



Livestock can become injured or die during thunderstorm situations. Debris displaced by high winds, or hail - especially large sized pellets - can cause injury to animals left outdoors. Lightning can kill animals when they are near a fence or tree that receives a lightning discharge. Protect your livestock during thunderstorms by following the following guidelines.

## Before a Severe Storm

- **Maintain an inventory.**
  - Keep a current list of all animals on your farm; include their location and any records of ownership.
- **Have identification for all animals.**
  - Make sure animals have some form of permanent identification (e.g., ear tags, tattoos).
- **Prepare an emergency kit.**
  - Severe storms can lead to power outages, animal escape or injury, have the following items on hand: Handling equipment (e.g., halters, nose leads) • water, feed, and buckets • medications • tools and supplies needed for manure cleanup • safety and emergency items for your vehicles and trailers.
  - Have well maintained backup generators or alternate power sources for livestock production operations.
- **Ensure a safe environment.**
  - Assess the stability and safety of barns and other structures.
  - Remove dead trees or objects from fields or livestock areas that may serve as potential flying debris.
  - Fence off or remove single trees in pastures to prevent animals from congregating under them; ground any trees left in pastures.
  - Ground wire fences. Current can travel up to two miles through a wire fence, which could be harmful to both livestock and humans.

## During a Severe Storm

- **Be aware animal behavior may change before, during and even after a disaster.**
- **Livestock safety.**
  - If possible, bring animal into a barn or shelter well in advance of a storm.
  - Make sure they have plenty of food and water.
  - Keep them away from areas with windows.
  - NEVER leave animals tied up or restrained outside.

## After a Severe Storm

- **Assess your animals and building structures.**
  - Survey damage to your barns and other structures; assess the stability and safety.
  - Examine your animals closely; contact your veterinarian if you observe injuries.
- **Cleanup safely.**
  - Gather and dispose of trash, limbs, wire, and damaged equipment that could harm livestock.
- **Provide non-contaminated feed or water.**
  - Provide clean, uncontaminated water.
  - Do not feed flood damaged or moldy feed or hay.
  - Do not use any feed or forage that may have been contaminated by chemical or pesticides.
- **Animal disposal.**
  - Record any animal deaths.
  - Dispose of dead carcasses.
  - Check with your state or local authorities for proper disposal methods for animal carcasses.

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