Protecting Farm Buildings from Storm Winds

High winds can damage farm buildings. The following procedures are recommended to help protect buildings during hurricanes or other severe windstorms:

- Securely close all doors and windows. Try to determine whether the buffeting and force of the wind will break fasteners or hinges. Nail doors and windows shut, if necessary.
- Nail plywood or boards over large windows and windows with weak sashes.
- Brace large barn doors and weak walls. As the hurricane passes, the wind direction will change, therefore, use both interior and exterior braces. Place braces on the reinforced section of the door or wall to distribute the bracing effect over a larger area.
- Check that roof rafters are securely fastened to the wall studding. Use hurricane-rated straps or 2" x 6" knee braces to secure rafters, if necessary.
- Check metal roofing and siding for loose nails. If nails don’t tighten when hammered back in, pull them out, use a #12 or #14 metal screw to fill the hole, and re-nail 2 to 4 inches away; eaves should be nailed every 5 inches.
- Do not use heavy machinery to anchor small buildings. Replacing machinery could be more expensive than replacing a building.