



# Farmstead Flood Recovery Checklist: Livestock Care After a Flood

- You may need to move dairy cows to a neighbor's milking unit, use natural instead of mechanical ventilation and feed by hand if your buildings are not usable.
- Take special precautions against flood-related accidents or diseases in poultry and livestock. Give animals extra care, particularly if they have been stranded by floodwaters and have been off regular feeding schedules. Watch for signs of flood-related diseases, such as lameness; fever; difficulty breathing; muscle contractions; or swelling of the shoulders, chest, back, neck or throat. Be prepared to contact a veterinarian if you spot trouble.
- If grazing cattle swallow storm debris such as nails, wire, fence staples or other metal, the animal can die. Putting magnets into cattle's stomachs is the best way to protect them from "hardware disease." You can administer stomach magnets with a balling gun, which often is used to administer pills. You can get magnets from your veterinarian or animal health products supplier.
- If you have a feed mill, grinder-mixer, total mixed ration mixer or forage harvester equipped with a magnet, make sure the magnet is in place and working properly.
- See more in "Maintaining Livestock Health After a Flood" at [www.ag.ndsu.edu/flood/farmranch/maintaining-livestock-health-after-a-flood](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/flood/farmranch/maintaining-livestock-health-after-a-flood) .

\*\* THIS FACT SHEET IS BASED ON NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY RESOURCES DEVELOPED BY KENNETH HELLEVANG, EXTENSION ENGINEER.