



WSU EXTENSION NEWS

Stevens County Newsletter

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"Izzy in the Snow" Photo credit: Kathryn Hoogheem



Agriculture News

The winter weather has been mild so far... but livestock owners should know what to do ahead of time in case of extreme winter weather. Prepare and plan now while conditions are favorable. (Click the [image](#) to see larger hi-resolution version)

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
LINCOLN COUNTY EXTENSION

Animal Alert

Protecting Livestock During Severe Winter Weather

Commercial producers and youth with animal projects should prepare now for the upcoming severe cold and snowy conditions

Donald A Llewellyn, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Livestock Extension Specialist

WSU Lincoln County Extension

don.llewellyn@wsu.edu

509-725-4171



Environment

- ❖ Windbreaks- to help reduce wind chill
- ❖ Cleanliness- caked mud and dirt reduces the animals ability to insulate their bodies
- ❖ Acclimation- animals that are acclimated to the winter weather conditions will have sufficient coats to tolerate lower temperatures
- ❖ Bedding- important that livestock have clean bedding to keep them dry and warm
- ❖ Foot traction- keep pathways used by you and animals free from ice buildup to prevent injuries
- ❖ Drifting Snow- avoid creek bottoms, swales and other low areas as the snow accumulates
- ❖ Handling- avoid moving livestock or any other activity that requires unnecessary use of energy
- ❖ Barn raised animals- proper heating and ventilation and air flow of barns/sheds



Animals	Types of Feed	Amount of Water
Cattle	Gradual increase of forages and hay to help maintain an optimal body condition score (BCS) of 5 or 6	Lactating Cows 20-25 gal/day Dry Cows 5-15 gal/day
Horses	High-quality haye (timothy, brome, orchard grass or alfalfa)	10-15 gal/day
Sheep	High-quality forage and hay	Lactating Ewe/Doe 2.5-3 gal/day Dry Ewe/Doe 1-2 gal/day
Swine	High energy, low-fiber diet with a moderate amount of protein	Lactating sow 3-7 gal/day Dry Sow 3-6 gal/day
Chickens	Moderate-protein, high-energy diets such as pelleted or mash feed and calcium for laying hens	1 gal/20 birds
Rabbits	High-quality hay or rabbit pellets	0.1-2.05 gal/day



Feed

- ❖ In severe winter conditions the nutrient requirements can increase by 40% or more, providing adequate energy and protein is essential to keeping your animals healthy and giving them the ability to tolerate extreme cold
- ❖ Additional feeding times may be required during extreme cold weather
- ❖ Separate thin animals from the herd to allow for increased nutrition
- ❖ In stressful conditions rapid changes in feeds and diets can cause digestive upsets

Water

- ❖ The most important nutrient
- ❖ Animals cannot get enough water from eating snow
- ❖ A continuous supply of clean water, free of ice, is essential
- ❖ Without adequate water, efficient utilization of other nutrients cannot be achieved



Daily Observation

- ❖ Look for signs of cold stress (shivering, blue membranes)
- ❖ Look for signs respiratory and digestive disorders (heavy breathing, diarrhea, nasal discharge)
- ❖ Have an emergency action plan for severe winter weather
- ❖ Have a current veterinarian client patient relationship (VCPR) to assist with emergency health problems associated with severe weather

Become a registered user of the Washington State University AgWeatherNet and have access to the new Cattle Comfort Index to assist in preparation for severe weather events. For details, visit: <https://weather.wsu.edu/>

For more information on feeding livestock in severe winter conditions, to extension.wsu.edu/lincoln-adams/livestock/ and click on the [Feeding Livestock During and After a Disaster](#) under the Fact Sheets section

For more information about Agriculture programs offered by WSU Extension in Stevens County, please visit our website: [Agriculture | Stevens County](#),

email: [Kathryn Hoogheem](mailto:Kathryn.Hoogheem@wsu.edu) or call 509-684-2588

[Farmer Assistance Request Form](#)

4-H Happenings

4-H at Home—Holiday Activity Guide

Looking for something to keep the kids busy during the holiday break? Look no further...check out this activity guide [4H-at-Home-Holiday-Activity-Guide-and-Cookie-Making-Recipes-2020.pdf \(4-h.org\)](#) for crafts, recipes, and other activities.



For information about our 4-H program, visit our website:

[4-H Youth | Stevens County](#)

or contact [Shannon Rowley](mailto:Shannon.Rowley@wsu.edu),

509-684-2588

Master Gardener News

Stevens County Master Gardeners wrapped up the 50 year **Golden Anniversary** of the program with a banner year of accomplishments!



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Doubled our numbers!** From 6 very overworked and burned-out people to 12 who did a great job sharing the workload!
- **Daily Educational Facebook posts!** Thanks to our tech-savvy MG Kathy Hansen, you can now learn from various "experts in the field", upcoming events, and find "Tips and Tricks" for successful gardening!
- **Provided well-researched Answers!** Our volunteers thoughtfully donated their time and effort to answer hundreds of questions at the weekly **Answer/Plant Clinic**, as well as at booths at the Farmers Markets, Home & Garden Shows, and at the Fair.
- **Firewise Demonstration Garden** - has been mostly restored to its former glory, and we added a Memorial Corner which now honors 2 Master Gardeners who have passed from this realm.
- **Spring and Fall Plant Exchanges** - Many MGs diligently worked for weeks to divide prolific plants from their yards or to grow new ones, plus we happily accepted donated plants, and watched many happy people walking away with FREE plants and BIG smiles!
- **NEW: Library Events!** Two MGs taught classes at all 7 Libraries of Stevens County! One class covered *Composting* and the other was an *Intro to Beekeeping*. This is the start of a great partnership! Watch for more classes in 2024.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

- **EIGHT NEW STUDENTS!** More volunteers who are loading their brains with 25 chapters worth of college-level education and getting excited to apply that new knowledge to teach and serve the community at large.
- **Answer/Plant Clinic!** We may be able to open the clinic to TWO days/week!
- **Firewise Demonstration Garden** - We plan to update the informational signage and possibly provide a weatherproof container for free literature or flyers. Tour the garden and learn how to build and landscape using safe firewise practices. There is also an UN-firewise section to show what NOT to do.
- **Spring and Fall Plant Exchanges** (at the Firewise Garden) will return!
- **Library Events!** Probably more Beekeeping classes and a Firewise Landscaping class. Please let us know what other classes you would like to see: Native Plants, Garden Resilience, Drought-Resistant Gardening, more Composting?
- Continued Facebook posts, more projects, more classes! We are Community Educators. We are actively engaged in teaching research-based gardening and environmental stewardship practices.

Stevens County MG [Facebook](#) Page

NEW! The [Evergreen Thumb](#) Podcast

For information about our Master Gardener program, visit our website:

[Master Gardeners | Stevens County](#)

or contact [Linda Teller](mailto:Linda.Teller@wsu.edu), 509-684-2588

WSU EXTENSION
Stevens County

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