AgrAbility of Wisconsin



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AgrAbility of Wisconsin is a partnership between the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension and Easterseals Wisconsin

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Winter Storm Emergency Preparedness: Stay Safe and Ready

Wisconsin winters can be unpredictable and harsh, bringing snow, ice, and extreme cold that impact both people and animals. For farmers, being prepared is not just about comfort—it's about safety, productivity, and animal welfare. Here are some essential tips to help you prepare your farm for winter storms:

✅ Winter Storm Safety Tips for Farms

- Stock Emergency Supplies: Keep extra feed, water, fuel, and bedding on hand. Ensure generators are functional and safely stored.
- Protect Livestock: Provide windbreaks, dry bedding, and shelter. Monitor animals for signs of cold stress, especially young or compromised stock.
- Maintain Equipment: Winterize tractors, ATVs, and snow removal tools. Check batteries, fuel lines, and tire pressure.
- Plan for Power Outages: Have backup heating and water systems ready. Ensure ventilation in barns remains adequate.
- Monitor Weather Alerts: Stay informed through the National Weather Service and local emergency management updates.

🧰 Helpful Resources from UW-Madison Extension

🌾 For Farmers

- Agricultural Safety & Health Program – Offers farm safety policies, lighting/marking guidelines for equipment, and mental health resources. [agsafety.wisc.edu]

🐄 For Livestock Producers

- Winter Management of Your Beef Herd – Tips on wind protection, bedding, and pen maintenance to keep cattle safe and healthy.
- Safe Winter Travel with Cattle – Guidelines for transporting animals in cold weather, including wind chill risks and trailer ventilation.

Taking time to prepare now can help prevent injuries, losses, and stress later. AgrAbility of Wisconsin is here to support you—reach out if you need help accessing resources or planning for winter safety.

AT Spotlight: Bump N Drive Gates

December's featured assistive technology is the Bump N' Drive Gate. This innovative solution allows farmers and ranchers to open gates without leaving their vehicle—simply "bump" the gate with your vehicle, and it swings open. Once you pass through, the gate automatically closes behind you. This technology saves time, reduces strain on joints, and improves safety for individuals with mobility challenges.



Join us for a Virtual Neighbor-to-Neighbor gathering!

AgrAbility of Wisconsin invites you to connect with fellow farmers and community members at one of our upcoming Neighbor-to-Neighbor meetings. These events offer a chance to share experiences, explore assistive technology, and discover practical ways to make farming more accessible and sustainable.
These events are free to attend! Registration is required for the virtual events to receive the connection information. Participants will be able to join the virtual meetings either via internet or by dialing on by phone.



Staff Changes

Michelle Bachand concluded her time with AgrAbility of Wisconsin on November 13th. As Outreach Program Coordinator, Michelle played a key role in expanding community engagement, strengthening partnerships, and promoting assistive technology solutions for Wisconsin farmers. Her contributions to the program have been greatly appreciated, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

We've Moved (Just the Mail)!

Our mailing address has changed, but our programs and services remain the same! Please update your records and send future correspondence to our new location.

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