

# BE PREPARED BEFORE THE STORM

## DOs

- ✓ Develop a whole farm plan in the event of an emergency, to include evacuation plans for yourself, family, and livestock.
- ✓ Keep farm records, inventories, production history and other important documents up to date.
- ✓ Frequently listen to radio, TV, or other sources of official information about the storm's progress.
- ✓ Inspect and secure buildings, fences, livestock, and equipment.
- ✓ Check supplies and stock up on essential items: food/feed, water, first aid supplies, fuel, cash.
- ✓ If evacuating, leave early and travel with friends or relatives. Designate a shelter location prior to leaving.
- ✓ Contact your local FSA office with questions or for more information about Disaster programs available, [www.farmers.gov/service-locator](http://www.farmers.gov/service-locator).

## DONTs

- ✗ Be unprepared, Hurricane season is June 1 to November 30 every year, with August and September being the most active months for storms in Florida.
- ✗ Ignore safety hazards or delay necessary repairs in and around your farm.
- ✗ Delay preparation activities and be caught off guard from storm impacts.
- ✗ Disregard warnings and calls to evacuate, if necessary.
- ✗ Remain in your tractor or vehicle, or try to outrun the storm if tornado and/or flooding conditions are imminent.
- ✗ Keep livestock in a closed barn or other structure, if large livestock can't be evacuated, their best chance for survival is in a larger pasture with high ground and some form of cover.

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# AFTER THE STORM

## DOs

- ✓ Ensure conditions are safe and evaluate your farm.
- ✓ Take photos with the date and time.
- ✓ Secure debris and/or livestock and take other required immediate action to prevent further losses.
- ✓ Clear access roads.
- ✓ Document your time working to recover from the disaster and types of equipment used.
- ✓ Keep verifiable records, with copies, of all expenses:
  - ◇ If bartering, keep a copy of a signed agreement with barter details and all parties signature.
  - ◇ If paying in cash, keep proof of payment records with date, pay rate and payee signature.
- ✓ Contact your local FSA office with questions or for more information about Disaster programs available, [www.farmers.gov/service-locator](http://www.farmers.gov/service-locator).

## DONTs

- ✗ Let curiosity of the extent of storm damage allow you to be put in a dangerous situation.
- ✗ Delay caring for livestock once conditions are safe.
- ✗ Start any clean-up activities prior to approval that are not causing further losses.
- ✗ Remove stumps, or other debris from the site prior to approval.
- ✗ Take any action that will exceed prior ground disturbance.
- ✗ Pay for materials or services without receipts or documentation.
- ✗ Reuse materials damaged by the storm, or materials that were previously in service.
- ✗ Submit required documentation after program deadlines or signup period concludes

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