Livestock Emergency Plan for the Alberni Valley

October 2025

Prepared for:

ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

Prepared by:

upland agricultural consulting

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Land Acknowledgement

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District serves the communities of the central and west coast of Vancouver Island located on the ḥahahuuɬi (traditional territories) of the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations of Ahousaht, Ditidaht, Hesquiaht, Hupačasath, Huu-ay-aht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht, c̓išaaʔatḥ (Tseshaht), Uchucklesaht, and Yuułuʔiɬʔatḥ. Since time immemorial, Nuu-chah-nulth Peoples have walked gently in these places where we live, work, learn, and play. We are committed to building relationships based on honour and ʔiisaak (respect), and we offer our gratitude.

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ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

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Acronyms

ACRD	Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
AF	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
AFI	Alberni Farmers' Institute
DFA	Disaster Financial Assistance
EAF	Expense Authorisation Form
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
EMCR	Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
IBC	Insurance Bureau of Canada
IC	Incident Command
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PREOC	Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre

Glossary

Emergency: means an event that has occurred, is ongoing or appears imminent and is caused by one more incidents of accident, fire, explosion, technical failure, rioting, security threat, terrorist activity, presence of transmissible disease or an environmental toxin, prescribed type of event or by the forces of nature and requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the health, safety or welfare of a person or the safety of property or of objects or sites of heritage value.

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC): The primary purpose of an EOC is to centralize the coordination and management of emergency response efforts during a significant incident or disaster. The EOC plays a critical role in supporting Incident Command (IC) by ensuring that resources, information, response activities and strategies are effectively managed and communicated. As a command hub, the EOC facilitates a unified and efficient response across different agencies and levels of government. Moreover, the EOC manages tasks beyond the scope of the IC, such as media relations, issuing public alerts, coordinating evacuations and providing policy direction.

EOC Agricultural Coordinator: When an emergency involves the agriculture and livestock sector, a designated EOC Agricultural Coordinator will serve as the primary point of contact for agriculture and livestock-related concerns. The EOC Agricultural Coordinator will be the connection between the agricultural community and the EOC.

Evacuation Alert: This is the time to get prepared to leave your home on short notice. Consult your Farm Emergency Plan for procedures on Sheltering Livestock in Barn vs. Sheltering Livestock On-Farm Outdoor Location vs. Relocating Livestock. The Alert phase is the best time to move livestock to a safe location because roads might not yet be prioritized for emergency response and human health and safety. Gather important documents, medications, and emergency supplies. Listen to local emergency officials for further information on the situation.

Evacuation Order: An evacuation order is a directive issued by your local authority when an imminent threat poses a significant risk to life and safety, requiring you to leave the area immediately. Even if it does not appear to you that the risk is extreme, you must follow this order. Follow the directions of local emergency officials and evacuate using the route(s) they've identified. Do not return home until you have been advised that the Evacuation Order has been rescinded. Consult your Farm Emergency Plan for procedures on Sheltering Livestock in Barn vs. Sheltering Livestock On-Farm Outdoor Location vs. Relocating Livestock. Ensure all relocated animals have owner identification, including just-in-time methods such as paint on hooves, collaring, or other pre-determined methods.

Livestock: As defined in this plan, livestock includes cows/bison, water buffalo, horses, pigs, goats, sheep, llamas, alpacas, donkeys, all poultry, honeybees, rabbits and farmed deer. Pets and exotic animals are not within scope of the plan. In this document, the term “livestock operators” refers to anyone managing the aforementioned animals.

Plan Purpose

The purpose of this Livestock Emergency Plan (the "Plan") is to provide livestock operators with an understanding of how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies that impact their farms within the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD).

To arrive at this understanding, the Plan is organized into three parts, each with responsibilities for livestock operators and local government (ACRD):

Part 1: Emergency Mitigation and Preparedness

Part 2: Emergency Response

Part 3: Emergency Recovery

Recommendations for the ACRD to further enhance support for the agriculture sector during emergencies are also provided.

Responsibility for the Plan
The ACRD Sustainability Planner and Protective Services Manager or designates are jointly responsible for ensuring that the plan is updated when required.

Amendments to the Plan
This plan may undergo revisions whenever:

- ACRD Disaster and Emergency Management Plan is amended;
- Provincial requirements change or policies are updated;
- The Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment is amended;
- Regional government structure and/or policies change; or
- Exercises, drills or emergencies reveal shortfalls in policies or procedures.

When changes or amendments are made, the plan will be updated and affected emergency and agricultural organizations will be informed.

Plan Scope

The geographic scope of the plan is the Alberni Valley (Figure 1). This encompasses Electoral Areas B (Beaufort), D (Sproat Lake), E (Beaver Creek) and F (Cherry Creek), as well as City of Port Alberni lands designated as Agricultural (A1) in the Zoning Bylaw. The ACRD coordinates emergency services for all areas within the regional district and the City of Port Alberni.

The plan is relevant for anyone with livestock in the Alberni Valley. Livestock as defined in this plan includes: cows/bison, water buffalo, horses, pigs, goats, sheep, llamas, alpacas, donkeys, all poultry, honeybees, rabbits and farmed deer. Pets and exotic animals are not within the scope of the plan. In this document, the term "livestock operators" refers to anyone managing the aforementioned animals. The plan also includes consideration of feedstock needs during an emergency.

There are hundreds of livestock animals on ranches, farms, hobby farms and homesteads in the Alberni Valley, however it is difficult to get an accurate total number due to limited data availability and the dynamic nature of farm activities. As of 2024, there were three larger-scale dairy farms (approximately 100 or more animals per farm) and some medium-scale cattle farms (approximately 25-100 animals per farm); all other properties have a smaller number of animals.

Obtaining an accurate measurement of the area and volume of feedstock crops (e.g. forage, hay) is also challenging because yields vary from year to year, primarily due to weather conditions and irrigation practices. In some years, local producers must supplement feedstock from external resources, while in years with favorable growing and harvesting conditions, local producers may have surplus feedstock stored for future use. Many livestock operators in the Alberni Valley store a minimum of one months' worth of feed on-farm but few, if any, have capacity to store large amounts of forage or grain over longer periods of time.

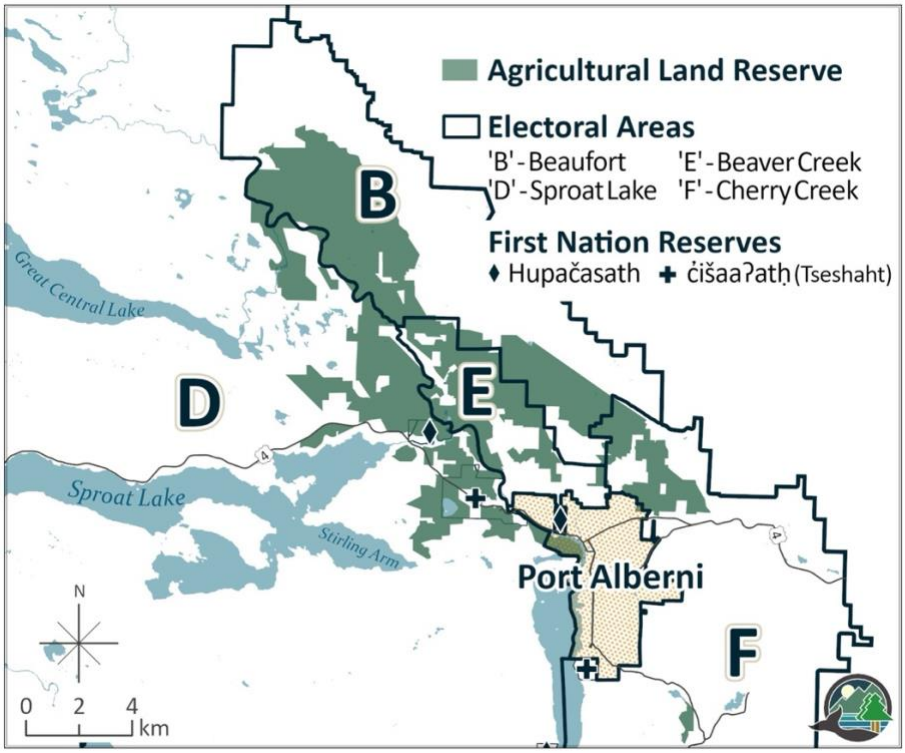

Figure 1. The Alberni Valley.

Hazards

In the Alberni Valley, there are numerous potential environmental hazards and disruptions that pose a threat to livestock operators. This plan will examine the following potential emergencies:

- Flooding (including tsunami)
- Wildfire
- Drought
- Supply chain interruptions

Flooding

The Alberni Valley is vulnerable to several forms of flooding events, such as a tsunami, overland and riverine flooding due to precipitation and/or snowmelt, and dam breaches.

A tsunami could impact Highway 4, communities along the Alberni Inlet, and the Somass Watershed. While the Alberni Valley has only experienced one significant tsunami event in the past 100 years, multiple alerts and warnings have been issued during this time. Some farms are located within the tsunami inundation zone (up to 20 m elevation), leaving individuals, livestock, and farm infrastructure vulnerable to flooding, injury or illness from debris and contaminated floodwaters, and loss of farm revenues.[1]

Overland and riverine flooding, often triggered by heavy rainfall or rain-on snow events, has historically caused rivers to breach the top of their banks and resulted in localized or widespread flooding along the Stamp and Somass rivers. The region's wettest months are typically between November and March, with the highest risk of storm water flooding in November. Given current and projected climate trends, stormwater flooding is likely to become an annual occurrence.[2]

With respect to dam breaches, several dams upstream of Port Alberni pose potential flood risks. These are operated by BC Hydro and Domtar on Sproat Lake, Great Central Lake and Elsie Lake. Additionally, the Cherry Creek Waterworks District owns and operates a dam at Lacey Lake. Failure of these dams could result in the flooding of parts of the residential area of the Alberni Valley and may cause Highway 4 impacts.[3]

Wildfire

Wildfire is likely to increase in frequency as global temperatures rise, to which the Alberni Valley is particularly prone.[4] Wildfires threaten farm property, critical infrastructure, and the lives of humans and livestock, and contribute to poor air quality, creating health concerns for both people and livestock. The 2023 Cameron Lake wildfire and subsequent weeks-long closure of Highway 4 between the Alberni Valley and eastern Vancouver Island highlighted the vulnerability of this key transportation route to wildfires. Wildfires may result in localized or larger-scale evacuations, and farms are often the first to be impacted as wildfires approach populated areas.

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[1] Calian Emergency Management Solutions. 2023. Risk and Vulnerability Assessment to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.
[2] Ibid. and; Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium. 2025. Alberni-Valley - ACRD: Community Climate Summary.
[3] Calian Emergency Management Solutions. 2022. Evacuation Route Plan for the Alberni Valley.
[4] Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium. 2025. Alberni-Valley – ACRD: Community Climate Summary.

Drought

Drought is often an annual occurrence in the Alberni Valley. The consequences of drought may vary depending on the length and severity of conditions in any given year. It is projected that the Alberni Valley will experience over 43 days per year above 27°C by the 2050s, with a corresponding 14% decrease in summer precipitation, increasing the likelihood and severity of drought events.[5] Extreme heat and drought in the Alberni Valley can significantly impact human and animal health, disrupt crop irrigation and reduce yields, and trigger secondary hazards like wildfires.

Supply Chain Disruption

The Alberni Valley is vulnerable to various events that can disrupt supply chains, including earthquakes, landslides/debris flows, severe weather, and global pandemics. Many of these hazards can impact transportation by causing road closures due to debris from high winds and heavy rainfall, snow and avalanches, fallen trees, washouts, downed powerlines, and rockslides. Highway 4 has a history of both short- and long-term closures due to events such as storms, fallen trees, and wildfires. Local roads can also be affected, as seen with the Beaver Creek Road closure during windstorms in November 2024. Earthquakes, depending on their magnitude, could cause significant damage to property and infrastructure across the ACRD.

Beyond road closures, the Alberni Valley is also susceptible to broader supply chain disruptions outside the region that affect ferry service to Vancouver Island or imports to Canada. Global pandemics and other geopolitical events have the potential to disrupt the livestock feed supply chains that the local agricultural community relies upon. Table 1 outlines the potential impacts felt by farm operators and livestock during these emergencies.

Table 1. Potential impacts to farm operators and livestock during emergencies.

Potential Impact	**Hazard**			
	Flooding	Wildfire	Drought	Supply Chain Disruption
Evacuations	X	X		
Road Closures	X	X		X
Limited ability to source or bring in feed/medication/ veterinary care	X	X	X	X
Negative impact to livestock health	X	X	X	X
Limited ability to access slaughter/processing facilities	X	X		X
Increased price of feed	X	X	X	X
Damages to farm infrastructure/equipment	X	X		
Power outages	X	X		

[5] Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium. 2025. Alberni-Valley – ACRD: Community Climate Summary.

Part 1. Emergency Mitigation and Preparedness

This section outlines the responsibilities of livestock operators and the ACRD to prepare for emergencies. The suggestions presented should be completed before an emergency occurs.

1.1 Livestock Operators' Responsibilities

Livestock operators are recommended to familiarize themselves with the following information and complete any additional farm-specific plans, agreements or tasks suggested.

- **Complete and/or update a farm emergency plan for your property.**
  - Online version of the ACRD Farm Emergency Plan Template can be found HERE.
  - The Guide to completing the Template can be found HERE.
    - This guide provides comprehensive planning information for emergencies including measures for risk reduction and plans for relocating or sheltering livestock in place.
  - Consult the Farm & Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Plan for specific information regarding a wildfire emergency.
  - Consult the AG Safe Emergency Planning Resources for tsunami, flooding and extreme weather considerations for your operation.

- **Complete a Home Emergency Plan**
  - Make an emergency kit and pack grab-and go bags.
  - Find templates and resources HERE.

- **Identify a "buddy farm" (or two) where you can relocate livestock.**
  - A Buddy Farm is a location where you can bring your livestock during an emergency. Pre-arranging locations for your livestock to move is a crucial step in emergency preparedness. Having a formal agreement in place ensures smooth livestock relocation and minimizes confusion during critical situations.
  - Consider establishing relationships with two buddy farms located in different geographic areas. This approach provides flexibility in case emergencies affect either your immediate community or the entire Alberni Valley. For instance, one buddy farm could be within the Alberni Valley but outside your local area, while another could be entirely outside the Alberni Valley, such as in Parksville or Courtenay.
  - Local farmers' institutes may be able to connect you with a Buddy Farm if you don't know anyone in the area.
  - A template for a buddy farm agreement is included in Appendix A.

- **If you don't have equipment to relocate your livestock, develop an easily accessible contact list of people who do.**
  - Connect with the Alberni Farmer's Institute (AFI) if you need assistance (albernifarmersinstitute@gmail.com).

- **Register for the Provincial PremisesID program.**
  - The province has made PremisesID registration mandatory for livestock operators, including beekeepers.

  - Information gathered is not shared by the provincial government with local governments unless an emergency is declared.
  - In the event of an emergency, PremisesID identifies sub-regions that are most affected by the emergency and ensure that the appropriate level of provincial resources and staff capacity are deployed to the area to support the agricultural community.

- **Have a plan for feedstock and necessary supplies/equipment.**
  - Calculate how much feed you need to support livestock for 2-4 weeks.
  - If possible, store feed on site before an emergency occurs, and/or know where you can quickly purchase feedstock once an emergency occurs.
  - This also applies to veterinary medications and important equipment parts/fuel.

- **Sign up to key communication channels.**
  - Voyent Alert – ACRD Emergency Notification System
  - ACRD Emergency Facebook page @AVEmergencyprogram
  - Local Radio: 93.3 The Peak Radio
  - Local News: Alberni Valley News
  - ACRD Emergency Operations Centre: 250.720.2700

- **Introduce yourself to the ACRD Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Agricultural Coordinator.**
  - Ensure that the ACRD EOC Agricultural Coordinator has your contact information and any key information about your farm that may be relevant in an emergency.
  - Contact information: Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner, aneedham@acrd.bc.ca

- **Ensure livestock health records are up-to-date.**
  - Ensure livestock vaccinations are up-to-date.
  - Determine how livestock will be identified (e.g. tags, phone number on leg bands, etc.) if they are to be moved off-site.

- **Look into insurance and ensure insurance policies are up-to-date.**
  - Insurance is a critical component of preparedness and recovery measures. The provincial Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program will ONLY compensate for sudden, unexpected, and uninsurable losses. For more information on DFA, visit this website.
  - Familiarize yourself with Government Programs that may assist you.
  - A good resource for insurance information is the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC). The IBC can help farmers find available coverage for business losses through private insurance companies. For more information, call 1-844-2ask-IBC (1-844-227-5422) or visit their BC region website.

- **Prepare your property against wildfires**
  - Request a meeting with the FireSmart Coordinator (firesmart@acrd.bc.ca) about what strategies could improve your wildfire resilience. The Farm and Ranch FireSmart Program identifies wildfire mitigation actions unique to your property.

- Store hay and feed in fire-resistant areas or cover with fireproof tarps.
- Clearly mark any emergency water sources (e.g. pool, pond, portable pump) to ensure visibility for first responders.
- Set up exterior building sprinkler systems if you have them.

1.2 Local Government (ACRD) Responsibilities

The ACRD has legal responsibilities to prepare for emergencies; however, the foundation of strong community resilience is based on personal preparedness.

The following are a few key tasks the ACRD is responsible for:

- Developing climate adaptation plans and strategies to mitigate climate-related hazards over the long term.
- Developing and maintaining local emergency management plans and programs.
- Developing business continuity plans to ensure that essential services will be maintained during an emergency.
- Establishing trustworthy communication channels for residents in case of emergency.
- Appointing an EOC Agricultural Coordinator(s).
- Integrating this Livestock Emergency Plan into the existing ACRD Disaster and Emergency Management Plan.

The ACRD has many online resources to assist residents in preparing for emergencies. They can be found here.

1.3 Livestock Relocation Options

Ideally, farmers will establish agreements with other farms ('buddy farms') outside their immediate area where they could relocate livestock if an evacuation becomes necessary.

If buddy farms are not established or unavailable to host livestock during an emergency, there may be other areas for relocations. For example, the ACRD and the Governing Council of the Alberni District Fall Fair have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designating the fairgrounds at 4090 Hollywood St. as a temporary relief shelter for hobby farm animals. This facility includes approximately 32 stalls for horses, goats, sheep, swine, llamas, and alpacas.

While several locations in the agricultural areas of the Alberni Valley may be suitable for housing livestock during emergencies on a short-term basis, the Alberni District Fall Fairgrounds is the only site with a formal agreement in place that allows the ACRD to use the property in an emergency. It is recommended that the ACRD identify additional sites across the Alberni Valley that could accommodate livestock during emergencies and establish MOUs with the respective managing entities. Potential locations include Evergreen Park, Beaver Creek Community Hall grounds, and Cherry Creek Community Centre grounds.

Regardless of location, key considerations for relocating livestock include proper identification (e.g. tagging), biosecurity measures (e.g. up-to-date vaccinations), water and feed supply, and ensuring both animal and public safety through appropriate containment (e.g. fencing or stalls).

Part 2. Emergency Response

This section outlines the roles and responsibilities of livestock operators and the ACRD during an Evacuation Alert or Evacuation Order. Emergency response typically operates at two levels:

1. **Incident Site** – The affected area where the Evacuation Alert or Order has been issued.
2. **Emergency Operations Centre** – Provides coordination and support for response efforts.

Livestock operators will likely interact with both levels during an emergency. In major incidents, a designated **EOC Agricultural Coordinator** will serve as the primary point of contact for livestock-related concerns.

Safeguarding livestock is not the top priority during emergency response. There are eight BC Emergency Management System response goals, which are designed to guide decision-makers in prioritizing response operations. The goals are listed in order of priority and response goals and resources will be allocated accordingly:

1. Ensure the health and safety of responders
2. Save lives
3. Reduce suffering
4. Protect public health
5. Protect infrastructure
6. Protect property
7. Protect the environment
8. Reduce economic and social losses

2.1 Livestock Operators' Responsibilities

Drought

During most droughts, livestock operators are responsible for finding alternative sources of feed for their animals. In the past the provincial government has funded an Access to Feed program, managed by the BC Cattlemen's Association. Farmers may be able to access feed supplies for livestock by contacting the BC Cattlemen's Association (hay@cattlemen.bc.ca). Additionally, livestock operators can contact the Alberni Farmers' Institute for information on local hay sources during an emergency (albernifarmersinstitute@gmail.com). Feed supply stores in the Alberni Valley typically maintain a limited stock. In extreme situations, the province may provide financial relief in the form of rebates or other support; however, this is not a common occurrence and producers should not expect or anticipate that they will be compensated for this additional cost.

Wildfires and/or Flooding

In the event of wildfires or flooding, Evacuation Alerts and Orders may be issued. Livestock operators should be familiar with the meaning of these notices and complete the following checklists.

Evacuation Alert:

- An evacuation alert means that there is a potential threat that may lead to an evacuation order. Prepare to leave on short notice.
- Stay informed and keep updated regarding evacuation alerts and orders through official communication channels, such as the Voyent Alert app and the ACRD Emergency Program Facebook page.
- Enact your Farm Emergency Plan.
- Refer to your Home Emergency Plan.
- Gather important documents, medications, and emergency supplies, and make arrangements for animals, transportation, and shelter.
- Register for PremisesID if you have not yet done so.
- Take "before" photos and/or videos of property and infrastructure in case there is a need to apply for insurance or compensation programs later.
- Follow evacuation alert guidelines provided by provincial and local governments.
- The evacuation alert phase is the best time to move livestock to a safe location because roads might not yet be prioritized for emergency response and human health and safety.
    - Coordinate transportation of livestock to your buddy farm as needed.
    - If no buddy farm is available, contact the EOC at 250.720.2700 or the EOC Agricultural Coordinator about other potential locations and if you need assistance for livestock relocation.
- If you plan to stay in place during evacuation alert refer to your completed Farm Emergency Plan for protocols.
    - Ensure there is sufficient time, personnel, and equipment to move livestock to a protected barn or location on-site. Ensure animals have access to food sources, clean water, and ample living space, and that support systems are connected to backup power.

Evacuation Order:

- An evacuation order is a directive issued by your local authority when an imminent threat poses a significant risk to life and safety, requiring you to leave the area immediately. Even if it does not appear to you that the risk is extreme, you must follow this order.
- Consult your Farm Emergency Plan for procedures on Sheltering Livestock in Barn vs. Sheltering Livestock On-Farm Outdoor Location vs. Relocating Livestock.
    - Ensure all relocated animals have owner identification, including just-in-time methods such as paint on hooves, collaring, etc.
- If you haven't already relocated livestock, coordinate transportation of livestock from at risk areas to your buddy farm as needed.
    - If no buddy farm is available, contact the EOC at 250.720.2700 or the EOC Agricultural Coordinator about other potential locations if you need assistance for livestock relocation.
    - Note: During an evacuation order, the movement of livestock will only be endorsed if it does not interfere with the movement of people.
- If your livestock are staying on your farm, leave instructions for opening/closing gates for emergency personnel. Consider printing a copy of the "Checklist for Opening Gates, Cutting Fences to Free Animals"(Page 17 of your Farm Emergency Plan) and post it on your door in case emergency personnel need to free your animals.

- If you have homeowners' or tenants' insurance, contact your insurance provider to arrange for living expenses such as accommodation and food.
- Do not turn off your natural gas. FortisBC will turn off natural gas service as needed. Close all windows and doors.
- Pasture gates leading to roads should be shut to keep livestock off of roadways.
- If time allows, check with neighbours to see if they need help. Do not use more vehicles than you must to help reduce traffic congestion.
- Take critical items (e.g. medicine, wallet, insurance policy number/contact) only if they are immediately available.
- Take pets in pet kennels or on leash.
- If possible, do not make calls on your phone unless you need emergency service to help reduce network congestion.
- Leave your phone number on your front door so emergency personnel can contact you.
- Follow the evacuation route provided by the ACRD EOC. Check the website or call 250.720.2700 for evacuation routes. If you need transportation assistance from the area, contact the ACRD EOC.
- During an evacuation order you may or may not be able to return to check on livestock or other farm assets, depending on the circumstances. Contact the EOC at 250.720.2700 to ask about entry into an evacuated area. If you are allowed to enter strict procedures will need to be followed – the ACRD will issue you a pass to return to your farm to care for livestock (See Section 2.3 below for more details of the pass system).

2.2 Local Government (ACRD) Responsibilities

In the event of a significant flood or wildfire, the ACRD EOC may be activated. The ACRD EOC will provide support to the site level Incident Commander (IC) (as requested). When an emergency involves the agriculture and livestock sector, the ACRD EOC Agricultural Coordinator position will be activated. The ACRD EOC Agricultural Coordinator will:

- Coordinate the collection of situational awareness information and disseminate this information internally as well as with the agricultural community.
- Provide operational support (e.g. for evacuations) as directed by the ACRD EOC Director and as approved by the province, for example Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) or Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF).
- Inform personnel (e.g. the fire chief, IC) at the incident site that they (the ACRD EOC Agricultural Coordinator) are responsible for agriculture/livestock and provide them with contact information.
- Conduct a broad geographic assessment of risk with AF, based on PremisesID and local knowledge, and any other applicable provincial agencies to determine if there is significant risk to livestock for relocation to be supported during the evacuation alert phase.
- Notify livestock operators and emergency crews on scene of the "Pass" system to enter an evacuated area to care for livestock and issue passes as needed (See Section 2.3 below for details on the "Pass" system).
- Communicate to the livestock and agriculture sector the designated evacuation routes, identification of closed routes, and the location of Emergency Support Services Reception Centres.
- Assist with livestock relocation as requests arise. If formal requests come in from livestock operators, inform them of the Livestock Relocation Reimbursement forms/procedures and

start the process. Refer to the Agriculture Appendix Template for BC Local Authority Emergency Plans[6] for specific details and procedures.

2.3 Temporary Access Under an Evacuation Order

During an evacuation order, the EOC will determine if livestock operators may be permitted temporary access to an evacuation area, and under which conditions.

In coordination with the EOC Agricultural Coordinator, the EOC Director may grant temporary access passes. To expedite the process, farmers should be prepared to provide the EOC Agricultural Coordinator with:

- Location(s) of livestock and premises identification number.
- Farm details, including number and type of livestock on each parcel.
- Planned activities, including support needs (i.e. entry requirements).
- Contact name and details.
- Farm emergency plan, if available.

Suggested Conditions for Temporary Access Pass[7]

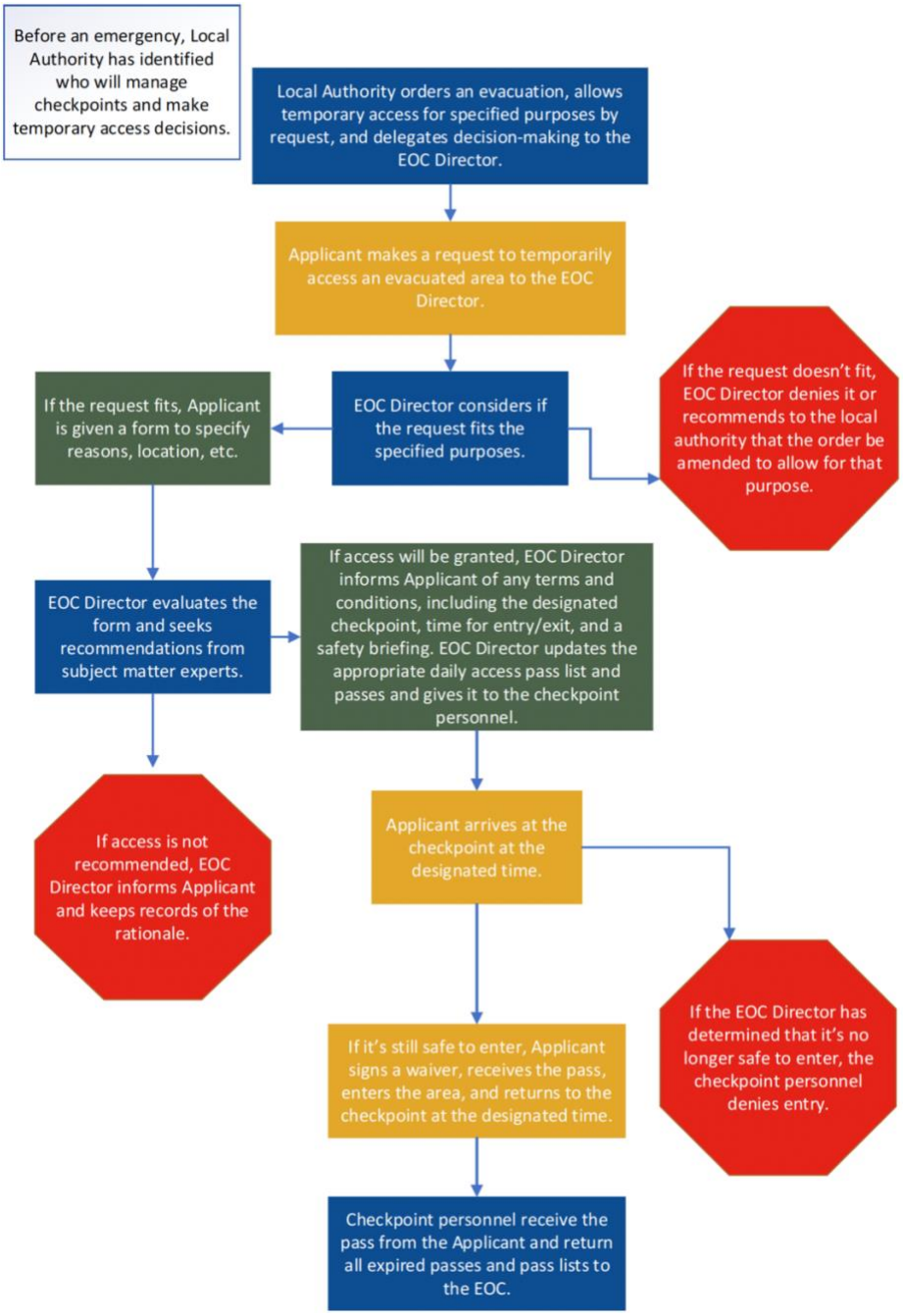
- Must be over the age of 19, unless accompanied by their legal guardian or a person over the age of 19.
- No access is granted to re-enter and remain in an evacuation order area; access into the restricted area is only temporary and for a specified purpose and period of time.
- All individuals gaining access must be able to produce government-issued photo identification, or attestation by an appropriate representative.
- Access may require an escort, as determined by a hazard-specific subject-matter expert and/or EOC.
- Individuals authorized to enter (e.g. farmers checking on livestock) must go directly to the identified property, perform the specified purpose or task and return without deviating to another location and by the specified time if applicable. Individuals are authorized to enter for a specific purpose only.
- If conditions worsen, authorities must be able to contact or locate all authorized individuals.
- Proof of address may be required to validate access to location.
- Restrictions may be limited to specific dates/times of travel, routes/destinations, and drivers/passengers.
- Daily access will be contingent on hazard conditions and approval from EOC Director.
- Due to evolving risks and uncertain conditions, it may be recommended to relocate livestock to your buddy farm if it is deemed safe to do so by the ACRD EOC and EOC Agricultural Coordinator.

The EOC Agricultural Coordinator will provide the livestock operator/farmer with their Temporary Access Pass and provide the details of the pass to the personnel at the checkpoint through which they will enter. A waiver must be signed by the livestock operator/farmer at the checkpoint. Figure 2 (next page) outlines the temporary access process.

[6] This document may be updated in the near future to reflect the recent changes to Policy 2.01, consult with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Emergency Management Branch for the most up-to-date version.
[7] Many conditions suggested by this document: Managing Temporary Access to Areas under Evacuation Order A Guide for Local Authorities. 2024. Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

Exiting the Evacuated Area

When you leave the evacuation zone all access passes must be left with checkpoint staff.



Note that this information is provided for guidance and convenience, but it is not legal advice or a replacement for legislation.

Figure 2 Temporary Access Process.[8]

[8] Managing Temporary Access to Areas under Evacuation Order A Guide for Local Authorities. 2024. Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

2.4 Considerations for Livestock Relocation

Livestock operators may need assistance with sourcing liners and trailers to move animals and with identifying an off-farm site willing to accept livestock. For example, there may be limited availability of trailers during a widespread flooding event. At such times, the EOC may coordinate tactical assistance based on a formal request from a farm operator. Such assistance may include:

- Livestock transportation to relocate animals out of harm's way.
- Transportation to return livestock when the evacuation order is rescinded.

In this instance, the ACRD EOC would pay a third-party service provider to transport the livestock then subsequently be reimbursed by the Province. For example, when the following conditions are met provincial policy may allow for the reimbursement to the ACRD of eligible costs related to livestock relocation, including transportation, housing and feed:[9]

- An EMCR task number has been issued for the emergency.
- An Evacuation Alert or Evacuation Order has been issued.
- The farm operation has a reasonable income expectation, based on sales. AF staff are available to provide technical support if a farm operation's reasonable expectation of profit is in question.
- The farm operator has requested assistance through their EOC.
- Services and costs are reviewed and recommended by AF.
- A third-party service provider (not the farm operation) incurs livestock relocation response costs.

EMCR will reimburse local governments that have approved expenditure authorization forms for eligible response costs for activities related to emergency livestock relocation. See AF's website for updated forms and procedures for livestock relocation assistance and compensation/ reimbursement.

It is important to note that transportation costs incurred directly by farm operators requesting assistance (i.e. fuel for the equipment, feed, etc.) are not eligible costs for reimbursement; only a third-party can provide livestock transportation for costs to be reimbursed.

See Appendix B for more details about the livestock relocation process.

[9] Policy 2.01 Interim Provincial Support for Livestock Relocation During and Emergency. 2025. Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

Part 3. Emergency Recovery

This section outlines steps for recovery after an emergency has occurred. The focus is on emergencies where an Evacuation Alert or Order was issued and subsequently rescinded after the emergency has passed. An Evacuation Rescind is an official notice issued by local authorities to inform the public that an Evacuation Order or Alert has been lifted and it is now safe to return to the affected area.

3.1 Livestock Operator's Responsibilities

- Take inventory of damages done to property during emergency response, including loss of livestock, crops, and infrastructure. Take "after" photos and/or videos of property, equipment, and infrastructure.
- Review insurance policies and speak with an agent to understand what damages may be covered. Keep all receipts from recovery costs.
- Notify your lending agency or mortgage company (if applicable) about the impact of the emergency event and what is being done to restore the property.
- The provincial government may declare the event eligible for Disaster Financial Assistance. Check the website to find eligibility details.
- Reach out to a veterinarian and schedule a health-check for livestock and horses.
- If you requested livestock relocation assistance through the ACRD EOC, then you should be aware of the following conditions:[10]
    - Livestock will need to be returned to your property within 4 days of the expiration or cancellation of an Evacuation Order, unless a specific exception is supported by AF and approved by EMCR.
    - Livestock that is not claimed shall be considered impounded at the relocation site and dealt with using the procedures of the Pound District Regulation of the *Livestock Act*.

3.2 Local Government (ACRD) Responsibilities

- The EOC Agricultural Coordinator will facilitate re-entry for livestock operators and farmers once the Evacuation Alert or Order is rescinded.
- ACRD staff may provide information to livestock operators about provincial funding programs to support recovery.
- Local government(s) may apply for Disaster Financial Assistance.
- ACRD staff can help the farming community connect with the AF through the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) to determine how best to deal with any above normal volumes of animal carcasses.
- If the ACRD assisted in livestock relocation the EMCR may reimburse local governments for eligible response costs for activities related to emergency livestock relocation.

[10] Policy 2.01 Interim Provincial Support for Livestock Relocation During and Emergency. 2025. Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

Recommendations

The following recommendations have been crafted based on the background research and engagement with the Alberni Valley farming community. The recommendations are categorized into the four emergency stages:

- **Mitigation (Reducing Risk Before an Emergency Occurs):** Mitigation recommendations focus on long-term solutions to reduce farm vulnerability to emergencies.
- **Preparedness (Ensuring Readiness for Disruptions):** Preparedness focuses on planning, communication strategies, knowledge sharing and training. Preparedness ensures the ACRD and agricultural community can respond calmly and effectively to an emergency.
- **Response (Responding to Needs During an Active Emergency):** During the response stage, the focus shifts to immediate action to ensure safety of responders, the public, infrastructure and livestock. This involves effective communication, mobilizing resources, coordinating evacuations, and ensuring safe access to farms.
- **Recovery (Restoring and Strengthening After an Emergency):** Recovery focuses on rebuilding the agriculture sector by restoring agricultural production, repairing supply chains, and supporting affected communities.

For each recommendation the anticipated resource level and recommended timeline for completion are identified. Definitions of the resource levels and timelines are as follows.

Resource Level:

- Low: may be completed within existing staff workplans.
- Medium: requires addition into staff workplans.
- High: requires sourcing grants and/or the assistance of a consultant or short-term contractor.

Timeline (assumes adequate resources are provided):

- Ongoing: will require maintenance over time, usually to foster a new or developing relationship.
- Short: should be completed within 1-2 years.
- Medium: should be completed within 3-5 years.
- Long: should be completed within 5+ years.

Table 2. Recommendations for the ACRD to support livestock operators in emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

#	Emergency Stage	Action	Description	Timeline	Resource Level
1	Mitigation	Support alternatives to open burning on farmland	Work with the agricultural community to support alternatives to open burning on farmland, to mitigate wildfire risk. This is particularly acute during the vulnerable summer months. Support may include directing producers to information regarding where legislation resides, providing information regarding jurisdictional enforcement, disseminating provincial resources and/or establishing regional programs to collect and chip/mulch agricultural vegetative waste and invasive weeds.	Long	Medium
2	Mitigation	Advocate for mitigation resources from the province for farm-based or community-level initiatives	Advocate to the province for financial programs targeting agricultural adaptation and mitigation initiatives, including funds for building infrastructure and protecting or relocating assets at the community level.	Ongoing	Low
3	Mitigation	Connect farmers to the FireSmart Farm & Ranch programs	Advocate to Union of B.C. Municipalities to support funding for the provision of a regionally-coordinated and integrated approach to offering FireSmart assessments at both the residential and farm/ranch level for local governments and First Nations. This will require the ability to continue partnering with provincial agencies to ensure a smoother deployment of the program with set follow-up timelines regarding funding availability for site improvements.	Ongoing	Medium
4	Mitigation	Foster collaboration with First Nations in emergency planning	Continue to consult and collaborate with First Nations in agricultural emergency planning efforts and sharing of resources between all levels of government and communities.	Ongoing	Medium
5	Mitigation	Advocate for changes to farm insurance affordability and accessibility	Advocate to other levels of government for affordable and accessible farm insurance, as outlined in the ACRD 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, Strategy 4.1.	Ongoing	Low
6	Preparedness	Modernize the ACRD Farm Emergency Plan	Modernize the ACRD Farm Emergency Plan to incorporate elements of personal preparedness and the Home Emergency Plan.	Short	Medium

#	Emergency Stage	Action	Description	Timeline	Resource Level
7	Preparedness	Clarify the ACRD's role in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery to livestock operators	Using this Livestock Emergency Plan, create educational materials that outline the ACRD's role in emergencies, including communication and providing access (pass system) to areas under evacuation order. Communicate these materials with the Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Development Committee, Alberni Farmers' Institute and others.	Short	Medium
8	Preparedness	Create clear, consolidated, guides and checklists	Using this Livestock Emergency Plan, consolidate local emergency planning information into a single, easy-to-navigate guide covering all emergency types. This could include disaster-specific resources, clear, actionable guidance on preparing for, responding to, and recovering from an emergency, and mental health resources. Share the buddy farm template and encourage producers to enter into buddy farm agreements with other operators.	Short	Medium
9	Preparedness	Develop an emergency communication plan with the AFI	Work with the AFI in developing a communication plan with the ACRD EOC during an emergency. Investigate the possibility of using a decentralized neighbourhood "pod" communications system where each sub-area of the Alberni Valley has a person 'on the ground' responsible for communicating with the EOC and the agricultural community. See Appendix C for more details. Funding is required to support the development and establishment of this system.	Long	High
10	Preparedness	Pre-identify horse and livestock relocation sites	Investigate additional locations to move livestock during an emergency in each of the agricultural areas of the Alberni Valley (Beaver Creek, Cherry Creek, and Sproat Lake areas) and in neighbouring local governments and First Nations, and sign MOUs with the managing entity. Examples of potential locations within the ACRD include Evergreen Park, Beaver Creek Community Hall grounds, and Cherry Creek Community Centre grounds. Work with the managing entity to ensure locations are equipped with necessary infrastructure, such as water and fencing. Support and provide grants as needed.	Long	High
11	Preparedness	Encourage registration in the provincial PremisesID program	Encourage participation in the PremisesID program to support the province in understanding the level of resources needed in each area and the timing to deploy support during an emergency. Emphasize the program's role in re-entry, relocation, and recovery efforts.	Ongoing	Low

#	Emergency Stage	Action	Description	Timeline	Resource Level
12	Preparedness	Collaborate with AF to raise awareness of PremisesID program	The ACRD to collaborate with AF to raise awareness about the program and allay producer concerns.	Ongoing	Low
13	Preparedness	Support the AFI in EOC training	ACRD to support interested AFI members in completing AF's Agricultural Emergency Coordinator EOC training, aiming for 2-3 people at one time having completed the training. Provide a stipend for completing the training, if possible.	Ongoing	Low
14	Preparedness	Provide updates to the Livestock Emergency Plan as needed	Update this Livestock Emergency Plan and review every year (or more frequently if required due to changing legislation). As part of this process connect with AF Emergency Management Branch for up-to-date policies and procedures. Update the agricultural community on changes and consulted producers as needed during the update process.	Ongoing	Medium
15	Preparedness	Advocate for cell services across the entire Alberni Valley	Many parts of the Alberni Valley do not have reliable cell coverage, which poses a major risk to real-time communication during an emergency. Raise awareness with the residents about the benefit of cell coverage and support establishment of widespread connectivity.	Ongoing	Medium
16	Preparedness	Ensure producers know that the EOC is available to support them during an emergency	During an emergency, ensure the EOC's presence is known to producers by having EOC personnel and the EOC Agricultural Coordinator be familiar with local producers. This will facilitate the coordination of potential evacuations and the pass system, allowing producers to re-enter their farms if conditions are safe to do so.	Ongoing	Low
17	Response	Leverage a variety of communication tools during an emergency	Enhance the specificity and timeliness of emergency alerts by leveraging tools such as email lists, AFI phone trees, social media forums (e.g. Facebook community pages), and the Voyent Alert app. Be mindful that not all areas of the ACRD have reliable cell service and not every resident uses social media or email.	Ongoing	Low
18	Response	Ensure EOC personnel are familiar with the farming community	Ensure EOC personnel responsible for emergency response at the EOC are aware of the characteristics of the livestock sector and who to contact (e.g. AFI pod leaders) during an emergency in specific regions.	Ongoing	Low

#	Emergency Stage	Action	Description	Timeline	Resource Level
19	Response	Work with legal advisors to create an appropriate waiver for entering an area under Evacuation Order	Initiate work between the ACRD and legal advisors to create an appropriate waiver for livestock operators to sign when entering an area under Evacuation Order. Waivers should be used to clarify that any liability for the risks associated with temporary access lies with the individuals or agencies entering the evacuated area. This will also ensure that the individuals or agencies gaining access understand that they are responsible for their own safety. The person should sign a waiver as a condition of receiving access. It is recommended that local authorities work with their legal advisors to develop an appropriate waiver for authorizing temporary access into evacuated areas. This will ensure clarity when it comes to liability concerns.[11]	Short	Medium
20	Recovery	Advocate for recovery resources	Advocate to the provincial and federal governments for financial assistance programs targeting agricultural recovery, including funds for rebuilding infrastructure and replacing assets and including support for small mixed farms whenever possible.	Ongoing	Low

[11] Managing Temporary Access to Areas under Evacuation Order. 2024. Government of British Columbia.

Appendix A: Buddy Farm Agreement Template

Buddy Farm Agreement

A "buddy farm" is a farm/location that you have made arrangements with to host your livestock during an emergency event (such as a fire, flood or a power outage). The intention is for livestock to be hosted on a temporary basis, until the emergency is over or an evacuation order has been rescinded. Pre-arranging a safe location for your livestock is a crucial step in emergency preparedness. Having an agreement in place ensures a smoother livestock relocation process and minimizes confusion during critical situations.

Ideally, it's best to establish relationships with two buddy farms located in different geographic areas. This approach provides flexibility in case emergencies affect either your immediate community or the entire Alberni Valley. For instance, one buddy farm could be within the Alberni Valley but outside your local area, while another could be entirely outside the Alberni Valley, such as in Parksville or Courtenay. You could contact the Mid-Island Farmers' Institute (midislandfarmersinstitute@gmail.com), the Comox Valley Farmers' Institute (cvfinstitute@gmail.com) or the Coombs Farmers' Institute to inquire about potential buddy farms. You know your animals and your community best, so the decision as to which farm(s) to enter into agreements with is ultimately up to you.

The following is a template agreement and can be modified as needed. **It is not a legally verified document and should not replace legal advice.** It does not need to be submitted to the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District, Ministry of Agriculture & Food, or Emergency Operations Centre personnel. The main intention is for it to be used as an agreement between two livestock operators.

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1. Agreement Overview

This agreement is between:

Guest Livestock Operator		**Host Location**
Farm Owner/Manager**:**		Farm Owner/Manager**:**
	AND	
Business Name:		Business Name:
Phone Number:		Address:
		Phone Number:

The purpose of this Agreement is to acknowledge and outline the expectations and conditions for the temporary relocation and care of **Guest**'s livestock at **Host**'s property during an emergency situation.

2. Activation of Agreement

Specify what constitutes an emergency under the terms of this agreement. This could include an Evacuation Alerts and/or Evacuation Order issued by the local government. For example: This Agreement applies in the event of a wildfire, floods, or other situations requiring the **Guest** to move their livestock to the **Host**'s property.

Define how the **Guest** will notify the **Host** to activate the agreement. The **Guest** should specify preferred communication methods (e.g. phone calls, text messages, or emails) and response deadlines:

3. Description of Livestock

The numbers and types of livestock that the **Host** agrees to receive will depend on several factors such as the availability of stalls and barn space, feed, and animal health (e.g. vaccine) status. These details should be discussed well ahead of time and noted below.

Type(s) of livestock that will be accepted by the **Host**:

Number of animals that will be accepted by the **Host**:

Methods for identifying **Guest's** livestock: (e.g. ear tags, leg bands, brands, descriptions, etc.)

4. Logistics and Transportation

Specify who will be responsible for transporting the livestock from the **Guest** farm to the **Host** farm:

If the **Guest** is arranging transportation, clarify if the **Host** farm will assist or if any shared costs will apply. Include any specific transportation requirements, such as vehicles or equipment, to ensure animal safety during the move:

5. Shelter and/or Holding Locations for Guest Livestock

Describe the agreed-upon location for livestock sheltering and/or holding at **Host** farm, including the physical location and whether any additional infrastructure or materials will be required (e.g. temporary fencing, bedding, etc.):

6. Livestock Health and Documentation

The **Guest** must provide relevant health records, including vaccinations and any pre-existing conditions or special care instructions for their livestock.

Explain any details about medications, vaccination status, dietary needs, or behavioural concerns:

Clarify who is responsible for the veterinary care of the livestock should an illness or injury occur during the relocation or stay at the **Host** farm:

Specify whether the **Guest** must authorize specific veterinarians, or if the **Host** will be responsible for obtaining veterinary services:

Both parties must inspect the livestock for health and injury upon arrival at the **Host** farm. List any potential necessary treatments or quarantine procedures and a clear protocol for documenting these findings:

7. Feed and Care

Describe the details for providing **Guest** livestock with feed and water - including feed type, feed source (will the **Guest** bring the necessary feed or will the **Host** donate and/or sell feed to the **Guest**, or will it be purchased off-site?), feed storage, and feeding method:

Who will be responsible for caring for and managing the livestock on the **Host** farm? Will the **Guest** plan on being at the farm to make key decisions or will there be a delegation of decision-making to the **Host**? Describe below:

8. Compensation

Describe if (and how) compensation will be paid by the **Guest** to the **Host**. This could be in cost/day/animal, or by hours of labour or feed, or by trade, or other means:

Any costs resultant from damage, clean-up or other unforeseen impacts to the **Host** will be determined and compensated as follows:

9. Duration of Stay and Exit Plan

It can be difficult to know how long livestock may be required to stay at the **Host** location. You can use this section to indicate the expected duration of the livestock's stay at the **Host** location, including whether there are specific time limits based on the nature of the emergency:

Define the process for returning the livestock after the emergency has been resolved:

If the emergency is prolonged, address how extensions will be handled, including additional time at the **Host** location and any associated costs:

10. Emergency Contact Information

Both the **Guest** and **Host** should provide backup emergency contacts. This may include alternative contacts, veterinarians, or other relevant parties who can be reached in case the primary contacts are unavailable. List 24-hour emergency phone numbers and email addresses for both parties to ensure immediate communication during a crisis.

Guest Livestock Operator	**Host Location**
24-hr emergency contact:	24-hr emergency contact:
Alternate Contact 1:	Alternate Contact 1:
Alternate Contact 2:	Alternate Contact 2:
Veterinarian:	Veterinarian:

11. Liabilities: Indemnity Clause

Clearly outline the liability for damages to property, livestock, or injuries resulting from the relocation process. Specify the party responsible for covering injuries caused by the guest livestock to other animals, property, or personnel on the **Host** farm. Consider the potential need for insurance coverage to mitigate these risks.

12. Privacy and Confidentiality

Confidentiality Clause: Both parties should agree to respect each other's privacy and maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive information about livestock, farm operations, or any other private matters. This could include adhering to biosecurity measures and ensuring the confidentiality of health records, farm operational plans, or financial details.

13. Host Farm Waiver

The **Guest** acknowledges that _____ (**Host**) is not liable for any loss, injury, sickness, death or loss of production of any livestock received.

Guest Livestock Operator:

Signature _____

Date _____

Host Location:

Signature _____

Date _____

Additional Clauses

The following additional clauses could be added to the buddy farm agreement as decided upon by the Guest and the Host.

Contingencies and Special Conditions

Pandemic and Public Health Considerations: Include clauses to address unusual situations such as pandemics, biosecurity risks, or other health crises. Define how biosecurity protocols will be implemented, such as disinfection procedures, handling livestock with suspected diseases, or limiting contact with animals from other locations.

Conflict Resolution

Dispute Resolution: Include provisions for resolving any disputes or disagreements that may arise between the parties during the activation of the agreement. Specify whether mediation, arbitration, or another method of conflict resolution will be used before resorting to legal action.

Signatures and Witnesses

Witness or Notary: If either party wants additional validation or legal weight for the agreement, space can be added for signatures from witnesses or a notary. This may be especially important for farms handling valuable or high-risk livestock or where compensation is involved.

Appendix B: Livestock Relocation Assistance Steps

Steps for claiming expenses related to a livestock relocation assistance request.

1. ACRD EOC Ag Coordinator receives assistance request from producer.
2. ACRD EOC Ag Coordinator gathers information from producer about costs of third-party service provider moving livestock and completes the Application for Relocation Assistance Form (available from AF in the PREOC). Producer signs form.
3. ACRD EOC Ag Coordinator confirms eligibility and estimated costs using the Livestock Relocation Assistance Worksheet for the Expense Authorisation Form (EAF).
4. ACRD EOC Director reviews and signs EAF. ACRD Ag coordinator sends EAF with Application for Relocation Assistance Form to PREOC Operations Section.
5. PREOC Operations Section reviews EAF, makes decision and notifies the ACRD EOC.
6. ACRD EOC Ag Coordinator communicates decision to producer and either producer or ACRD EOC Ag coordinator informs third-party services provider performing the relocation.
7. Once relocation and return to farm of livestock are completed by the third-party service provider, the service provider submits invoice to ACRD EOC Ag Coordinator. (Invoices should have that Task#, EAF#, Producer name and details as outlined in the Sample Relocation Invoices((available from AF)).
8. ACRD EOC finance reviews invoice and pays eligible invoices at approved rates.
9. ACRD EOC finances invoices EMCR for the reimbursement as per EMCR process.
10. EMCR reimburses ACRD.

Source: Agriculture Appendix Template for BC Local Authority Emergency Plans.[12] Refer to this document for more details on procedures and sample forms.

[12] This document may be updated in the near future to reflect the recent changes to Policy 2.01, consult with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Emergency Management Branch for the most up-to-date version.

Appendix C: "Pod" Emergency Response Communication Strategy

NOTE: This strategy is in DRAFT form. During project engagement the AFI identified and expressed interest in this type of communication strategy. Next steps will be to discuss with the AFI the roles/responsibilities and support required for implementation.

Producer "Resource Pods" by Community with Spokesperson Model

In the event of an emergency, producers in areas like Beaufort, Beaver Creek, Cherry Creek, Sproat Lake, and Great Central Lake could benefit from a coordinated response system that maximizes resources, ensures safety, and strengthens communication by reinforcing partnerships between the ACRD and members of the agricultural community. The following strategy is a suggestion from the Alberni Farmers' Institute on forming "resource pods" to support one another and designate a spokesperson to liaise with the ACRD Agricultural Emergency Coordinator.

PHASE 1 (assumes limited resources)

1. Resource Pod Formation and Structure

Each sub-region will serve as a distinct **resource pod** area, leveraging natural geographic boundaries to organize farmers and neighboring residents for efficient communication and resource sharing during an emergency.

a. Proposed Resource Pod Boundaries:

- **Beaufort**: Farmers within the Beaufort electoral area will form the Beaufort Pod, covering the agricultural regions around the foothills of the Beaufort Range.
- **Beaver Creek**: The Beaver Creek Pod will encompass farms and agricultural businesses located in the Beaver Creek area.
- **Cherry Creek**: This pod will serve farmers in the Cherry Creek area, incorporating those located in the agricultural valley and surrounding regions, such as ALR along Franklin River Road.
- **Sproat Lake**: The Sproat Lake Pod will serve farmers in and around the Sproat Lake region, including those on larger properties with livestock or crops.
- **Great Central Lake**: The Great Central Lake Pod will include farmers who are located near the lake, as well as those in the surrounding forested and agricultural regions.

b. Pod Size and Composition:

Members of the resource pods in each area would be inclusive of all producers, horse owners and hobby farms.

2. Leadership Structure and Role

a. Proposed Pod Leaders:

- **Beaufort**:
- **Beaver Creek**:

- **Cherry Creek**:
- **Sproat Lake**:
- **Great Central Lake**:
- **Responsibilities**:
    - Each Pod leader would be responsible for convening and/or facilitating meetings with members to distribute resources and identify gaps that could be filled by local leaders.
    - Pod leaders will have strong organizational skills and be familiar with local resources and emergency protocols.
    - Pod leaders would keep up-to-date contact information for all farms within the pod's boundaries (addresses, phone numbers, emails).
    - Coordinating with neighboring pods if inter-pod collaboration is needed during large-scale emergencies.
    - Serve as the primary point of contact between the pod and the ACRD Emergency Coordinator, Agricultural Coordinator, or others affiliated with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
    - Provide regular updates to the EOC about the pod's status, including the number of affected individuals, critical needs (e.g. medical, supplies, feed), and resources available.
    - Receive and disseminate information from the EOC to pod members, ensuring they are informed about evacuation procedures, emergency alerts, and support services.
    - Help to coordinate the evacuation or relocation of livestock if necessary and ensure that emergency assistance is requested in a timely manner.

c. Backup Spokesperson:

- **Role**: In case the primary spokesperson becomes unavailable, each pod should designate a Backup Spokesperson. This person should be trained on the EOC communication process and familiar with pod needs.

3. Communication and Coordination

a. Before an Emergency:

- **Pod Contact Lists**: Each pod will maintain a contact list with the names, addresses, phone numbers, and any special needs (e.g. medical conditions, language barriers) of all producers, horse farms and hobby farms within the pod. This list will also include emergency contacts for each household.
- **Communication Tools**:
    - **Two-Way Radios**: For reliable communication if cell or internet service fails.
    - **Phone Tree or Group Messaging Systems**: Use text groups (e.g. WhatsApp, SMS) to quickly reach all pod members. Set up a phone tree, where each person calls a few others, to ensure information spreads rapidly.

b. During an Emergency:

- **Direct Line to ACRD Staff**: The spokesperson will maintain a direct line of communication to key ACRD staff by phone, radio, or alternative communication platform set up by local emergency management authorities.
- **Frequency of Updates**: The spokesperson should provide regular updates about pod needs and conditions (e.g. every 4-6 hours, or as the situation changes) to the Agricultural Coordinator during an active emergency.

4. Emergency Preparedness and Planning

a. Pod Emergency Plan:

- **Evacuation Routes and Shelters**: The EOC Director or designate will be responsible for designating safe evacuation route and safe shelter locations in case the community needs to relocate due to an emergency. The pod can support by assisting with communicating these routes and locations to members.
- **Livestock and Animal Care**:
    - **Animal Evacuation**: Create an inventory of local transport vehicles (trailers, trucks) for livestock evacuation. Plan for communal storage of feed and water in case of long-term emergencies.
    - **Animal Sheltering**: Identify shelters that can accommodate livestock if evacuation is not possible (e.g. barns, community hall grounds).
- **Emergency Supplies**: Encourage pod members to stockpile essential supplies such as food, water, medical supplies, fuel, and tools. Encourage pod members to contribute to a shared supply or to maintain personal emergency kits.

PHASE 2 (assumes additional resources through grants or government support)

5. Resource Management

a. Resource Sharing and Stockpiling:

- **Shared Resources**: Create a shared inventory of resources within the pod, such as emergency medical supplies, animal feed, water tanks, backup power sources (e.g. generators), and tools.
- **Centralized Resource Hub**: Set up a centralized resource hub where key materials can be stored and accessed by pod members. This hub can be at a community hall, a farmer's barn, or another centrally located facility.
- **Resource Requests**: The spokesperson will manage resource requests and ensure that critical needs (e.g. medical supplies, food, animal care items) are communicated to the EOC in a timely manner.

b. Livestock Support:

- **Animal Health and Safety**: Ensure all pod members have access to basic veterinary care or support for their animals.

- **Feed and Water Supply**: Organize a backup plan for sourcing additional feed and water during emergencies, especially if transport routes are blocked.

6. Coordination with Local Authorities and the EOC

a. Regular Drills and Training:

- **Annual Drills**: Collaborate with the ACRD to undertake annual emergency drills. This can include evacuations, first aid, livestock handling, and communication drills to ensure everyone knows their role and responsibilities.
- **Skill-sharing**: Support the sharing of expertise on handling specific emergencies, like managing animal care during floods or wildfires, setting up temporary shelters, or using fire safety equipment.
- **Local Hazard Education**: Work with the ACRD to provide education on local risks such as wildfires, floods, and landslides. Ensure that all pod members understand the unique challenges of their electoral area.

Conclusion:

By supporting resource pods based on geographic communities, the ACRD can create a strong network of support for the agricultural community that will help ensure the safety, resource sharing, and effective communication needed during an emergency. The designated spokespersons will provide a direct link to the Emergency Operations Center, streamlining the process of receiving and requesting aid. This strategy empowers local farmers and residents to respond to emergencies with resilience, collaboration, and efficiency, ultimately improving the overall safety and well-being of the community.