

# Agriculture Insights

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## EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN: DOES YOUR FARM HAVE ONE?

A farm with even the most detailed accident prevention program still faces the risk of an accident, so why not develop a plan to become better prepared? An emergency action plan is a written, detailed document that serves as a basic, yet thorough

plan on what to do during an accident or emergency on your farm. Although an emergency action plan is not required for your farm, it is something to definitely consider implementing.

You might ask, "Why should I take the time to complete an emergency action plan?" Have you ever considered what you would do in the case of a barn

fire, manure spill or containment leak, an accident on your farm involving an employee or yourself, or even a mass animal mortality?

If you are away from the farm when an accident occurs, does your family or employees know how to properly respond?

To help ease anxiety on dealing with these potential issues, a plan to address the key components will help provide the framework for what to do during an unforeseen emergency. Completing a plan demonstrates your commitment to minimizing risks to employees and livestock, the economic loss to the farm, and the impact to the environment.

There are four basic components to consider in your emergency action plan. First, you will need to assess your farm and identify potential risk factors. Consider human health, animal welfare, the environment, build-

ings, manure containment, manure transportation equipment, machinery, and any other areas with potential risk. For each potential risk factor identified, outline steps to take to resolve the emergency.

An example of a potential risk could be: Your manure storage structure has a manure release. Items to consider in your plan of action would be: Do you have equipment or access to neighbors' equipment to contain a release? Is there access to all surrounding land to contain a release? Do you have the contact information of regulators that you're required to call? Is there a spokesperson to deal with the media/neighbors/regulators?

A second step would be to develop a detailed map of your farm. This map could be beneficial to new employees and to the local fire company or other emergency response organization to help identify key areas on the farm. Items to include on your site map would be a facility address and building locations on the farm, electrical service boxes, wellheads and water main connections and shut-off valves, manure storage structures and valves or pumps, nearby streams and water drainage areas, property boundaries, first aid kit(s), and fire extinguisher(s). In addition to main farm map, it would be suggested to include a field map of land application areas.

Constructing a list of emergency contact names and numbers to call and posting the listing by all phones is a third step to include in your plan. Contacts might include 911, local physician, Hazmat, fire department, police, power company, mortality disposal, and the proper environmental regulatory agency. It's important to include written directions to your farm, the farm

name and address, and the 911 location.

A final basic component of your plan might include a clean-up plan. In the case of a manure release, this would include proper manure removal, manure application areas with proper rates/acre, and possibly filing a report with your local environmental regulatory agency. In the case of an animal mortality incident, you would want to include the proper method of disposal and business to contact pickup.

Having an emergency action plan is only worthwhile when your employees know how to implement it. It is essential to properly review and educate all employees of the farm about the plan and its location. It is also important to update the plan as facilities or operations change on the farm. And, lastly, you might consider providing a copy of your plan and offering a tour of your farm to local emergency response personnel to better educate them of your operation.

For more information, contact Penn State's Dairy and Animal Science Department at (814) 865-2987 or your county's emergency coordinator. For Lancaster County, contact Randy Gockley at (717) 664-1200. There are a few Websites that provide information on plans at [www.lpes.org/Lessons/Lessons50/50\\_Emergency.html](http://www.lpes.org/Lessons/Lessons50/50_Emergency.html) or [www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1859.pdf](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1859.pdf).

Register today for Pennsylvania's largest Chamber banquet honoring the agriculture industry. For sponsorship and registration information, visit [www.lancaster-chamber.com](http://www.lancaster-chamber.com). For more information on emergency action plans or the Agriculture Industry Banquet, contact Brent Landis at (717) 397-3531 or e-mail blandis@lcci.com.

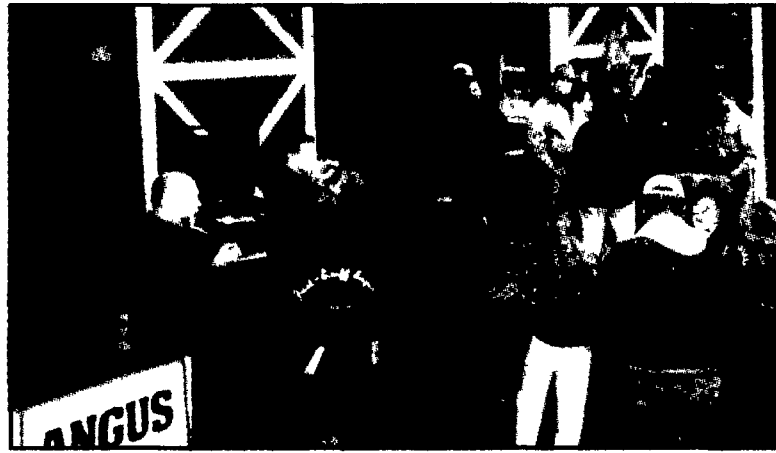
## Farm Hosts New Jersey Angus Association Reorganization Meeting

(Continued from Page A23)

disease brochure, publication #JD1, contact the Division of Animal Health by calling (609) 292-3965.

The group scheduled its next meeting Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hunterdon County extension office.

Until a slate of new officers is elected, the central contact for anyone interested in joining the association or needing directions for the January meeting will be Bob Mickel, Hunterdon County extension agent. Mickel can be contacted by e-mail at [mickel@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:mickel@aesop.rutgers.edu) or (908) 788-1338.



Breeders from New Jersey and Pennsylvania interested in reactivation of the New Jersey Angus Association gathered recently at River Bend Farm near Peapack, N.J.

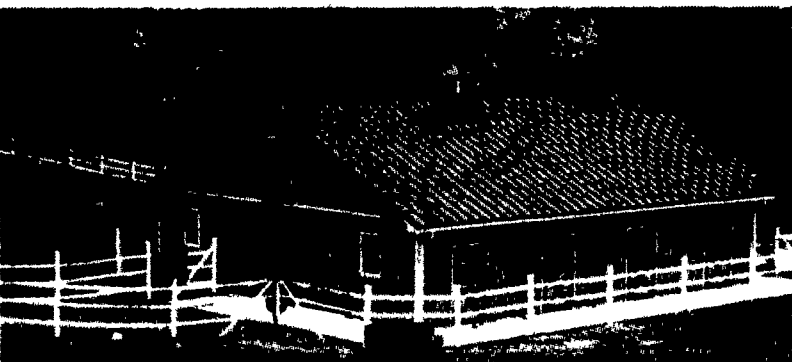
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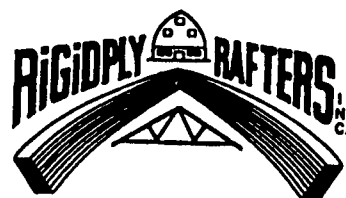
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## Beef Breeding Meeting Scheduled In Montgomery County

CREAMERY (Montgomery Co.) — A beef breeding meeting will be conducted at the Montgomery County 4-H Center in Creamery, on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Steve Pallis, breeding program specialist for Genex Cooperative, Inc. will discuss what producers can do to improve their breeding

program. There will also be a short video on various forms of heat synchronization.

There is no charge to attend this meeting, however please call the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Office at (610) 489-4315 to register prior to the meeting. Walk-ins are welcome the night of the meeting.

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