

## Emergency kit

- At least 7–10 days feed and water supplies
- Torch and batteries
- Vet records and proof of ownership
- Current prescription medications
- Emergency contact list
- Feed and care instructions
- Fly repellent
- Halter and leads
- Nose lead
- Portable livestock panels
- Cattle prods
- Rope
- Water buckets
- Wire cutters
- Knife
- Shovel
- Rubbish bags
- Map of local area

## Emergency contacts

Write your phone numbers here and keep them handy.

**Your veterinarian:**

**Local department of Resources and Primary Industry:**

**Department of Agriculture and Food:**

**Department of Primary Industries:**

**RSPCA:**

**Other:**



# Keeping your livestock safe in emergencies

Have your disaster management plan ready, and be prepared!



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## Why do I need a disaster plan for my livestock?

Australia is prone to natural disasters such as cyclones, storms and floods. On average, 10 cyclones develop in Northern Australia each year. These can cause devastating winds and severe floods, and can affect livestock causing hardship and losses. It is important to be prepared for these events to ensure that we and our livestock remain safe.

## Don't wait till it's too late!

Often these events can come quite suddenly and sometimes without warning. Without prior preparation, feed can become scarce and floodwaters can prevent transportation of stock to a safe location. Don't leave preparation to the last minute. Have a disaster plan and practice it before each disaster season.

Early preparation can save a lot of heartache and loss, or death.

## Disaster plan

Make sure your animal emergency and evacuation kit is prepared at the start of the cyclone and flood season.

It is important to decide on a safe place to keep your stock prior to an emergency. In making this decision, the vital points to consider are whether the place is prone to flooding, close to cyclonic winds, is at risk of flying debris, and/or whether it can be accessed after an extreme event.

If it is likely that you will need to move your livestock, you should determine when it will be the most appropriate and safest time to do so. Practice your disaster plan at least once before each wet season.

## Livestock identification

Ensure that your animals have adequate identification to link them back to you. This may include:

- Ear tags, tail tags or leg bands
- Neck chains with ID
- Ear notches
- Microchips or brands
- Livestock marker or spray paint

## Emergency feed plans

Natural disasters can prevent access to feed or feed supplies for long periods of time. These events can also damage existing feed.

It is important to make sure that your stock has alternative sources of feed in case of a disaster. This may mean having a storage shed on or off-site specifically for storing feed, or a prearrangement with a stock feed supplier for such situations. It is also essential to be able to transport feed to stranded stock.

## Disposal plans

Have a designated disposal area for potential stock losses. Dead livestock can rapidly decompose and contaminate water supplies within days. One dead cow can produce up to 170L of leachate within 2 months.

Check with your local government to see what laws and plans are set up for this potential event.

## During an emergency

### Implement your disaster plan.

If you decide to stay or if evacuation is impossible, move your livestock to the safest place possible on the premises.

Whether you leave livestock in yards or in the paddock should depend on the type of emergency and the risk of injury from material or trees in the paddocks, the likelihood of flooding and the stability of their yards.

If time permits, secure or remove all loose objects around yards and buildings.

Make sure the livestock have access to a safe food and water source. As power may be lost, do not rely on automatic water systems unless you have a backup generator.

## After the emergency

Survey the area for hazards, for example, sharp objects, dangerous materials, live wires, contaminated water, etc.

Check your livestock for any injuries and release them into safe and enclosed areas, only during daylight. Watch them closely for the next few hours. Often familiar areas and scents have changed which can confuse your livestock and alter their behaviour.

If your livestock have been without food for a long period, reintroduce food slowly and in small portions.

Allow free access to clean water. Do not give cold water.

Allow uninterrupted rest to recover from trauma or stress.