

## Get ready for winter on the farm

With winter fast approaching, it is very important that you start preparing for winter now to help ease the impact on your farm business and to reduce the risks of something serious happening. Making some small changes now can save you considerable time, distress and money in the future. Below are some tips that you should be considering.

- Review your insurance policies and check that it includes cover for 'severe weather/storm damage'
- Has your machinery been serviced and the anti-freeze levels checked?
- Is there sufficient space in buildings to provide some frost protection for essential vehicles, such as tractors and quad bikes?
- Have you got adequate stocks of fuel oil/heating oil for the winter?
- Do you have sufficient stocks of food if you were snowed-in?
- Have you got sufficient slurry storage for the winter?
- Have you considered livestock welfare such as, bedding, water and housing?
- Have you got sufficient feed supplies for your animals for the winter?
- Identify 'safe' and accessible areas to which stock may be moved in the event of a forecast of severe weather.
- Are your buildings secure and sufficiently weather proof?
- Is there a plan in place to maintain access to your farm in the event of ice and snow?
- Have you got sufficient stocks of salt/grit to keep vital access and exit points open?
- Have you got a backup electric supply such as a generator?

A high number of farmers are either killed or seriously injured each year on Welsh farms so it is important that health and safety comes first. Advice on risk assessments is available from the Health and Safety Executive [www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture)

Further sources of advice / information:

- The Welsh Government - [Winter weather advice](#)
- The Welsh Government – [Animal Welfare](#)
- The Met Office – [Get Ready for winter](#)
- Natural Resources Wales – [Flood alert](#)