Disaster and Emergency Preparedness
Pets and Livestock

When preparing for potential emergencies, consider the natural disasters or emergencies that may occur in your region as well as the potential impact on utility services, infrastructure, supply chains and assistance availability.   Is your geographic region at risk for fire, flood, earthquake, tsunami, avalanche, or utility disruptions?

Consider which resources may be limited and who will be available to help care for, transport, or house your animal(s). It is recommended to have a 7-10-day supply of food, hay, water, bedding, and animal medications. Given your location or specific animal's needs, a longer supply may be warranted.

Consulting the local fire service for advice on how to create a defensible space around your animals may be worthwhile.

A thoughtful *Emergency Plan* and *Animal Emergency Kit* will enable you to provide the best care for your animals.

Your Emergency Plan should be developed for shelter in place and evacuation.   Specific Emergency Communication plans may be warranted.

Your Emergency Kit should include **Emergency Animal Information Forms** with contact information for people or services that may be able to help. A current **Farm Inventory** list with Identification, animal descriptions and care instructions should be included in the Emergency Kit.

Having pre-written detailed directions to the property may decrease miscommunications if help is requested to the property.

Animal Identification
Animal identification will facilitate animals being re-united with owners and accurate care at temporary facilities. Pet name tags with owner contact information and microchips are the most common forms of pet identification.   Consider having a second person, who does not live in the immediate region listed as a back-up contact person. Microchips are a more permanent identification that will be accessible even if the animal has lost a collar. Microchips should be registered with the owner's contact information.

Identification options for horses could include microchips or name plates on halters. A luggage tag tied to the halter or braided into the mane could be used during an emergency.   A written paper with owner information could be contained in a plastic bag and duct taped to the halter. Ideally these tags or forms would be filled out and placed in the Emergency Kit, where they

could be quickly attached in the event of an emergency. A farm inventory list should be included in the Emergency Kit.

Animal identification for livestock may vary from ear tags, microchips, tattoos, leg bands, collars, ear notches, etc.

Animal Health and Registration Documents
Vaccination records, rabies certificates, or other medical records may be needed for transporting or boarding animals.   Horses typically will need to have a negative EIA (equine infectious anemia/Coggin's) test to be boarded or transported.

Registration papers and photos of yourself with your animal may be useful to document ownership. Copies of these documents should be included in the Emergency Kit.

Animal Containment and Control
Even calm pets may panic during an emergency. Controlled movement of animals is the safest and most efficient method.

Collars, leashes, kennels, and crates are the best ways to contain pets and safely evacuate them or keep them contained during an emergency. The kennel or crate may also be needed as temporary housing for your pet. Consider having one large enough for your pet to be comfortably housed in the kennel, but small enough to transport.

Have halters and leads available for all animals that are halter broke. Having leather gloves may increase your ability to hold onto animals that are stressed and difficult to handle.

If you have livestock that is not halter broke, consider if your facility is set up to load animals onto a trailer easily with a designated loading area, alley, or chute.

Poultry will best be moved in crates; heat sources may be needed.

Food, Water, Housing
The volume of food should be sufficient for potential supply chain disruptions following infrastructure damage. Adequate storage to withstand potential exposure and transport should be provided.

Properly packaged water may be stored for emergency use, however preparing to access water in the event of an emergency may be more practical for the volume required. You may consider having backup generators, fuel, water pumps, hoses, containers for transport/storage and supplies to disinfect water or melt snow.

Protection from cold, rain, sunlight and wind may be needed. Adequate bedding, waste removal equipment, waste storage containers, and supplies to disinfect are recommended.

Medication and First Aid
Have a reasonable supply of your animal's medications in an appropriate container for transport if needed. It would be ideal to have an animal first aid kit available.

Transportation
Time efficient evacuation will be best facilitated by having emergency equipment packed and accessible. Vehicles used for transportation should be maintained with adequate tires, fuel and accessibility.   The delay of shoveling the season's snowpack away from a livestock trailer may be significant. Have a list of multiple contacts that can help load or transport animals.

Communication and Planning
Make a list of available boarding kennels and pet friendly hotels that are within the region and neighboring towns.

During an emergency, public fair grounds or show arenas may be an option for housing of displaced livestock. Having a list of places, person of contact, phone numbers and emails prior to an emergency may be helpful. The State Veterinarian's office may be able to help coordinate resources for temporary livestock housing during an emergency.

Community preparedness
A community effort to create a list of people who can help care for, transport and house animals during an emergency may be useful. Discussing potential community needs with facility managers of nearby riding or show arenas, fairground facilities, etc. for planning purposes would be ideal. Social media or email groups may be effective for your region.