



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2015

TAHC Advises Animal Owners to Prepare Now for Possible Tropical Storm

AUSTIN - The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) advises animal owners to prepare now for possible flooding due to the tropical system currently brewing in the Gulf of Mexico. Beginning on June 16, 2015, the tropical disturbance in the western Gulf is predicted to deliver additional torrential rain and flash flooding to parts of east and north Texas, as well as Louisiana.

According to the National Weather Service, even if tropical development does not occur, a surge of deep moisture will bring a dangerous flash flood threat to parts of Texas impacted by heavy rainfall and flooding in May. Any additional substantial rainfall will quickly prompt flash flooding.

Animals are vulnerable to severe weather associated with tropical storms. Any tropical storm system can wreak havoc on the livelihood of farmers and ranchers.

In case you need to evacuate your home or ranch, make plans for your livestock and pets. Remember that disasters often displace animals left behind so it is imperative that you have a way to identify your animal(s). Ear tags, microchips, brands, contact information attached to halters/collars, and pictures of you with your animal are good ways to prove ownership after a disaster.

In addition to your personal disaster kit, put together supplies that may be needed for your livestock/pets.

A livestock/pet disaster kit may include:

- A waterproof container in which to store feed and equipment
- A one week supply of feed
- Copies of veterinary records, breed registry and any paperwork proving ownership
- An emergency contact list
- First aid kit
- Detailed diet and medication instructions
- Maps of local area with possible evacuation routes

Proper planning and preparedness are key in preventing or minimizing the loss of livestock and pets. Stay informed and protect your livestock and pets against potential severe weather threats.

For more information on how to protect your livestock when a disaster occurs, read the TAHC brochure, *Protecting Livestock When Disaster Strikes* at http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure_EmergencyManagement.pdf .

For more information on how to protect your companion, service, and assistive animals when a disaster occurs, please visit:

- http://texasprepares.org/English/family_pets.shtml
- <http://www.prep4agthreats.org/>
- <http://www.ready.gov/caring-animals>

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC,) one of the oldest state regulatory agencies, was founded in 1893 with a mission to combat the fever ticks that plagued the Texas cattle industry. Today, the agency works to protect the health of all Texas livestock including: cattle, equine, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, exotic livestock and fowl.

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