

## MANITOBA BEEF PRODUCERS

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# NOTICE TO PRODUCERS

## For immediate release

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## Flood Preparedness for Beef Producers

Flooding can have a serious impact on your operation and the health and safety of your cattle. Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) reminds producers about the measures to put in place in the event that flood water threatens their area.

As part of being prepared, beef producers can assess the risks, make a plan, and safeguard their animals and property. It is important for all workers and family members on the farm to discuss emergency situations ahead of time so everyone is aware of the plan.

The attached Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) Fact Sheet offers information on how to prepare for a flood event when managing cattle. It includes topics such as information on which level of government to contact about flood issues, caring for livestock, and returning home.

In a flood situation, it is important for producers to keep detailed records on all additional flood-related expenses. Producers should document changes to their operation, damage to property and other losses. Producers are encouraged to take photos of flood water and the impacts, and to keep all receipts and records on hand. Retaining these records and photos for a period of time is important because flood programs may not be announced immediately.

Producers who need to transport livestock to an alternate area are encouraged to book a transport company immediately to ensure service. Contact MBP at 1-800-772-0458 or your local MAFRI GO Centre Office for a list of transport companies. Producers can check road conditions by calling 511.

If sourcing feed has become a challenge, there are options. If you require help finding information on feed for sale, please contact MBP or MAFRI. Your local MAFRI GO Centre Office can help with balancing rations in order to make the best use of available feed.

Additional information on flood preparedness is available online at [www.gov.mb.ca/emo](http://www.gov.mb.ca/emo) and [www.gov.mb.ca/flooding](http://www.gov.mb.ca/flooding).

*Manitoba Beef Producers is the exclusive voice of the beef industry in Manitoba. Our role and mission is to represent our beef producers through communication, research, advocacy and education. Manitoba Beef Producers represents 8,000 beef producers across the province.*

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## Preparing a Beef Farm for Flood Conditions in Rural Manitoba

### Key Contacts and Websites:

- Livestock producers should contact their [local rural municipality](#) for information on assistance with livestock during a flood. Know your local contact.
- Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) local offices will provide information on agricultural (crop and forage) insurance.
- Disaster Financial assistance: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/emo/home/dfa/index.html>
- Additional information on flood preparations and response is available on the Manitoba Government [flood site http://www.gov.mb.ca/flooding/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/flooding/index.html), the MAFRI website <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/news/flood/index.html>
- Livestock producers running low on forage supplies can visit the [Manitoba Hay Listing Service](#) on the MAFRI website or call your local Go office for assistance.
- Other hay web sites include: <http://www.hayexchange.com/mb.php>; <http://manitoba.kijiji.ca/f-hay-for-sale-Classifieds-WOQQKeywordZhayQ20forQ20sale>; <http://www.cklq.com/index.php/swap-shop>

### Caring for Livestock

- Most producers operating in a flood plain have flood plans that include care of livestock, barns and stored feed. Review your plan and ensure you are prepared. If you do not have a plan, work with your local RM emergency coordinator to develop a plan.
- Expected water levels and duration of flood should be obtained from local municipal officials. Barns and vital buildings should have elevation surveys performed. Buildings can then be diked if necessary.
- Producers need to ensure their livestock turned out on pasture have access to adequate shelter (bush, windbreaks, calve huts, etc), feed and water on high ground.
- Producers who need to transport livestock to an alternate area are encouraged to book a transport company ahead of time to ensure service. Transport companies can be found in either your local or provincial yellow pages or at: <http://www.yellowpages.ca/search/si/1/livestock%20transportation/manitoba?showDD=true>
- In the event that local roads are blocked, producers may need to arrange for feed, bedding, vet supplies, medicines, and equipment on high ground with the cattle in adequate quantities to last the expected duration of the flood.
- If the yard is inside a dike, producers should ensure there is adequate fuel on site to run equipment for the duration of the event should the yard be isolated by rising floodwater.
- If moving cattle out of the yard, temporary corrals and a handling facilities may need to be set up for treating animals. This is crucial if cows are calving during the flood.
- An alternate source of energy, such as a backup generator, should be available for use in barns or temporary facilities. Ensure existing generators are in good working order before power is shut off to the farm.
- If cattle must be moved, it is best if the herd can be kept intact and not be mixed with other cattle.
- Producers who need help finding a temporary location for livestock should contact their [local rural municipality or MAFRI GO office](#).
- If cows are to be moved, try to transport in cool weather or early in the morning. Do not overcrowd trailers.
- Producers must ensure there is adequate feed and water at any temporary location being used by their livestock.
- If abandoning the yard, move equipment and machinery to higher ground to avoid damage.

## Beef Cattle Returning Home

Livestock producers moving back onto premises that have been flooded should follow normal cleanup and sanitary practices in the barn and loose housing sheds. Some points to consider include:

- Check all electric motors and equipment for dampness and debris. Be sure they are clean and dry, to avoid any further damage.
- Remove all organic material, such as debris, manure and straw. Move it far away from the building for future burning (debris) and spreading (manure).
- Clean buildings and barns before animals return. Wash with a good general-purpose daily cleaner using high-pressure sprayers or scrub brushes.
- Wash equipment with a suitable cleaner; take extra care to ensure that it is well rinsed before use.
- Before using any chemical cleaners or disinfectants check the label for information on safe use of the product. When applying disinfectants of any kind, use disposable coveralls, chemical-resistant gloves and goggles.
- Clean and disinfect bulk storage bins and other feed equipment. If flood-waters have entered the bin via the auger ports, remove feed, and clean and disinfect the bin.
- Test the water supply as soon as possible. Contact your local health unit or GO office for proper sample bottles and instruction.
- If cattle have been mixed with other cattle or livestock contact your local veterinarian for advice on quarantine and other herd health precautions
- Repair damage which may attract or provide points of entry for rodents.
- Rodent control should be carried out, in order to minimize the chance of spreading disease organisms carried by rats and mice.