

ACTIONS TO INCREASE READINESS IN RURAL AREAS

This section outlines actions which local governments and their corresponding USDA County Emergency Boards can take during periods of international crisis to reduce the vulnerability to attack effects of farmers, their crops, and livestock.

The actions outlined are of a general nature, relating primarily to specialized types of emergency public information to be disseminated through the coordinated efforts of local government officials and USDA County Emergency Boards.

Many of the Increased Readiness actions described in this Section would be the responsibility of the USDA County Emergency Board, acting under instructions and guidance from USDA and its State Emergency Boards and in close coordination with the head of local government and his civil defense director. Because many of these actions are specialized forms of emergency public information, Section Two of this guide on emergency public information should be consulted when developing IR actions based on this section.

Actions to Increase Readiness in Rural Areas

1. Review and Update Rural Civil Defense Plans and Check Availability of Specialized Emergency Public Information Materials

Local government officials meet with USDA County Emergency Board and review responsibilities and plans for rural civil defense emergency public information, including procedures by which decisions and guidance can be obtained quickly from officials responsible.

Determine availability of rural civil defense emergency public information materials. If a plan for in-place protection (CSP) has been completed, review resulting maps and instructions for citizens on "where to go and what to do" in case of attack. If a CSP has not been completed, begin preparation of specialized guidance for rural families on such subjects as how to improve or improvise additional fallout protection for the family, and any employees, in homes with or without basements; as well as how to improvise protection for people or cosmetic animals in barns, stables or root cellars,

using baled hay, sacked or bulk grain, vegetables, and other potential shielding materials available on farms.

See Section Two of this guide, "Increased Readiness Actions for Emergency Public Information," Steps 1, 2, and 3, which suggest additional and related emergency public information actions appropriate for both rural and urban areas. Also see designs for expedient shelters provided at the end of Section Five.

2. Commence Moderate Step-up in Rural Civil Defense Public Information Activities

Commence activities representing a moderate step-up in rural civil defense emergency public information activities. Activities undertaken by local government officials and USDA County Emergency Boards should be closely coordinated so that the public in rural areas will receive consistent guidance.

Meet with leaders of local rural organizations such as 4-H, Grange, Farmers Cooperatives, National Farmers Organization, Ruritan, etc., to brief them on the situation and local plans. Provide speakers on rural civil defense for meetings of the above groups and other local organizations.

Step-up distribution of rural civil defense literature, and increase emphasis on rural civil defense in work of county agents and home demonstration agents.

See also Section Two of this guide, step 4.

3. Commence Dissemination of CSP-Type Information to the Public

See Section Two of this guide, Step 5. This step should be taken in conjunction with action under Step 5 of Section Two, and consists of the release of specialized CSP-type guidance for rural families on improving or improvising fallout shelter for families and employees and for domestic animals; emergency food and water supplies for people and livestock, etc.

An example of Emergency Public Information material for rural areas, including shelter for livestock, is shown on the next page. This example is taken from EPI materials prepared by Nuclear Civil Protection planners in 1978, for one of the States; the illustration of improvised protection for livestock is from an earlier USDA publication. If other materials are not available,

the materials shown could be used during a crisis for printing local EPI materials, after coordination with the USDA County Emergency Board.

4. *Local Authorities Urge the Public in Rural Areas To Make Final Crisis Preparations Short of Taking Shelter*

See Section Two Step 6 of which this step is a special case.

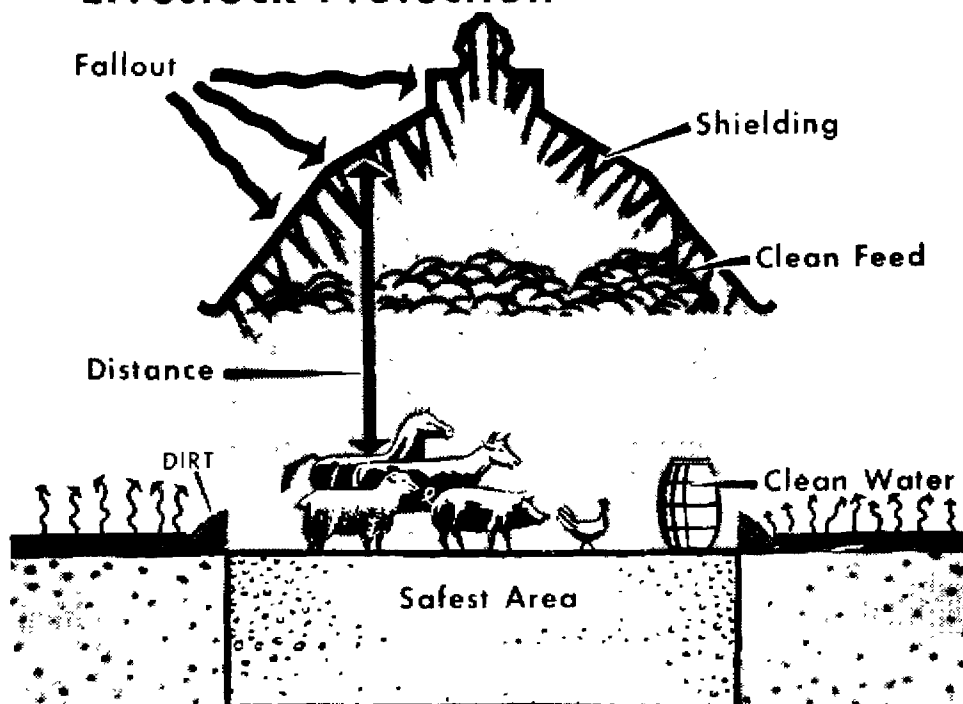
Specialized information should be given to rural families, including the desirability of leaving a radio or television set on to receive

possible attack warning and to take along a portable radio while working in the barn, stables, or fields.

As appropriate, USDA may urge farmers to take such steps as restricting livestock to pastures close to barns or other potential shelter, or keeping animals under cover. Similarly, farmers may be urged, when appropriate, to harvest crops close enough to maturity to be used without serious loss of yield, and which might be lost if fallout conditions prevented harvesting for two weeks.

IMPROVISING FALLOUT PROTECTION ON A FARM

Livestock Protection



THE BEST PROTECTION LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE FOR LIVESTOCK AGAINST RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT IS THE BASEMENT OF A TIGHT BARN WITH A LOFT FILLED WITH HAY.

You should place as much of your livestock and produce in barns as you can. A normally filled hayloft affords some shielding from fallout radiation for animals below. Farm machinery, troughs, wells and any produce you cannot get into barns should be covered with tarpaulins. You should store as much water in covered containers as you can, taking the precautions already outlined. Radiation harms only living creatures; therefore, food, water, etc., would be safe if covered.

Afterward, any livestock exposed to fallout could be washed or brushed to remove fallout particles. Water from wells and streams would be safe for animal use.

Animals which have been exposed to early fallout or which have fed on contaminated pastures could be slaughtered and the muscle meat would be fit for human consumption. Internal organs, however, such as liver and spleen, should not be eaten unless no other food is available. Chickens and eggs would be a particularly important direct food resource because they are relatively resistant to radiation, especially if they are raised under cover using safe packaged feeds. Potatoes, corn and other field crops exposed to early fallout would be safe to eat after cleaning.

Your County Agent can help you decide what crops, pasturage and methods will be best and safest to use. Seeds of all sorts are quite resistant to radiation and do not require any special protection.

Example of Emergency Public Information Material
for Rural Areas

DES
I1.451.227
E92-656

656



OFICINA SANITARIA PANAMERICANA

ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL

DE LA SALUD

LIMA - PERU

CENTRO DE DOCUMENTACION

TARJETA DE PRESTAMO

Autor : Estados Unidos. FEMA

Título : Guide for increasing local govern

Fecha de Préstamo	Nombre del Lector	Fecha de Devolución

CODIGO /DES/I1.451.227/E92-656

N° DE INGRESO 656...