

Grant Dewell, DVM  
 Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine  
 Iowa State University

## Emergency Planning

If there is one thing that we know it is that we can't predict the weather. Who would have predicted rain falling in Iowa in January while Texas and New Mexico suffered under a blizzard that killed an estimated 12,000 head of cattle? During an event such as that, most people function in survival mode doing all they can to deal with the immediate crisis without being able to get ahead of the problem. The purpose of emergency planning is to address potential issues before they happen and to have contingency plans available.

We may not get a major winter storm, flood, or drought this year. But then again, we might. How will your operation cope with such an event if you are in the heart of the situation? If the power lines are down for days on end, how can you keep your water tanks thawed in the middle of the winter? During a

blizzard, do cattle have a safe shelter or will they drift with the wind and end up freezing in a snow drift or creek bottom? If roads are impassable for days, do you have enough feed on hand to keep cattle fed? What would you do with 20, 50 or 100 dead animals from a blizzard or tornado?

Many of us may have thought out some of these issues and know how we would handle the situation when it arises. However, it is a good idea to write down these plans in case you are not available. You may be enjoying yourself at the NCBA convention in San Diego when an emergency happens at home and your family or neighbor may not know what to do.

There are many resources online that can help you develop a concise and well thought out emergency plan. A google search for "beef cattle emergency planning" will also return

many potential resources for you. Many of these resources will help you address potential issues that you may not have thought of before. Don't forget to consult with extension specialists, a veterinarian, nutritionist or other resources to develop a plan that meets all of your needs.

It is a good idea to discuss these plans with family members and farm employees. Set aside some time each year to do a quick review and make sure emergency contact numbers are up to date and resources are available. For example, if your generator hasn't been used in a while is the fuel still good or perhaps does the spark plug need replaced? Little things such as these can help you stay on top of the emergency when it happens instead of delaying your ability to respond. Enjoy the rest of winter and have a productive calving season this year.

# Productive Cows. Healthy Calves.™

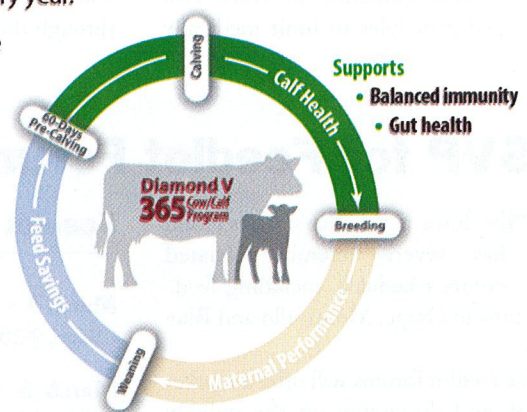


**Her job:** A healthy calf at weaning — every year.

**Your responsibility:** Give her what she needs to do her job.

Providing Original XPC™ to the cow 60 days prior to calving supports passive transfer to her calf.

The newborn calf faces serious disease challenges, including scours. Research shows that failure of passive transfer greatly increases mortality and disease in the beef calf.



Ask for Original XPC in your minerals, tubs, or supplements. It's daily insurance for year-round nutrition and health.

ORIGINAL  
**XPC**™

**Diamond V**  
 The Trusted Experts In Nutrition & Health™

For more information call 800-373-7234 or visit [www.diamondv.com/beef365](http://www.diamondv.com/beef365)