



## Winter Weather Basics for Farmers

**This winter season checklist for farmers offers basic tips for livestock and farm owners --read tips from extension agents, too.**

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Provide appropriate shelter that allows animals to retreat from wet, windy weather. Three-sided buildings are often sufficient for animals that spend most of their time in fields. Make sure other buildings don't deflect wind and snow into the shelter.

### Barn Ventilation

Keep the barn ventilated to help prevent respiratory issues for animals that stay indoors. Keep ventilation and protection in mind when transporting animals, too.

### Dry Bedding

Ensure dry bedding is available and located away from feed and water. It keeps bedding clean longer and helps insulate udders and legs from frostbite.

### Food Adjustments

Increase amount or nutrient density of food for animals exposed to cold weather; they need it to keep warm, especially when temp drops below mid 20s (degrees F).

### Water

Offer a plenty of fresh water -- find ways to keep it thawed -- take unfrozen water to animals or use and frost-proof waterers will ensure than livestock get enough to drink.

### Watch the Weather

Be aware of swings in temperatures, especially in barns that have been closed.

### Know Your Vet

In case of disease outbreaks, have a plan for caring for your animals/relationship with local vet.

### Tractors and Equipment

Tractors may need special care, such as a heavier motor oil or fuel additives or access to outlet to run engine heaters.

Equipment, such as a manure spreader, needs special care after winter use; after use, scrape any manure or wet material out to keep the machine parts from freezing. No matter where you live, winter time on the farm means knowing a few basics when it comes to animal husbandry and farm maintenance.