Plan for Livestock in Advance of an Emergency

In the event of a disaster you may need to survive on your own and take care of your personal livestock for at least three days.

For more information

Animal Emergency Management Program
ColoradoSART.org

American Veterinary Medical Association
avma.org/disaster/default.asp

Pet Friendly Hotels
petswelcome.com

DHS Pet Preparedness
ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html

Red Cross
prepareColorado.org

CSU Extension
coloradoextension.colostate.edu

Colorado Division of Animal Industry
colorado.gov/ag/animals

The Extension Disaster Education Network
eden.lsu.edu

Evacuation Plan Details

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 

Animal Shelter Options

Local Animal Shelter
Friends & Family

Neighbors & Friends with Animal Care Permission

Out of Town Contact with Animal Information

Name
Phone
E-mail
Relationship

ReadyColorado.com

ReadyColorado.com
Questions & Answers About READY Livestock

Why have a plan for personal livestock?
Thousands of Coloradans keep non-commercial livestock at their homes, including horses, donkeys, goats, llamas, alpacas, sheep, and poultry. Families with animals find it difficult to evacuate, and sometimes refuse to leave without their animals. Personal, community and state plans to support animal evacuation and sheltering are essential in protecting both people and animals. Plan for evacuating non-commercial livestock with your family whenever possible.

How should I prepare for livestock in emergencies?
- Teach horses to load—either own a trailer or arrange access to a trailer in case you have to evacuate.
- Make sure all are vaccinations are up-to-date. Follow through with other preventive healthcare recommended by your veterinarian.
- Have livestock identification:
  - Quality photographs
  - Brand inspection
  - Registration papers
  - Microchip number and registration
- Give copies of essential identification information to someone out of the area.

How should I prepare for livestock during a disaster?
Identify friends or relatives who could house livestock in the short term, along with fairgrounds or other livestock evacuation locations identified by local emergency management and local livestock organizations.

What if I’m not at home when the evacuation order is given?
Create a “buddy plan” with nearby relatives, friends or neighbors to help each other with animal evacuation. Include written permission for transport and care of your animals, and access to animal ID information and your animal emergency kit. If animals are stranded at your home during an emergency, contact local emergency management, law enforcement, or community animal agency to arrange for evacuation assistance.

If someone else has to evacuate my livestock, how will they know where to contact me?
Post in your barn area the number and types of animals, the location of your disaster kit, and your emergency contact information.

What should I know about preparing for winter storms in Colorado?
Always keep a two-week supply of feed on hand in the winter. Plan for an alternate source for watering livestock when power and/or water is disrupted:
- A cistern or large holding tank to store water.
- A generator (set up by an electrician) that can run a well. Many automatic watering systems will not work without power.
- An agreement with a neighbor with a well and generator to get water for your livestock.
Keep good winter gear on hand (boots, gloves, coat, snowshoes, coveralls), as well as snow removal equipment such as a plow or tractor.

How should I prepare my livestock facility?
- Keep a fire extinguisher in your barn area.
- If you have a barn fire, lead horses to safety if possible; tie them securely away from the barn (frightened horses may try to run back into the barn).
- Provide fire mitigation and defensible space in and around, corrals or pastures.
- Have a plan for moving stock to higher ground if animal areas are within a flood.

What do I need to know about biosecurity?
Biosecurity means adopting practices that prevent the introduction or spread of disease agents. Potential emergencies include the spread of livestock diseases that can impact animal health, livestock agriculture and public health. All livestock owners should familiarize themselves with recommended biosecurity practices to ensure animals are not infected during a disease outbreak. Find more information on biosecurity from these resources:
- Colorado Division of Animal Industry
colorado.gov/ag/animals
- The Extension Disaster Education Network
eden.lsu.edu/
- United States Department of Agriculture
www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/
- USDA Biosecurity for the Birds
www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity/
- Center for Food Security and Public Health
www.cfsph.iastate.edu/

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