



## Emergency Response Plan

The chaos of Mother Nature impacting farms across the country has made it abundantly clear that everyone should have an Emergency Plan in place. Be familiar with natural disasters in your area and how to best respond so precious time isn't lost when minutes count. There are also disasters that can strike any place in the country, such as fires and floods. Some natural disasters may require evacuation, while some, such as winter storms, may allow a shelter-in-place. While not every farm will be met with the same types of disasters seen on each coast this year, it is always wise to have—and practice—a plan to evacuate if needed.

One tip is to download a map of your farm that includes all the buildings and structures. Number each building and structure on a legend or key, including silos and tanks. Be sure and identify Electrical and Gas shut off points for each building so they can be quickly and easily found. Also mark where pesticides and fertilizers are stored. Lastly, be sure and include emergency contact numbers on the map.

Once you have a Prevention and Emergency Response Plan, invite the local emergency team to visit your farm to make sure your plan is easily implemented. The Oklahoma Fire Marshall said each state has a different Emergency Response Team; in some states it would be the Fire Station and in some states it would be the Police Department. Many states also operate a Large Animal Emergency Response Team that is made up of trained volunteers that can quickly assemble to assist owners in a disaster situation.

Once you have an aerial map and approved plan, place a copy of the laminated map in a waterproof casing and attach to an easily accessible location on your farm. In addition, enclose a list of animals on the property and what they are fed in the event you are away for an extended time and volunteers have to care for your animals that had to remain behind. It might also be a good idea to snap a photo and store electronically so it can be accessed remotely if needed. This can help Emergency Personnel quickly locate key sites if you are not available.

A plan should also include neighbors and others who may be able to help you evacuate livestock. In the event of flooding, trailers on the farm are often not able to be used so outside help is imperative.

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## Youth Meeting Topic

People have been making plans for thousands of years. Take Paul Revere arranging to have a friend watch for British soldiers, and agreeing to hang a lantern in the church tower as a signal. A plan helps people and animals safe in an emergency, too.

It is natural to be scared during a disaster and react with our emotions. We can't control the amount of damage, but we can control how we respond. Having a plan to know who to call or where to go in an emergency will help us stay calm.

First, brainstorm what types of emergencies may happen at your home or local community. For example, not all weather-related events happen all over the United States. Prepare for those emergencies that may most impact you and your home.

Secondly, decide where everyone in a family will meet in the event of separation. If you can't get to the designated spot, make sure a second location is decided.

Third, designate a contact person outside your neighborhood in the event family members cannot be reached.

Fourth, determine the safest place in your home if emergency personnel instructed you to remain at home, or where to go if told to evacuate.

To host a meeting topic over Disaster Preparedness, plan to assemble a Bug Out Bag (suggestions what to include on page 4). Make arrangements to have essential necessities in a room set up in different areas around the room. Set a timer for 10 minutes for people to prepare a kit before a mandatory evacuation. This helps people think through in a "rush" scenario on how and what to pack.

Another meeting idea is to role play that you have to shelter in place for 5 days. Because you will remain at home, your food and water will be limited. Make a meal plan to determine if you have enough food and water to last until you can leave the residence.

Do you know the difference between facts and emotions? Have a leader hand out newspaper articles and two different colored highlighters. With one color of highlighter mark all the facts, and highlight words describing or evoking emotion with another color. Many news outlets evoke emotion for ratings, which can hinder emergency plans.

## **Emergency Resource Page**

<https://www.uphelp.org>  
<https://www.ready.gov/cert>  
<https://mymedic.com>  
<https://vetmed.tamu.edu/vet/be-prepared/>  
<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/how-to-maintain-your-emergency-kit.html>  
<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/survival-kit-supplies.html>  
<https://www.dairyherd.com/article/livestock-evacuation-plan>  
<https://www.dairyherd.com/article/evacuation-toolkit-small-farms>  
<https://www.dairyherd.com/article/livestock-emergency-management-checklist>  
<https://www.dairyherd.com/article/livestock-evacuation-plan>  
[https://www.hsbc.org/disaster\\_preparedness\\_for\\_horses\\_livestock](https://www.hsbc.org/disaster_preparedness_for_horses_livestock)  
<https://www.skagitcounty.net/EmergencyManagement/Documents/Animal%20Evacuation.pdf>  
<https://smokeybear.com/en>  
<https://www.ready.gov/plan>  
<https://www.farmanddairy.com/how-to/how-to-create-a-farm-safety-kit/345578.html>  
<https://news.psu.edu/story/344107/2015/02/10/farmers-should-develop-implement-farm-emergency-plan>  
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3870.pdf>  
<https://www.safetyontheset.com/resources/helpful-links/weather-links-and-plans/sample-hurricane-planprint-version/>  
[https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/outreach/presentations/2013\\_09nhcL311\\_readiness.pdf](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/outreach/presentations/2013_09nhcL311_readiness.pdf)  
<https://www.redcross.org/about-us/news-and-events/news/2019/national-preparedness-month-how-to-make-your-emergency-plan.html>  
<https://www.houselogic.com/finances-taxes/home-insurance/home-evacuation-checklist/>  
<https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1163/Wildfire-Response>  
[https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wildfire\\_action\\_plan](https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wildfire_action_plan)  
<https://survivalife.com/disaster-hot-spots/>  
[https://act.fandom.com/wiki/Animal\\_disaster\\_groups](https://act.fandom.com/wiki/Animal_disaster_groups)  
<https://www.okmrc.org/disaster/>  
<http://www.olafr.org>

**Plan for what  
is difficult  
while it is  
easy  
- Sun Tzu**

## **Thawing Your Turkey**

Two ways to thaw your turkey safely—in the refrigerator, or in cold water.

**In the Refrigerator (40 F or below)**

4 to 12 pounds—1 to 3 days  
 12 to 16 pounds—3 to 4 days  
 16 to 20 pounds—4 to 5 days  
 20 to 24 pounds—5 to 6 days

*\*Keep turkey in its original wrapper. Place it on a tray or in a pan to catch any juices that may leak. A thawed turkey can remain in the refrigerator for 1 to 2 days. If necessary, a turkey that has been properly thawed in the refrigerator may be refrozen.*

**In Cold Water (30 minutes per lb.)**

4 to 12 pounds—2 to 6 hours  
 12 to 16 pounds—6 to 8 hours  
 16 to 20 pounds—8 to 10 hours  
 20 to 24 pounds—10 to 12 hours

### Emergency Tip for members by Dr. Clare Stavelly, DVM:

One of the biggest issues during evacuations, especially if first or second responders have to evacuate animals that had initially sheltered in place, is identification. Sometime animals are split up, and a herd may end up in multiple shelters due to space constraints. Tattoos and microchips are great, but most shelters, including the one I am at, would not have even known to check for them in livestock. Our local evac teams are working on identifying ranches where horses are housed, but are not tracking information for livestock. Goat herd owners may need to make a concerted effort to ensure they are included in local evacuation plans.

Secondly, for shelter in place option during fires, is to never shelter your animals in barns or enclosures. Ever. An open (irrigated in the case of fires) fenced pasture is a far safer option than an enclosed building or pen.

#### Bug Out Bag

American Red Cross

1. **The Bag**—this should be something small enough to grab and go but large enough to have essentials. Examples of a bag would be a 5 gallon bucket with lid that could do double-duty as a feed bucket, a backpack, or a duffle bag on wheels.
2. **Food and Water**—pack enough for 3 days for your family and pets. Instant oatmeal, protein bars, nuts, and bottled water are good examples. Water treatment pellets and bleach are also available to purchase and put in a kit. Also add a small can opener in case you need to buy canned food to restock.
3. **Personal Essentials**—a first aid kit, daily medications, glasses, and toiletries are items that can be easily stored in travel containers. A blanket and lighter are items needed if unable to find a shelter or hotel. Lastly, a wrench or some other tool to turn off utilities.
4. **Pandemic Needs**—masks and hand sanitizer are not only a good option for pandemic evacuation, but also to aid during a natural disaster
5. **Electronics**—flashlight, batteries, portable radio, cell phone chargers are all items that can keep you safe and connected.
6. **Paperwork**—copies of insurance policies, passports, birth certificates, social security cards, registration papers, credit card statements, mortgages, naturalization certificates are all examples of paperwork that might help you file claims after a disaster.
7. **Cash**—If power is out and you are unable to use a debit or credit card, cash may be the only way you can restock essentials.

(Continued from page 1)

Unless a plan is tested, one can't determine the problems one might encounter. It would be a good idea to test your plan at least once a year, including loading animals for evacuation. Practicing not only helps when time is critical during an emergency, but also helps identify parts of the plan that need more attention.

A shelter-in-place plan will look different than an evacuation plan. Sheltering in place is similar to an extended camping trip and might include the use of a generator, extra livestock hay, and ability to obtain fresh water.

Every plan should include the number of an out-of-area contact person, as well as a meet-up destination. Tornado Alley often has families separated when a siren sounds, so it is important that everyone in the family knows the plan.

An evacuation plan should include several potential alternate routes to leave a disaster area, as well as several places to accommodate your family and livestock. Tuning in to weather alerts and making decisions prior to an evacuation call by authorities are paramount in making sure enough time is designated to catch and trailer livestock, especially if multiple trips are needed.

	# OF GOATS SHOWN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
		1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points	6 points	7 points	8 points	9 points	10 points
Placings 1st		1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points	6 points	7 points	8 points	9 points	10 points
2nd			1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points	6 points	7 points	8 points	9 points
3rd				1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points	6 points	7 points	8 points
4th					1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points	6 points	7 points
5th						1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points	6 points
6th							1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
7th								1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points
8th									1 point	2 points	3 points
9th										1 point	2 points
10th											1 point





Graphic courtesy of [Buttin Heads](#)

A winter show clip is considered the most difficult clip, requiring more time and effort than the summer show or utility dairy clip. Think of the areas on the goat that a judge would need to see when evaluating an animal in the show ring, and clip in a way to enable a judge to see those areas.

When looking at the animal from the rear, the animal needs to be high and wide in the escutcheon area, be out-curing in the thigh and wide set in the back legs.

From behind, clean the hair between the teats on a junior doe or clip the udder on a senior doe.

Bellies are usually clipped from the flank up through the front legs into the neck. Turn the clippers to blend as cleanly as possible.

Leave protective hair on the barrel, chest, and thighs. The clip should emphasize:

- Mammary—front and side view
- Feminine head
- Flat bones on legs with clean knees and hocks
- Strong topline
- Incurving rear leg viewed from the side
- Long neck

The key is to blend the short and long hair together. The end result should make a clean silhouette.

Remember that no show win is worth a dead or sick goat.



## Dairy, Dairy Thankful: Reflections of a Goat Farmer

By Danielle Boyd, [Merry Tale Farm](#)

This time of year, it's customary to reflect on the things we're thankful for. At the top of my list is the ability for me to raise my children on a farm.

While I'm thankful for the experiences I had as a child, such as 4H, FFA and time on my aunt's farm, I longed to live on a farm myself. I'm so incredibly thankful that I can provide that to my children. They might grumble about feeding the animals and long goat show road trips, the values they're learning will mold and shape them into responsible, caring adults.

I'm also thankful that I can set an example for my daughter of what a strong, motivated woman looks like. A woman who can stack bales of hay, doctor goats, trim hooves, build fence, and then turn around and make dinner, do laundry and clean house.

I'm grateful for organizations that provide performance programs, local clubs and their members who organize shows and educational opportunities, and mentors who lend their sage advice from years of raising and showing dairy goats.

I'm thankful for a husband that supports my dreams, a job that helps pay for my goat addiction, and our farm which makes it all possible.

In a time when things are stressful and so much different than we're used to, it's important to take a step back, kiss your goats and count your blessings.

### How to be happy: What science tells us

Only a small percentage of the variation in people's reports of happiness can be explained by differences in their circumstances. It appears that the bulk of what determines happiness is due to personality and more importantly thoughts and behaviors that can be changed. So, yes, you can learn to be happy or at least happier.

Although you may have thought, as many people do, that happiness comes from being born rich, beautiful or living a stress-free life. The reality is that people who have wealth, beauty or less stress are not happier on average than those who don't enjoy those things.

People who are happy seem to intuitively know that their happiness is the sum of their life choices, and their lives are built on the following pillars.

- ☐ Devoting time to family and friends
- ☐ Appreciating what they have
- ☐ Maintaining an optimistic outlook
- ☐ Feeling a sense of purpose
- ☐ Living in the moment

The Red Cross has information on their website on how to prepare a Disaster Plan. The website is located under the Resources websites listed on page 2.

Task	Description	Family Member Responsible
Disaster Kit*	Stock the disaster kit and take it if evacuation is necessary. Include items you might want to take to an evacuation shelter. Remember to include medications and eye glasses.	
Be informed	Maintain access to NOAA or local radio, TV, email or text alerts for important and current information about disasters.	
Family Medical Information	Make sure the household medical information is taken with us if evacuation is necessary.	
Financial Information	Obtain copies of bank statements and cash in the event ATMs and credit cards do not work due to power outages. Bring copies of utility bills as proof of residence in applying for assistance.	
Pet Information	Evacuate our pet(s), keep a phone list of pet-friendly motels and animal shelters, and assemble and take the pet disaster kit.	
Sharing and Maintaining the Plan	Share the completed plan with those who need to know. Meet with household members every 6 months or as needs change to update household plan.	

\*What supplies and records should go in your disaster kit? Visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

10. Other information, if not able to be included above.

*Congratulations on completing your family disaster plan! Please tell others: "We've made a family disaster plan and you can, too, with help from the American Red Cross."*

Get the facts about what you should do if an emergency or disaster occurs at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



## Goat Emergencies: What To Do Until The Vets Gets There

*By Dr. Kellye Thompson, Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program*

### Knowing Your Limits

When you have livestock, it's inevitable that, sooner or later, an emergency will occur. Understanding when an emergency is beyond your abilities is essential to the care of your animals. Often times, injuries that may seem very simple in the beginning can quickly become much more serious if not initially treated correctly. Developing a good relationship with your veterinarian is an important part of a complete herd health program. Having a veterinarian to consult with when an emergency occurs can save you both time and money in the treatment of your animals.

So. Assuming you have developed this relationship, an emergency occurs, what should you do until the doctor gets there? Having the right "tool kit" of knowledge and equipment goes a very long way.

### Handing and Restraint

Properly restraining your animals when they are sick or injured both prevents them from further injuring themselves and allows for a better evaluation of the situation. With small ruminants, there are several options (depending on your and their sizes.) Stanchions and squeeze chutes are the most ideal way to restrain a standing animal. Using halters and collars are your most basic methods, but gripping the horns or holding the beard (if present) also works in a pinch. For down and panicked animals, sitting on rump or straddling the animal (standing and on the ground) can be carefully done. The main thing to remember is that any form of restraint used should not make the initial problem worse. If the animal is too frightened or painful for restraint, keep it in a small, enclosed area and allow it to calm down.

### Physical Exams

Knowing how to perform a basic physical exam is something that every livestock producer should learn. Most veterinarians are willing to explain the process during the course of an exam. The chart below shows the normal temperature, pulse, and respiration (TPR) values for goats.

Parameter	Adults	Kids
Rectal temp (F)	100.5-102.5	100-103
Rectal temp (C)	38-40	39.5-40.5
Heart rate (beats/min)	70-90	90-150
Respiration rate (breaths/min)	15-30	20-40

*(Continued on page 10)*

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## First Thing To Do...

***Don't Panic!!!*** Often times when faced with an emergency, people's first reaction is to panic, especially if open, bleeding wounds are involved. Panicking only serves to delay the treatment of your animal.

## Know Your Goats

Understandably, in a large herd situation, knowing the individual habits of all your animals is impossible. But in small herd situations, it is important to pay attention to the normal behavior of the animals. Some of the things to try to pay attention to include:

- Normal vital signs (temp, pulse, respiration)
- Eating/drinking habits
- Defecation/urination habits
- Normal demeanor/attitude
- Any old scars, swelling, etc...
- Past medical history

## When To Call The Vet

Any of the following symptoms

- |                                      |                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Heavy bleeding                     | • Diarrhea             |
| • Deep wounds                        | • Foreign bodies       |
| • Extensive abrasions                | • Eye injuries         |
| • Obvious lameness                   | • Respiratory distress |
| • Seizures/odd neurological behavior | • Choking              |

## ANY TIME YOU FEEL UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO!!!

## Phone Numbers to Have

- Your regular veterinarian
- Any "local" referral clinics or veterinary schools
- Poison control for animals

## What To Do Before The Vet Arrives

It all depends on situations, but the #1 rule is ***Don't Get Hurt!*** If possible, get the vital signs (temp, pulse, respiration) and any other information that may be important for the vet to know.

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## What To Tell The Vet On The Phone

- The **EXACT** nature of emergency
- How long has it been occurring/present?
- Is animal alert/responsive?
- Is animal ambulatory (walking) or is it non-weight bearing?
- Any treatments/drugs already given!!!

## What To Do Before The Vet Arrives

Try to determine how the injury occurred. That information could be vital in determining how the vet will treat the case. If cut or bleeding, try applying pressure to area to slow down the bleeding. Care should be taken if cleaning the wound, as you could actually cause more contamination if not done properly. Stop if the animal resist treatment.

## First Aid Supplies

Whether you buy a first aid kit, or put your own together, a few things that should be present include:

- Thermometer
- Stethoscope
- Blunt end scissors
- Pocket knife
- Disposable syringes
- Latex gloves
- Ice pack
- Vet wrap/coflex
- Stretch gauze
- Adhesive tape
- Antiseptic cleaners
- Cotton gauze
- Wound dressing
- Rubbing alcohol
- Peroxide

## Basic Medications

A few things to remember when dealing with medications and goats:

- Most medications are off-label for goats
- Always be sure to understand dosing levels and routes of administration prior to use
- You should consult your vet prior to administration

## Some Basic Medications To Have On Hand:

- Procaine Penicillin
- Tetracycline
- Antibiotic eye ointment
- Intramammary antibiotics
- Antifungal treatment
- Probiotics
- Scour medication

## Knowing When To Ask For Help!

Knowing when to ask for help is one of the most important skills you can develop as a producer. It can save you time, money, stress, and most importantly, the life of your animals.

## Recipe of the Month—Eggnog

By: Alton Brown, with edits by Dawn Robnett, [Mesquite Valley](#)

4 egg yolks

1/3 cup sugar, plus 1 tablespoon

2 cups goat milk

1 cup heavy cream

3 ounces bourbon (optional) \*see note below

1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg

4 egg whites

*\*If you do not wish to add alcohol you can simply omit or substitute with 1 tsp ground cinnamon and 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract to add a little extra flavor.*

### Directions:

**Uncooked Nog:** With a mixer, beat egg yolks until they lighten in color. Gradually add the 1/3 cup sugar and continue to beat until it is completely dissolved. Add the milk, cream, bourbon and nutmeg and stir to combine. Beat egg whites to soft peaks. With the mixer still running, gradually add the 1 tablespoon of sugar and beat until stiff peaks form. Whisk the egg whites into the mixture. Chill and serve.

*Note: Consumption of raw or undercooked eggs may increase the risk of food borne illness.*

**Cooked nog:** Beat the egg yolks until they lighten in color. Gradually add the 1/3 cup sugar and continue to beat until it is completely dissolved. Set aside. In medium saucepan, over high heat, combine the milk, heavy cream and nutmeg and bring just to a boil, stirring occasionally. Remove from the heat and gradually temper the hot mixture into the egg and sugar mixture. Then return everything to the pot and cook until the mixture reaches 160 degrees F. Remove from the heat, stir in the bourbon, pour into a medium mixing bowl and set in refrigerator to chill. In a medium mixing bowl, beat the egg whites to soft peaks. With the mixer running gradually add the 1 tablespoon of sugar and beat until stiff peaks form. Whisk the egg whites into the chilled mixture.

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[www.ANDDA.org](http://www.ANDDA.org)



PROMOTING THE  
NIGERIAN DWARF  
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Editor:  
Karen Goodchild  
OK Doe K Dairy Goats

Please let us know if you have a  
comment or article idea!



### Holiday Baking Tip!

Running low on  
evaporated milk? Make  
your own!

To produce 1 cup of  
evaporated milk, simmer  
2 1/4 cups of goat's milk  
until it becomes 1 cup!