



Recommendations for Livestock Producers When Flood Waters Begin to Recede

When flood waters occur, it is important for livestock producers to use caution when assessing damage on the farm and around their livestock to protect their health and their animals. Livestock can be exposed to a number of hazards created by flood waters and it is recommended that livestock owners observe their animals daily to monitor for changes in health and wellbeing and contact their veterinarians for treatment of any sick animals. If multiple death losses or unusual disease occurrences happen, they should be reported to the State Veterinarian as soon as possible at 860-713-2505.

Livestock Check List

- ✓ All animals have a source of clean, uncontaminated water. Animals on pasture may need a different source of water until ponds or creeks clear up. If a farm yard is flooded, well water may be contaminated, need testing and treatment prior to use.
- ✓ All sources of feeds and forages are free of spoilage and contamination. Flood waters can contaminate feeds, forages and fields. Watch for molds in the field and in stored feed and forages. Feeding of moldy feeds can result in sick or dead animals.
- ✓ All pastures, fences and buildings are sound. Standing water may damage parts of pastures or fences isolating animals and limiting the forage supply. Exposing hungry animals to contaminated or poisonous plants. Livestock producers should be prepared to supplement feed, when needed, in order to prevent animals from eating contaminated plant materials. Down fences and buildings can put animals at risk of injury from debris, down electrical wires, flood water and traffic.
- ✓ All animals are up to date with vaccinations. Animals that were on flooded pastures are at greater risk of developing respiratory and clostridial diseases.
- ✓ All animals are accounted for and are eating. Stressed and injured animals may not eat with the group and need individual care and attention.
- ✓ When in doubt about wholesomeness of feedstuffs contact your veterinarian or University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service at (860) 626-6240.