

After the Fire Checklist

Barn fires are stressful and traumatic events for farm families. This checklist is a tool to help you manage the overwhelming number of decisions you may need to make in the aftermath of a fire involving livestock.

Section 1: Support for Me, My Family and my Employees

1A: In the First Few Hours or Days

Is everyone ok? Yes No

Does anyone need medical care? Yes No

Who needs to know that this happened? (Who should I call?) _____

Who is my support network? _____

- Volunteers from Victim Services may be contacted by the local fire department
- Spiritual advisors, neighbours, friends or family

Who would be a good spokesperson for me and my farm? _____

- Do I need someone to help protect my privacy? Yes No
- Do I need someone to help me respond to inquiries, media and calls? Yes No
- What if the media calls? _____

Do I need to talk with fire personnel about the safety of our house after the fire? Yes No

- Is it safe to stay in our house, or is there a safe place where my family and I can stay? Yes No
- Is there a source of safe and clean drinking water for us? Yes No

1B: During the Next Few Weeks

Is anyone in my family or any of my employees experiencing or showing signs of trauma? Some things to watch for:

- Problems sleeping
- Nightmares
- Flashbacks
- Difficulties doing or enjoying tasks
- Difficulties relating to others
- Emotional outbursts
- Difficulties entering barns or conducting routine chores

Who can I ask for help?

- Spiritual advisor
- Trusted friends or family
- Family doctor
- Victim Services to see about local counselling opportunities and other signs of trauma
- Mental Health Helpline to see about local crisis lines: 1-866-531-2600
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868

Section 2: My Livestock and Poultry

2A: In the First Few Hours or Days

- Do I have any animals that survived? Yes No
- Do I need to get a veterinarian to check on the remaining animals? Yes No
 - Are there animals whose health can be monitored? Yes No
 - If so, how? _____
 - Are there animals that must be sent to market now? Yes No
 - Are there animals that must be euthanized due to their injuries? Yes No
- Do my remaining animals need feed or water? Yes No
- Is there a clean and safe source of drinking water for my animals? Yes No
 - Do my animals have to be moved off of the farm to get feed or water? Yes No
 - Do I need straw or other bedding materials for my animals? Yes No
- Are there animals that cannot be moved because they are gestating or birthing? Yes No
- Ask my vet what can be done.
- Do I have housing for the remaining animals to suit their needs? Yes No
- If not, do my neighbours have adequate barn space and equipment, i.e. milk parlour, cages, etc., for them? Yes No
 - Is it okay to transport the remaining animals to another farm? Yes No
 - Who will I get to transport the animals? _____
- Are there dead animals? Yes No
- Who can help me with recovery and disposal of the dead animals? _____
 - Contact OMAFRA at 1-866-424-1300 for advice on deadstock disposal.
 - Call the rendering company to pick up dead animals that can be salvaged.
 - Is the outside temperature going to make it necessary to quickly remove deadstock? Yes No
 - Is the temperature cold enough that we can take some time to clean up? Yes No
 - Is scavenging going to be a problem? Yes No

2B: During the Next Few Weeks

- Are the animals I'm monitoring responding well? Yes No
- Do I need to involve the veterinarian again? Yes No
- Do I need to ship some of the animals that are not responding well to treatment? Yes No
- Where do I ship them? _____
- If I am managing the deadstock on the farm, how will I manage any neighbour's concerns?
- _____

Section 3: My Barn, Buildings and Infrastructure

3A: In the First Few Hours or Days

Is there any damage to the remaining buildings? Yes No

- Are the buildings safe to enter? Contact a Professional Engineer to determine if the building is structurally sound. Yes No
- Who will I contact for heavy equipment for clean-up? Think of an excavator, scrap bins, etc. _____

What condition is the feed storage in? _____

- Contact a Professional Engineer to determine if the building is structurally sound.
- Has the feed been contaminated by the fire or during the firefighting efforts? Ask my vet or feed technician. Yes No
- If so, how do I manage the waste? _____

What condition is the manure storage in? _____

- Was the manure storage damaged by the fire or during the firefighting activities? Contact a Professional Engineer to assess the structural integrity of the storage. Yes No
- Is the under barn storage full of manure and water? Yes No
- Is it damaged or leaking? Yes No
- How do I separate the manure from the barn debris? _____
- Who can I call to help manage the manure? _____

Do I have feed or other farm supplies coming in? Yes No

- Contact feed dealers, fuel suppliers or other suppliers to cancel or defer shipments.

Are there services that I have to shut off or redirect for the time being? Yes No

- Do I have to disconnect the electrical connection to any areas on my farm? Contact a certified electrician or electrical provider. Yes No
- Do I have to redirect water lines? Yes No
- Do I have to empty, shut off or remove propane or fuel tanks? Yes No

3B: During the Next Few Weeks

Will I need additional feed or bedding materials to make up what I have lost? Yes No

What do I need to clean up the site? _____

Who can help with the cleanup? _____

Can I reuse crushed concrete from the debris? Yes No

Can I sell any of the steel or rebar from the debris? Yes No

Will I have liquid manure to store or land apply? Yes No

- What are my options if I have to land apply? _____
- Will the manure storage hold the volume of manure I need until I can spread it? Yes No

Are there materials and debris in the manure that would make it difficult to spread? Yes No

Do I need to check nearby catchbasins and tile inlets for damage or obstruction? Yes No

What do I need to think about when considering rebuilding? _____

- Contact OMAFRA at 1-866-424-1300 for advice on rebuilding.

Section 4: My Livelihood

4A: In the First Few Hours or Days

What are the questions I have to ask my insurance representative?

- Is there an insurance representative for the livestock? Yes No
- Is there an insurance representative for the building? Yes No
- When will the insurance representative be arriving on site? _____
- Do I have a separate rider for disposal and cleanup costs? Yes No
- How much money do I have for disposal costs? _____
- When do I need to make payments for any expenses? _____
- What documents or information does my insurance representative need to file my claim? _____
- Do I have business interruption insurance? Yes No
 - If so, for how long? _____
- Are my employees and family members covered for lost income? Yes No

If in a production loop, who do I have to call about production cycle interruption?

4B: During the Next Few Weeks

Discuss succession plans:

- Should I rebuild? Yes No
- What makes sense for me and my family when rebuilding? _____
- If I choose not to rebuild, what are the outcomes for outstanding financing? _____

Follow up with the insurance representative:

- If I choose not to rebuild, what are the outcomes from my insurance policy? _____

Contact your commodity sector representative:

- Can they help me arrange a tour of some newer facilities so I can focus on making a good decision on rebuilding? Yes No
- If dairy or poultry, can I lease out my quota to maintain income during down time? Yes No

Contact an accountant and financial adviser to discuss insurance payments and rebuilding my barn:

- What money do I have from the insurance policy to rebuild or exit the industry? _____
- How much additional financing can I get to move forward with plans? _____

Will I need to make a nutrient management strategy or revise my old one? Yes No

- Contact a nutrient management consultant:
www.nutrientmanagement.ca/directories/nutrient-management-consultants/

Contact the local Chief Building Official, as this may be a good time to fix past challenges by changing the location of a barn.

- What do I need for a building permit? _____
- How will Minimum Distance Separation affect me? _____

People to contact and questions to ask:

Contact a Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs environmental specialist and/or engineer in my area for help with deadstock, rebuild and Minimum Distance Separation questions:
1-877-424-1300