

Basic Livestock Care

Housing

Emergency Plan: Develop an emergency plan for evacuating or sheltering animals during natural disasters.

Proper Shelter: Provide adequate shelter to protect livestock from harsh weather conditions, including rain, wind, and extreme temperatures.

Fencing: Install strong and secure fencing to keep livestock safely contained and protect them from predators.

Clean Water: Ensure a constant supply of clean, fresh water for your animals. Regularly clean water troughs and containers.

Nutrition: Maintain a balanced and nutritious diet for each type of livestock, meeting their specific dietary requirements.

Feeding Schedule: Establish consistent feeding schedules to meet nutritional needs.

Pasture Rotation: Implement a pasture rotation system to prevent overgrazing and promote healthy forage growth.

Farrowing/Kidding Pens: Provide separate pens for birthing and nursing mothers to protect newborns.

Predator Protection: Use guardian animals like dogs or donkeys to protect livestock from predators.

Biosecurity Measures: Implement biosecurity measures to prevent disease introduction to your property.

Manure Management: Properly manage manure to prevent contamination of water sources and reduce flies.

Housing Ventilation: Ensure proper ventilation in animal housing to prevent respiratory issues.

Breeding Management: Plan and manage breeding to control herd or flock size.

Record Keeping: Maintain accurate records of animal health, births, and other important details.

Livestock Compatibility: Consider the compatibility of different livestock species when co-grazing.

Physical Care

Veterinary Care: Schedule regular check-ups and vaccinations for your animals. Have a trusted veterinarian on call for emergencies.

Identification: Use ear tags, branding, or other identification methods to keep track of individual animals.

Animal Behavior Knowledge: Learn about the natural behavior of your livestock to better understand their needs.

Behavior Observation: Pay attention to changes in behavior, as it can be an early indicator of illness or distress.

Minimize Handling: Minimize unnecessary handling to reduce stress on animals.

Minimize Stress: Minimize stress during handling and transportation of livestock.

Minimize Chemical Exposure: Avoid using chemicals or pesticides near livestock areas.

Parasite Control: Monitor and control parasites through deworming and proper manure management.

Hoof Care: Trim hooves as needed to prevent overgrowth and lameness.

Grooming: Regularly groom animals to check for injuries or signs of illness and to promote overall cleanliness.

Castration/Dehorning: If necessary, perform castration and dehorning procedures under veterinary guidance.

Proper Weaning: Implement gradual weaning practices for young animals to reduce stress.