



POST-FIRE LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT AND CARE



INITIAL ASSESSMENT

- Quickly assess animals in the burn area
 - Humanely euthanize animals suffering or unable to be moved
 - Move remaining animals to safety
- Once in a safe location, complete an individual assessment to determine who has a chance at recovery
 - Have a veterinarian document for insurance reimbursement

RECOVERY CARE

- Water
 - If animals have been without water for > 1 day limit access initially
 - Cows and bulls - 3-5 gallons/half hour
 - Growing cattle - 1-2 gallons/half hour
 - Offer clean water from multiple reservoirs
- Yard Conditions
 - Provide deep bedding and even footing for all fire exposed animals
 - Shade and cooling is ideal, if possible
 - Provide ample high protein feed
 - Animals will often have reduced appetite for up to a week
- Burn Treatment
 - Begin antibiotics, pain medication, and fly control as soon as the decision to treat the animal has been made.
 - Honey and sugar poultice can be used to cover wounds
 - Remove scabs that may obstruct function (prepuce and teats)

TIPS

- Keep stress levels as low as possible
 - Work animals during cool temperatures and only when air quality is good
- Pay close attention to late gestation animals and pairs

INJURY CATEGORIES

Determined by:

- Condition of the animal and future prognosis
- Availability of feed, water, fencing and facilities
- Ability to provide care and attention
- Insurance/reimbursement arrangements

Immediate Euthanasia

- Unable to move or severely lame
- Severe burns >15% of the body
- Extensive damage to legs/feet or hoof separation
- Severe burns to eyes, lips or nose causing trouble breathing

Salvage Slaughter

- Animals that can withstand transport
- Moderate burns to teats/udder / mouth / lips/ face or other locations that may impact future productivity

Keep and Treat

- Mobile and alert with <10-15% body burned
- Facilities and resources to handle long and involved care
- Follow "Recovery Care" guidelines

No Apparent Damage

- Minor singeing to hair and sound feet or no damage
- Reassess in 5-7 days

POST FIRE ASSESSMENTS

- Complete a thorough examination on each animal to determine its category:
 - Look for swelling / burns on bottom body parts (legs, hooves, udders, teats, testicles, sheath)
 - Calves may not be able to nurse from burned/singed teats
 - Burned sheath and teats may heal closed
 - Soot, open wounds and ulcers (eyes and muzzle)
 - Melted plastic from eartags (face, ears and head)
 - Respiratory distress (coughing and rapid breathing)
- Complete daily for the first 10+ days