

Extreme weather events and seasonal changes can pose risks for farm operations. This series of checklists is a tool for near-term and in-the-moment actions that will help you prepare for impending extreme weather events. Keep these sheets in your barn or outbuilding for quick reference when you need to prepare your farm for weather events. This **General Strategies** checklist will help you make general preparations for extreme weather. Use the last page to include information specific to your farm. **Review these general strategies each season and look to the seasonal checklists for more immediate actions specific to the time of year and weather event.**

Before you can prepare your farm, it is important to prepare yourself and your family.

Learn about general emergency planning →  A personal emergency kit checklist → 

Preparing to manage fire risks

- Check fire extinguishers and smoke alarms
- Establish a fire emergency plan. Practice drills with staff/family. Learn more here → 
- Note the location of flammable materials (fuel/fertilizers) on farm map
- Clear flammable materials (leaves, dead grasses, overhanging branches) from the periphery of buildings and barns
- Determine fire risks that are presented by your own operation, such as heat lamps, and take action to mitigate risk (ex: keep heat sources away from hay and other flammable material, dust frequently, clear rodent nests from equipment)
- Prepare your barn → 
- Take care to prevent heat buildup in baled hay
- Only use extension cords temporarily, not for long-term electrical needs
- Follow best practices for disposal of oily rags

Preparing for power outages, impassable roads, downed trees

- Evaluate vulnerable systems and have a back-up plan:
 - Freezers/coolers
 - Furnaces/greenhouse heating systems
 - Ventilation fans
 - Heat for chicks/poults
 - Electric fencing
 - Water pumps
 - Add your farm's vulnerable systems to the form at the end of this document
- Check back-up systems for functionality (ex: generator, back-up electricity, heat) and perform annual/quarterly maintenance on these systems
- Identify equipment that needs to be turned off before/during an outage. Use the form at the end of this document.
- Keep a well-maintained chainsaw if downed trees are a likely problem

There can be additional steps to take after extreme weather occurs, such as monitoring livestock and plant health and assessing water/soil for contamination. Learn more here → 

General preparedness recommendations

- Keep digital and paper versions of all documents, such as farm emergency plans, contact lists, and inventory lists. Consider storing an extra copy of each with this checklist.
- Update staff/family contact info and emergency contacts. Use the form at the end of this document as a guide.
- Using these checklists and resources such as this farm emergency template from the State of Massachusetts, develop a comprehensive written farm emergency plan and review with family/staff → 
- Livestock producers, develop a biosecurity plan and review with family/staff → 
- Create a map of the farm, including flammable and hazardous substances, and share it with your local fire department and/or offer a farm tour so first responders are familiar with your farm in an emergency
- Update and photo-document farm inventory for insurance purposes
- Review the lists of equipment, structures, and their values in your property insurance policy and discuss any needed changes with your insurance agent
- Prepare back-up water, nonperishable food, and medications for people & animals
- Restock first aid kit for people and animals, and ensure these kits are readily accessible in all locations where people regularly work on your farm, including all farm vehicles
- Keep all materials for lambing/kidding/calving on hand in case extreme weather conditions occur birthing seasons and/or extreme weather events prompt early deliveries
- Review and update records of all animals on property, ensuring that animals have at least one form of permanent identification
- Review staff's relevant allergies & medical issues
- Check for working flashlights/headlamps & fresh batteries
- Ensure farm infrastructure is in good repair (fences, buildings, etc.)

Sign up for notifications

An essential element of emergency preparedness is staying informed.

- Emergency Alerts
 - For the State of Connecticut → 
 - Be sure emergency/government notifications (sent by the National Weather Service) are enabled on your smartphone
 - Sign up for emergency notifications from your city or town if available
- Forest Fire Danger listserv → 
- Air Quality Reports →  Air Quality Monitoring → 

Farm's Customized Lists

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

*note farm personnel allergies & relevant medical info

CALL 911 FOR AN EMERGENCY	
Local Police Department	
Local Fire Department	
Poison Control	800-222-1222
Farm Owner	
Farm Manager	
Farm Personnel	
Farm Personnel	
Neighbors/family/friend	
Neighbors/family/friend	
Neighbors/family/friend	
Veterinarian	
Livestock hauler	
Milk hauler/transport	
CT State Veterinarian	860-713-2505
CT DEEP 24 hr Emergency Response Unit	860-424-3338

ON-FARM SYSTEMS THAT NEED A BACK-UP PLAN

- _____
- _____
- _____

EQUIPMENT THAT NEEDS TO BE TURNED OFF BEFORE/DURING A POWER OUTAGE

- _____
- _____
- _____

NOTES