Emergency Preparedness Tips for the Dairyman

Flood--Hurricane--Ice Storm--Radioactive Fallout from Nuclear Attack or Accident--Snow Storm--Tornado

1. Maintain a ten-day to two-week supply of grain and forage in bins or space that is enclosed well enough to prevent contamination from outside dust. Feed should be in or adjacent to the buildings where animals are housed.

2. Install a standby generator with capacity to operate milking machine, water pump and other essential equipment. Contact your power supplier for assistance in making a load analysis for determining generator size and for guidance on installation. A farm tractor equipped with proper fittings and adaptors can be used to operate some types of milking machine vacuum pumps in case of power failure.

3. Equip truck or tractor with heavy duty chains and snow blade for keeping private road open and cleaning lots and feeding areas during and following snow storms.

4. Provide fallout shelter area with a two-week supply of food and water for yourself and family. This should be as convenient as possible to dairy buildings to minimize exposure in caring for animals.

5. If nuclear explosion or attack occurs, move all dairy animals into buildings at once. If building space is not available for all animals, use it for breeding stock and the best producing cows. Confine other animals in small lot(s) adjacent to buildings where feed and water are available. Reduce feeding rate to subsistence level.

6. If standby generator is not available, an emergency two-week supply of protected water must be provided. Well water will usually not be contaminated with fallout. Cisterns will be contaminated if roof water is allowed to enter after fallout occurs. Water is more critical than feed for survival of livestock.
7. Have battery operated radio (with spare batteries) and listen for information on intensity of radiation and other details of the emergency for guidance in protecting your family and livestock and resuming farming operations.

8. Wear protective clothing—hat, coat, gloves, boots—the first few days that you go outdoors after fallout occurs. Remove such clothing before entering shelter or living area.

SPECIAL NOTE: Obtain Farmers Bulletin No. 2107 from your County Extension Office for more detailed information about radioactive fallout and how to protect your family and livestock from its hazards.

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