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Include farm animals when making a family emergency plan

Know the risks, make a plan and get a kit. Those are the three main steps farmers and acreage owners should take in developing an emergency preparedness plan. In addressing responsible farm animal welfare, Brad Andres, Emergency Program Manager, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, recommends people adopt the same mindset they'd take with themselves and their family. "Think about the risks that are in your area. If making a plan for the family and you've got animals, add the animals to your plan. Get the pieces of an emergency kit or equipment that would allow you to deal with your animals in the same fashion as you would with the family."

Andres says the same plan should also apply to those boarding animals, adding: "You have to look after the animals you're responsible for and if you're feeding and watering them, then you are going to be responsible to do something with them in times of emergency. If it's nothing else than contacting the owners and they're going to come and do it, that plan works too."

Information on emergency preparedness is readily available. Andres recommends anyone responsible in caring for farm animals obtain a short and simple guide by going to the Government of Canada website - www.getprepared.ca and in the Search box type 'animals' to reach the guide. The guide is also available at Alberta Agriculture (by contacting Andres directly) or through municipalities.

Animal welfare is everyone's responsibility. If you have any questions or concerns about the care of livestock, Alberta Farm Animal Care provides the ALERT Line, a 24-hour resource and help line at 1-800-506-2273.

Clip No. 1:

Farmers and acreage owners are reminded that responsible animal welfare also means having an emergency preparedness plan in place. Brad Andres, Emergency Program Manager, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, suggests owners of animals adopt the same mindset that would be taken with the family:

(15... "family.")

Clip No. 2:

The same plan should apply for non-owners who have animals on their property, adds Andres:

(13... "too.")

Clip No. 3:

Andres highly recommends livestock owners obtain a copy of an emergency preparedness document through the Government of Canada website:

(18... "municipality.")

This story is brought to you by Alberta Farm Animal Care in partnership with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.

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