Livestock and Horses: Emergency Management for Large Animals

SART Training Media
Livestock and Horses:
Emergency Management for Large Animals
Workbook

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About Florida SART

SART is a multiagency coordination group consisting of governmental and private entities dedicated to all-hazard disaster preparedness, planning, response, and recovery for the animal and agriculture sectors in the state of Florida.

SART operates at the local level through county SART organizations.

SART utilizes the skills and resources of many agencies, organizations and individuals with its multiagency coordination group structure.

SART supports the county, regional, and state emergency management efforts and incident management teams.

SART Mission

Empower Floridians through training and resource coordination to enhance all-hazard disaster planning and response for animals and agriculture.

SART Goals

• Promote the active engagement of each county coordinator who is responsible for animal and agricultural issues
• Provide assistance in the development and writing of county ESF-17 plans
• Promote the establishment of a county SART to work as a multiagency coordination group to support emergency management and incident management teams
• Provide training for all SART and animal and agriculture personnel
• Identify county resources available for an emergency or disaster
• Work to comply with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) document
Subject: Emergency management of large animals during a disaster requires a basic understanding of animal behavior, emergency management procedures, and preparedness. The top priority is always the safety of human caretakers.

Session Outline

Part 1—Beginning the Workshop
Part 2—Learning Objectives and Importance
Part 3—Cattle Management in an Emergency Setting
Part 4—Horse Management in an Emergency Setting
Part 5—Highlight Key Resources
Part 6—Summary and Wrap-Up

Learning Objectives

At the end of this unit, participants will be able to:

1. Define emergency management issues for large animals.
2. Explain the health and safety priority of personnel.
3. Describe the basics of cattle and horse behavior.
4. Identify emergency management procedures for cattle and horses.
5. Explain the principles of humane euthanasia for cattle and horses.
6. Describe key prevention and preparedness issues.
7. Identify key resources available for more information.
Emergency Management for Large Animals

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University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine / IFAS

The authors wish to express their appreciation to the various agencies and individuals that have supplied images for this presentation.
Avoid injury to yourself

- Animals in emergency situations are:
  - Nervous, anxious, possibly injured
  - Unpredictable
  - Dangerous!

Priority #1

Primary Objective

When assisting animals during an emergency situation:

- Your safety is ultimately the highest priority!
- Don’t endanger yourself or fellow first responders to attempt historic rescue measures for animals

Learning Objectives

- Know that top priority is health and safety of caretakers and personnel
- Know basics of cattle and horse behavior
- Know emergency management procedures for cattle and horses
- Know principles of humane euthanasia for cattle and horses
- Prevention and preparedness are the keys
Avoid Injuries from Horses

Horses
• Can “kick” with either one or both back feet – Roundhouse (out to the side) or straight back
• Can “strike” with front feet
• Can bite and “bite hard”
• May hit you with their head
• Will crowd or crush
• Will run over you if they have no other way out

Avoid Injuries from Cows

Cows
• Kick with back feet – usually one foot, but sometimes with both – Bovines are “masters of the roundhouse”
• Will hurt you with their head
• Will crowd and/or crush
• Don’t bite
• Will run over you if they have no other way out

Cattle Management In an Emergency Setting
Vision in Cattle

Because of the location of their eyes:
• Cattle have panoramic vision (310-360 degrees)
• Blind spot is directly behind their head
• Vertical vision
  • Cattle – 60 degrees
  • Humans – 140 degrees
• Sensitive to unusual movements
• Depth perception is poor
• Ability to focus on items close up is poor

The Herd Instinct

• Cattle sense security in numbers
  – Always move cows in groups
  – An animal separated from the group will try to get back to the group
• Maternal instinct is strong
  – Cows and horses will protect their young

Management of Emergencies in Cattle

How cattle perceive their environment
• Safety in numbers – the “herd instinct”
• Vision
• Hearing
• Handling
  – Flight zones
  – Point of balance
Cattle Handling 1

- A small flag on a stick is useful for moving or sorting cattle
- Cattle respond negatively to abuse, loud noises, and other confusing situations
- Keep noisy equipment away from cattle

Cattle Handling 2

- Yelling at cattle increases the stress level of both cattle and handler
- Cattle are creatures of habit – An established daily routine will ease handling
- Handle animals in groups – A single animal may be hard to handle, get back into a group if possible

Cattle Handling 3

- Handler’s movements should be slow and deliberate
- If cattle refuse to move, look for distractions
  - Something on a fence
  - Trash on the ground
  - Other people trying to help!
- Mixing groups of cattle can add to the stress of these animals
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To continue movement in the desired direction, the handler continues to zig-zag back and forth behind the animals—Bud Williams

Bud Williams is well-known among cattle owners for his guidance on animal handling.

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Herding Cattle 2

When the majority of the herd has come together into a loose bunch, increase pressure on the collective flight zone to initiate movement in the desired direction—Bud Williams

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Herding Cattle 3

To continue movement in the desired direction, the handler continues to zig-zag back and forth behind the animals—Bud Williams

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Slides 16-18
Cattle Well-being and Care

- Even in an emergency setting, animals will have basic needs that must be met
- In order to know how to care for animals, their needs must be known and understood
  - Nutrition
  - Environment or Housing
  - Health concerns
- If these are addressed, animal care and welfare concerns involving cattle are fulfilled

Needs: Nutrition 1

Cattle are ruminants – they are able to utilize food such as hay and grass
- If possible, provide access to grass pastures
- Hay may be fed as necessary
- Cattle enjoy equine sweet feeds (6-8 lbs per head)

Needs: Nutrition 2

- In an emergency situation, cattle can survive for days without feed
- Calves being nursed by cows need no additional feed other than what is supplied to their mothers
- Orphan calves can be fed a commercial milk replacer
  - Feed 8% of calf’s body weight of reconstituted milk replacer
  - Patience is required when feeding orphans
• A majority of beef cattle are reared in a range environment. Providing drained pasture with available shade should be adequate
• Fencing should be adequate to confine animals to a specified area

### Needs: Water 1

- Cattle need access to water 24 hours per day
- Regardless of the amount feed given to cattle during an emergency, cattle cannot go without water for an extended period of time (more than 24 hours)
- Cattle can utilize standing water as well as fresh water (but not brackish or salt water)

### Needs: Water 2

**Water Needs for Various Species (gallons per head)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Gallons per head</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef cattle</td>
<td>7-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy cattle</td>
<td>10-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>8-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep and Goats</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickens</td>
<td>8-10 per 100 birds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkeys</td>
<td>10-15 per 100 birds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Extreme heat stress could increase high values by 20-30 percent
Heat Stress Symptoms

- Signs of heat stress
  - Rapid respiration, open-mouth breathing
  - Head down or extended
  - Animal is usually standing
  - Elbows held away from the body
- Heat stroke
  - All of the above – plus – animal becomes very depressed, goes down and progresses toward death
- Cattle often respond to stress by bunching together, even with heat stress

Cattle Health Concerns and an Environmental Disaster

- Generally, there are few if any medical emergencies for beef cattle during environmental disasters
- Lack of available water may leave some animals dehydrated
- Lack of shade and water may lead some animals to heat stress and heat stroke

Needs Summary

- Grass in an open pasture (trees)
- Available water
- Adequate fencing
Heat Stress

• Lack of available shade and water may lead heat stress in cattle
• Moving animals during periods of high temperature and humidity may also lead animals to heat stress or heat stroke
• Often for cattle during times of heat stress, the best thing to do is leave cattle alone (provide shade if possible)

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Heat Stress

• It is the combination of temperature and humidity that determines the severity of the heat stress
• Use the temperature-humidity index (THI) as a guide to heat stress
  – Above 75 THI: ALERT – Cows decrease feed consumption and milk production
  – Above 80 THI: DANGER – Cows decrease feed consumption and milk production
  – Above 84 THI: EMERGENCY – Cows decrease feed consumption and milk production

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Temperature-Humidity Index (THI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature (°F, dry bulb)</th>
<th>Relative Humidity (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>84 85 86 87 88 90 91 92 93 94 95 97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 91</td>
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<td>90</td>
<td>78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 90</td>
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<td>88</td>
<td>77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88</td>
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<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Normal < 74, Alert: 75-78, Danger: 79-83, Emergency > 84

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Slides 28-30
Heat Stress Management Plan

- Have ample water available – 2-3 gallons per 100 lbs and make sure of delivery capability
- If watering from a trough, allow 3 inches of linear space per animal
- Avoid handling cattle if at all possible
- Improve air flow, if possible

Cattle Health Concerns

- Emergency conditions where cattle are gathered from various operations can increase the risk of infectious disease
- Difficult to treat individual animals
  - Can medicate the group through water or feed

Most Common Health Concerns 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Concern</th>
<th>Treatments (Call veterinarian)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bloat</td>
<td>Manage nutritional concerns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>Broad spectrum antibiotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Baytril</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Nuflor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Excede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- AS 180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Tetradure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Most Common Health Concerns 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Concern</th>
<th>Treatments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Mastitis – Dairy cows</td>
<td>• Antibiotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Milk cow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lacerations</td>
<td>• Can be treated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fractures</td>
<td>• May require euthanasia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Analgesia</td>
<td>• Banamine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Proper Restraint!

- Tools of the trade
  - Squeeze chutes
  - Corrals
  - Rope halters
  - Lariats
  - Tail restraint
  - Nose tongs – Use only with a rope halter
  - Sedatives/anesthetics
- Plan ahead

### Cattle Restraint 1

- Rope Halter
  - Apply properly
  - The part that draws goes under the jaws
  - Made for cattle not horses
- Lariat
  - Assumes that there is something that can secure the animal after being caught
Chemical Restraint 1

- Xylazine (Rompun)
  - IV usage ranges from 0.05 to 0.22 mg/kg
  - IM dosage is 0.1 to 0.44 mg/kg
  - At these dosages, Xylazine is safe - Sedation and analgesia for 30 minutes to 2 hours

Cattle Restraint 2

- Portable chute with head restraint
  - Experienced people should operate the chute
  - Do not stand in front of chute
  - Do not cause discomfort with excessive pressure

Cattle Restraint 3

- Tail jack
  - Will immobilize the rear quarters for examination purposes
Chemical Restraint 2

- Concerns and Precautions
  - Use under the supervision of a veterinarian
  - Decreased heart and respiratory rates
  - Bloat
  - Avoid usage in debilitated cattle
  - Watch out when used in high temperatures – Animals unable to cool themselves
- Antidote – Tolazine: 0.4 to 4.0 mg/kg

Emergency Medical Treatment

- Consideration and utilize local resources
  - Veterinarian
  - Cowboys
  - Area ranchers
  - Law enforcement
- Proper restraint will be critical to avoid injury to animal and yourself

Treatment or Euthanasia?

- Actions involving debilitated or injured cattle may fall into either the category of treatment or euthanasia
- Euthanasia may be the most humane alternative when dealing with seriously injured or ill cattle
Treatment or Euthanasia?

- Criteria in the decision making should include:
  - Pain and distress of the animal
  - Likelihood of recovery
  - Ability to get feed and water
  - Diagnostic information
  - Welfare for the animal; humane considerations

Euthanasia of Cattle

Humane Euthanasia by Gunshot
or Penetrating Captive Bolt

Properly applied... “euthanasia by either gunshot or penetrating captive bolt causes less fear and anxiety and induces a more rapid, painless, and humane death than can be achieved by most other methods.”

Euthanasia by Gunshot

Under farm or ranch conditions:
  “Gunshot is the most practical method”
- .22 caliber long rifle bullet
  - Sufficient for young animals
  - Hollow points may not penetrate the skull
- 9 mm, .357, or similar caliber is required for adult or mature animals
  - Bulls, adult cows, mature horses, mature elk and deer
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Slides 46-48

Euthanasia: Positioning

- Proper positioning of a firearm (pistol or rifle)
  - Should be held within 6-12 inches of the intended target
  - Position or aim the firearm so that direction of the bullet is perpendicular to the skull to avoid ricochet
- Positioning of the penetrating captive bolt
  - Hold the device firmly against the head over the intended site

Euthanasia: Anatomical Landmarks

Projectile point of entry
- Wrong – “between the eyes”
- Right – In cattle, at the intersection of two imaginary lines drawn from the corners of the eyes to the base of the opposite horn

Closing Thoughts on Cattle 1

- During an environmental disaster, cattle may have emergency needs for food, water, shelter, and medical concerns
- Often the best option concerning cattle in emergency situations is to leave them alone
- If they are in harm’s way, look for help
Closing Thoughts on Cattle 2

- Owners of beef cattle, ranchers and cowhands are often the best prepared people to handle the emergency needs for their herds.
- If producers do need assistance from disaster relief personnel, volunteers providing that assistance need to have a basic understanding of beef cattle.

Horse Management in an Emergency Setting

Horse Management 101

- Behavior
- Nutrition
- Basic Hurricane Preparation
Horses like to be in groups
They can be territorial
Separate mares and foals from other horses
Separate stallions

Horses need good quality hay
- Coastal-bermuda grass hay
- Timothy hay
- Orchard grass hay
- Alfalfa or peanut hay
Round bales should be avoided

Adults (1000 lbs) need 10-15 pounds of hay per day (1/4 to 1/5 bale)
In emergency setting, grain is not necessary, except for lactating mares, juvenile animals, or severely underweight horses
Water

- Most essential nutrient
- 10 gallons per horse per day

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Horse Identification

- Take Polaroid picture of each horse
- Label horse
  - Luggage tag on halter
  - Microchip
  - Brand/tattoo
  - Clipper phone number into coat

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Hurricane Preparation for Horse Farms

Preparation through education is less costly than learning through tragedy.

-- Max Mayfield,
Director, National Hurricane Center
Before Hurricane Season...

- Current immunizations
  - West Nile Virus
  - Eastern Equine Encephalitis
  - Tetanus Toxoid
- Keep documents handy!
  - Coggins’s test
  - Health Certificate

Should they evacuate?

Where can horses go?

Contact...
Sunshine State Horse Council
- [http://www.sshc.org/](http://www.sshc.org/)

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When to travel?

• 48 hours before hurricane force winds hit the area
• Winds greater than 40 mph are dangerous

Lessons from 2004

Keep horses out of barns that are not safe!

Lessons from 2004

Move horses from flood-prone areas
Flooded Pastures

- Water moccasin snake encounters are likelier in flooded pastures
- Fire ants will move to high, dry ground as will the horses and increase risk of exposure

Snake Bite/Fire Ants

Before therapy

1 week later

Electricity

- Turn off power to barn
- Do not put horses in a pasture with power lines overhead
Drinking Water

- 12-18 gallons per horse per day
- Generator for well
- Large garbage cans with liners

Fences

- Walk the perimeter of the pasture and make sure that fences are intact and can contain the animals

Emergency Treatment: Triage

- When presented with the situation, the animal that is the most critical but with the best chance of living should be attended to first
Emergency situations may require rapid changes in management practices and feedstuffs

- Monitor horses for signs of colic (flank watching, rolling) and laminitis (reluctance to move due to sore feet) as these may be associated with changes
- Seek veterinary care as soon as possible

Euthanasia

- In some cases, sustained injuries may necessitate humane euthanasia
- Best performed by a veterinarian or under veterinary guidance
- However, such assistance may not be readily available
When euthanasia is necessary, always minimize animal distress as much as possible

- Presence of humans may be reassuring for animals accustomed to human contact – penetrating captive bolt/exsanguination (bleeding out) may be preferred
- For wildlife, human contact causes fear and greater distress – gunshot may be preferred
  - Gunshot permits the least amount of human contact

Humane euthanasia by gunshot or penetrating captive bolt...

- Despite being humane, both are aesthetically displeasing procedures
- Involuntary movement will occur
  - “Kill the head; the body dies slowly” – Temple Grandin
  - Exsanguination requires several minutes and is visually uncomfortable to observe
- These procedures should be conducted out of the public view

Death should be confirmed by evaluation of the following physical parameters over a period of several minutes

- Lack of a heartbeat
  - A pulse is normally not present under such circumstances
- Lack of respiration
  - These may be erratic in an unconscious animal
- Lack of a corneal reflex
- Lack of movement over a period of several hours
  - The presence of “rigor mortis”
Unacceptable Methods of Euthanasia

The following are forbidden under Florida law (Florida Statutes 828.12)
- Manually applied blunt trauma to the head, such as a large hammer
- Injection of any chemical substance not labeled for use as an euthanasia agent
- Injection of air into a vein
- Electrocutation, as with a 120- or 200-volt electrical power

Resources

Animals in Disasters

- Caring for Livestock after Disaster, Colorado State Univ. (Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3)
- Preparing to Evacuate Your Farm When Flooding is Expected [Link]
- FEMA Course: Livestock in Disasters [Link]
- Animal Health Hazards of Concern during Natural Disasters (USDA-APHIS) [Link]
- Helping Four-Legged Friends Survive the Storm (Univ. of Florida video) [Link]
- Sunshine State Horse Council – Evacuation Resources [Link]

Resources

Disaster Preparedness for Animals

- Disaster Planning Tips for Pets, Livestock and Wildlife (HSUS) [Link]
- Disaster Preparedness Guidelines for Livestock Owners (Indiana Public Board of Animal Health) [Link]
- Disaster Preparedness Guidelines for Horse Owners (Indiana Public Board of Animal Health) [Link]
- Guidelines for the Development of a Local Animal Care Plan in Emergencies, Disasters, and Evacuations (Purdue Univ.) [Link]
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In an emergency, your safety is of the utmost importance

Prevention and preparation are the keys

Providing animals with adequate shelter, water, and food is critical in the immediate aftermath of an emergency

Treating injured animals may not be feasible without help from trained professionals
Thank You!
Resources

Animals in Disasters

Caring for Livestock After Disaster. Cotton, Scott, and Ackerman, R., Colorado State University, 2006.

– Part 2: http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/livestk/01815.html

Preparing to Evacuate Your Farm, Safety Measures When Flooding is Expected http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001401-d001500/d001487/d001487.html

FEMA Course: Livestock in Disasters. http://training.fema.gov/emiWeb/IS/is111.asp

USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services division publication, “Animal Health Hazards of Concern During Natural Disasters” published in Feb. 2002 is available at the following link. The goal of the publication is to “describe some of the natural disasters that have occurred in the U.S. during recent years and to review some infectious and noninfectious hazards that are perceived to be related directly to natural disasters. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/EmergingAnimalHealthIssues_files/hazards.PDF

Helping Four Legged Friends Survive the Storm, 18 minutes, University of FL. This video shares the insights of veterinarians and others in providing relief to animals affected by disasters. http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/videos/v001401-v001500/v001438.html

The Sunshine State Horse Council has good information relating to horse evacuation and disaster on their Web site and can be found at www.sshc.org

Disaster Preparedness for Animals


Animal Handling


Cattle Handling Safety, 13 minutes, SW Center for Ag. Health, TX. Examines the best techniques for moving and working cattle safely, understanding the animal’s flight zone and how cattle are likely to react to common situations. http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/menu/video/video2.html

Livestock Safety for Kids, 11 minutes, SW Center for Ag. Health, TX. This video uses young people to illustrate the right way to interact with livestock and stay safe. http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/videos/v001401-v001500/v001434.html

Agencies with Animal Resources

FDACS, Division of Animal Industry. http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/

Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). http://www.doacs.state.fl.us

National Agricultural Safety Database (NASD). The information contained in NASD was contributed by safety professionals and organizations from across the nation and provides a national resource for the dissemination of information. http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/


University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension publication resource (EDIS) offers many fact sheets for various veterinary and animal health issues. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/Departement_Veterinary_Medicine http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOP-IC_Livestock_by_Animal

University of Florida IFAS Extension Disaster Handbook. http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu