

# Wildfires and Saving Your Livestock

Livestock, whether the main focus of your operation or just a small piece, require special consideration and preplanning when wildfires threaten your business. Emergency evacuation plans and having a shelter-in-place plan for your animals in the event of a wildfire are vital in saving your herd. Here are a few tips to consider when trying to make the decision regarding your animals.

## Evacuating Livestock

### Pre-Plan the evacuation of your animals

-  Know where you will be taking your animals. Contact local fairgrounds, stockyards, equestrian centers, or even neighbors who are out of the fire range. Know ahead of time what will be required for your animals and what the housing policies will be in place for the time they're housed there.
-  Have vaccination records, registrations, photos/proof of ownership, photos of your brand for all animals on hand at all times.
-  Have multiple evacuation routes and destinations planned when hauling animals, should roads be closed or areas cut off by spreading fires.
-  Have an emergency kit for livestock prepared for evacuations.

## Shelter-In-Place

If the option to evacuate disappears and you're forced to shelter-in-place, having an emergency plan in place before hand will help increase the chance of survival for your herd.

-  Clean all dry brush and vegetation away from fence lines and barn facilities by at least 10 feet.
-  Turn out animals into a pasture with the most distance between them and the fire line. Do not leave animals in a barn or holding pen. If turning animals out in a pasture, leave enough hay and water for 48 to 72 hours. Don't rely on automatic waterers to keep a sufficient water supply should they lose power.
-  Have an emergency kit prepared and equip any staff monitoring the herd with a reliable way to communicate for help if needed.

Hay/Feed (3 days/animal)  
Water & Water Buckets  
Medicine(s)/ Supplements  
Halters & Leads

### Emergency Kit Items for Livestock:

First Aid Supplies (Ointments/Bandages)  
Hoof picks, Shipping Wraps/Standing Wraps  
Light Weight Field Sheet/Blanket

Shovels  
Wire Cutters/ Sharp Utility Knife  
Temporary Fencing Supplies  
Radios, Flashlights, Batteries