



Annex D – Disaster Planning for Farm Animal Facilities

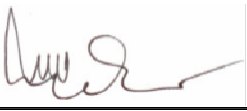
January 2020

Promulgation Statement

The Disaster Planning for Farm Animal Facilities is a guide to how the College of Agriculture & Human Sciences maintains farm operations during an emergency. The Disaster Planning for Farm Animal Facilities is written in support of the Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) Emergency Management Plan (EMP).

Approval and Implementation

This annex is hereby approved, superseding all previous editions, and is effective immediately upon being signed by all signature authorities below.

Approved:  _____

Date: 01-24-2018

Dr. Gerard D'Souza, Dean and Director
College of Agriculture & Human Sciences
Prairie View A&M University

Record of Changes

Change #	Date	Part Affected	Date Posted	Who Posted
#1	9/30/24	Section VII Human Health Emergencies		

Introduction:

Prairie View A&M University and the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences (CARC) acknowledge that it is vital to have written plans to address the proper care and maintenance for any livestock species contained within and under the supervision of the University Farm in preparation for potential disasters. This document includes a site-specific emergency plan for all species of animals on the University Farm used for research, teaching, and extension purposes.

This plan is also an extension of the SOP manual to specifically address the plans to mitigate and minimize animal distress, injury, and loss due to circumstances created by any disaster. It is understood that the execution of policies and procedures to care for livestock during this disaster period also includes parameters to ensure employee and caregiver safety.

Typical disasters are region-specific and, for our region, are usually associated with high wind, tornados, hurricanes, fire, flood, ice, and breaches of biosecurity that threaten the well-being of the animals.

This DISASTER PLAN for the University Farm is an evolving document that will undergo regular review to update and change the plan to make it more comprehensive and practical.

The Farm Disaster Planning Team (FDPT)

(Note: The member of the FDPT is comprised of College and University personnel.)

- The FDPT are considered essential personnel during the event.
- A safe site will be established to accommodate the DPT during the emergency event. It will be at a location that has emergency power capabilities to operate communication needs as well as to monitor emergency channels.
- Although little can be done generally, during most emergency events that impact the farm, the DPT will be relied upon to cover veterinary and husbandry needs during the immediate event aftermath since other staff personnel will have evacuated the farm.
- The FDPT members should consider having cell phones, sleeping bags, flashlights, extra batteries, battery-powered radios, hygienic supplies, backup clothes, water, non-perishable food, a first aid kit, and any personal prescription medicines.

Animal Species and Locations

- The regular care and maintenance of all university farm species are outlined in the Farm SOP (FSOP) manual. As part of the FSOP, all animals are individually identified with some form of external identification (ear tags, ear punches, collars, bands), and inventory records are maintained and upgraded every month. Inventory records are kept in a secure file in the University Farm Office and at a safe location in the College of Agriculture and Human Science main office. The security and access to these records are essential to identify all livestock species before and after any emergency incident.
- All species (except poultry) are maintained under either pasture or pasture and barn confinement. Appendix B illustrates a satellite photo that specifically identifies a farm location under normal conditions for each species and identified areas where animals will be moved in emergencies. According to the report by the Humane Society of the United States, the leading cause of injury or death of large animals in disasters such as

hurricanes and similar events is collapsing shelters, flying debris, and electrocution. Evacuation to safe locations is usually not feasible with large numbers of animals, and most experts consider confinement to buildings or other small areas not as effective as allowing animals to seek safety in open pastures on higher ground.

- Thus, the primary action for all livestock species is to designate on-farm areas (see attached aerial photos) deemed most secure and safe for animals to survive during emergencies. The places selected are not subject to flooding, have available forage or hay, and will have access to water. All species will be maintained in these designated areas until other areas of the farm are determined to be safe and secure for livestock use after the event.

Pre-event preparations

- Key farm personnel will have emergency management training every two years. This training will address the policies and protocols developed for the Prairie View Farm with its livestock species.
- The Farm Director and Farm Manager will monitor environmental conditions daily and decide when to implement emergency measures for the farm.
- Emergency events that do not lend themselves to advanced actions will be dealt with on an event basis. The tentative flow of activity will be as follows:
 - Event will be identified and reported to Farm Director or Farm Manager
 - The farm manager will convene (by whatever means is most rapid, i.e., at university or by conference call) the first response team to assess the problem and develop an emergency plan
 - Response plan will be implemented by whatever means is necessary to mitigate loss/injury and secure the safety of livestock
 - The situation will be monitored continuously until the emergency is over and livestock care is established to maintain safety until the post-occurrence assessment deems a return to regular management conditions.

Monitoring of Animal Care/Safety during Emergency

- Key personnel will continuously monitor the level of emergency and level of animal security throughout the event
- Monitoring will be conducted only if deemed safe for emergency personnel
- The emergency response team will decide when the peak emergency is over so that we can proceed to the post-occurrence assessment and action to ensure animal safety.

Post-Event Assessment and Action

- Key personnel will conduct an occurrence assessment to determine first if any immediate action(s) have to take place to assure the safety of all livestock species, including the need for immediate care of injured animals, the integrity of the containment area, any additional livestock needs (water, food, shelter, movement to an alternative location, etc.) and an assessment of any lost livestock.
- Any deceased animals will be identified and removed to an on-farm disposal station in anticipation of physical removal to our contracted livestock disposal vendor.
- Once initial livestock assessment has been conducted and any immediate needed

actions taken, the remainder of the farm will be assessed to evaluate containment integrity and damage to buildings which must be removed and replaced before livestock are allowed to return to standard areas of use.

- Any breach of perimeter fencing will have to be repaired as soon as possible to ensure that other livestock not of the PV flock will come onto the property. Also, any outside livestock that has entered the PV farm area will be gathered and isolated until ownership of these animals is established and the owner can pick them up.
- The emergency response team will determine if and when returning animals to their regular areas are safe.
- After returning to customary conditions, the Farm Director will develop a comprehensive report assessing the quality of the response to the event along with any comments and suggestions regarding modification of the protocol to make future responses more effective. A livestock injury and death report will be made and submitted to our inventory officer.

Other Disaster Planning areas

- Greenhouse area: Since a great deal of valuable plant genetics is associated with the greenhouse complex, measures must be taken to move valuable plantstock to designated safe locations. If there is sufficient advance notice of impending disaster, plants, seeds, and any other valuable plant genetics and materials will be moved to an enclosed, secure location on campus, such as the farm shop building, to protect these materials.

Human Health Emergencies:

- The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 necessitates additional disaster planning that is unique and separate from weather-related natural disasters. In the event of a national health pandemic the FDMT, faculty, staff, students and all farm employees will follow Center for Disease Control guidelines for protection of human and animal health. Proper social distancing, the use of face masks, enhanced hand washing and sanitation guidelines will be followed. Other contingencies will be handled in a manner. Schedules will be adjusted to avoid gatherings of 10 or more people. Animals will be observed for signs of malaise and illness and will be quarantined and/or isolated or removed from the premises if deemed necessary.
- It is possible that several farm employees could contract or be exposed to human pathogens and are required to be away from work for extended periods of time due to illness or quarantine. In the unlikely event that all essential personnel will be affected at the same, personnel from other areas of the college may be asked to fill the void on a temporary basis. Additionally, and if all farm workers and other staff members are quarantined, the CAHS will seek approval for emergency hiring of temporary workers to fill in for the short run.

Appendices:

- Appendix A - Online Resources for Emergency Preparedness
- Appendix B - Aerial Photo of Current and Designated Areas for Farm Livestock

- Appendix C – Plan’s Emergency Contact Information

APPENDIX A: Online Resources for Emergency Preparedness

- <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/agency/contact.html>
- <http://awic.nal.usda.gov/farm-animals/disaster-planning>
- <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/emergency/HurricaneEvacuationAndMassCarePlan-Att6.pdf>
- <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/livestk/01815.html>
- <https://www.animallaw.info/article/detailed-discussion-state-emergency-planning-laws-pets>
- <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Education-Training/Animal-Care-Modules/Intro-Animal-Emergency-Mgmt-Course-Materials.pdf>



APPENDIX C – Plan’s Emergency Contact Information

Core FDPT

- Dean, CAHS
- Director of Farm Operations
- Attending Veterinarian
- CAHS Facilities Manager
- Farm Services Manager
- Animal Systems and IGRC Director
- Farm Worker Designate
- Farm Worker Designate
- PVAMU/Campus Risk Management & Safety Designee

Other Emergency Operations Contacts

- Baker Veterinary Services (University contracted external veterinarian)
- Executive Director of Risk Management & Safety
- Emergency Management Coordinator
- University Police Department/Campus Emergency Operations Center (EOC)