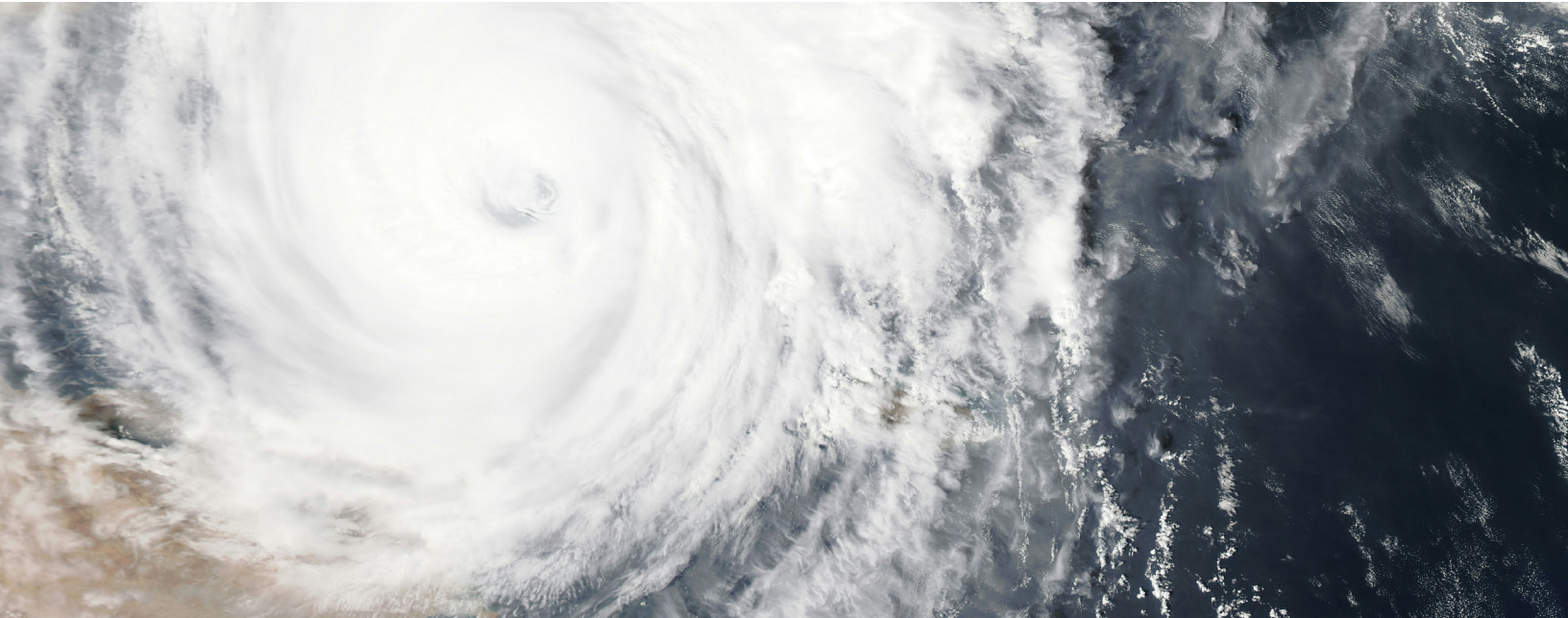


## Hurricane & Tropical Storm Preparedness for Nova Scotia Farms



The Canadian Hurricane Centre is forecasting a more active hurricane season this year due to Atlantic waters being warmer than normal. Warmer waters foster storm development, and after an extremely dry growing season, crops with shallow root systems are especially vulnerable to strong winds and heavy rainfall.

Being prepared helps minimize losses, protects livestock, and keeps your farm running safely before, during, and after the storm.

### In the Calm Before the Storm

#### Preparation Tips

- **Secure loose objects:** Put away or anchor tools, equipment, and materials that could become flying debris.
- **Protect livestock:** Move animals to secure areas or higher ground. Ensure they have food, water (fill extra tanks), and healthcare supplies for at least 1-2 weeks.
- **Check drainage:** Clear ditches, culverts, drains, and manholes to reduce flood risk.
- **Harvest early if possible:** Reduce crop loss from wind and water damage.
- **Backup power:** Test generators, stock fuel, and run them regularly to ensure they work properly.
- **Emergency supplies:** Have cell phones, portable radios (with weather band), flashlights, extra batteries, and battery packs ready.

#### Make an Emergency Plan

- **Customizable Contact list:** Include employees, neighbours, veterinarians, poison control, transportation, feed suppliers, and local emergency contacts.
- **Evacuation plan:** Know your route, destination, and how to transport livestock if necessary.
- **Inventory:** Record pre-storm condition of crops, livestock, buildings, and equipment with photos or video.

#### Locate Emergency Equipment & Materials

- Fire extinguishers, first aid kits, eye wash stations, PPE.
- Plastic sheeting, lumber, sandbags.
- Fence repair materials (wire, posts, staples).
- Chainsaws, chains, and winches for clearing downed trees.
- Prepare trailers: Check tires, lights, hitches, and have them hitched or ready.

#### Safety Protocols

- Review procedures for handling hazardous materials.
- Ensure qualified first aiders are available.
- Fuel up vehicles, tractors, and equipment.
- Store machinery and tools indoors when possible.
- Board up windows and reinforce weak areas of buildings.

## Special Consideration: Flooding After Prolonged Drought

*After extended dry periods, soil structure can become compacted, increasing runoff during heavy rains and causing localized flooding.*

- *Clear waterways and improve drainage where possible.*
- *Sandbag low areas near barns and feed storage.*
- *Store feed and chemicals above potential flood levels.*

## Additional Considerations

Farmers are ultimately responsible for the care and well-being of their livestock, even during emergencies. If Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management (NSDEM) or other local authorities issue an evacuation request, it is critical to follow their guidance promptly.

Moving animals early, before conditions become dangerous, helps protect their welfare and ensures your own safety. Planning ahead and being ready to act quickly allows you to meet your duty of care and avoid last-minute, high-risk situations for both people and animals.

## After the Storm

- **Document damage:** Take photos or video footage of affected crops, buildings, fences, and equipment.
- **Contact insurance:** File claims promptly with the required documentation.
- **Check livestock & water sources:** Ensure animals are safe, fences are secure, and water is not contaminated.
- **Test water quality:** Ensure drinking water is safe for people and animals
- **Inspect buildings & equipment:** Look for hidden damage before use.
- **Offer & ask for help:** Check in with neighbours – mutual support is key to recovery.

