

# Evacuation of Livestock

Emergencies such as wildfires, flooding, severe storms, or hazardous spills may require quick evacuation of livestock. Preparation saves time, reduces stress, and protects animal welfare.

## 1. Before an Evacuation – Be Ready

- Create an Emergency Livestock Plan.
- Identify multiple evacuation routes from your property.
- Know transportation options (your own trailers, borrowed, commercial haulers).

### Keep a list of:

- Species, numbers, and identification (tags, brands, photos).
- Feed, water, and veterinary needs.

### Have a Livestock Go-Kit:

- Halters, leads, panels/gates, buckets, portable water containers.
- Feed for 72 hours.
- First aid supplies (animal & human).
- Copies of permits, health records, insurance.

## 2. When Evacuation is Likely

- Monitor official alerts (NSDEM/REMO, Alertable, Environment Canada, municipal channels).
- Confirm transport arrangements & destination
- Top up fuel in trucks & generators.
- Load Go-Kit and prepare trailers.

## 3. Sheltering in Place

### General Shelter-in-Place

- Place animals in the safest possible enclosure.
- Provide feed and water for several days (automatic waterers may fail — use large troughs or tanks).
- Ensure access to higher ground for flooding or solid windbreaks/shelter for storms.
- Remove hazards such as loose equipment, low-hanging wires, or debris.
- Mark gates and entry points with “Animals Inside” signage for emergency responders.
- Notify REMO, and neighbours of your situation and the

number/type of animals left.

- Document animals’ location, condition, and identification before leaving (photos or video).
- Ensure gates and fencing are secure but avoid locking them in a way that would prevent responders from accessing animals.

**Your safety comes first — if evacuation orders are issued for people, leave immediately once animals are secured.**

### Wildfire Shelter-in-Place

- Move animals to large, open, well-grazed paddocks away from dense brush, barns, or wooden fences.
- Avoid housing animals in barns or small pens — these can become heat traps or ignite.
- Remove flammable materials (hay, bedding, fuel, chemicals) from paddocks and nearby structures.
- Cut fire breaks around animal enclosures if time and safety allow.
- Keep water sources accessible — large, non-combustible troughs or tanks are best.
- Leave gates easy to open for emergency responders.
- Clearly post “Animals Inside – Do Not Enter Without Owner” signs to alert firefighters.
- Only shelter-in-place for wildfire if evacuation routes are unsafe or you cannot transport animals in time — evacuating early is always the safer choice.

### Evacuation With Livestock:

- Leave early to avoid moving animals in dangerous conditions.
- Follow planned routes and check for closures.
- Bring feed, water, halters, bedding, health records.
- Check trailers for mechanical issues & ventilation.
- On arrival: check in, follow site protocols, secure animals.

## 4. Where to Take Livestock

**Nearest safe location is often best. Always confirm availability before moving.**

When evacuating livestock, the safest option is usually the nearest suitable location outside the danger zone. This could include local exhibition grounds, fairgrounds, agricultural centres, or other farms with secure fencing, shelter, and water.

Always confirm that the site is available and safe — some facilities may be closed due to events, lack of utilities, or their own risk from the emergency. Work with your REMO, municipal emergency officials, NSFA or NSDA Representatives to identify approved sites, and keep a short list of contact names and numbers in your emergency plan so you can move animals quickly without delays.

## 5. During Evacuation

- Move animals before conditions are unsafe.
- Follow emergency services' traffic routes.
- Load calmly and quietly.
- Maintain communication with REMO or site coordinator.

## 6. At the Shelter

- Check in before unloading.
- Use assigned stalls/paddocks.
- Provide your own feed, water buckets, bedding.
- Keep animal identification visible.
- Maintain regular feeding/watering routines.
- Clean up after your animals.

## 7. After the Emergency

- Return only after official "All Clear."
- Inspect farm for hazards before unloading.
- Record injuries or losses.
- Restock your Go-Kit for next time.

### **Remember:**

**If evacuation routes are unsafe, sheltering in place may be the safest option for both people and livestock. Always prioritize human safety.**

