Disaster Planning for Your Livestock

Planning now will make the difference!

▶ Plan now for the possibility that you and your animals will need to evacuate. Plan out multiple evacuation routes and sheltering locations for your livestock in advance.
  • Evacuation sites should have food, water, garbage containers for waste disposal, some type of shade for shelter, and veterinary care.

▶ Make arrangements for transporting livestock now. Trucks and trailers for transporting livestock should be available along with experienced handlers and drivers to transport your animals.

▶ Identify your livestock by having them micro-chipped or freeze-marked. If you think you will be able to write your name and phone number on the animal, try it out now.
  • ID tags with your information attached to halters or neckbands are another way to identify large animals.
  • Photographs are also helpful for identification if your animals are evacuated when you are not present.

▶ If you find that you cannot evacuate your livestock from your property, you need to decide whether to move them to another location or turn them into a large pasture.
  • Your decision needs to be based on your personal safety, the safety of your property, and the type of disaster you are in.

Create a Livestock Survival Kit

- Veterinary Records
- Halter and Lead; It is best to use a leather halter in fire situations because nylon can melt, causing severe injury
- Special Medications or Supplements; insure medications and supplements are not expired. At every change of daylight savings time, refresh your supply.
- Extra buckets for food and water
- Write down and keep emergency phone numbers inside your kit

During the Disaster

- Large animals should be evacuated no later than when an evacuation warning is received
- Tune to your local radio stations for current evacuation information

Santa Barbara County
Animal Services

For assistance during a disaster call the Animal Services hotline at 805-681-4332