



## Preparing to Evacuate Your Farm

### Long-Range Preparation

Take these precautions if flooding is common to your area or anticipated this season:

“When flooding is hours or minutes away, keep your priorities straight. Ensure family safety first.”

- Create an emergency plan of action, considering such things as areas of higher ground for animal relocation, temporary milking facilities and approval to use them, equipment relocation and safe pesticide storage.
- Have a plan for moving grain out of reach of floodwaters.
- Provide riprap on banks of earthen manure storages where flowing water may erode berms.

When flooding is hours or minutes away, keep your priorities straight. Ensure family safety first. Be certain you have enough time to get to higher ground before access is cut off. If you have time before you receive an evacuation order, the following precautions may help you protect your farm buildings, livestock and equipment from flood damage:

- Move machinery, feed, grain, pesticides and herbicides to higher ground.
- Construct mounds of soil for livestock, or open gates so livestock can escape high water. Small numbers of hogs can sometimes be saved by bringing them bales of hay to climb on.
- Animals swim well. The greatest problem for grazing animals will be fences and other obstacles. Try to drive stock through water free from obstructions. Long swims through calm water are safer than short swims through swift current.
- Leave building doors and windows open at least 2 inches to equalize water pressure and help prevent buildings from shifting.
- If possible, move motors and portable electric equipment to a dry location.
- Disconnect electric power to all buildings which may be flooded. Call your utility company if in doubt about how to disconnect electric power.
- Dairy farmers who anticipate extensive flooding should:

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Adapted by UF/IFAS from:  
*Extension Agent's Handbook for Emergency Preparation and Response*  
(Texas Agricultural Extension Services and the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center)  
and  
*Disaster Handbook for Extension Agents*  
(Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service)

- Check with a veterinarian to be sure cattle are properly immunized before being exposed to flood waters.
- Check with the Department of Health concerning approval of temporary milking facilities.
- Try to obtain standby equipment or services for emergency milk pickup.
- When possible, move grain out of reach of flood water.



- Tie down lumber, logs, irrigation pipes, fuel tanks and other loose equipment or material.
- Prepare immovable power units and machinery for flooding.
  - Seal radiator openings (tighten caps and plug overflow).
  - Remove air cleaners and carburetors; seal openings. Use material strong enough to withstand water pressure.
  - Fill oil reservoirs. Plug breather pipes and openings.
  - Fill bearings with fresh lubricant.
  - Protect open gears, sockets, pulleys and wearing and cutting edges of machinery with lubricant or rust inhibitor.
  - Drape polyethylene sheeting over bell ends of motor. Tie securely with cord on cylindrical part of motor housing, or fasten with a strong rubber band.
- To keep surface water out of your well, use materials such as heavy plastic and duct tape to seal the well cap and top of the well casing.