

# BE WINTER-READY



## FLOODING

### If your farm is prone to flooding:

1. Move your livestock to areas you can access if flooding risk is high.
2. Carefully assess the depth of floods before driving through them.
3. Only use suitable vehicles if you have to drive through floods.
4. Secure valuable equipment and fuel supplies.

## DANGEROUS EQUIPMENT

Take care when using dangerous equipment in winter:

**Chainsaws:** See the HSA guide to Safe Working with Timber and Chainsaws at [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie).

**Back-up generators:** Use outside only as exhaust fumes can kill.

## CHECK ON THE ELDERLY



If it's difficult for you to get around it will be impossible for them.

1. Phone them or call around.
2. Make sure they have enough fuel, food supplies and medications.
3. If in doubt call the Gardaí and ask them to check.



## FOR FARM FAMILIES

**You**  
**Your Farm**  
**and the Winter**

*Practical Advice for Severe Weather*

You can get more information from:

- [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)
- [www.emergencyplanning.ie](http://www.emergencyplanning.ie)
- [www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)
- [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)
- [www.met.ie](http://www.met.ie)

Animal Welfare Helpline: 1850 211 990

### Produced by:

- Office of Emergency Planning
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Teagasc
- Health and Safety Authority



[www.winterready.ie](http://www.winterready.ie)



@emergencyIE



## STAY SAFE



Farming is always a dangerous occupation, and it is even more so when severe weather arrives.

The last few winters have brought some very severe conditions, with heavy snowfalls and extensive flooding in some areas.

Now is the time to PLAN, in order to minimise the effects of severe weather on your farm and your family.

### Look after your own safety:

- Before going out on your land always tell someone where you are going, and how long you will be gone for
- Wear suitable layers of clothing
- Carry a charged mobile phone and a torch

## COLD WEATHER & SNOW



1. Plan how you will get food and water to your stock.
2. Prevent your machinery and water supplies freezing up:
  - have thermostatically controlled heaters in the pump house
  - an insulation blanket/plastic sheet, placed at the entrance to the milking parlour, may help prevent milking machines freezing up
  - drain wash-down pumps
3. Check the antifreeze levels in all your engines.
4. Have a plan to clear routes around your farm buildings, and have a stock of gritting material and salt.
5. When searching for animals in snow, wear high visibility clothing so you can be easily seen.

## LOOKING AFTER LIVESTOCK



1. Do a fodder budget in spring to establish feed requirements for next winter.
  - Build in a reserve of 1-2 bales per head, particularly on heavy land types
2. Maximise grass growth during the main growing season to build a reserve of winter feed.
3. Get your silage analysed. Meal supplementation rates must be based on silage quality.
4. Have grit and salt available to ensure access to sheds in the event of snow or icy conditions.
5. Have a plan to deal with power outages.

### BE WINTER-READY



# You, Your Farm and the Winter