



# **Quick Reference Guide To Emergency Commercial Livestock Relocation**

## Section 1: Overview

With agriculture operations throughout British Columbia, it is inevitable that emergencies and disasters impact farm operators, livestock and crops. Helping local agriculture producers during an emergency enhances the care of people. Farm owners have often invested a great deal in their operations, and may be reluctant to leave them when an evacuation is ordered. There are also psychological benefits for producers who know every possible effort is being taken to protect their livelihoods.

Emergency response measures can limit business losses and associated impacts to the local and regional community. Like other major sectors, farm businesses contribute to the local and regional economy and tax base. The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (Regional District) is committed to building and supporting agricultural operations, with the expectation of long-term community benefits.

In some circumstances, farm businesses may need logistical assistance with relocating livestock to safety. This is especially true when animal relocation and shelter resources may be limited, or outside of the ability of producers to procure.

Examples of such situations include:

- when there is limited availability of transport trucks, such as during widespread flooding or wildfire, or
- when both primary and alternate shelter locations previously selected by the farm operator are unavailable.

At such times, the Regional District Emergency Management Program may coordinate tactical assistance to farm operators, based on formal requests. Such assistance may include and not be limited to:

- livestock transportation to relocate animals out of harm's way,
- temporary shelter, feed and water for relocated livestock, and
- transportation to return livestock when the hazard has abated.

## Section 2: Planning

The Regional District may issue a warning about an imminent threat to life and property and people are asked to be ready to leave on short notice. Those people with commercial livestock may be eligible for assistance in evacuating animals during the **ALERT** stage, in order to ensure they themselves are prepared to leave if necessary.

The Regional District Emergency Management Program (250-960-4400) provides operational access to provincial support policies and programs focused on the AGRI business sector. Call the Regional District Emergency Management Program – Operations Section (250-960-4475), if assistance is required.

Farm businesses are defined by the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, as those farm businesses where a reasonable expectation of income based on sales is anticipated, including but not limited to, the rearing and keeping of livestock. It does not include the keeping of pets such dogs or cats, hobby farms or animals kept within the confines of a home.

All livestock owners should have an evacuation plan in place. If you don't have alternate property in case of emergency make sure you have transportation and feeding arrangements made and confirmed for your animals.

Remember that provincial government disaster financial assistance is only available for uninsurable perils and even then – funds are limited. Make sure your farm resources are insured – including your stock AND crops.

Farm businesses are an important source of livelihood in many communities across British Columbia. During emergencies, high levels of logistics and time are required to relocate commercial livestock and this process is ideally initiated as soon as a potential threat is identified as imminent.

### **Section 3: Preparedness**

Personal and community preparedness is the key to successful and coordinated response and recovery.

The intent of moving commercial livestock is to minimise the potential of evacuation route congestion and reduce the potential of conflict with residential evacuee movements.

The Farm business will be:

- aware of the specific hazards around them that may influence their operations and livestock,
- willing to accept their strengths and vulnerabilities to respond and recover,
- capable of taking protective action for themselves, their livestock and operations, and
- willing to offer or receive support from other producers and the Regional District Emergency Management Program.

Protect your farm resources by reducing risk to your livestock by preparing and maintaining fuel-reduced areas you can move stock to such as a plowed or heavily grazed field with water.

## Section 4: Response

During emergencies the primary responsibility for livestock protection lies with the individual farm businesses. If the farm business has the ability to relocate livestock themselves, they are encouraged to do so. It is important to note that response costs incurred directly by farm businesses (i.e. fuel for the farmer's own equipment, the farmer's feed, etc.) are not eligible costs.

The Regional District Emergency Management Program – Operations and Logistics Sections may be able to help producers during an evacuation, with activities such as arranging for sorting, loading, trucking, and sheltering.

In recognition of the time and resources required to relocate livestock, provincial policy allows for the relocation of commercial livestock for eligible farm businesses during an evacuation '**ALERT**' stage. It also allows for the reimbursement of response costs incurred by the local authorities in order to relocate livestock.

If you have no other options available to you, plan to open gates or cut fences to give your livestock the best chance possible.

# Process for Requesting Support for Commercial Livestock Relocations

The farm business operator requests assistance through the Regional District Emergency Management Program – Operations Section (250-960-4475)



Activation of Regional District Emergency Program



EMBC Task Number Issued



Request for Relocation Support (Form 514 or 530) Operations Section



Risk Assessment – Planning Section (Critical Information Requirements)



Risk Analysis – Operations Section



EOC Director Briefing and Decision

Course of Action – 1  
Initiate Support



Course of Action - 2  
HOLD Support Request



Course of Action - 3  
Decline Support



## Section 5: Financial Considerations for the Farm Business

The commercial livestock owner retains responsibility for all health, legal and financial liability for their animals. The Regional District Emergency Management Program provides operational access to provincial support programs focused on the AGR1 business sector.

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) will reimburse the Regional District for response costs related to support of livestock relocation during an emergency response. Rates for reimbursement are based on the current *Livestock Relocation Rate Card*. Provincial policy provides for livestock relocation that occurs in the evacuation '**ALERT**' phase if relocation is deemed necessary when assessing the risk.

Reimbursement rates, including costs for the return of relocated livestock, will only be considered for a maximum of **96 hours (4 days)** following an evacuation '**RESCIND**', unless a specific exception is provided, by EMBC.

Response costs are considered eligible if:

- services are provided to a farm business as defined in the provincial policy,
- the farm business has reasonable expectation of income, based on sales (Ministry of Agriculture staff are available to provide technical support if a farm business's reasonable expectation of profit is in question),
- services and rates are consistent with the approved Livestock Relocation Rate Card,
- the farm business operator has requested assistance through the Regional District Emergency Management Program – Operations Section (250-960-4475), and
- livestock relocation response costs are incurred by a third party service provider (not the farm business).

Regional District assistance is not intended to replace or dissuade response by farm operators who can manage. It is only intended as a backup measure when farm operators are overwhelmed. Although BC legislation does not require local authorities to assist agriculture operations, provincial policy allows for the reimbursement of eligible response costs related to livestock relocations.



## **Section 6: Regional District Fraser-Fort George Invoicing Requirements**

For suppliers to receive payment, the Regional District requires the following information on submitted invoices:

- the Regional District purchase order number must appear on all invoices,
- the Emergency Management BC task number (*provided by the Regional District Operations Section with the purchase order number*),
- name of person or company supplying the service,
- address, phone number, and postal code,
- date,
- invoice number,
- description of services rendered or items supplied,
- breakdown of all costs for services or items,
- if GST is being charged, the GST number must be provided, and
- taxes must be shown separately.

### **Additional Supporting Documentation and Instructions**

- a. Attach a copy of livestock manifests (Form 3s) for livestock arriving and departing.
- b. Submit on a company invoice (if applicable).
- c. Hours and kilometres to be calculated from haulers starting point and returning to that point.
- d. Submit a separate invoice for each livestock owner.
- e. Total value of transportation or services not to exceed established BC Ministry of Agriculture maximum reimbursement rates.
- f. Rates for reimbursement are based on the current *Livestock Relocation Rate Card*.

**All supplier invoices must be in the name of and mailed directly to the office of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George within 30 days of service being rendered. Incomplete invoices may result in payment delays.**

# Sample of an Emergency Livestock Planning Worksheet:

Page 1

Farmers Institute Emergency Livestock Planning Worksheet	
<b>Farm Information:</b>	
Farmers Institute Area: _____	Date: _____
Family Name: _____	Operating As: _____
Farm Location Information: _____	Acreege Size: _____
Physical 911 Address: _____	Premises ID#: _____
Farm Status: Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, Commercial? <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational? <input type="checkbox"/>	
No: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Farm Contact Information: Name _____ Primary Number _____	
Name _____ Secondary Number _____	
Email (Optional) _____	
Emergency Contact (in case you can't be reached)	
Name _____ Primary Number _____	
<b>Livestock and/or Animals on this Site (list by head count):</b>	
Beef Cattle: _____ (total count)	Dogs: _____
Cow/Calf: _____ (pairs)	Cats: _____
Dairy: _____	Rabbits: _____
Horses: _____	Llamas: _____
Goats: _____	Other:          
Sheep: _____	
Buffalo: _____	
Swine: _____	
Poultry: _____	

Equipment Available:			
	# of units	size/capacity	Comments:
Portable Water Tanks:	_____	_____	
Portable Water Pumps:	_____	_____	
Livestock Trailers:	_____	_____	
Cat/Bulldozer:	_____	_____	
Excavator/Backhoe:	_____	_____	
Tractor(s) 4 x 4:	_____	_____	
Breaking Disc/Plow:	_____	_____	
Portable – Corral Panels/chute	_____	_____	
Skidder:	_____	_____	
Generators:	_____	_____	
ATV/UTV's:	_____	_____	
Saddle Horses (available to gather cattle):	_____	_____	
In Case of Emergency (ICE Livestock Owner – Self Assessment and Planning Considerations)			
Self-Assessment:	Yes/No	Size/##	
Is all livestock always kept at this home site address? _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
_____			
If NOT, where are they and are they still within the emergency zone? _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
_____			
Is there an alternate safe site close by to accommodate your livestock? (ie: community pasture, open safe crown lands, etc.) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
_____			
Will you need assistance to transport your livestock/animals? _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
_____			
Do you have an alternative safe holding area on your site to secure your livestock? _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
_____			
Is the area big enough to accommodate more animals than yours? _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
_____			
<i>Please answer the following (3) questions based on a 2 to 3 week timeframe.</i>			

A link to this **Farmers Institute Emergency Livestock Planning Worksheet** can be found on the Regional District website:

<http://www.rdffg.bc.ca/services/public-safety/emergency-management-program/EM-faqs-links>

# Sample of an Emergency Livestock Relocation Plan:

<b>Livestock Relocation Plan</b>		Date:	
<b>Originator Farm</b>		<b>Destination Site</b>	
Farm name:		Facility name:	
Farm Address:		Facility Address:	
Farm Status in BC:		Facility Owner:	
Farm contact person's name and position:		Destination contact person's name and position:	
Telephone no.:		Telephone no.:	
Fax no.:		Fax no.:	
Mobile phone no.:		Mobile phone no.:	
E-mail address:		E-mail address:	
Livestock location (if off farm):		Destination location (if other than facility address):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No   I need a ramp / chute to load livestock		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No   I need a ramp to unload livestock	
<b>Type of Livestock</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Type of Livestock</b>	<b>Number</b>
Non-lactating dairy			
Lactating dairy			
Cattle			
Goats			
Horses			
Sheep			
Game			
<b>Transportation</b>			
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Contact Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
<b>Information prepared by:</b> _____ (name) _____ (phone) _____ (signature)			

A link to this **Emergency Livestock Relocation Plan** can be found on the Regional District website:  
  
<http://www.rdffg.bc.ca/services/public-safety/emergency-management-program/EM-facs-links>