the situation.**
  - Survey damage to the outside and inside of your home and buildings, equipment, livestock and crops.
  - Identify areas of contaminated water.
  - Identify sharp objects, downed power lines, or other hazards (e.g., chemical spills).
  - If you smell natural or propane gas, or hear a hissing noise, leave immediately and call the fire department.
  - If power lines are down outside your home or buildings, do not step in any standing water.
- **Approach entrances carefully.**
  - Building structures may be collapsed or damaged.
- **Stay safe during cleanup.**
  - Wear protective clothing, including rubber gloves and rubber boots.
  - Use caution with gas powered equipment – dangerous carbon monoxide can be generated.
- **Account for your inventory.**
  - Compare with the list prepared prior to the incident.
  - Note any livestock losses.
  - Check machinery and equipment for damage.
  - Take photographs of all damage for insurance or emergency assistance purposes.
  - Report any hazardous materials (e.g., fuels, agricultural chemicals) spills or leaks to emergency response personnel.
- **Flooded farm machinery.**
  - Floodwater may permanently damage machinery; mud and silt may be deposited.
  - Thorough cleaning, drying and lubrication of parts is necessary.
  - Work with your mechanic to properly recondition equipment before use.

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