



Livestock Disaster Preparedness Project – WINTER STORM / BLIZZARD

Winter weather condition in Canada create many challenges for livestock producers. Blizzards can easily reach disaster status if conditions are right.

Entities Impacted

- All animals in impact area.
- Moderate to catastrophic Impact on animal health and welfare may include starvation, dehydration, death, hypothermia, power loss, suffocation and loss of housing.

Response

- Monitor weather conditions – snowfall amounts, winds, drifting.
- Possible municipal assistance provided to producers:
 - Provide heavy equipment to assist producers in accessing animals.
 - Rescue/recovery of stranded animals.
 - Airdrop feed.
 - Disposal of dead stock.
- Livestock will often move away from the force of an oncoming storm, unless they are moving toward shelter that is known to them.
- Shelters can become death traps due to drifting - check shelters regularly and move animals out if drifting will cause entrapment.
- Extreme conditions during blizzards can cause both livestock and humans to become panicked or confused.
- Feedstuff can become quickly buried in snow and not accessible to the animals.
- Livestock may avoid traveling directly into the force of an oncoming storm.
- Livestock may resist or be hesitant to leave even limited shelter behind during storm conditions.
- Dead stock disposal site or method to be identified if mass animal casualty.
- Dead stock to be removed to designated disposal site or temporary holding area as identified by Wheatland County.
- Dead stock may not be identified or accessible until snow melts.