Cattle Care Checklist: Before the Storm

Preparing the pasture
- Secure or remove loose objects from pastures.
- Move animals to higher ground and interior pastures, if possible.
- If possible, avoid pastures with power lines and electric fencing. Barbed wire or field fence preferred with loss of power.
- Move cattle to a pasture with a pond so well-filled water troughs are not the only source of water.

Feed and water supply
- Stock up on water. Thirsty cattle are known to break out of fencing to get to water.
- Line trash cans with plastic bags or use rain barrels to store water before the storm.
- Have enough hay, feed and health-care supplies on hand for 1-2 weeks.
- Keep feed in a safe, dry place that will not be impacted during the storm.

First aid kit and health
- First aid kits should include halters and ropes, a flashlight with extra batteries, Chlorhexidine or Betadine solution, bandage materials, duct tape, gloves and scissors.
- Make sure cattle are up to date on all vaccinations and have vet records handy.
- Have a list of current contact information that includes your veterinarian, neighbors, USDA Farm Service Agency Office, insurance provider, utility company and your county Extension office.

Vehicles and equipment
- Top off gas tanks in all vehicles. Stock up on enough fuel to run backup generators for equipment.
- Check tires and make sure trailers and equipment are in good working condition.
- Park tractors and equipment on high ground away from trees.
- Ensure chainsaws are in good working order and ready to handle fallen trees.
- Stock up on fence repair materials such as wire, posts and staples.

It’s important to have a Farm Emergency Plan for your operation, family, employees and animals.
For more information on how to develop an emergency plan, visit https://bit.ly/3aPy90V