

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FARMERS UNION

LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



7900 E Union Ave., Suite 200
Denver, CO 80237
www.rmfu.org
303-752-5800



**Rocky Mountain
Farmers Union**

INTRODUCTION

In the face of natural disasters, whether it be wildfires, floods, or severe storms, the safety and well-being of livestock can be a significant concern for farmers. The unpredictable nature of these events requires preparedness, careful planning, and a strong network of support to ensure that both animals and people remain safe. This Livestock Evacuation Resource Guide has been developed with the unique needs of livestock farmers in mind, offering comprehensive checklists, preparation tips, and vital information to assist you in safeguarding your animals during emergencies.

This guide emphasizes the importance of community and collaboration, recognizing that in times of crisis, working together with neighbors and local networks can be the key to a successful evacuation. By fostering strong relationships and having a plan in place, farmers can better protect their livestock and their livelihoods, even when disaster strikes.

RESOURCE PROVIDED BY RMFU

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU) is dedicated to the well-being of farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. Our vision is a society in which family farmers, ranchers, and their communities thrive. To this end, we strive to provide practical resources and support for our members in times of need. Natural disasters can be devastating, and we understand that farmers face unique challenges when protecting their livestock and properties.

This evacuation resource is a testament to our commitment to the safety and resilience of the farming community. By offering this guide, RMFU aims to equip farmers with the knowledge and tools they need to act swiftly and effectively during emergencies. We believe that with proper preparation and a strong community network, you can face these challenges with confidence and ensure the well-being of both your animals and your family.

EVACUATION PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

- Emergency contact list of neighbors and evacuation team
- Map of property with animals and equipment located
- Equipment such as trailers, ropes, crates, etc. prepared
- Livestock and handlers practiced loading into trailer and/or crates
- Livestock identification, ownership, and proof of insurance prepared
- Contacted evacuation location and established relationships
- Prepared animal supplies such as feed, hay, medications, etc.
- Prepared people supplies such as gloves, boots, first-aid kit, etc.

Continue the checklist with other items you want to have prepared before an emergency:

THE ROLE OF NEIGHBORS



By preparing thoroughly and establishing a strong network with your neighbors and community, you can ensure that both your animals and your livelihood are protected during an emergency. Effective communication, detailed planning, and regular practice will help make the evacuation process smoother and more efficient, even if others need to step in to help.

Establishing Relationships with Neighbors

Introduce yourself and get to know your community:

- Make an effort to get to know your neighbors, especially those who also work in agriculture or have experience with livestock.
- Attend local farming or community events where you can meet other farmers and ranchers.
- Create a contact list of nearby farmers, ranchers, and anyone with livestock experience. Include phone numbers and addresses.

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **Handle animals?** Y / N

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **Handle animals?** Y / N

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **Handle animals?** Y / N

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **Handle animals?** Y / N

THE ROLE OF NEIGHBORS



Establishing Relationships with Neighbors

Regularly communicate with your neighbors

- Set up regular check-ins with your neighbors to discuss any concerns, especially during disaster-prone seasons.
- Establish a communication method for emergencies, such as a group text or a private social media group.
- Share your disaster preparedness plans with each other, including evacuation routes, resources, and any potential challenges.

Create a community network

- Form a local farming group or join existing organizations focused on disaster preparedness.
- Schedule regular meetings to discuss emergency plans, share resources, and conduct joint drills.
- Ensure everyone knows who has what resources (e.g., trailers, extra feed, shelter space) and how to access them in an emergency.

List some organizations focused on disaster preparedness that you could join:

Mutual aid agreements

- Establish mutual aid agreements where you and your neighbors agree to help each other in emergencies.
- Discuss what each farm or ranch can offer, such as transportation, temporary shelter, or labor.
- Write down these agreements and share copies with everyone involved to ensure clarity and commitment.

THE ROLE OF NEIGHBORS



Forming an Evacuation Team

Identify Key Team Members

- Choose reliable neighbors, family members, or employees who are familiar with handling livestock and can assist during an evacuation.
- Assign specific roles to each team member, such as transport, animal care, or communication.
- Ensure your team includes people who can handle different types of livestock, including horses, cattle, poultry, or pigs.
- Designate a backup team in case your primary helpers are unavailable during a disaster.

List the names and phone numbers for your evacuation team:

Train Your Team

- Conduct regular training sessions to ensure everyone knows how to load and handle animals safely and efficiently.
- Practice different disaster scenarios, such as floods, fires, or storms, so your team knows what to do in each situation.
- Teach your team how to operate farm equipment, trailers, and other tools they may need during an evacuation.
- Make sure everyone understands the specific needs of your animals, such as feeding schedules, medical care, and handling techniques.

See activity below

**Rocky Mountain
Farmers Union**

[illegible]

THE ROLE OF NEIGHBORS



Forming an Evacuation Team

Plan and Practice Evacuations

- Develop detailed evacuation plans that include specific tasks for each team member.
- Practice loading and transporting animals regularly, simulating real-life conditions as much as possible.
- Schedule full-scale drills where your team goes through the entire evacuation process, from gathering supplies to moving animals to a safe location.
- After each drill, review what went well and what needs improvement, and update your plans accordingly.

Stay Informed Together

- Ensure that your team is subscribed to local emergency alerts and weather notifications.
- Share real-time updates during emergencies, including road conditions, fire paths, and other relevant information.
- Assign someone to monitor the news and official reports while others focus on evacuation tasks.

Use the space below to outline your evacuation plan:

WHAT TO HAVE READY IF OTHERS NEED TO EVACUATE YOUR ANIMALS

☐ Animal Identification

- Provide a list of all animals with identification details, such as ear tags, brands, or microchips.
- Include recent photos of each animal and any distinguishing marks.
- Label animals with temporary tags or collars that can be easily identified by others.

☐ Detailed Animal Care Instructions

- Specific care instructions for each type of animal, including feeding schedules, dietary restrictions, and any medical needs.
- If you have animals on medication, clearly label the medications and provide instructions for administering them.

☐ Evacuation Routes and Destinations

- Provide your neighbors or evacuation team with a map of your property, marking key locations like barns, gates, and water sources.
- Highlight primary and secondary evacuation routes.
- Include contact information for pre-arranged evacuation sites.
- Offer alternative destinations if the primary site becomes inaccessible.

☐ Transport and Equipment Instructions

- Ensure trailers, halters, ropes, and transport equipment are easily accessible and in good working condition.
- Leave clear instructions on how to hitch and use trailers.
- Provide a checklist of necessary supplies (e.g., feed, water, bedding) and where to find them on your property.
- Make sure all necessary tools, such as shovels, tarps, and fencing materials, are easily accessible.

Use the space below to either draw a map of your farm or paste an image of your farm, highlighting where animals and equipment are located:

WHAT TO HAVE READY IF OTHERS NEED TO EVACUATE YOUR ANIMALS



☐ Emergency Contacts

- Provide a list of emergency contacts such as local animal control and any neighbors who are part of your evacuation team.
- List any family members or employees who may need to be contacted during the evacuation process.

☐ Authorized People List

- Create a list of people who are authorized to make decisions on your behalf if you are not available.
- Inform your team and neighbors about this list so they know who to contact in case of emergencies.

☐ Medical Records

- Provide copies of each animal's medical records, including vaccination history and any known health conditions.
- Include contact information for your veterinarian and any specialists your animals may need.

☐ Behavioral Notes

- Provide notes on each animal's behavior, including any tendencies to become anxious or aggressive during transport.
- Inform team about any animals that may require special attention.

☐ Legal and Insurance Documentation

- Ensure you have proof of ownership for all animals and share with others who may evacuate your animals.
- Provide copies of your insurance policies that cover livestock, transport, and property damage.

AFTER THE EVACUATION



Ensure the Safety of All Animals

Conduct a Headcount

- Immediately check that all animals are accounted for and assess their overall condition.
- If any animals are missing, contact local authorities, animal control, and your neighbors to assist in locating them.

Health Check

- Inspect animals for injuries, signs of stress, or illness.
- Pay particular attention to any wounds, dehydration, or abnormal behavior.
- If any animals require medical attention, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.
- Quarantine any sick or injured animals to prevent the spread of disease.

Re-establish Routines

- Gradually reintroduce animals to their regular feeding and care routines to reduce stress.
- Provide clean water and familiar feed, taking care to monitor their intake and digestive health.

List the names and phone numbers for your local veterinarians who you can contact after an emergency:

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

AFTER THE EVACUATION



Assess Farm Damage

Inspect Property

- Conduct a thorough inspection of your farm, focusing on barns, fences, water sources, and equipment.
- Look for any structural damage that could pose a risk to livestock, such as collapsed barns, damaged fencing, or hazardous debris.

Clear Hazards

- Safely remove any fallen trees, downed power lines, or sharp objects from areas where animals are housed or will be grazing.
- If there is flooding, ensure that any standing water is drained to prevent contamination and disease.

Repair Fencing and Shelters

- Prioritize repairs to fences and shelters to secure your livestock.
- If immediate repairs are not possible, use temporary fencing or other materials to confine animals until permanent solutions can be implemented.

Document and Report Damage

Photograph and Record

- Take detailed photographs of all damage to your property, equipment, and livestock.
- Create a written record of the extent of the damage, including dates and times, to assist with insurance claims and disaster relief applications.

File Insurance Claims

- Contact your insurance provider to report damage and begin the claims process.
- Provide them with the documentation you've gathered, including photos, receipts, and a detailed inventory of losses.

AFTER THE EVACUATION



Assess Farm Damage

Seek Assistance

- Reach out to local and state agricultural agencies, as well as disaster relief organizations, for any available financial aid or recovery programs.
- If you are a member of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, inquire about any specific resources or assistance they may offer.

Reconnect with Your Community

Check on Neighbors

- Reach out to neighbors and fellow farmers to ensure their safety and offer help if needed.
- Share resources, such as feed, water, or equipment, with those who may have been more severely affected by the disaster.

Participate in Community Recovery Efforts

- Join community meetings or initiatives focused on disaster recovery.
- Collaborate with local authorities and organizations to ensure that everyone in your farming community has access to the support they need.

Update Your Disaster Plan

- Reflect on the disaster and evaluate how your evacuation and recovery efforts went.
- Identify any areas where your plan could be improved and make necessary adjustments.
- Share your experiences and lessons learned with your neighbors and community to help everyone be better prepared in the future.

AFTER THE EVACUATION

Mental and Emotional Well-being

Take Care of Yourself

- Recognize that disasters can be emotionally and mentally draining. It's important to prioritize your well-being.
- Seek support from family, friends, or professional counselors if you are feeling overwhelmed.

Support Your Community

- Be mindful of the emotional toll on your neighbors and offer support where you can.
- Encourage open communication within your community, and check in regularly with those who may be struggling.

By following this checklist, you can help ensure a more organized and effective recovery process after a disaster. Remember that rebuilding takes time, but with careful planning, community support, and a focus on the well-being of your animals, you can recover and continue to thrive.



NOTES



NOTES



NOTES



NOTES





7900 E Union Ave., Suite 200
Denver, CO 80237
www.rmfu.org
303-752-5800