



# FLOOD INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

The following Internet links will take you to agencies and resources that can assist you and provide information about the flood. These include general flood preparation and recovery information as well as information specifically for farmers and livestock owners.

## Access Washington

*Access Washington* is the state's primary source of emergency information during a disaster. It includes

- Storm assistance information
- Finding county contact information
- Emergency resources
- Flood information
  - Facts about floods
  - Preparation for a flood
  - Information for business owners
  - Restoring your home or business for a flood

## Farm and Ranch Resources

### USDA Farm Services Agency

FSA assists farms and agricultural enterprises during and after a disaster and recommends federal declarations of disaster.

FSA has a variety of disaster assistance programs including the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. FSA Service Centers are located in most counties.

### USDA Risk Management Agency

RMA provides a variety of insurance tools. The state office is located in Spokane (tel: 509- 228-6320)

### Kansas State University

KSU's [Flood Survival and Recovery Fact Sheets](#) cover a variety of farm flood topics - from dealing with children and emotional problems to recovering farm land, soil nutrient management, compaction, etc.

### Extension Disaster Education Network

EDEN is a cooperative effort by land-grant universities to share resources to reduce the impact of disasters. Their [Agricultural Issues after a Flood](#) page addresses farm issues, including: replanting crops, protection of farm buildings, protecting livestock, feed, etc.. [First Steps to Flood Recovery](#) is a good general guide for flood preparation.

### North Dakota State University Extension

[NDSU's Disaster Education](#) page has a number of useful pages and video clips on preparing a farm for floods, evacuation, dealing with equipment and livestock and then recover – salvage, tilling, replanting, etc.

### Washington State University

[Animal Health for Dairy Producers Affected by Floods:](#)

[Rules for the Disposal of Dead Livestock](#)

### US Food & Drug Administration

[Crops and Foods Affected by Flooding](#)

## Other Sources of Useful Information

### Washington State Department of Agriculture

<http://agr.wa.gov>

### Washington State Department of Ecology

[www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov)

### Washington State Emergency Management Division:

[www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov)

EMD coordinates state disaster responses and provides updated disaster information.

### Green River Flooding Information

<http://www.emd.wa.gov/activations/GreenRiverFlooding.shtm>

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EMD has specific information for disaster assistance through FEMA and provides updated disaster recovery information.

### Washington State Department of Transportation

[Statewide traveler information:](#)

[County road information:](#)

To sign up for WSDOT Freight Travel Alerts or other updates go to:

<https://service.govdelivery.com/service/user.html?code=WADOT>

### Federal Emergency Management Agency

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

FEMA is the primary federal agency providing disaster assistance. To apply for FEMA disaster assistance see: [www.fema.gov/assistance](http://www.fema.gov/assistance)

### National Flood Insurance Program

[www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

Sign up for flood insurance at least 30 days in advance.

### Center for Disease Control

[Floods - Disease, hygiene and safety issues during and after a flood.](#)

USDA: [Keeping Food Safe](#)

### American Red Cross

[Red Cross - Flood Safety Checklist](#)

The ARC has information on preparing for floods, what supplies are needed, etc. under *Flood Safety Checklist*.

### University of Missouri

[Resources for Your Flooded Home](#)

### Risk Information Site - Green River Valley

[Howard Hanson Dam - Flood Inundation Maps](#) - US Army Corps of Engineers Flood Inundation Maps

# Safety Measures When Flooding is Expected

Modified from North Dakota State University Extension Service's *Preparing to Evacuate Your Farm*.

When flooding is hours or minutes away, keep your priorities straight. Ensure family safety first. Be certain you have enough time to get to higher ground before access is cut off. If you have time before receiving an evacuation order, a number of precautions may help you protect your property and livestock.

## Long-range Preparation

Take these precautions if flooding is common to your area or anticipated this season:

- Check your insurance coverage. Contact the National Flood Insurance Program ([www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)) about flood insurance or you local USDA offices about other crop insurance tools.
- Create an emergency plan of action, considering such things as areas of high ground for animal relocation, temporary milking facilities and approval to use them, equipment relocation and safe pesticide storage.
- Properly dispose of old or unneeded chemicals, pesticides, motor oil, batteries, etc. to reduce risk of contamination. Store remaining chemicals securely.
- Be sure cattle and other livestock are properly immunized before being exposed to floodwaters.
- Arrange or be aware of standby services for emergency milk pick-up.
- Have a plan for moving grain and other harvested crops out of reach of floodwaters.
- Provide riprap on banks of earthen manure storages where flowing water may erode berms.
- Keep a list of key contact numbers (doctors, vets, relatives, etc.), banks accounts, credit card numbers, and copies of important documents readily available.
- Protect business records. Keep deeds, titles, computer back-up files and other essential documents in a safe, remote location (e.g., safety deposit box). Seal computers, ledgers, tax returns, other files and records in plastic bags and move upstairs or to attic.

## Short-term Preparation

If time is available, take the following precautions:

- Move machinery, feed, harvested crops, pesticides and herbicides to a higher elevation. If you have a two-story barn, the upper level makes a good temporary storage facility.
- Open gates so livestock can escape high water.
- If water is rising, try to drive stock through water free of obstructions. Grazing animals swim well, but the greatest problems for them are fences and other obstacles. Long swims through calm water are safer than short swims through a swift current.
- Leave building doors and windows open at least 2 inches to equalize pressure and help prevent buildings from shifting.
- If possible, move motors and portable electric equipment to a dry location.
- Disconnect electric power to all buildings which may be flooded. If in doubt about how to disconnect power, call your utility company. Shut off other utilities.
- Tie down lumber, logs, irrigation pipes, fuel tanks and other loose equipment or material. Secondary containment is another possibility for fuel tanks, as well as pesticide storage.
- To keep surface water out of your well, use materials such as heavy plastic and duct tape to seal the well cap and the top of the well casing.
- Photograph the farm equipment, buildings, etc. to document these assets.