

Caring for Cattle Exposed to Flooded Pastures

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Hurricane Harvey has reminded us that cattlemen have some unique concerns when it comes to caring for and managing cattle that may have become stranded in flooded pastures.

Ideally the first thing to do is make sure that water has receded and in general, assume flooding has brought with it contaminated water into the pasture. Puddles can be contaminated water.

Look for debris and clear it from the field. If a portion of the pasture is going to have standing water, consider putting up a temporary fence to keep cattle away from it. Otherwise some livestock may cause compaction of very wet soil.

Sediment may have brought undesirable plants/seeds. Keep an eye on this area during future growing seasons. Reseeding may need to be considered.

Before returning to a flood impacted area, make sure that you and your animals have proper vaccinations. An example for humans would be to make sure tetanus vaccinations are up to date.

Flooded hay should be disposed of or used on fields as a fertilizer. Move these bales away from buildings because they are a possible fire hazard.

For additional information visit the Floods and Your Pets and Livestock site maintained by the Center for Food Security and Public Health at:

<http://www.prep4agthreats.org/Natural-Disasters/floods-pets-and-livestock>