



Business and Industry Portal

[Home](#) > [For industry](#) > [Agriculture](#) > [Rural disaster recovery](#) > [Disaster recovery for livestock farms](#) > [Animal welfare in natural disasters](#)

Animal welfare in natural disasters

Severe weather patterns, including floods, cyclones and bushfires, can have serious impacts on Queensland homes and properties.

After human safety, the welfare of your animals should be your most important consideration in the event of a natural disaster.

All owners and carers have a duty of care to provide appropriate food, water, shelter and treatment for their animals.

There are many actions that you can take before a natural disaster to help ensure the welfare of your animals. There are also simple steps to follow when addressing the needs of animals during, and after, a natural disaster.

It's also important to note that the rules of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) are sufficiently flexible during times of natural disasters so that cattle owners and producers have a number of options for dealing with displaced cattle.

This guide will help you protect the safety and welfare of your animals before, during and after a natural disaster in Queensland.

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

© The State of Queensland 1995–2015



Business and Industry Portal

Home > For industry > Agriculture > Rural disaster recovery > Disaster recovery for livestock farms > Animal welfare in natural disasters > Caring for animals in natural disasters

Caring for animals in natural disasters

There are some simple steps to follow when addressing the needs of animals in natural disasters:

- Make sure your animals have clean water and food.
- Be careful when handling animals, as they may be frightened or disorientated.
- Be aware of straying stock and wildlife, and be careful on the roads.
- Do not allow animals in extreme distress to suffer.
- Contact your local veterinarian regarding sick or injured animals, and contact the RSPCA or your local council [<http://www.qld.gov.au/about/how-government-works/local-government-directory/>] regarding lost and found animals.

Food and water

The most important consideration in the short term is to ensure your pet or animal has access to suitable, good-quality water.

Food supplies could be in short supply and, with damage to roads, resupply into an area could be delayed.

Owners and carers of companion animals should ration any existing unspoilt feed until new feed can be accessed. You should first use suitable food items from the fridge, which could spoil due to interruptions in power supplies, and conserve any dry or tinned food.

If food supplies are low or have run out, contact your neighbours, any local animal shelters, businesses and industry organisations to arrange food supplies. Primary producers should refer to information about fodder assistance [<http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/environment/disaster-and-emergency-assistance/agency-disaster-support/provision-of-fodder>].

In the longer term, consider moving your pets or livestock to a friend or family member's property if necessary.

Animals found to be starving should not be allowed to suffer and should be fed, relocated or humanely killed as a last option. Contact your local vet for advice if this is required.

Disposing of animal carcasses

Contact your local council [<http://www.qld.gov.au/about/how-government-works/local-gov>

ernment-directory/] for assistance with animal carcass disposal following declared natural disasters. Any deceased animals must be disposed of safely. Human health concerns, work health and safety precautions and environmental impacts must be considered.

Contacts

- RSPCA - 1300 852 188 or 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries - 13 25 23
- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection - 1300 130 372 (wildlife)

Related links

- Find out about infectious animal disease issues after a flood [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/disaster-recovery-for-livestock-farms/flood-affected-animals/flood-disease>].
- Learn about plant poisoning issues after a flood [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/disaster-recovery-for-livestock-farms/flood-affected-animals/flood-poison>].
- Read about foot disease in animals after a flood [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/disaster-recovery-for-livestock-farms/flood-affected-animals/foot-diseases>].
- Learn about parasite problems after a flood [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/disaster-recovery-for-livestock-farms/flood-affected-animals/flood-parasites>].
- Find information on bringing animals home after a natural disaster [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/disaster-recovery-for-livestock-farms/animal-welfare-disasters/disaster-animals-home>].

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

© The State of Queensland 1995–2015



Business and Industry Portal

[Home](#) > [For industry](#) > [Agriculture](#) > [Rural disaster recovery](#) > [Disaster recovery for livestock farms](#) > [Animal welfare in natural disasters](#) > [Preparing animals for natural disasters](#)

Preparing animals for natural disasters

Whether you keep livestock or have a pet at home, preparing for a natural disaster will safeguard the welfare of your animals and assist with recovery after the event.

All owners and carers have a duty of care [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/animal-management/land-management-for-livestock-farms/welfare-movement-livestock/animal-welfare/duty-care-animals>] to provide appropriate food, water, shelter and treatment for injury or disease for their animals.

Before a natural disaster

Having a contingency plan is vital. This may include taking the following actions:

- If you intend to evacuate your property and cannot take your animals with you, ensure they are in a safe place.
- Move livestock to higher ground if there is a risk that lower areas may become flooded. This may also mean opening gates and giving animals access to other paddocks or areas to escape rising waters or out of control bushfires. If possible, keep a map of where you are placing animals in case you are unable to return to your property and other people need to know where they are.
- Remove or clear flammable items - especially near where animals might be kept. Remove rugs and halters from horses as these can often burn or melt.
- Purchase emergency fodder supplies and store them in a safe place, preferably under cover. Ensure that pets have sufficient stocks of food, medication and water to last a period of emergency.
- Confine your pets in a safe place, preferably inside and under cover, and ensure they have access to plenty of water.
- Ensure that livestock and pets can be identified to help facilitate their return in case they become lost and displaced. Effective methods of identification include brands, NLIS devices, microchips and name tags.
- Keep stock registers up to date and in a safe place.
- Secure loose objects around the home that may become airborne during high winds and cause damage to animals and property.
- Move animals to an alternative property if practical.

Remember that animals get jittery before a storm, and are more easily upset and spooked. Always handle animals carefully in these situations.

Evacuations

Contact your local council [<http://www.qld.gov.au/about/how-government-works/local-government-directory/>] or other agencies about emergency animal shelters and yards that may be available for animal evacuations.

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

© The State of Queensland 1995–2015



Business and Industry Portal

Home > For industry > Agriculture > Rural disaster recovery > Disaster recovery for livestock farms > Animal welfare in natural disasters > Bringing animals home after a natural disaster

Bringing animals home after a natural disaster

Livestock and pet owners should bring their animals home only when it is safe to do so. Consider the following issues before bringing animals home.

Debris

Thoroughly search the property to find out the extent and nature of the debris. Large amounts of household goods and waste may have been deposited during the disaster.

Before releasing any animals into an area, remove any potentially dangerous debris from the property that could injure your animals.

Accommodation and security

Make sure all accommodation is clean, dry and undamaged so you can house your animals safely. You will need to disinfect hard surfaces, such as concrete pads, walls and other surfaces, if they have come into contact with any floodwater.

Learn more about disinfecting animal living areas after a flood [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/disaster-recovery-for-livestock-farms/animal-welfare-disasters/disaster-animals-clean>].

All areas designed to contain animals (e.g. fences and compounds) should be checked and repaired if damaged.

Noise and activity

Animals that have been affected by natural disasters may be traumatised and easily frightened. Where possible, return animals only after you have completed major cleaning and rubbish removal activities.

To settle animals back into their environment quickly, try to avoid the high activity and noise levels caused by generators, bulldozers and power washers. Also avoid having large numbers of unfamiliar people around the animals.

Food and water

Ensure that animals have access to suitable quality water. Keep animals away from any floodwater on the property. Additionally, do not allow animals to drink water that is stagnant and/or flood affected (including storage water that has been flood affected) as it could contain high levels of bacteria and other dangerous contaminants.

Animals must not have access to debris, as it could contain spoiled food or dead carcasses, which could be harmful if eaten.

Give the animals good-quality food or suitable pasture. You can use hydrated lime to disinfect grassed areas that have been inundated with contaminated water. Sprinkle the lime over the area, water in well and keep animals off the area for at least 7 days.

Shade

Many structures may have been damaged or destroyed during the floods. Animals returning to properties must have adequate shade to shelter from the weather.

Check the existing structures to ensure they are safe and secure. Also ensure that there is adequate shelter to accommodate the animals.

Pastures should have safe and secure sheltered areas provided by either constructed materials or trees sufficient to provide shelter for all the animals in the paddock.

Monitoring

Once you return your animals home, check them regularly to ensure they are settling in well. Initially, monitor them at least daily to ensure they are eating properly, have not sustained injuries from unobserved debris and are settling in.

Make sure you can adequately access the areas where animals have been released so you can monitor them regularly and easily feed them if required.

Related links

- Find out about infectious animal disease issues after a flood [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/disaster-recovery-for-livestock-farms/flood-affected-animals/flood-disease>].
- Learn about plant poisoning issues after a flood [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/disaster-recovery-for-livestock-farms/flood-affected-animals/flood-poison>].
- Find out about foot disease in animals after a flood [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/disaster-recovery-for-livestock-farms/flood-affected-animals/foot-diseases>].

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)



Business and Industry Portal

Home > For industry > Agriculture > Rural disaster recovery > Disaster recovery for livestock farms > Flood-affected animals > Infectious animal disease issues after a flood

Infectious animal disease issues after a flood

Read our guide on vector-transmitted diseases [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/health-pests-diseases-livestock/vector-transmitted-diseases>] for other diseases that can increase after flooding.

The immediate issues for livestock during and following floods often relate to trauma and exposure injury. However, other significant impacts on livestock can arise from infectious disease.

Clostridial (mainly blackleg) and leptospiral (lepto) infections represent a risk after flooding.

Botulism is a progressive paralysis from the ingestion of a toxin found in rotting animal material or on the bones of dead animals.

Prolonged wetness of wool can also lead to skin infections, the most common of which is lumpy wool in sheep.

This guide discusses some of the major infectious diseases that can arise after a flood, and what you can do to minimise the risks to your livestock and business.

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

© The State of Queensland 1995–2015



Business and Industry Portal

[Home](#) > [For industry](#) > [Agriculture](#) > [Diseases and disorders of animals](#) > [Bovine ephemeral fever](#)

Bovine ephemeral fever

Bovine ephemeral fever (BEF) is a disease that affects cattle and occasionally buffaloes and is marked by a short fever, shivering, lameness and muscular stiffness. Also commonly known as 3 day sickness, BEF is an arthropod-borne virus (most likely mosquitoes) and widespread in Queensland.

The disease may cause serious economic losses through deaths, decline in condition, decreased milk production, lowered fertility in bulls, occasional abortions and delays in marketing.

Cause

An arthropod-borne rhabdovirus known as 'ephemeral fever virus' or 'bovine ephemeral fever virus'.

Other names

- 3 day sickness
- BEF

Distribution in Queensland

- occurs most years in northern Australia.
- usually spreads from north to south.
- governed by season and rainfall.
- can occur in herds just south of the usual distribution.
- herd immunity depends on
 - location relative to normal distribution
 - recent seasonal conditions.

Affected animals

- cattle; buffaloes

Hosts

Unconfirmed. Thought to be mosquitoes and biting midges (sandflies).

Symptoms

There are typically 3 recognised stages of bovine ephemeral virus.

The acute febrile stage appears suddenly and is especially noticeable in dairy cattle. Affected cattle are likely to:

- show signs associated with a fever
- have a rectal temperature over 40°C
- shiver (in approximately 50% of cases)
- stand with their backs arched and heads held low, muzzles extended, drooling saliva
- have discharge from eyes and nostrils
- stop feeding and cud chewing
- have reduced milk production, especially in dairy cows.

The second stage is muscular stiffness and lameness in 1 or more limbs. Some secondary bloat may occur due to general inflammation of the abdominal cavity and ruminal stasis. Lameness may shift between limbs and joints may be visibly swollen.

During recovery, most affected animals resume eating and drinking. Animals may go down, with heavy animals in good condition being most affected. Some animals remain down due to muscle damage or damage to the spinal cord from constant struggling.

Impacts

Economic

Significant losses can occur because BEF is most severe in more valuable classes of cattle, including:

- bulls
- pregnant and lactating cows
- fat, well-conditioned cattle.

Symptoms usually last only a few days, but the disease can significantly affect the herd's production in the following ways:

- dramatic drop in milk production - over 70% is not uncommon
- milk yield after recovery is often reduced by 15% or more
- lactating cows can dry up completely
- abortion can occur in heavily pregnant cows
- occasional deaths (3%) or prolonged recumbency leading to 'downer syndrome' can occur
- temporary or permanent paralysis may occur as a result of damage to the spinal cord
- most of the herd can be affected
- bulls may be temporarily infertile.

The potential cost of an outbreak in a 100-cow herd would be \$5,700 over a month, based on the following figures:

- 2003 costs
- 15% milk loss
- milk being worth \$0.29 per litre
- a 3% death rate
- cattle being worth \$1,000 per head.

The cost of treatment for affected animals can also be considerable.

How it is spread

While the vectors have not been confirmed, mosquitoes and biting midges (sandflies) are thought to be responsible.

The disease can also be spread by intravenous inoculation of small amounts of blood. BEF is not transmitted by close contact, bodily secretions, or aerosol droplets, nor does it seem to be transmitted in semen. Carriers are not known to occur and the virus is rapidly inactivated in meat.

The spread of the disease depends on the season and weather conditions - rain and prevailing easterly and southerly winds are necessary for the survival and dispersal of vectors. The National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMMP) monitors the spread of ephemeral fever virus within Australia.

Risk period

In most years, BEF cases start at the beginning of the wet season in northern Australia, and then spread south and east down the east coast. It then spreads into southern Queensland, and central and coastal New South Wales.

It is less common in drought years, but can occur following an extended period of drought.

Monitoring and action

BEF epidemics are diagnosed on the presence of lameness, muscular stiffness, pain, short fever and rapid spread of the disease through herds.

The virus can often be cultured from a blood sample taken from animals in the early stages of the disease. A PCR test can also identify the presence of the virus, and is most successful when samples are collected in the first few days of clinical disease. Alternatively, 2 blood samples—the first taken during the fever stage and the second 14 days later—can be collected to detect the presence of antibodies to the virus.

Control

Vaccination

There is a modified live vaccine for BEF that provides long-lasting protection. A 2-part vaccine - freeze-dried vaccine with chilled liquid adjuvant - that must be mixed prior to administering, it provides good levels of protection against BEF. While some cattle might still develop mild disease after vaccination, the severity and duration of illness tends to be much lower than in unvaccinated cattle.

The vaccine should be administered twice, 2–4 weeks apart, under the skin of the neck for long-lasting protection. To ensure that animals are fully immune before insect populations have the opportunity to breed, you should vaccinate before spring, especially in northern Australia.

An annual booster should be given 8–10 weeks before the BEF season.

Treatment

- Anti-inflammatory drugs have been shown to reduce the course of the disease.
- Consult your veterinarian for an appropriate anti-inflammatory drug, considering the withholding period of the drug for meat and milk.
- Most animals will recover if given water, shade and food.

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

© The State of Queensland 1995–2015



Business and Industry Portal

[Home](#) > [For industry](#) > [Agriculture](#) > [Rural disaster recovery](#) > [Disaster recovery for livestock farms](#) > [Flood-affected animals](#) > [Infectious animal disease issues after a flood](#) > [Botulism](#)

Botulism

Botulism is a progressive paralysis from the ingestion of a toxin found in rotting animal material or on the bones of dead animals. It is usually fatal, as it paralyses respiratory muscles. It is commonly associated with livestock chewing bones in an attempt to obtain phosphorus (P) when the pasture is deficient in it.

Pasture in many parts of Queensland is deficient in phosphorus due to a deficiency in the soil. However, in very good years, a relative deficiency of phosphorus may also occur in otherwise adequate situations. With rapidly growing pasture, energy and protein levels can be very high, and animals require high levels of phosphorus in their diet in order to utilise these nutrients. If phosphorus is not available in the pasture, animals may look to supplement the diet with bones. In these situations, botulism can occur.

Risks after flooding

After floods, decaying vegetation can be a source of botulism toxin. An immediate risk of botulism exists if animals consume carcass materials or decaying vegetation either inadvertently or in trying to meet a phosphorus need on marginal country. However, the risk may not arise until later in the year when the country dries a little, and the pastures recover and begin to 'explode' due to the moisture and nutrients deposited by the flood.

Prevention

Maintaining an up-to-date vaccination program is the best approach to preventing botulism; however, phosphorus supplementation may also help animals make better use of vigorously growing pasture.

Phosphorus supplementation may supply the extra phosphorus if given early. However, if cattle develop a habit of chewing bones, this habit may continue after their phosphorus requirement is met or the requirement has passed, with the risk of botulism remaining.

Related links

- Learn more about botulism [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/species/diseases-disorders/animals/botulism>].
- Read our guide on vector-transmitted diseases [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/health-pests-diseases-l>].

ivestock/vector-transmitted-diseases] for other diseases that can increase after flooding.

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

© The State of Queensland 1995–2015



Business and Industry Portal

Home > For industry > Agriculture > Rural disaster recovery > Disaster recovery for livestock farms > Flood-affected animals > Infectious animal disease issues after a flood > Blackleg and leptospirosis

Blackleg and leptospirosis

Clostridial (mainly blackleg) and leptospiral (lepto) infections represent a risk after flooding. This is because moisture provides more favourable survival conditions and the blackleg spores are exposed by the effects of soil erosion or movement.

Symptoms

When blackleg spores or leptospiral organisms enter an animal, disease may or may not occur immediately. For blackleg, some other precipitating event, such as an injury, is usually required for disease to develop. Therefore, it may be some time before the disease is actually seen.

Blackleg generally presents as severe disease with sudden/rapid death in animals less than 2 years of age, with rapid bloating of the carcass. There may be gas under the skin or in the muscles even before death.

For leptospirosis, disease in young animals may occur soon after infection, especially if the lepto involved is like *L. pomona*, resulting in severe depression, high temperature and often blood in the urine. Lepto infections in older animals may be asymptomatic or result in abortions. Abortions due to lepto do not usually occur until the third trimester of pregnancy, so significant abortion numbers might not be seen until months later.

Prevention

Vaccinations for both diseases are highly effective in preventing disease if a full course is given. Even if already infected, vaccination may prevent clinical leptospiral disease developing. The animal will remain infected and able to transmit disease organisms, though in reduced numbers. Several 7-in-1 formulations are available that enable you to vaccinate against both common leptospiral and clostridial diseases with one product. (There are many different leptospiral organisms but only 2 cause most lepto diseases in cattle.)

Related links

- Learn more about clostridial disease [<http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/animal-industries/dairy/health-management-and-diseases/clostridial-diseases>] and leptospirosis [<https://w>

www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/species/diseases-disorders/animals/leptospirosis].

- Read our guide on vector-transmitted diseases [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/health-pests-diseases-livestock/vector-transmitted-diseases>] for other diseases that can increase after flooding.

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

© The State of Queensland 1995–2015



Business and Industry Portal

[Home](#) > [For industry](#) > [Agriculture](#) > [Rural disaster recovery](#) > [Disaster recovery for livestock farms](#) > [Flood-affected animals](#) > [Plant poisoning issues after a flood](#)

Plant poisoning issues after a flood

Flooding or high rainfall can cause the growth or increased abundance of many toxic plants. These plants can be harmful, or in some cases fatal, to livestock, so it's important that you take care to minimise risks.

If you notice a plant you are not familiar with, you should have it identified as soon as possible so action can be taken if needed.

If you identify unknown or known toxic plants, be careful with how you proceed to eradicate or treat these plants.

This guide explains some of the most common poisonous plants you may see post-flooding, the signs that you may see in poisoned animals, and the ways you can identify and treat poisonous plants on your property.

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

© The State of Queensland 1995–2015



Business and Industry Portal

[Home](#) > [For industry](#) > [Agriculture](#) > [Rural disaster recovery](#) > [Disaster recovery for livestock farms](#) > [Animal welfare in natural disasters](#) > [Moving cattle during and after a natural disaster](#)

Moving cattle during and after a natural disaster

The rules of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) are sufficiently flexible during times of natural disasters to provide cattle owners and producers with a number of options for dealing with displaced cattle.

Some situations have straightforward solutions in relation to NLIS tagging and database transfers and others may require approvals from biosecurity inspectors.

Because of the possibility of disease outbreaks in the aftermath of natural disasters, it is essential to be able to trace cattle.

Waybill requirements within Queensland

You must complete a waybill [<https://forms.business.gov.au/aba/qldgov3/waybill/>] when moving stock within Queensland, including when cattle are:

Displaced to immediate neighbour

These cattle can be returned home as soon as practical whether NLIS tagged or not. A database transfer is not required.

Displaced further afield - tagged cattle

Tagged cattle can return to their home property. Scan once, then update the database with a 'to' and 'from' transfer for where they were found. Biosecurity Queensland offices in flood areas have scanners available to assist with this process.

Displaced further afield - un-tagged cattle

Owners should discuss the return of these cattle with an inspector to decide how best to identify and record their movements. Three options exist and owners may need to seek advice from their local inspector on the best option for their particular circumstance. Un-tagged cattle not returning home

Un-tagged cattle not returning to their home property must be tagged with a post-breeder (orange) tag for the property of consignment. The receiver is required to update the NLIS database [<https://www.nlis.com.au/>].

Related links

- Find out about the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/animal-management/land-management-for-livestock-farms/welfare-movement-livestock/legal-requirements-transporting-animals/nlis>].
- Learn more about moving cattle and buffalo [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/animal-management/cattle/welfare-and-transport-of-cattle/moving-cattle-and-buffalo>].
- Read about moving livestock into Queensland [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/animal-management/land-management-for-livestock-farms/welfare-movement-livestock/legal-requirements-transporting-animals/livestock-entry>].
- Learn more about waybills [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/animal-management/land-management-for-livestock-farms/welfare-movement-livestock/legal-requirements-transporting-animals/waybill-regulations>].

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

© The State of Queensland 1995–2015



Business and Industry Portal

Home > For industry > Agriculture > Livestock > Land management for livestock farms > Welfare and movement of livestock > Legal requirements when transporting animals > National Livestock Identification System

National Livestock Identification System

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) ensures cattle, sheep, pigs and goats can be identified and tracked throughout Australia. Queensland participates in the NLIS and has legislation supporting NLIS.

Traceability, especially lifetime traceability, is important for biosecurity purposes, including the management of disease and chemical residues.

View our National Livestock Identification System video [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUYZXiY5Pyo&feature=youtu.be>] for more information. Legislation supporting the NLIS is the *Stock Act 1915* and the Stock Identification Regulation 2005 (PDF, 503KB) [<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/S/StockIdentR05.pdf>].

Property identification code (PIC)

The NLIS is based on the property registration system. Your property must be registered with Biosecurity Queensland if you keep one or more head of horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, buffalo, deer, camelids (camels, llama, alpaca), or 100 or more poultry including caged birds.

Find out how to register your property to get a property identification code [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/animal-management/land-management-for-livestock-farms/land-management/property-identification-registration>].

NLIS requirements

The following requirements for NLIS are in place when moving livestock in Queensland:

All cattle moved to any place with a different PIC, starting from when they leave their place of birth, must be identified with an approved NLIS device [<http://www.mla.com.au/Meat-safety-and-traceability/National-Livestock-Identification-System/NLIS-devices>] and the movement reported to the NLIS database [<https://www.nlis.com.au/>].

Sheep and goats must be identified with a readable ear tag printed with a PIC. Mob-based movement recording for sheep and goats is mandatory in Queensland.

Pigs must be tattoo slapped branded or be identified with a readable plastic tag that bears a PIC. Tattoo slap brands may be used with pigs in conjunction with the national PigPass

[<http://www.pigpass.com.au/>] or Queensland waybill system.

Livestock requirements

Learn about NLIS requirements for:

- cattle [<http://www.mla.com.au/Meat-safety-and-traceability/National-Livestock-Identification-System/NLIS-cattle>]
- sheep and goats [<http://www.mla.com.au/Meat-safety-and-traceability/National-Livestock-Identification-System/NLIS-sheep-and-goats>]
- pigs [<http://www.pigpass.com.au/pics-tattoos-ear-tags>]

Natural disasters and stray stock

In the event of livestock being displaced by a natural disaster or in the case of straying livestock, the NLIS can be used to assist their relocation.

Find out how the NLIS can help with moving cattle during floods and natural disasters [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/animal-management/land-management-for-livestock-farms/welfare-movement-livestock/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-disasters/disaster-cattle-move>] and identifying stray cattle after a natural disaster [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/animal-management/land-management-for-livestock-farms/welfare-movement-livestock/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-disasters/disaster-identify-cattle>].

Related links

- Learn about waybills [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/animal-management/land-management-for-livestock-farms/welfare-movement-livestock/legal-requirements-transporting-animals/waybill-regulations>].
- Find out about animal welfare during transport [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/animal-management/land-management-for-livestock-farms/welfare-movement-livestock/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-during-transport>].
- View our National Livestock Identification System video [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUYZXiY5Pyo&feature=youtu.be>].

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

© The State of Queensland 1995–2015



Business and Industry Portal

[Home](#) > [For industry](#) > [Agriculture](#) > [Rural disaster recovery](#) > [Disaster recovery for livestock farms](#) > [Flood-affected animals](#) > [Foot diseases in animals after a flood](#) > [Foot rot in cattle](#)

Foot rot in cattle

Foot rot is usually characterised by acute inflammation of the skin and adjacent soft tissues of the space between the digits (interdigital space). It is accompanied by swelling, lameness and, in most cases, a foul-smelling necrotic lesion of the interdigital skin.

Causes and contributing factors

A number of bacteria usually present in the environment can cause infection of bovine feet. Healthy epithelium (skin) is resistant to bacterial organisms, while diseased or injured skin is susceptible to infection. High rainfall with wet faeces and mud can soften the interdigital skin, making it susceptible to injury.

Infectious agents gain entry through the skin as a consequence of injury caused by sharp pieces of stone, metal, wood, stubble or thorns. Other factors that may encourage damage to the interdigital skin include irritation and erosion of the interdigital skin caused by interdigital dermatitis, believed to be, in part, a consequence of the constant exposure of feet to mud and manure.

Clinical signs and diagnosis

The most obvious clinical sign of foot rot is lameness, which worsens as the disease progresses. There is inflammation and tissue death, resulting in swelling and pain. There is usually a bad smell associated with foot rot.

Cattle may stand with the foot raised, be reluctant to move, lose their appetite, lose weight, and have a low-grade fever and reduction in milk yield. Hind feet are affected most often and cattle tend to stand and walk on their toes. If left untreated, lameness becomes increasingly severe, with infection extending to the joints and other deeper structures of the foot.

Diagnosis of foot rot is made by observing the animal and physically examining the foot for the characteristic gross lesions. Cattle producers often diagnose any lameness associated with foot swelling as foot rot, but a more careful examination may reveal other causes of the swelling and lameness, such as injury or foreign bodies.

Treatment

Ideally, move the animals to a paddock or yard that is not waterlogged and is free of abrasive footings. Clean the affected foot of mud and any tissue tags. Prompt diagnosis and initiation of antimicrobial therapy are essential to achieve a satisfactory response. The application of local treatments to the foot may assist; however, the treatment of choice is injectable antibiotics administered for 3-5 days.

In feedlot cattle, feed additives may be a better option for treatment (provided the animals are eating), especially if large numbers of cattle are involved. In pastured cattle that cannot be regularly yarded, the use of long-acting injectable antibiotics is needed, though response to treatment, especially in severe cases, is less successful than with daily injections. For very severe cases, an affected claw may need to be amputated to salvage the animal.

Cases that cannot be treated or fail to respond to treatment should be euthanised on humane grounds.

Prevention

Preventative measures include removing sources of injury, and keeping feet dry and clean. Mud holes should be filled and stagnant pools drained or fenced off. Feedlots should be well drained and manure removed frequently. In areas where cattle walk frequently, such as in lanes or gateways, grading or filling in low areas to provide a well-drained pathway for walking may help to prevent foot rot cases. Pouring a concrete pad or establishing solid pads around feed bunks and water troughs will help keep feet dry.

In dairy cows, beef cows and bulls, regular foot care, including claw trimming as needed, helps prevent foot diseases and injuries. Animals may also be walked through a foot bath containing copper sulfate, zinc sulfate or formalin. Footbaths are more commonly used in dairies and may be impractical for most beef herds.

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

© The State of Queensland 1995–2015



Business and Industry Portal

[Home](#) > [For industry](#) > [Agriculture](#) > [Rural disaster recovery](#) > [Disaster recovery for livestock farms](#) > [Animal welfare in natural disasters](#) > [Disinfecting animal living areas after flood damage](#)

Disinfecting animal living areas after flood damage

Before giving your animals access to any kennels or living areas, properly disinfect the area to protect your animals from potential sources of contamination.

If floodwater has inundated the living area, try to keep animals away until you can effectively clean it because it may have high levels of contamination due to floodwater mixing with sewage and other material.

Do not allow your animals to drink any remaining floodwater, or eat any carcasses or debris lying on the ground. If necessary, fence off an area that is safe to hold the animals until you have cleaned any contaminated areas.

Disinfecting contaminated surfaces

It is important that you effectively disinfect any surfaces that have come into contact with floodwater. To do this, first remove loose dirt and debris from surfaces by thoroughly cleaning with detergent. A pressure washer, if available, can help remove stubborn areas of mud.

You can buy commercial-grade products from your local hardware store or agricultural supplier that contain compounds designed to clean, disinfect and sanitise buildings and surrounding areas. For disinfectant to be effective, you must leave the surface wet and use the required dilution rate for the required contact time.

Alternatively, washing down all surfaces with a suitable household-grade disinfectant solution can be an effective disinfectant. Most bleaches also act as disinfectants, so check that the product you use is a registered disinfectant. The solution helps prevent the spread of infection by killing common bacteria and viruses that could make your animals sick.

After removing loose dirt and debris from surfaces, scrub the area with the bleach solution. Keep the surfaces wet for the required contact time and then rinse off. Ensure that the area is thoroughly dry before allowing your animal into the area.

Note: organic matter, such as dung, hair and plant material, will inactivate the disinfectant effects of chlorine compounds.

Ensure that you use a registered product and follow the manufacturer's directions, including dilution rates, contact time and safety precautions as listed on the product label. Do not mix chlorine and ammonium compounds. Follow the recommended application safety precautions outlined on the label.

Disinfecting bedding and containers

If bedding or food and water containers have been contaminated, thoroughly clean and disinfect them before use. You can usually clean metal and hard plastics effectively, though timber products can be more difficult to disinfect.

You should use a suitable commercial- or household-grade disinfectant. Note that the dilution rate may be different to the recommendation for disinfecting hard surfaces.

Always follow the manufacturer's dilution recommendations listed on the product label.

If you are unsure whether you can disinfect some items effectively, safely dispose of those items and purchase new ones.

Related links

- Find out about infectious animal disease issues after a flood [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/disaster-recovery-for-livestock-farms/flood-affected-animals/flood-disease>].
- Learn about plant poisoning issues after a flood [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/disaster-recovery-for-livestock-farms/flood-affected-animals/flood-poison>].
- Find out about foot disease in animals after a flood [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/disaster-recovery-for-livestock-farms/flood-affected-animals/foot-diseases>].
- Find information on bringing animals home after a natural disaster [<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/disaster-recovery-for-livestock-farms/animal-welfare-disasters/disaster-animals-home>].

Contact: General enquiries 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

© The State of Queensland 1995–2015