

Flood conditions create:

1. **Immediate**, life-threatening risk to cattle
2. **Short-term**, direct risk to cattle health & welfare as a result of high water
3. **Medium to long-term**, in-direct risk to cattle health & welfare as a result of complications from high water conditions

Disease can be seen in flood **Affected barns** as well as **Host barns** that take in displaced cattle
Disease can also be seen in **Unaffected barns** in the community due to feed and labour shortages

Proactive Herd Management and targeted cattle **Physical Exams** will help to **mitigate cattle disease and loss**

1. Immediate, life-threatening risk to cattle – *the first hours*:

Watch for:

- **Drowning**, particularly in young cattle that can not stand above the water line for extended periods
- **Injuries** during cattle movement and transportation

Cattle standing in water up to their belly and/or for greater than 48 hours have a very poor long-term prognosis

2. Short-term, direct risk to cattle health & welfare as a result of high water – *the first few days*:

Watch for:

- **Pleural Pneumonia** in cattle that have been standing in water with “head up” position for an extended time
- Lower **limb edema** and **skin sloughing** after standing in water for > 24 hours
- **Bovine Respiratory Disease** (BRD Pneumonia) as a result of stress – particularly in heifers and transition cows
- **Ketosis, LDA, Indigestion & Hypocalcemia** from abrupt feed changes or lack of feed
- **Lameness** (Sole Bruising, Ulcers, Foot Rot) from standing for extended periods of time (unable to lay down)
- **Mastitis** from extended periods without being milked (>12Hrs) or udder contact with dirty water or bedding

3. Medium to long-term, in-direct risk to cattle – *the weeks & months following a flood*:

Watch for:

- All of the “Short-term” diseases that can be seen in the days following a flood that can become long-term problems as a result of:
 - o **Crowded** “Host” barns
 - o Changes in **milking systems and routines**
 - o **Grain shortages** due to transportation delays
 - o **Immuno-compromised** animals from stress, crowding & feed changes
 - o Labour shortages and a **reduction in Physical Exams** and disease monitoring
- New diseases in herds from co-mingling herds and **Biosecurity** breaks

Follow Disease SOPs for appropriate Treatments
Remember to record all Disease Events
If in doubt, contact your Veterinarian

