

## Caring for Livestock and Pets in an Extended Power Outage

If you have pets or livestock, you will need to take them into consideration in the event of an extended power outage, especially if you leave your home or farm. This paper offers some guidance in handling animals in these instances.

Source of the following table: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/pubs/IACUC/dis.htm>

<b>ANIMALS</b>	<b>WATER/DAY</b>	<b>FEED/DAY</b>
<b>DAIRY COWS</b>		
IN PRODUCTION	9 GALLONS SUMMER	20 POUNDS HAY
	7 GALLONS WINTER	
DRY COWS	9 GALLONS SUMMER	20 POUNDS HAY
	7 GALLONS WINTER	
WEANING COWS	6 GALLONS SUMMER	8-12 POUNDS HAY
	3 GALLONS WINTER	
PREGNANT	7 GALLONS SUMMER	10-15 POUNDS LEGUME HAY
	6 GALLONS WINTER	
COW WITH CALF	9 GALLONS SUMMER	12-18 POUNDS LEGUME HAY
	8 GALLONS WINTER	
CALF (400 POUNDS)	6 GALLONS SUMMER	8-12 POUNDS LEGUME HAY
	4 GALLONS WINTER	

<b>ANIMALS</b>	<b>WATER/DAY</b>	<b>FEED/DAY</b>
<b>SWINE</b>		
BROOD SOW WITH LITTER	4 GALLONS SUMMER	8 POUNDS GRAIN
	3 GALLONS WINTER	
BROOD SOW (PREGNANT)	1-2 GALLONS SUMMER	2 POUNDS GRAIN
	1 GALLON WINTER	
150 POUND GILT OR BOAR	1 GALLON	3 POUNDS GRAIN
<b>SHEEP</b>		
EWE WITH LAMB	1 GALLON	5 POUNDS HAY
EWE, DRY	3 QUARTS	3 POUNDS HAY
WEANING LAMB	2 QUARTS	3 POUNDS HAY
<b>POULTRY</b>		
LAYERS	5 GALLONS/100 BIRDS	17 POUNDS/100 BIRDS
BROILERS	5 GALLONS/100 BIRDS	10 POUNDS/100 BIRDS
TURKEYS	12 GALLONS/100 BIRDS	40 POUNDS/100 BIRDS
<b>HORSES</b>		
ALL BREEDS	5 GALLONS/1000 POUNDS	20 POUNDS HAY/1000 POUNDS
<b>DOGS AND CATS</b>		
ALL BREEDS	1 QUART/DAY/ANIMAL	AD LIBITUM DRY FOOD

The following excerpt deals more directly with domesticated pets. Check this link for additional detail.

[http://www.hsus.org/press\\_and\\_publications/press\\_releases/dont\\_forget\\_animals\\_in\\_storms\\_california\\_nevada\\_oregon\\_01-04-08.html](http://www.hsus.org/press_and_publications/press_releases/dont_forget_animals_in_storms_california_nevada_oregon_01-04-08.html)

"The Humane Society of the United States urges people to remember their animals when preparing for emergencies, taking shelter, or evacuating," said Eric Sakach, director of The HSUS on the West Coast.

## **CARING FOR PETS**

- Don't leave pets outdoors when the temperature drops below freezing. Dogs need outdoor exercise but take care not to keep them out for lengthy periods during very cold weather. Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks. Dogs and cats are safer indoors in all sorts of weather. Animals should never be left outdoors unattended as they risk being stolen or otherwise being harmed.

*Note: Signs of hypothermia include: weak pulse, dilated pupils, decreased heart rate, extreme shivering, pale or blue mucous membranes, body temperature below 95 degrees, disorientation or unconsciousness. Consequences of extreme hypothermia may include neurological problems including coma, heart problems, kidney failure, and death. Check with a veterinarian for more information.*

- If you will be staying anywhere other than your home for several days during a storm, remember to take enough pet food, any medications and other supplies your pet needs. And make sure you have enough food and supplies stockpiled at home if you do plan to stay there.
- Warm car engines are dangerous for cats and small wildlife. Parked cars attract small animals which may crawl up under the hood looking for warmth. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.
- De-icing chemicals are hazardous. The salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Wipe the feet with a damp towel every time after coming in from outdoors – even if you don't see salt on walkways. Antifreeze is a deadly poison. However, it has a sweet taste that attracts animals and children. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze out of reach. Better yet, use antifreeze-coolant made with propylene glycol; if swallowed in small amounts, it will not hurt pets, wildlife, or people.

## **SPECIFICALLY FOR FARM ANIMAL OWNERS**

- Have a water supply for a minimum of three days, with provisions to keep it from freezing. (Use plastic, not metal containers).
- Provide sturdy buildings to house farm animals that won't collapse under the weight of snow or ice.
- Have a containment area to keep animals from sliding down hills.
- Keep emergency contact numbers handy, such as those for a large animal veterinarian in your area, a large animal rescue or an emergency animal transporting facility.