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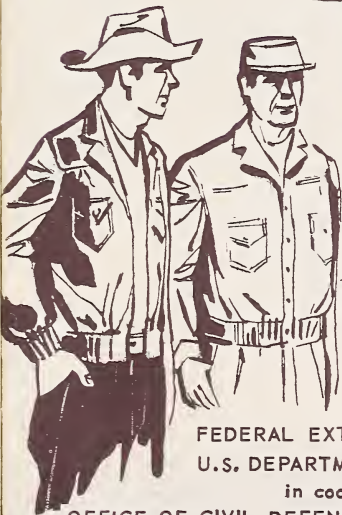
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YOUR FARM PREPAREDNESS PLAN



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BRANCH



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Paul Will: I've been thinking about rural defense, and someone told me you are lining up your farm plans. Is that so?

Herbert Didd: Yes. Come on in; I'll show you.

Paul: What are those papers hanging on your barn door?

Herb: I call it my Farm Survival Calendar. They are emergency action checklists; they show who is to do what, when, and how in a civil defense emergency; also what to do now, to get ready.

Paul: What are you doing?

Herb: First, I'm fixing up our family fallout shelter. The county Civil Defense Director says there's not much danger of a bomb being dropped on us, but we could get radioactive fallout from explosions hundreds of miles away. Fallout dust is carried by wind, and it's dangerous to people and animals. The fallout may not be heavy and we'd only have to stay in for a few days because fallout loses strength pretty fast. But if fallout is heavy we might have to stay in shelter for 2 weeks or more. I'm planning to

put my stock under the best cover I have and give them clean feed and water.

Paul: Don't you need thick walls and roof for fallout protection?

Herb: Yes; our family shelter is pretty thick. I'm adding more, and also making it tornadoproof. My tall barns will give livestock some protection.

Next Saturday I'm going to put a dirt fill along one wall of the two-story barn and we'll spread the new hay in the loft. I put in some new water tanks that can be covered. We regularly check and refill them; we'll be even more careful if the world situation gets worse. We also check our tools and fuel. I bought extra spark plugs, a new hose, and plan to keep all farm equipment in tiptop shape.



Paul: Have you buildings enough to put all animals under cover?

Herb: Well, pretty near. I made lists of all the livestock, and decided which has priority. Then I listed my buildings and figured which gives the best protection and how many animals each could hold. This gave me a basis for deciding where to put each animal.

Paul: Does this chart show where you'll put them?

Herb: Yes. Here on the ground floor of the two-story barn, I'll loose house the milking cows and calves. I have room in the feeding barn for the dry cows, beef bulls, replacement heifers, and some of my best beef cows. I don't have barn space for the others. Wish I did.

Paul: Why does your calendar have so many pages?

Herb: They're for different time periods. These first pages show preattack preparations—a page for each month. As we get work done, we check it off.

Back here are pages for actions IF WARNING COMES. We painted the corners red so we can find them quick. Here's the sheet for GOING INTO SHELTER. It fits in with Emily's home survival plans. By the way, her plans show what we're to do if we're in town, the kids in school, and many other things. I'll show you when we go up to the house.

Paul: What about the stock if warning comes when you're away?

Herb: If I'm not here, Old John will take over my jobs and Herb, Jr., will do John's work. See these three columns? The first one shows who



is responsible for each job and the second and third columns show who will pinch-hit. If necessary, Emily will help with the stock. The kids can handle the house jobs, taking things to shelter and so forth.

Paul: What's this page called "Work Time Out of Shelter?"

Herb: The County Agent helped me on that one. You see, the stock would have enough water and feed for a couple of days. That might see them through if fallout is light. But if the radiation level is very high we might have to stay in shelter for 2 weeks or more. However, after the first couple of days we probably could go out for very short periods, to look after stock.

Paul: You mean you could leave shelter?

Herb: Yes, for a very little while after the worst is over, if we had to. People can stand some radiation. We timed it—it takes about 40 minutes to get water and some feed to all the stock shelters. Now we're figuring how to do it quicker. When one person has been out long enough, he'll come back in, and next day another will go out, and so on. That way we can keep the animals alive and ourselves, too. We thought about having our own fallout shelter in the barn, so we could look after the animals, but we decided the basement is much better for us.

Paul: How would you know how high the radiation is?

Herb: The county officials plan to let us know. I have a good transistor radio. But I'm going to get a ratemeter so I can keep track of radiation

myself. It wouldn't cost much and it's good insurance.

Paul: How long does it take to put your stock under cover?

Herb: We don't know yet. We're planning a test run in about 2 weeks. We'll test the most im-



portant things first, and time those actions. Then we'll time the next most important, and so on. If we run out of time in a real emergency, we want to have the most important things done before we save our own necks. Every time we try out the plan we'll do better. Then we'll correct our mistakes and revise our Survival Calendar. Also, we must figure how to handle the jobs in bad weather and solve some other problems. We aim to be ready; we figure on surviving fallout. I wish you folks would start your plans—we hope there'll never be an attack, but if there is we don't want to lose you good neighbors. Why don't you come on up to the house; we'll give you a list of the publications we used—they're interesting.

Paul: That sounds good to me, let's go.

SAMPLES OF HERB'S SURVIV

*Herbert Didd, Sr. R.F.D. 5
Crossroads, U.S.A.*

FARM 9

(Name and address)

WHEN	WHO	Helpers or Alternates		Check when done	
		1st	2nd		
8	JJ	Hjr			1. Asses fee 2. Pres on
15	JJ	HD			1. Fil a. b. c. 2. Che 3. Che 4. Lis
22	HD	JJ			1. Che
28	HD	JJ	Hjr		1. Bo 2. Pu

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REFERENCES:

Radioactive Fallout on the Farm, USDA, Farmers Bulletin 2107.

Family Food Stockpile for Survival, USDA, Home and Garden Bulletin 77.

Soils, Crops and Fallout, USDA, PA-514.

Fallout and Your Farm Food, USDA, PA-515.

Your Livestock Can Survive Fallout, USDA, PA-516.

Rural Fire Defense, USDA, PA-517.

Fallout Protection, OCD, H-6.

Family Shelter Designs, OCD, H-7.

Other publications showing how more protection can be built in existing as well as new buildings will soon be available.

Cooperative Extension Work: United States Department of Agriculture and State Land-Grant Colleges and Universities Cooperating.

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