

Evacuation of Livestock



The large-scale evacuation of livestock presents a unique challenge to Lamont County staff and livestock owners.

Stock trailers, records of ownership and medical information must be readily available for the transportation of livestock and the effectiveness of an evacuation. Livestock may be skittish and unwilling to evacuate (enter trailers) or may be extra agitated as a result of a nearby hazard or extreme weather conditions.

Regrettably, some livestock owners do not have the capacity to ensure the safety of their animals during emergency situations, as the livestock are put out to pasture far away from the owner. In this scenario, livestock owners often risk their own lives during disasters by traveling out to livestock areas to check on the animals. Lamont County seeks to remedy this situation by creating a livestock evacuation process and procedures. In addition, Lamont County has established designated safe places as “Livestock Evacuation Centres” where evacuated livestock can temporarily live.

WHEN IS EVACUATION NECESSARY?

The Director of Emergency Management or a Service Chief may have to initiate evacuation of residents under the following conditions:

1. When it is not safe to remain in the area;
2. A fire that forces abandonment of an area;
3. A flood that forces abandonment of an area;
4. A tornado that forces abandonment of an area;
5. A chemical or gas release that forces abandonment of an area.

NOTE:

Often people are reluctant to evacuate as a result of not wanting to leave their livestock behind. Evacuating livestock prior to the evacuation of the public may increase the likelihood of livestock owners' willingness to evacuate.

Source: Lamont County Livestock Emergency Plan



WHEN YOU ARE ADVISED TO EVACUATE¹

Upon receipt of direction to evacuate, the Director of Emergency Management will advise residents to:

1. Leave the area immediately;
2. Proceed to the designated Reception Center;
3. Wait at the Reception Center until advised that it is safe to return to the area.

THINGS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR LIVESTOCK EVACUATION PLAN²

- Current list of all animals should be readily available. Information should include: location, records of feeding, tests and vaccinations. Have more than one copy available at different locations of your operation.
- Temporary identification, which can include plastic neckbands and permanent markers. Make sure it is legible and has up-to-date information such as name, address and phone number.
- Keep handling equipment for each type of animal accessible; bolt cutters are useful to free animals quickly.
- It is important to familiarize yourself and family with the plan, and have two options for evacuation.
- Find ahead of time somewhere to house your livestock and animals if your premises becomes evacuated or unsafe due to an emergency.
- Make sure feed and other supplies are available at the evacuation centre.
- When an evacuation order is given, be prepared to leave.
- Make sure transportation is available that is appropriate for each type of animal being relocated.

Please contact Lamont County Emergency Services if you require additional resources (780) 895-2233

Information provided from:

1. Lamont County Livestock Emergency Plan
2. Wildfires and Livestock—Alberta Agriculture and Forestry— [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/com14420](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/com14420)



In the event of a Livestock Emergency call 9-1-1

For more information on the Lamont County Livestock Emergency Response Unit call (780) 895-2585.