

Preparing a Beef Farm for Flood Conditions in Rural Manitoba

Key Contacts and Websites

- Livestock producers should contact their local rural municipality (RM) for information on assistance with livestock during a flood.
- Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) local offices will provide information on agricultural crop and forage insurance.
- Disaster Financial Assistance information is available at: www.manitoba.ca/emo/recover/home/dfa_home.html.
- Additional information on flood preparations and response is available on the Manitoba Government flood site: www.manitoba.ca/flooding.
- Livestock producers running low on forage supplies can visit the Manitoba Hay Listing Service on the Manitoba Agriculture website or call your local office for assistance.

Caring for Livestock

- Review your flood plan and ensure you are prepared.
- Most producers operating in a flood plain have flood plans that include care of livestock, barns and stored feed. If you do not have a plan, work with your local RM emergency coordinator to develop a plan.
- Expected water levels and duration of flood should be obtained from local municipal officials. Barns and vital buildings should have elevation surveys performed. Buildings can then be diked if necessary.
- Producers need to ensure their livestock turned out on pasture have access to adequate shelter (bush, windbreaks, calve huts, etc.), feed and water on high ground.
- Producers who need to transport livestock to an alternate area are encouraged to book a transport company ahead of time to ensure service.
- Agricultural producers can apply for special spring-road restriction permits that allow them to move grain, oilseed and livestock out of flood-affected areas. Contact Motor Carrier Permits and Development in Winnipeg, Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (closed the first Wednesday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) at 204-945-3961 or toll free 1-877-812-0009.

- In the event that local roads are blocked, producers may need to arrange for feed, bedding, vet supplies, medicines, and equipment on high ground with the cattle in adequate quantities to last the expected duration of the flood.
- If the yard is inside a dike, producers should ensure there is adequate fuel on site to run equipment for the duration of the event should the yard be isolated by rising floodwater.
- If moving cattle out of the yard, temporary corrals and a handling facilities may need to be set up for treating animals. This is crucial if cows are calving during the flood.
- An alternate source of energy, such as a backup generator, should be available for use in barns or temporary facilities. Ensure existing generators are in good working order before power is shut off to the farm.
- If cattle must be moved, it is best if the herd can be kept intact and not be mixed with other cattle.
- Producers who need help finding a temporary location for livestock should contact their local rural municipality.
- If cows are to be moved, try to transport in cool weather or early in the morning. Do not overcrowd trailers.
- Producers must ensure there is adequate feed and water at any temporary location being used by their livestock.
- If abandoning the yard, move equipment and machinery to higher ground to avoid damage.