

## **Notes from Emergency Planning for Agriculture Event, May 24-25, 2018**

### **Regional District Role**

- Inform farmers
- Focus on public safety
- Has limited ability to assist directly with animal relocation

### **Farmer Roles**

- Self-protect (make a formal farm plan, implement fire mitigation strategies noted below)
- Get adequate insurance
- Network and plan with other farmers

### **Livestock Relocation**

- *Don't wait to move animals* - start the process if there is an 'Evacuation Alert'.
  - You may not have the opportunity, and roads may be clogged if it upgrades to an 'Evacuation Order'
  - If there is an 'Evacuation Order' in effect, you will not be able to return to your property to pick up more loads of animals.
- When evacuating, *bring a copy of your Farm Plan and livestock registration* (it will help you get back in)
- *Order of choices for livestock relocation*
  1. To a barn on-farm
  2. To a location off-farm
  3. Cut fences and let them go only if extreme and immediate danger.
- *A Farm Premises ID will help* you to get permission to go back to your property to check on animals or the property.
  - Permission must be granted from the Emergency Operations Center.
  - The best time to get back on to your property if there's been an evacuation is between 5-7am.
- *Fall Fair grounds has 65 animal stalls.* Could be used as a muster point.
  - Managing animal diseases is tough in these situations.

### **General Concern**

- The gates to Comox Main are locked, posing problems to residents of the Beaufort Region if Beaver Creek Road is cut off.

### **Fire Mitigation Strategies**

- Metal Roofs are much more fire resistance. Sprinklers can be installed on barn or house roofs in advance to protect in case of wildfire.
- Dry hay fields are a significant fire hazard. Property owners are encouraged to cut or graze their grasses instead of leaving fields fallow.
- Deciduous trees are less of a fire hazard than conifers.
- Areas within 10 meters of barns and buildings should be fully fire-resistant zones. Areas between 10-30 meters should be treated to eliminate fuel sources by pruning and cleaning up dead branches.
- Areas between 30-100m should be examined for opportunities for firebreaks by creating space between trees and other flammable vegetation in order to reduce fire intensity