



Livestock Disaster Preparedness Project – FLOODING

Floods are the most frequent natural hazard in Canada. They can occur at any time of the year and are most often caused by heavy rainfall, rapid melting of a thick snowpack, ice jams, or the failure of a natural or man-made dam.

Entities Impacted

- All animals in impacted area.
- Moderate to catastrophic impact on animal health and welfare may include pain and suffering, hypothermia, loss of housing / containment, feed and water.

Response and Recovery

- If animals are unable to be evacuated, ensure that they are able to get to higher ground on their own. Do not lock them up in barns or paddocks. Never release animals on roads unless the roads are closed to traffic.
- All animals have the ability to swim except for chickens.
- Horses are able to withstand water up to their bellies from 48 - 72 hours.
- Livestock have a natural instinct to move away from flood waters. They generally seek higher ground if possible.
- Utilize low stress, safe livestock handling practices.
- All animals that are loose or unable to be contained at the farm or facility will need to be relocated to the designated temporary housing facility.
- Any animals that become stranded will have to be provided feed until rescue can occur or water subsides.
- Water rescue is the most dangerous of all technical rescues. If animals require rescue from water, there must be a risk assessment performed and only performed by individuals trained in water rescue.
- Facilities (barns, pastures and paddocks) will need to be inspected and repaired before animals return.
- Feed may need to be sourced if feed supplies and pasture were lost in flood.
- Water quality will should be tested before animals resume consumption in flood affected areas.
- Alternative power sources may need to be provided if farms are without power in order to access water, fans, ventilation or milking equipment.