

AgNews



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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DDA urges the public to provide for their animals in severe weather **National Weather Service has issued a coastal flood watch**

The National Weather Center (NWC) has issued a coastal flood watch which is in effect from Thursday afternoon perhaps through the weekend. The Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) urges the public to make emergency preparations for themselves, their property, and their animals. Tips for animal emergency preparation follow:

Companion animals:

- If you are sheltering in place and not evacuating:
 - Bring your companion animals under cover with you.
 - Make sure before severe weather begins that you have ample food, water, and medicine for three days.
- If you are evacuating prepare early and have an evacuation plan which includes your companion animal(s). The plan should include:
 - Purchasing leashes or harnesses for animal restraint and crates or cages to house the animals for transportation and/or for being housed in a shelter, hotel/motel, or someone else's home.
 - Making sure animals have been micro chipped and/or are wearing proper identification collars .
 - Taking a photo of you and your pet, vaccination certificates, any other documents in sealable plastic bags.
 - Packing ample food, water, dishes, and medicine for three days.
 - Finding out where animal shelters will be located and/or which hotels and motels will allow you to bring animals.

Livestock

- Assess your property and identify areas of high ground. If none exists and flood water may rise above three or four feet, **prepare for evacuation:**
 - Find alternate locations, such as private stables, racetracks, fairgrounds, equestrian centers, private farms and humane societies.
 - Keep transport vehicles maintained, fueled, and ready to travel.
 - Permanently identify livestock with tattoos, microchips, brands, tags or photographs. Halters should be tagged with your name, phone number and the animal's name.
 - Have water containers with water and feed available for the number of animals evacuated.
 - Prepare an identification packet that includes vaccination and medical records, complete description of the animal, registration papers, medication animal is on, name and contact information for attending veterinarian. Keep this packet with you in a sealable plastic bag.

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- **If sheltering in place:**

- In high winds and flooded conditions, livestock such as cattle, horses, sheep, goats, etc. that are not in a confined area can usually take care of themselves. Livestock that are in low-lying pens may become trapped, so make preparations for them to move to higher ground.
- Make sure to place enough food and fresh water for all of your animals in accessible areas. Put the food and water, enough for at least three days, in containers above the expected flood level.
- If you are going to shelter your animals in existing barns, sheds, etc. on your property, be sure they are located on high enough ground.
- Make sure that food and water supplies are away from pesticide storage areas.
- Have back-up generators available.
- Make sure structures are secure and able to withstand predicted weather.
- If the predicted winds and/or flood waters may be too much for the structure, cattle and horses may be driven from the structure or evacuated to other locations.

Poultry

- **Poultry growers** need to visit the DPI website at www.dpichicken.org for adverse weather preparation and contact their integrators.

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