Farm and Ranch Hurricane Readiness Tool Kit

- Current list of all animals with records of feeding, breeding, vaccinations and test results
- Proof of ownership for all animals
- Supplies for temporary identification of animals
- Basic first aid kit
- Basic toolkit with hammer, nails, wire cutters etc.
- Flashlight, portable weather radio, batteries
- Emergency contact phone list that includes numbers for neighbors, boarders, local veterinarians, County Extension and county animal control
- Evacuation route maps with contact information for potential livestock shelters

Numbers to Know

Lake County Extension Service/Ag Center
352.343.4101

Lake County Animal Services
352.343.9688

Lake County Sherriff (non-emergency)
352.343.2101

Lake County Emergency Management
352.343.9420

Florida State Agriculture Response Team
850.410.0900

http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/disaster_prep/hurricane_prep_ag.html

UF IFAS Lake County Extension
1951 Woodlea Rd.
Tavares, Fl 32778
352.343.4101
www.lake.ifas.ufl.edu

Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, or national origin.
Before Hurricane Season:

Make a hurricane plan to protect your property, facilities, equipment and animals. Mentally work through a number of scenarios and discuss how you would handle each with your family or business partners. Specifically address the following questions:

- If a hurricane is projected to hit will I evacuate or shelter in place?
- If I evacuate how many trailer loads will I need to take and where will I trailer to?
- If I stay, where will I house my animals and how can I ensure they have access to fresh water following the storm?
- If my family evacuates but does not take the animals who will be responsible for their care in my absence?

During the storm:

Sheltering in place

In most circumstances livestock and horses are safer in an open field during a storm versus a barn. While this may seem contrary, confined animals are less able to protect themselves and more liable to be hurt if the building sustains any damage.

Ideally your livestock and horses will be safest in pasture which has:

- No non-native trees or dead/dying trees which will uproot and lose limbs more readily
- No overhead power lines
- No debris
- Not less than one acre in size
- Not prone to deep flooding

If your pasture doesn’t meet the above criteria, you may want to consider evacuating.

Evacuating with Horses and Livestock

Evacuate as soon as possible, no later than 72hrs before land fall. Wait longer than that and you risk the winds becoming too high to safely transport or being stuck in traffic during the storm. Make arrangements well in advance of hurricane season to shelter your animals.

After the Storm:

Check that no animals were injured, and treat those that might have been.

Remove fallen limbs, repair damage to fences and facilities, and check electrical and water lines.

Use this time to reevaluate your hurricane plan. What worked well? What would you do differently next time?