

## Kittitas County Extension Office

### WET HAY

It's difficult to save flood-damaged hay. If you want to try to salvage flood-damaged hay already in storage:

1. Take dry hay off of wet hay to prevent moisture from spreading.
2. If the barn has enough room, scatter the wet hay. If not, drag it outside for drying. Cover as much as you can with tarps if it rains.
3. During the next three to four weeks, watch the hay for signs of heating. Some of these signs may be a strong burning odor, a noticeable vapor, or a hot feeling to the hand. If the hay appears to be heating, check the temperature. Check the hay temperature every day. If the temperature of the hay rises to more than 140 degrees Fahrenheit, divide the hay into two piles and continue to check daily. If hay heats above 140 degrees Fahrenheit, it must be removed from a barn. Be careful. It is a good idea to have the local fire department standing by, or at least alerted, in case of fire.
4. Dry the hay until it is as dry as expected for baling.

### LIVESTOCK CARE

1. Avoid abrupt changes to diet
2. Avoid switching entirely to concentrates (like grain) as an emergency feed if hay is short or unavailable.
3. If animals that are usually separated must be penned together, observe feeding and take precautions to ensure bossy animals don't prevent others from feeding.
4. Watch for signs of flood-related diseases, such as lameness, fever, difficulty breathing, muscle contractions or swelling of shoulder, chest, back, neck or throat. Be prepared to contact a veterinarian if you spot trouble.
5. Provide clean, uncontaminated water.
6. Inspect feeds such as corn, wheat and hay. Do not feed flood-damaged or moldy hay unless it has been tested for mycotoxins, toxic substances produced by fungi.
7. Do not use any feed or forage that may have been contaminated by chemicals or pesticides.
8. Before restocking flooded pastures, remove debris, especially along fence lines and in corners. Livestock could be injured from pieces of barbed wire, sharp metal and trash.

If you are faced with disposal of drowned (dead) animals, consider composting in an area out of the water. See WSU publication EB2031: <http://cru84.cahe.wsu.edu/cgi-bin/pubs/EB2031E.html?id=snQwTrZM>

### HOME FLOODING

[http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/FloodSafe\\_HowTo.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/FloodSafe_HowTo.shtml)

- Preventing Flooding Around Your Home
- Sandbagging - First Line of Defense Video (USACE)
- Pumping Out a Flooded Basement
- Protecting Your Home From Backflow
- Cleaning Up and Drying Out Your Home
- The Problem With Mold

### Extension Disaster Education Network Flooding Information

[http://www.extension.org/pages/Extension\\_Disaster\\_Education\\_Network\\_Floods](http://www.extension.org/pages/Extension_Disaster_Education_Network_Floods)

### Washington Emergency Resource Guide 2008

<http://oem.wsu.edu/utills/File.aspx?fileid=3650>