

Caring for Livestock After a Disaster

A Quick Guide for Livestock Owners



1. STAY SAFE

Before helping animals:

- Protect yourself before entering affected areas. 
- Go in prepared

Follow official instructions

- Leave your search plan with family or local authorities 
- Travel slowly

Watch for Hazards

- Downed power lines
- Flooded areas
- Gas leaks
- Unstable structures
- Debris and displaced wildlife



2. ASSESS FACILITIES & LOCATE ANIMALS

Assess Before Moving

- Check fences and gates
- Remove hazards and debris 
- Evaluate damaged structures

If Animals are Missing

- Contact neighbors
- Report to local authorities/brand inspectors 
- Notify veterinarians and animal organizations

Stay Informed

- Emergency alerts 
- Weather band radio
- Local emergency management updates
- Livestock sheltering information

3. REDUCE STRESS & HANDLE CAREFULLY

Expect Behavioral Changes

- Larger flight zones
- Increased vigilance
- Reluctance to move
- Greater risk of escape

Work Calmly

- Move quietly
- Use familiar equipment when possible
- Avoid unnecessary pressure
- Keep familiar groups together
- Use experienced handlers

Keep Herds Together

- Reunite familiar animals whenever possible
- Avoid unnecessary isolation

4. MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Emergency Supplies

- Feed and hay
- Water tubs and buckets
- Medications
- Buckets and feed equipment 

For Injuries

- Clean minor wounds when safe
- Contact a veterinarian for serious injuries 

The Kool-Aid Trick

Consider introducing flavored water before evacuation to aid in water consumption at unfamiliar locations.



SAFE • CALM • FED • WATERED



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



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The first 72 hours after a disaster are critical for both livestock welfare and producer safety.