

Equipment and Supplies to Mitigate Disasters on Farms

The livestock, poultry, and horse industries face many different issues in disasters than do pet owners. This is mainly because of the size and numbers of animals dealt with by producers and farmers. The livestock industry is also closely regulated, so farmers cannot make casual decisions about the fate of their animals, their products, or the environment.

Many livestock and poultry are produced for human consumption, and as such they must be maintained in a way that does not jeopardize the safety of the human food supply. Also, the sheer number of animals on most farms requires careful attention to the impact they have on the environment. Many of the hazard-specific issues that arise on farms are discussed in the appropriate preceding chapters.

Here we review some additional points that farm owners and managers may face in disasters. Table 28-1 shows items that are useful in a disaster. The most common disasters are small, local incidents. Therefore, mitigating large disasters is often best achieved by applying safety principles for everyday activities. The following has been borrowed extensively from Cooperative Extension Services publications from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Table 28-1 Supplies that may be useful in a disaster on a farm

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| Bandaging materials |
| Battery-powered radio |
| Bleach |
| Chain saw and spare chains |
| Fencing materials |
| Fire extinguisher |
| Flashlights |
| Flat tire repair kit |
| Gasoline |
| Generator |
| Hoof treatment equipment |
| Ladders |
| Lumber and plumbing repair supplies and tools |
| Oil |
| Post hole digger |
| Shovel |
| Sun screen |
| Tarps |
| Wire cutter |
