



Storm Preparedness Best Practices and Checklist:

Post-tropical storms are multi-day events featuring heavy rain, coastal flooding and high winds that can cause serious damage to infrastructure, the natural environment, and to crops. These storms are projected to remain a risk into the future.

This document is intended to support farmers with their preparation and response to storms. Being prepared for an extreme weather event promotes farm resilience, protecting both agricultural productivity and the well-being of farmers, farm families, employees, and the wider community. Lack of preparedness increases the overall risk to farms and individuals.

The following guidance is specific to farming operations.

Documentation

- ☐ Prepare and keep a current farm map including structures housing crops and livestock, plus any hazardous or sensitive areas. This may be helpful if emergency services are needed.
- ☐ Review and update farm inventories before a storm event (crops, livestock, buildings, equipment, etc.).
- ☐ Before a storm event, take lots of photos of farm infrastructure, equipment, crops, inventories. This will be helpful to prove damages for insurance claims or other supports.
- ☐ Verify insurance is current and review policy coverage to ensure it is sufficient.
- ☐ Document any evidence of extraordinary costs required to recover from a natural disaster, including your time and activities. A template document to help track your in-kind activities after a storm event is included with this guide. Thorough and concise reporting may be necessary to participate in any potential support programming.



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Infrastructure Assessment and Reinforcement:

- Identify vulnerable infrastructure and opportunities to increase resilience to wind. Especially vulnerable infrastructure includes older pole barns, tree fruit trellises, grain bins, tarp barns, grain silos and greenhouses/polytunnels.
- Investigate and repair damages from previous storm events that might have weakened infrastructure.
- Reattaching sheet metal to pole barns can be essential to preventing wind entry into the building.
- Ensure that barn doors can be securely closed and not blown in.
- The Extreme Weather Preparedness sub-program can provide support with retrofitting infrastructure to increase resilience to wind: PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/en/information/agriculture/agriculture-resiliency-program. For more information about this program, please call 902-213-6476 or email agresiliency@gov.pe.ca.

General Farm Preparation:

- Ensure generator is in working condition and well maintained.
- Refuel vehicles, machinery, generators and ensure there is extra fuel on hand.
- Ensure all hazardous materials, including pesticides, fuel & fertilizer, are safely stored, preferably on high ground or off the floor, and labeled accordingly.
- Clean out drainage ditches, culverts, and gutters to prevent water buildup.
- Ensure temperature/air sensors and smoke detectors are in working order.
- Turn off power to areas where it is not necessary.
- Secure machinery, tools, equipment and anything that could blow around. Equipment should be parked away from trees at risk of falling.
- Have a working fire extinguisher.
- Keep a stocked first aid kit and other emergency supplies, such as flashlights with charged batteries, a battery-operated radio, and a supply of prescription medications.
- Post emergency phone numbers.
- Charge phones and any back up batteries.
- Ensure chainsaw is in good working order, and have extra bar oil, premix oil and chains on hand.
- Ensure family members & employees understand emergency procedures, know where all emergency supplies are kept & how to use them (e.g. how to use a generator).

Additional Considerations for Livestock:

- Ensure there is an accessible, adequate feed supply to last several days.
- Ensure there is an adequate water supply in the event of a power outage. This might include an elevated full water tank (allowing for gravity water flow), a generator that can power your well, or the ability to pump water from a stream to a tank and trough. Water withdrawal regulations allow for removal of up to 25,000 liters/day from a watercourse without a Water Withdrawal Permit.
- Create a plan for feeding livestock during power outages if a mechanical system is normally used.



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- ❑ Have on hand a livestock first aid kit in waterproof container (digital thermometer, stethoscope, bandage scissors, gauze, vetwrap, sterile cotton roll, duct tape, antiseptic spray, disposable gloves, saline solution, isopropyl alcohol, & tweezers) and all necessary medications.
- ❑ Ensure the farm has a premises ID that has been updated within the last 1-2 years.
- ❑ Ensure identification tags are on all animals.
- ❑ Ensure livestock vaccinations are current
- ❑ Communicate with your farm veterinary office in advance about any specific concerns that should be addressed prior to a storm.
- ❑ Move hay storage above flood levels as wet hay can spoil or spontaneously combust
- ❑ For pastured livestock contained with electric fence, have a backup power option in the event of extended periods of electrical interruption. This might be a battery backup or solar powered fence energizer.
- ❑ If considering evacuating livestock, do so well in advance (at least 48hrs before the storm). Ensure evacuation locations have adequate food, water, veterinary care, & handling equipment.

Additional Considerations for Crops:

- ❑ Review your crop insurance policy and relevant contact information.
- ❑ Harvest any crops feasibly possible.
- ❑ Ensure crop storage buildings have alternative power for ventilation and temperature control.
- ❑ Ensure storage lids, doors, etc., are securely fastened.
- ❑ For tree fruit trellises, ensure that wires are appropriately tensioned.

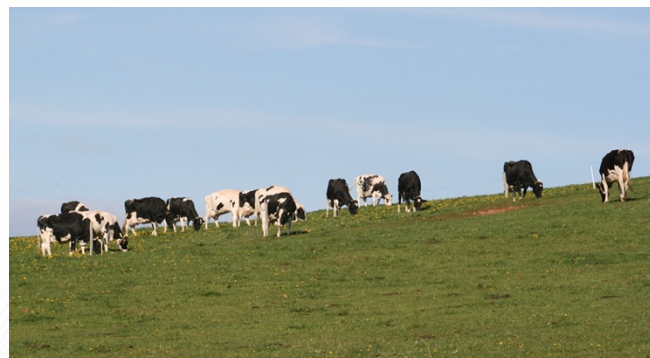
After a significant weather event has occurred:

- ❑ Report power outages
 - Maritime Electric: 1-800-670-1012
 - Summerside Electric: 1-902-432-1268
- ❑ Assess and compile a list of storm-related damage and take lots of photos of damages.
- ❑ Document any evidence of extraordinary costs required to recover from a natural disaster, including your time and activities. Thorough and concise reporting may be necessary to participate in any potential support programming.

Tips to Help You Weather the Storm:

When the storm hits, seek shelter in a secure building. If the winds quiet down for several minutes to half an hour, you could be in the eye of the storm: stay in a safe place. Once the eye has passed, the winds could return with stronger force.

Consider leaving livestock out on pasture (if the pasture has adequate space for animals to run, open area without trees, is free from moveable objects, and free from barbed wire). Animals are safer in the field than in a barn that is not reinforced. If your livestock are housed in a reinforced barn, keep them there. Ensure there is adequate food, water, bedding, and space to move around.



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Do not put yourself at risk during the storm to check your livestock. Wait until the storm has passed. Take care of yourself. Never approach a downed power line as it could be charged, and you could be electrocuted. Never enter a collapsed building unless first responders indicate it is safe to do so. Do not enter a flooded basement unless you are positive the power has been disconnected.

After the storm has passed, if flooding has occurred test well water to ensure it is safe for human and livestock consumption. Additionally, check buildings to evaluate for structural integrity.

Coordinating emergency plans with neighbours and planning to check in on each other if communication lines are down can ensure quick response time in periods of need.

Additional Resources:

Emergency Phone Number: Ambulance, Fire, Police: 911

For more information about tropical storms, please visit the US National Hurricane Centre at <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

and the Environment Canada Hurricane Track at https://weather.gc.ca/hurricane/track_e.html

Learn more about how the **Agriculture Resiliency Program, Extreme Weather Preparedness Subprogram** can help farms make infrastructure improvements to reduce the potential for infrastructure damage arising from extreme weather events at PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/en/information/agriculture/agriculture-resiliency-program.

For more information about this program, please email agresiliency@gov.pe.ca or call 902-213-6476.

Learn more about the **Farmers Talk Program of PEI** at www.FarmersTalk.ca or call for confidential counselling at 1-800-218-2885 / 1-902-894-8006

PEI Office of Public Safety – Emergency Management Organization has emergency preparedness resources at peipublicsafety.ca and can be contacted at 1-902-894-0385

To find **reception centers** in your area, and for current information on reception centers, visit PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/ReceptionCentres/

To find **resilient fuel stations** with backup generator capacity, visit PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/FuelStations/



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