

## Preparing for Flood Conditions in Rural Manitoba

### Key Contacts

- **Animal Care Line at 204-945-8000 in Winnipeg** will co-ordinate requests for help from pet owners and hobby farms affected by flooding. The line is open between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. daily. After-hours requests will be recorded on an answering machine which will be monitored regularly. All calls will be referred to the appropriate agencies including the Winnipeg Humane Society, City of Winnipeg (Animal Control), Manitoba Emergency Response for Animals (MERA) and Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association.
- [Winnipeg Humane Society](http://www.winnipeg.ca/humane) at **204-982-2021** can advise on emergency care for your pets.
- **Manitoba Horse Council Horse Rescue at 204-925-5718 in Winnipeg** will help arrange for moving and temporary boarding of horses.
- [Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation \(MASC\)](http://www.masc.mb.ca) local offices will provide information on agricultural insurance.
- Additional information on flood preparations and response is available on the Manitoba Government [flood site](#).

### Caring for Livestock

- To help the province prepare for and manage animal health issues during the flood, all owners or operators of premises with livestock and poultry should complete a premises identification application. Applications can be obtained at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/premisesid/pid01s02.html> or from your local GO Office.
- Most producers and rural area residents have flood plans that include care of livestock and stored grain crops.
- Producers need to ensure their livestock have access to feed and water on high ground. They may need to arrange for additional feed onsite if the herd cannot be moved or if local roads are blocked. An alternate source of energy, such as a backup generator, should be available for use in barns.
- Producers who need help finding a temporary location for livestock should contact their local GO Office.
- Producers must ensure there is adequate feed and water at any temporary location being used by their livestock.

### Caring for Pets

Pet owners should have a plan for their pets if they must evacuate their homes. See [Looking After Your Pets](#) fact sheet for more information. Owners should take all pets with

them or make alternate arrangements with family or friends.

When moving pets, ensure they are in a proper transportation kennel or container and have access to food and emergency care. Keep proper animal control equipment with the animal. This includes leads or leashes as well as the animal's food and water containers.

- If pet owners cannot keep their pets with them, consider boarding at an animal kennel, humane society or at a veterinary office. There will be a charge for this, but it may be refunded through an individual Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) claim.

## **Protecting Crops**

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) has a series of fact sheets dealing with crop production when there is excess moisture. These cover late planting, soil fertility, disease management and dealing with farm equipment and pesticide containers that may have been flooded. Contact your GO Office.

- Most grain in flood areas is protected from floodwater or has been moved to safe storage. Producers with grain storage bins on land that is in danger of flooding should make plans to move the grain as soon as possible.
- Farmers whose grain is at risk of being flooded are being requested to contact the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) and self-identify. The CWB is working through elevators to allocate railcars and move grain out of the region. At this point, only the A grades are being accepted, but this may expand to B grades and fusarium grades as time progresses
- Agricultural producers in flood areas can apply for special spring-road restriction permits. They allow producers to move grain, oilseed and livestock out of flood-affected areas. Contact your GO Offices or Motor Carrier Permits and Development in Winnipeg, Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 204-945-3961 or toll-free 1-877-812-0009.
- The Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) offers a range of crop insurance coverage that includes excess moisture. For information about specific programs, contact your [MASC office](#).
- Farm production advisors and business development specialists at GO Centres are available to answer questions and help producers deal with specific flood issues.
- Producers and residents should contact local municipal offices if there are culverts that need to be opened to keep water flowing along ditches.

## **Manitoba Farm and Support Services**

The Manitoba Farm and Rural Support Services offers confidential support, counseling and information for rural residents. Call toll free 1-866-367-3276 Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. or send an e-mail to [help@ruralsupport.ca](mailto:help@ruralsupport.ca).