

**NEWS FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**



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**COMMISSIONER REVICZKY ADVISES AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS,  
RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR BLIZZARD**

Department of Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky is advising residents to take immediate steps to protect livestock, pets and property during the blizzard forecast to begin this evening and last into early Wednesday.

Residents should be prepared for a prolonged severe weather event that could drop three feet of snow or more in some areas, and create more than 110,000 power outages.

- All animals should have access to safe shelter.
- Have livestock roughage and concentrates available and accessible.
- Bring in companion animals and ensure pets have enough food, water and medicine.
- Check water supplies to ensure they have not frozen.
- Have three days' supply of fuel, and check emergency generators and heavy equipment to be used to clear snow.

**BARNS, HOUSES, AND OTHER STRUCTURES**

Check roofs periodically especially in areas where snow may accumulate due to wind deposition, and be prepared to remove snow from roofs.

If you fear a roof collapse and cannot remove the snow, prevent access to those areas.

Wood structures will show stress before they fail, unlike metal structures that usually will not. For a wood structure, the following audible and or visual signs may be noticed prior to failure:

- Creaking or moaning in the building
- Bowing of truss bottom chords or web members
- Bowing of rafters or purlins
- Bowing of headers or columns

If these signs are present, consideration may be given to evacuating animals and people from the barn.

Attempting to save a barn is not worth risking lives. Shoveling the roof without the proper approach may actually cause more damage than good by creating an unbalanced load on the roof.

If you have an incident to report, please contact your local Emergency Management Director at town or city hall, who will forward the information to agriculture department staff at the state Emergency Operations Center in Hartford.