

AgNews



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DDA joins DPI in urging poultry growers to be prepared for hurricane Irene. Pre-planning is vital in the event of a disaster

The Delaware Department of Agriculture is joining the Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. in urging poultry growers to be prepared for hurricane Irene. Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture says, "The weather service indicates that there is a very strong possibility that hurricane Irene will seriously impact Delaware. I am urging all poultry growers to review their emergency plans and take immediate steps to ensure the safety of their flocks. The Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. has developed a list of excellent recommendations for commercial poultry growers that should be followed at this time."

Recommendations for commercial poultry growers from the Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.

- Make sure you check your back-up generator. Have adequate fuel for several days of operations. Make sure automatic starting systems are ready to go.
- If you have no electricity whatsoever, monitor house conditions more frequently and make adjustments as needed.
- Make sure you have adequate propane gas and arrange an earlier than normal delivery if necessary.
- Check your feed inventory and notify your poultry company if you believe a delivery will be needed before the next normal delivery.
- If strong winds knock down trees, make your farm lanes and houses accessible to delivery vehicles.
- Secure outside objects so they don't blow and cause damage.
- Make sure cell phones are fully charged in case land-line telephone service is lost.
- Check security of roofing materials, chicken house siding, and windows/doors to make sure they will not blow off or blow open. Corners and edges of buildings are particularly vulnerable.
- Make plans for larger than normal carcass disposal. Consider in-house composting if practical.
- Be prepared to keep birds longer than normal in case processing plants are unable to operate.

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