

Cold Weather Procedures

General:

- When temperatures drop below freezing for extended periods of time, the water to the barn, facility and restrooms will be turned off.
- We have two large water storage containers that will be filled with water before water is turned off to facility. *Please use this water to water your animals or bring hot water from home.*
- Every precaution will be made to secure facility and keep animals safe and out of extreme weather.
- Always check water buckets to see if water has frozen, most buckets will need to have ice busted so animals can drink at least twice a day.
- Keep animals out of drafts and provide area to get out of direct wind
- *Above all remember small animals require more direct care in cold weather than cattle. Cattle are raised in northern states with little outside influence except feed and wind breaks.*

Pigs:

- Put straw or hay down in pens with shavings a base. Pigs will naturally bury themselves or create a nest to stay warm.
- Make sure heat lamps are secure and will not fall creating a fire hazard.
- Make sure heat lamps are at least 36" from any bedding material to avoid fire hazard.
- Water pigs twice a day from a bucket or mix water in their feed when feeding.
- A blanket in the pen sounds like a good idea but it isn't, if you want to keep pig warm provide more straw/bedding.

Goats and Lambs:

- Under no circumstance should heat lamps be placed in pens with lambs and goats.
- Place animals in socks and blankets; get heavier blankets or double blankets on the animals.
- Bedding isn't needed for lambs and goats as the blankets/socks provide the warmth they need.
- Check water buckets and make sure they haven't formed a layer of ice preventing the animal from drinking.

Cattle:

- Cattle really only need to be provided a windbreak to get out of the wind.
- Check outside water trough and keep the ice busted so cattle are able to drink.
- Bring cattle in doors to be fed, but turn them back out after eating
- Make sure water trough is full before freezing temps set in.
- Water will have to be hauled to water troughs after water is turned off.
- Provide good quality hay for animals to ruminate on throughout the day and night, which helps increase body temps.