



# What are the resources available to livestock producers?



California has its share of natural and man-made disasters. Severe weather including extreme cold, and heat, drought, floods, and wildfires are some of the natural hazards that beef and dairy cattle producers should prepare for. Producers are known for their self-sufficient nature, but sometimes additional resources may be needed.

## General Information

If your facility is under a county evacuation order or warning and you need to evacuate livestock, trade groups and processors including slaughter and rendering establishments can assist with most transportation needs. Other sources include neighboring facilities and local haulers. We recommend you:

- **Develop a [Farm Emergency Action Plan](#)** addressing various disasters. Review, test, and update your plan, supplies, and information regularly.
- **Partner with other producers** for potential transportation and evacuation needs. Know where cattle can be evacuated to and ensure that agreements are in place with other ranches or facilities so that cattle can be moved quickly if necessary. Trade organizations and processors may be able to assist producers by compiling lists of willing host dairies and vacant facilities. County fairgrounds, sales-barns and feedlots have been used as a last resort if facilities with milking equipment are not available.
- **Contact List** of available and reliable transport resources and assess their ability to assist in the event of a disaster. Experienced handlers and drivers are essential.
- **Ensure** barns, water systems, penning and loading facilities, and other essential farm components are in good working condition.
- **Maintain good records** on your cattle herd, including animal identification, breed registrations, treatment, and vaccination procedures.
- **Take pictures and video** of livestock, structures, and farm implements to serve as useful records for insurance and disaster-payment purposes after a disaster.
- **Keep insurance up to date** and know the details of what is and what is not covered under each specific insurance policy.



## Local Resources

- Neighboring producers are an easy and accessible resource and can quickly mobilize efforts to rescue livestock during disasters. These neighbors have trucks, livestock trailers, and skills.
- Agricultural producers and workers have knowledge of produce, livestock and direct work experience.
- **[County Farm Bureaus](#)** may offer assistance in livestock emergencies and coordinate with UC Cooperative Extensions.
- **[UC Cooperative Extensions](#)** may offer assistance in livestock emergencies and have local county offices.
- Trade Organizations and processors for the most part may organize transport from neighboring producers.

Organizations include but are not limited to:

- [California Cattleman's Association](#)
- [California Cattle Council](#)
- [Central Counties Dairy Herd Improvement Association](#)
- [Western United Dairies](#)
- [Milk Producers Council](#)
- [California Cattle Women](#)
- [Dairy Institute of California](#)
- [California Dairies](#)
- [Dairy Cares](#)
- [California Dairy Campaign](#)
- [California Beef Council](#) (includes range cattle, dairy cattle, feedlots, packers/processors)

Other resources to consider are private sector who may provide livestock transport services for hire in a disaster:

- Livestock Markets
- [California Feedlots](#)
- Local Professional Livestock Haulers & [CDFA Animal Hauler List](#)
- [CDFA Saleyards Directory](#)
- [Slaughter and Rendering Facilities](#)
- Livestock Transport
- Milk Transport
- Heavy Equipment for Hire
- Trucking Firms

## County Resources

In an emergency or disaster, the county operational area (OA) emergency operations center (EOC) will activate (open) to coordinate requests for assistance from the community, which includes agriculture. The agricultural community should use the local and private sector resources available to them first including contracting for services before contacting the county agencies and/or the OA EOC for assistance through their disaster hotline. These resources include:



<p><a href="#">County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC)</a></p>	<p>Charged with the protection of California agriculture, protection of the environment and public's health and safety. If you are a producer with livestock and need assistance evacuating or mitigating the effects of the disaster, you should contact the CAC to forward your request for assistance to the county OA EOC. County animal services may vary from county to county, but some may be able to assist with livestock issues.</p>
<p><a href="#">Environmental Health (EH)</a></p>	<p>Counties of Fresno, Imperial, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, Sonoma, Tulare/Kings, and city of Long Beach are <a href="#">CDFA approved</a> for milk inspection services and permitting of dairy farms. If you are in one of these counties, you should contact EH to forward your request for assistance to the county OA EOC.</p>
<p><a href="#">County Office of Emergency Services (OES)</a></p>	<p>OES can serve as an important source of emergency information and assistance during a disaster. A hotline number may be established to report issues/damages and request assistance. Community meetings or daily briefings may be organized to provide current information about the disaster, which may also be included in the county website or local law enforcement or fire Facebook page. Producers should stay informed concerning response and recovery efforts.</p>

## Disaster Preparedness – Are You Ready?

Disaster preparedness is essential for protecting animal health and welfare during emergencies. Alerts received at the right time can save lives and give you time to evacuate if your county law enforcement issues an evacuation order. Sign-up for your county's wireless emergency Alert program [here](#) to receive notifications when an imminent threat to life and property exists in your area, including severe man-made or natural disasters such as earthquakes, wildfires, and flooding. If you work in one county, but you live in another, you can sign up for both. If you live in an area prone to wildfires, download the CAL FIRE Ready for Wildfire application in [English](#) or [Spanish](#) to create a personalized wildfire readiness plan and learn active incident information and get quick and timely wildfire updates.

**Are  
You?  
Ready**

Contact:  
[California Animal Response Emergency System \(CARES\)](#)  
 (916) 900 5002  
[cdfa.ahb\\_cares\\_program@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cdfa.ahb_cares_program@cdfa.ca.gov)