

## Preparedness for Extreme Heat

Personal water conservation measures avoid depletion of water supplies both before and during periods of extended drought and heat. During these periods people use a great deal of power for air conditioning. This creates an excessive drain on the community's energy supply and could lead to other problems, such as a power outage. Insulating homes reduces the demand for air conditioning and helps conserve electricity. Keeping the thermostat set to 78° F (26° C) also reduces energy use.

An adequate amount of water should be made available at a rate of at least 2% of body weight per day. Water consumption requirements for animals are shown in Table 9-4.

Death rates in livestock in transit can be expected to double on hot days unless appropriate precautions are taken. Many of these deaths can be prevented by avoiding transportation and processing on hot days or at hot times of day. Some recommend moving livestock without interruption for no longer than 32 hours. This avoids lengthy stopovers, which are occasions when the heat inside a trailer will build up rapidly and cause stress for the animals being transported.

**Table 9-4** Water requirements for animals in hot environments

Species	Gallons of water per day
Beef cattle	7-12 per cow
Dairy cows	10-16 per cow
Horses (1000 lb or more)	8-12 per horse
Swine (adult)	3-5 per pig
Sheep and goats	1-4 per animal
Chickens	8-10 per 100 birds
Turkeys	10-15 per 100 birds